

# REDDING SENTINEL



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REDDING, CONNECTICUT

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\$3

## Redding sees 7.95% increase in Region 9 budget

By Anne Young Albanese

At its March 17 meeting, the Region 9 Board of Education approved its budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The approved budget total is \$27,226,097, an increase of \$736,942 or 2.78% from the current fiscal year.

Redding's portion of the budget is \$13,449,692, an increase of \$990,972 or 7.95%. The large increase is due to more students from Redding attending Joel Barlow High School this year than last year (Easton and Redding split the budget according to each town's share of students attending Joel Barlow High School or requiring special services from the Region 9 school district). Easton will still pay more than Redding because it is expected to have more

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Photo by Dana Taylor

A white-throated sparrow stops to pose in between trips searching for late-winter food. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

## Goodbye, old blue

By Donna Christopher



Photo by Donna Christopher  
A Public Works crew took down the Holiday Tree on the Town Green on Friday, March 20.

As photographers and reporters from multiple local media groups looked on, a 48-year-old Colorado blue spruce, long a centerpiece of the Town Green, was cut down on Friday, March 20 after falling victim to disease. The activity also drew tree lovers and residents who had grown attached to the aging landmark used for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting.

"To me, the holiday season didn't start until the tree was ablaze with lights as Joel Barlow and John Read Middle School choruses sang carols and I sipped hot chocolate with friends and neighbors," said Janice Rotchstein, co-founder along with Laurie Heiss of the Redding Tree Conservancy, both

present early Friday as a Public Works crew meticulously cut the trunk down in sections.

"I'm sorry to see the tree come down, but I'm glad we can put something in its place," said First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton. "It can be rededicated. We have another tree coming in next week."

Pemberton said the Town will be planting a Norway spruce in its place, a species with less risk of becoming diseased. Crews will excavate the blue spruce's root ball and plant the new tree in the same location.

The Town had been monitoring the tree's health for years, and

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## REDDING'S BIG OUTDOORS

### Chasing waterfalls Saugatuck Falls Natural Area

By Jessie Wright

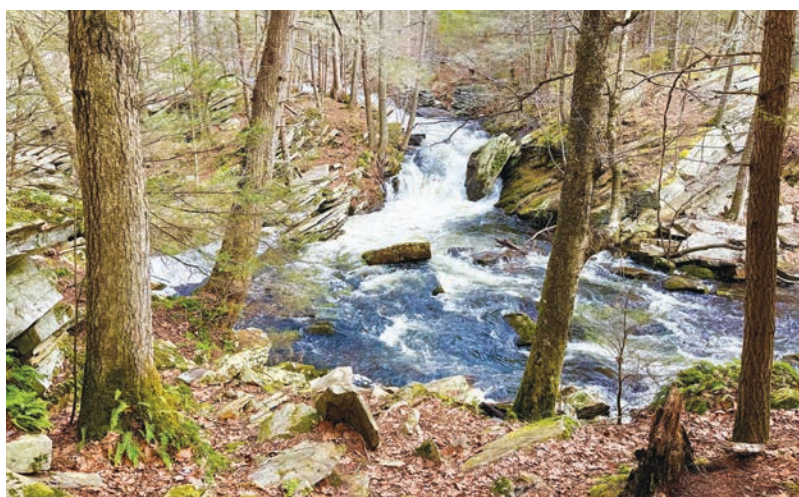


Photo by Jessie Wright

I learned recently that the spring equinox (the moment the Sun crosses the celestial equator and begins astronomical spring in the Northern Hemisphere) hits at the same moment across the globe, regardless of what time the clock displays. Lucky for us in Redding, it came at a very sensible 10:46 a.m. last Friday. It was a beautiful morning – birds were chattering, the sun popped sporadically out from scattered clouds, and the chill of the previous day's freeze lifted. I was determined to celebrate appropriately, to be in nature when the clock struck the end of winter.

The volume of snowmelt this year has made the waterways and waterfalls throughout town some-

thing to behold, so I opted to embark on one of my favorite loops through the Saugatuck Falls Natural Area. It's a hike I haven't had the opportunity to take in a while because of its level of difficulty relative to some of the other trails my family frequents. This is not a route to take with elderly visitors or toddlers who are not sure on their feet. This feels like a "real hike" as my husband likes to say, with some scabbling up rocks and hugging tight against hillsides.

I parked at the trailhead across from John Read Middle School (only recently freed from the snow piles hogging it all winter) and started into the wilderness. The pine needles underfoot were slightly

damp, drops of melted frost padding the way. I was greeted by a few enormous tree specimens at the start of the trail, marked with informational signs created nearly a decade ago through a partnership between Redding Land Trust and John Read Middle School. The trees are gnarled and huge, and you can just imagine their splendor in a few months when their leaves return and fill out the canopy.

Veering right through a meadow, I took the white-blazed Falls Trail to head towards the area's namesake waterfalls first. A boardwalk over a swollen spring gave me a hint of what was to come, the ground seeping and oozing water. The trail changed from cleared and straight into a series of rocky ledges that I picked my way over, the river appearing to my right. I could hear the falls ahead, rushing and melodious.

I was ascending another rocky tangle of tree roots and boulders when above me popped out the eager, gorgeous head of a chocolate labrador. He did his best to place all four paws on stable footing as he tried to contain his excitement and the limits of his leash to greet me. His owners and another small group of hikers with teenagers followed; we exchanged pleasantries

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## Health insurance, utilities drive budget increases

By Rocco Valluzzo

With only a few members of the public in attendance, the Board of Selectmen and Redding Board of Education presented their proposed budgets for fiscal year 2026-27 to the Board of Finance at a public hearing on Wednesday, March 18 at Redding Community Center. A discussion of Redding's portion of the Region 9 Board of Education budget was also included, but that budget will have its own public hearing on Wednesday, April 1 at Joel Barlow High School.

The proposed combined Town budget of \$59,473,583 represents an increase of \$2,742,136, or 4.83%. Key drivers for this increase include inflationary pressures, a 15% rise in health insurance premiums, and road repair costs.

The combined Town budget has seen an annual average increase of 2.21% since the 2008-09 fiscal year. Recent years have seen spikes due to inflation and insurance costs.

Totaling \$18,453,366, the Board of Selectmen's budget increased by \$701,962, or 3.95%. Many Town employees will receive a salary increase of 2.5%. Updates to the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development and Zoning Regulations will add to costs, and increased utilities and health insurance costs will drive some of that increase.

A 15% increase for health insurance costs is currently proposed for 2026-27. Last year, the Town switched carriers from Connecticut to Anthem after receiving a substantially lower quote.

"This is a very large part of our budget," said Pemberton. "We're keeping our fingers crossed, but we're also prepared to look at other items and potential reductions."

The capital requests by the Board of Selectmen are being driven by necessary bridge and road repairs following the August 2024 storms.

According to First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton, Redding is now in a situation where it must fund capital projects either through the Town's unassigned fund balance or by borrowing. For a period of time, it had been financing road reconstruction with three and four-year bond issues. This practice stopped once it had finished the roads it had planned to reconstruct.

"With interest rates being what they were, borrowing made no sense financially, so the decision was made to use unassigned fund balance and cash, and we did fewer roads," she said. "What we are now finding is that the roads are deteriorating quickly, and we have to return to a more robust program of road maintenance."

A total of \$3.7 million for the bridge and road plan includes a capital request of \$1.4 million for road repairs and \$2.3 million in bond assurance notes for the bridges on Sport Hill Road and Long Wall Road that were destroyed by the August 2024 storm. Pemberton hopes that by April the Board of Selectmen will have a full presentation by bridge engineers and the

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## Connecticut had second-highest electric bills in the nation in 2025

By Sasha Allen

Connecticut saw only a 3.8% increase in annual electric bills compared to 2024, but the state still has some of the highest electricity prices in the nation.

In 2025, consumers spent an average of \$2,485 annually on electricity in Connecticut, about \$700 more than the national average for that year of \$1,748. But compared to 2024, prices in Connecticut increased only 3.8%.

Connecticut took second place for highest average annual costs in the U.S., falling just behind Hawaii, according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Data from 2025 is preliminary.

Washington D.C. saw the highest price increases, a 23.8% increase in electricity costs in 2025 compared

to 2024. And across the nation, only four states saw decreases in their bills. Most states saw higher percent increases compared to the previous year than Connecticut did. But most states still had cheaper electricity for both years than Connecticut.

Costs have increased significantly in the state. Compared to 2020, prices for 2025 were about 28% higher — a nearly \$550 increase in annual costs over just five years. Across the nation, electric bills are up roughly \$110 per household over the same period, according to the U.S. Minority Joint Economic Committee. ■

*This article originally appeared in CT Mirror*

## New program rolls out no-charge tire disposal

By Rob Sample

Approximately 275 million vehicle tires are disposed of each year in the U.S., approximately 3.5 million in Connecticut — creating an enormous environmental challenge. Last Saturday, March 21, a new program debuted in Connecticut aimed at make recycling tires easier and cheaper for residents — while greatly reducing the temptation to dump tires illegally.

The law behind the new program, officially known as the Connecticut Tire Stewardship Program, is the first of its kind in the United States. It is akin to previous initiatives Connecticut has taken since 2010 regarding the recycling of electronic waste, mattresses, paint, and small gas cylinders.

The only step left in Redding to participate in the program involves switching out its current tire dumpster at the Transfer Station with a new one specifically designated for the Tire Stewardship Program. This will happen imminently, noted Public Works Administrator Paige Silva. Locally, the program is handled by the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRRA), which serves 14 towns in Western Connecticut encompassing more than 266,000 people.

“We are ready to go, and the Town of Redding will be getting the first tire pick-up shortly,” Silva pointed out. The new program has several key benefits for the Town. It will be simpler and less costly for residents to drop off tires for recycling at the Transfer Station, she said. Under the old rules, residents had to pay a small fee for each tire dropped off, which varied by vehicle size.

Under the new program, the cost of recycling will be borne by tire manufacturers and will be part of a tire’s cost upon purchase — eliminating the need for the Town to charge fees for tire recycling. After disposal, tires will be sent to one of five processors in Connecticut and Massachusetts, which will either resell them or find another way to keep them from being dumped in a landfill.

Though this removes a source of revenue for the Town, Silva said removing the fee the resident must pay should drastically reduce illegal dumping of tires.

“It works the same way as mattress recycling,” Silva said. That program began statewide in 2023 and before its debut, it was common to see old mattresses on the sides of roads. Now, discarded tires hopefully will be greatly reduced as well.

“In the long run, it will be a good thing, in that people won’t be dumping tires where they shouldn’t,” said Silva. (One important note: you must have an up-to-date permit for the

Transfer Station to take advantage of the new tire-recycling program.)

Jennifer Heaton-Jones, HRRRA’s Executive Director, said there was a process involved to bring the program to each town in the HRRRA, and Redding was one of the first to complete it. “Some towns are still having delays,” she said. “We are quite proud of Redding for going through the hoops they have to go through to get this off the ground.”

Tires present thorny disposal problems everywhere, she noted. Connecticut is one of the most densely populated states, which exacerbates those issues.

“Connecticut has historically struggled with thousands of illegally dumped tires,” Heaton-Jones said. “This new program shifts the cost burden from the municipalities to the tire manufacturers, so towns are no longer burdened with the cost of recycling.”

The ease of recycling, and the lack of fees to take part, will provide an important incentive for residents. Heaton-Jones also said the program will accommodate the recycling of “legacy” tires — those purchased before the recycling cost was added to the purchase cost of each tire.

Under the previous system, a vehicle owner paid a fee of \$3 to each municipality’s waste-collection authority to recycle a tire, \$4 if it included a rim. The fees for truck tires were \$6 and \$8, respectively. Yet even with those fees, towns incurred other costs such as transportation — funds that could not be used for other municipal needs.

“This new law will free up local funds for other, more important budget needs and initiatives on the local level,” Heaton-Jones said.

Heaton-Jones encourages residents to learn more about the recycling of electronic waste, mattresses, paint, and small gas cylinders in addition to the new tire program. Some of these items used to be recycled only in special collection campaigns several times each year; now, it’s possible to recycle them year-round. Heaton-Jones especially emphasizes the need to keep small gas cylinders (any container under 19 pounds, including those used by camp stoves and small propane tanks) out of trashcans.

“Even if you think they are empty, they’re not,” said Heaton-Jones. “They’re very dangerous and in addition to residents, we have to protect the safety of Transfer Station workers.” ■

*For more details about the new tire-recycling program, visit the [recycle tires.ct.com](http://recycle tires.ct.com). For a look at other kinds of recycling, visit [hrra.org/e-waste-mattresses-paint](http://hrra.org/e-waste-mattresses-paint)*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome Letters to the Editor. Please be clear, civil, and concise. E-mail [editor@reddingsentinel.org](mailto:editor@reddingsentinel.org) with submissions.

### To the Editor,

I am pleased that my home, the house I grew up in, was featured in the March 19 issue of the *Redding Sentinel* in the article “Surrounded by the ghosts of impressive people” by Donna Christopher.

My parents, William and Virginia Miller, moved there in 1953. The road was rural, unpaved, and actually the mailing address was Ridgefield in 1953. My dad bought the house from friends, Robert and Sally Fitzgerald. My mom was pursuing her PhD in Economics from Columbia University, when she met and married my dad, author 1942-1970s. My dad accepted an invitation from his colleague Richard Hofstadter, to work on American History for then Prentice Hall Publishing. My parents moved to rural Redding so he could write, in silence!

My parents contributed to the formation of current protective zoning laws, and of Redding Land Trust. My mom was a member of the Redding School Board during the planning and building of John Read Middle School and served on the Redding Board of Ethics for years.

She was independent, energetic, and active in Redding, even after moving to Meadow Ridge, continuing to volunteer at her friend Carmen Mathew’s New Pond Farm, and at Mark Twain Library. She push-mowed her lawn up until she moved to Meadow Ridge. Two of her former tenant’s acquaintances bought her house, and, kindly enough, were happy for her to continue to come back and garden in her old garden spot, near the forsythia she planted and tended for decades, near the mailbox at the top of the hill. ■

*Patty Miller Hancock  
Former resident of Seventy Acre Road*

### To the Editor,

The melting snow has revealed an unwelcome sight yet again throughout town — trash and litter lining the sides of our roads. For a place that prides itself on its scenic roads, I hope we can figure out a solution together to tackle this issue. ■

*Andrew Elliott  
Cross Highway*

# Curious about becoming a POLL WORKER?

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**Tuesday, March 31**  
**12:00 pm & 7:00 pm**  
**Town Hall**  
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The Registrar of Voters Office is hosting two information sessions about serving as a poll worker. This is a no commitment opportunity to learn if this part-time, paid service position is right for you! You will meet the Registrar team, learn about the duties and responsibilities of being a poll worker, and have an opportunity to have all your questions answered. We hope to see you there!

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[registrar@reddingct.gov](mailto:registrar@reddingct.gov)  
203-938-5012

Visit the Registrar of Voters website at  
[www.reddingct.gov/registrar-voters](http://www.reddingct.gov/registrar-voters)  
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# Final touches to the Nest building and other capital improvements approved

By Anne Young Albanese

At the March 17 Region 9 Board of Education meeting, the Board approved funding for several planned expenditures.

The Nest project – creating indoor bathrooms, team rooms, and an updated concessions stand adjacent to the Joel Barlow High School football field – is nearing completion. The goal is to have it finished before the spring sports season is in full swing. Some final elements, costing a total of \$27,506, were approved at the meeting. The funds used are part of the bond for the project that was approved by both Redding and Easton. There also are still funds in the reserve for any last-minute requirements to finish the project.

The first item is an addition to the water pipe that runs down to the field. The pipe was required to be buried below the frost line, which will keep those pipes from freezing. The State Department of Health also requires certain additional systems to be put in place

that will allow Mike D’Agostino, ER9 Director of Facilities and Operations, and his team access to the water line in case they need to test the water, chlorinate it, or access it for other reasons. The cost for this is \$5,737.

Previously, there were plaques on the Nest building to recognize significant contributors. The Board voted to purchase one three-foot-by-three-foot plaque. This will allow the information from the current plaques to be engraved and will still leave room for additional names. The cost for this is \$9,000 and eliminates the need for additional plaques in the future.

D’Agostino noted the team rooms currently appear somewhat bland. The Board approved \$1,836 to add emblems on the floor of the team rooms. Jon Stinson expressed concern about having the emblem displayed in the visiting team room. D’Agostino reassured him that he had spoken with the Athletic Director, and he had no concerns.

A stainless-steel table and 12 shelving units will complete the concession stand. The cost for these items is \$4,433.

Lastly, part of the Nest includes a concrete patio next to the concession stand. The Board approved the purchase of five tables with attached benches where people can sit. This will be especially helpful for parents who have work to do while watching their kids’ sports practices. The cost for these tables is \$6,500.

In addition to approving some of the final pieces of the Nest project, the Board also approved various bathroom renovations at Joel Barlow High School. The Board approved \$167,215 for the Library hallway restrooms. It approved \$75,985 to redo the Lower Gym balcony restrooms. The “E” hallway restrooms will also be redone for \$99,483. These funds will be coming from the 2025-26 capital projects fund. ■

## Health insurance, utilities drive budget increases / continued from page 1

project will be well into the permitting process.

The Redding Board of Education presented the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, totaling \$27,570,525, representing a 3.96% increase. This is primarily driven by non-discretionary contractual obligations, including faculty compensation, transportation, and utilities.

“Other than sort of minor tweaks, it’s almost identical to last year’s budget,” said Redding Board of Education Chair Laura Worosz. “We wanted to be really aware of increasing costs, and we had a lot of contractual obligations that were quite substantial.”

Contractual obligations include an \$835,000 increase in faculty and staff compensation across Reading Elementary School (RES), John Read Middle School (JRMS), and special education. Due to a healthy reserve fund and expectations of lower claims, a modest increase of \$66,000 was budgeted for healthcare.

“We’ve had very, very high claims over the last three years, and based on our health insurance consultant, they’re expecting those to go down somewhat this year,” said Worosz. “And since we’ve budgeted appropriately the last few years and we’ve saved quite a bit in our healthcare reserve, we felt more comfortable with a modest healthcare increase this year.”

The presentation also detailed five key capital projects slated for summer 2026. These include the final phase of upgrading learning spaces, specifically the special education and music rooms at RES. Projects at JRMS include replacement of degraded student lockers, refurbishment of fifth grade restrooms, repair of sticking exterior doors across both schools and upgrading Project Adventure

infrastructure, a group learning and outdoor activity center at JRMS.

While the Region 9 Board of Education’s overall budget increase is modest at 2.78%, Redding’s share of \$13,449,692 represents an increase of \$990,972 (7.95%). This is due to an increase in the number of Redding students attending Joel Barlow High School and a decrease in those from Easton.

“Apportionment is actually the key budget driver for us this year because the enrollment has swung back to Redding to a considerable degree, which means the ultimate allocation rate of a modest budget increase is disproportionate between the two towns,” explained Region 9 Chairman Chris Parkin. “Because the student population has swung back toward Redding, Redding’s share of the Region 9 budget will increase while Easton will see a decrease in its share.”

Contractual obligations include negotiated teachers’ salaries, not an increase in total staff. Parkin also identified special education and associated transportation as economic drivers of the budget. He noted that the district has had to contract services for general education to meet mandatory special education needs.

In addition, the State of Connecticut has not adjusted education cost sharing contributions for inflation since 2013, leaving a significant funding gap for local taxpayers. Federal and State underfunding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act remains the primary cost driver for the district over the last decade.

The budgets will now be reviewed by the Board of Finance, which may make changes before the Referendum, currently scheduled for May 5. The Region 9 Board of Education will complete its review following the public hearing on April 1. ■

# Is tick season starting earlier than usual in 2026?

By Mariana Navarrete Villegas

Yes.

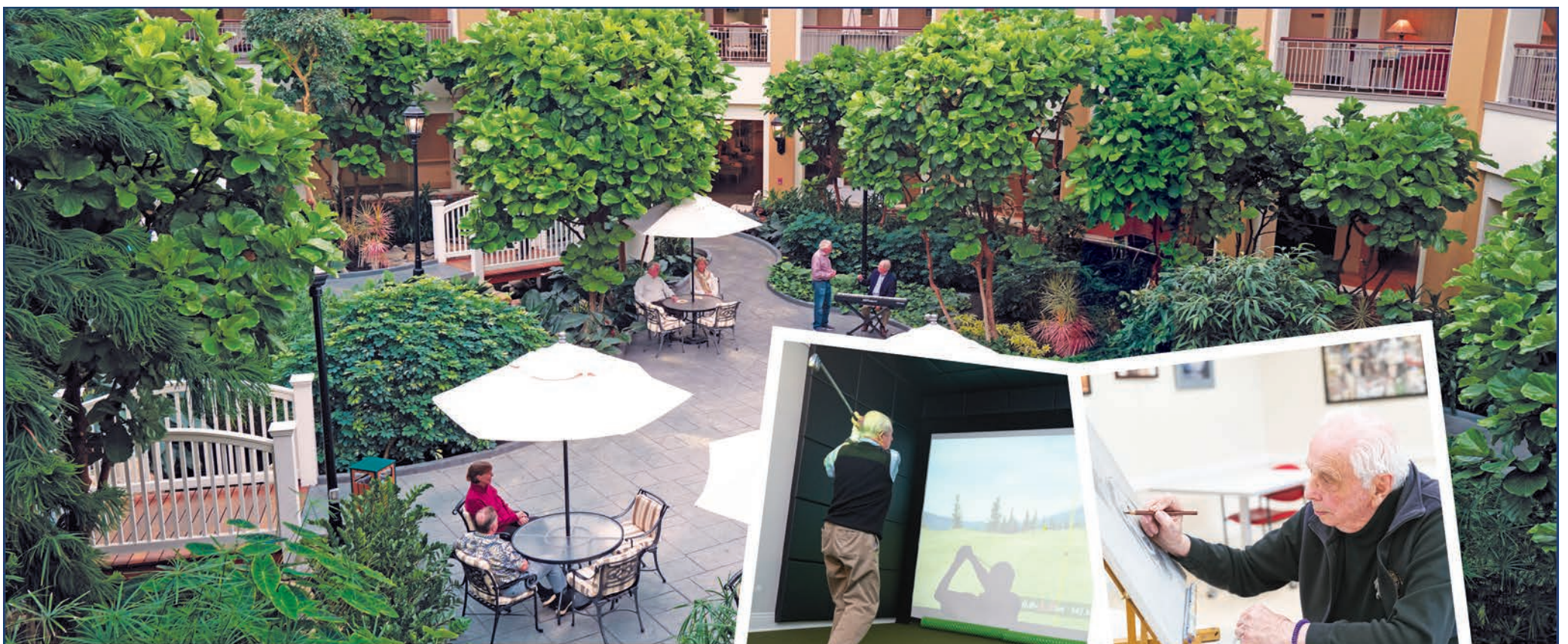
While tick season is generally known to start in warmer weather months, experts have forecasted an early start this year due to irregular weather patterns that allow the pests to survive. Ticks and other pests can stay protected beneath thick snow layers – like those created by recent snowstorms, experts say.

As of last month, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station had already received ticks for testing, according to a *Connecticut Public* report. As temperatures rise, the National Pest Management Association is warning Americans to expect more ticks, which often carry diseases like Lyme disease.

Across the U.S., more than 89,000 cases of Lyme disease were

reported in the latest surveillance data to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Symptoms of early-stage Lyme disease include muscle and joint ache, headache, fever, chills, fatigue, and swollen lymph nodes. ■

*This news brief originally appeared in CT Mirror*



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— Greg Z, son of resident Ingrid Z.

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# REDDING'S OWN

## From skiing to social work, Olivia Giaccio flies high | *By Pamela Brown*



Photo courtesy of Olivia Giaccio  
Olivia Giaccio at the Milano-Cortina Winter Olympics

Olivia Giaccio, Redding's own U.S. Ski Team freestyle mogul skier, may have put the 2026 Winter Olympics in her rearview mirror, finishing ninth overall, but she went full steam ahead to win first place at the Nanto-Toyama World Cup in Japan in February and won the World Cup Overall title, finishing the year ranked #1 in the world.

"This is the most monumental achievement of my career! I'm honored to have earned my first #1

rank of my career in a tight race all season," said Giaccio. "Pushing myself to the utmost level of my ability and seeing how good I can get keeps me motivated. I love the opportunity to connect with nature, the adrenaline rush, and the chance to push my boundaries and comfort levels." Giaccio also made history as the first woman to win a World Cup event with a cork 1080 in 2024 at her home in Deer Valley, Utah.

The 25-year-old lived in Redding

for about 10 years as a child, attending Redding Elementary School and John Read Middle School. "I was so young I don't remember much beyond the context of organized sports, aside from a couple of my favorite spots in the area – Topstone Park, the Sycamore Drive-In, and Ferris Acres Creamery," said Giaccio, who traveled through Redding a couple years ago on a road trip and went for a run at Topstone. "It was nostalgic."

Giaccio started skiing at age two, competing in her first mogul competition at age 10.

"My parents signed my brother and me up for a random program at the Killington Ski Club and it happened to be moguls! I fell in love and things took off from there," she recalled. The 2026 Olympics was an amazing time for Giaccio, who even had the opportunity to teach Snoop Dogg how to mogul ski. "Being part of the USA Olympic delegation is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The hotel we stayed in hosted athletes of all different countries, so it was cool to meet other athletes from all over the world. The sauna/pool at our hotel in Livigno was incredible, so I spent a lot of time there," she said.

Giaccio enjoyed watching other competitions and pin trading. "It was one of my favorite ways to meet other athletes from different nations and sports. Livigno was home to all of freestyle/freeski skiing and snowboarding, so I knew many of my Team USA teammates in the village. That familiarity was awesome and made me comfortable in a hectic environment."

Giaccio's days were jam-packed. After completing a mental workout, having breakfast with her team-

mates, and completing the first part of her warm-up at the Olympic Village, she headed out to the hill for a warm-up of explosive, sport-oriented exercises. "Depending on if it was a training or competition day, I'd train a few runs with the intent of improving small details in my run to make it as fantastic as possible before the competition. I also evaluate the course to see which tactics work best for me (i.e. how big I should go on each jump, which tricks I should compete)," she said. Afterward, Giaccio hung out with her teammates exploring the bustling village.

Giaccio was grateful her family had the opportunity to see her compete in person. "Having friends and family there for support was the most special part of my Games experience. My parents, younger brother, and a friend from high school all came to see me," said Giaccio, who said she appreciated all the hometown encouragement she received. "A crazy number of people from all corners of my life reached out to me throughout the Olympic Games. That support was beyond meaningful and made me feel loved."

Giaccio maintains a rigorous training schedule. "Learning new tricks is an important component of development, and doing so safely is key," said Giaccio who trains four to five times a week at the Utah Olympic Park using a plastic/metal ramp that she skis on, then jumps off into a big swimming pool. "First, you learn a new trick on the trampoline, followed by repetitions on the water ramps before you can take it to snow."

Giaccio will also travel to the Southern Hemisphere or Europe for

ski training. In the summer, athletes break down the components of their run before putting it all together prior to competition. In addition, she adds in daily gym training, and leading up to the 2026 Olympics, she prioritized mental training. "I dealt with a chronic knee injury that limited the overall volume I was able to do in the last two years. Visualization was a critical component," explained Giaccio.

With competition season completed, Giaccio has downtime through mid-May, then will train through November with the competition season running December through March. She'll also focus on her academic studies while training for the next winter Olympics. She's in the midst of completing her Master of Social Work at Columbia School of Social Work and works as a Research Assistant at the HEART Lab. "Skiing and psychology are aligned in almost every single way," she explained. "I've become a better human being as a result of psychological processes that have guided my skiing, and vice versa." She also actively supports various organizations such as POW (Protect Our Winters) and ReadAhead.

Personally and professionally, Giaccio's motto is, *process over results*. "Striving to be better is a fundamental tenet of my being. Results are never guaranteed," said Giaccio. "My results have shown me that I'm capable of achieving what I previously thought was almost impossible. All that I can personally guarantee for myself is that I put my all into training and competition each day." This champion has the right mindset for continued success. ■

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Goodbye, old blue / continued from page 1

ultimately determined removal was the most appropriate option. Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission Angela Caes noted that the condition of the tree was first brought to the Commission's attention by now-seventh grader Meredith Lyons, who sent a letter to the group in late 2024 about the tree's deteriorating health and inquiring about the possibility of planting a replacement.

Though the blue spruce is cut down, its story is not yet over.

Redding Tree Conservancy, when finding out the Colorado blue spruce was to be taken down, asked Pemberton what would become of the wood, and she suggested they come up with ideas

"We got on the phone to local organizations, including the Redding Garden Club, artisans, and our schools, and the ideas just kept coming," said Rotchstein. "We're thrilled to be working with so many different groups in Redding to create new memories for our treasured Holiday Tree. And we encourage everyone to think about reclaiming wood from trees they must cut down in their yards. Artisans can make incredible keepsakes such as cutting or serving boards, rustic benches or arbors, vases and bowls."

The 60-foot Colorado blue spruce that towered on the green by the gazebo was planted by the Redding Garden Club in 1978 in honor of Edith Pharr, who was active as Civic Beautification Chairman.

"Her civic beautification work

lives on today with the Club, maintaining 16 'CB' sites throughout the Town of Redding," said Ruth Moran, an active member of the Garden Club who came to the tree cutting on Friday with her husband Bob, who filmed the process. "In a small town like Redding, having a lovely (and healthy) tree on our town green which we can decorate each holiday season is a winning tradition."

The Garden Club decided to donate partial funding for the tree to be replaced when they learned of the demise of blue spruce, according to Moran.

"We also were eager to help preserve some of the wood from this historic tree. We partnered with the Redding Tree Conservancy to have schoolchildren and a professional artist do creations using the cut wood. That will happen after the wood dries for a few weeks," said Moran.

Scouting troops have also expressed interest in doing something like an event with the reclaimed wood, according to Rotchstein.

Residents were also invited on social media to stop by and pick up smaller limbs from the Town Green to create crafts from and share their creations with the Redding Tree Conservancy.

"Think birdhouse, trellises, rustic garden fences, medallions, etc," Rotchstein wrote. "Branches are now on the Town Green for easy pick-up. Let us know what you create on Redding 411 or [reddingtreeconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:reddingtreeconservancy@gmail.com)." ■

# Eight Barlow musicians will perform at All State Music Festival

By Anne Young Albanese



Photo by Gwynne Wittman

The Barlow musicians who participated in the CMEA Western Region High School Music Festival in January. (Back, left to right): Bryce Hopkins, Eddie Chiamonte, Avery Young, Finn Bermingham, and Matthew Arnold. (Front, left to right): Francesca Curatilo, Mel Ploss, Saira Menon, Sassy Wood, Annie Peters, Kenji Perretz, Conrad Newell, and Michael Minimberg.

The Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA) sponsors two high school music festivals that are open to music students from Joel Barlow High School. Student instrumentalists and singers audition to perform with other musicians from the Western Region. Students were accepted into the CMEA Western Region High School Music Festival, and some of those students were accepted into the CMEA All-State Festival.

The first concert was one of four regional festivals. The Western

Region consists of the towns of Bethel, Bridgeport, Brookfield, Danbury, Darien, Easton, Fairfield, Greenwich, Monroe, New Canaan, New Fairfield, Newtown, Norwalk, Redding, Shelton, Sherman, Stamford, Stratford, Trumbull, Weston, Westport, and Wilton.

The Western Region concert was held on January 17 at Wilton High School. The Barlow representatives were Bryce Hopkins, Eddie Chiamonte, Avery Young, Finn Bermingham, Matthew Arnold, Francesca Curatilo, Mel Ploss, Saira

Menon, Sassy Wood, Annie Peters, Kenji Perretz, Conrad Newell, and Michael Minimberg.

Students who participated in the CMEA Western Region High School Music Festival were then invited to audition for the CMEA All-State Festival. Eight of the regional students were accepted into the All-State Festival. They were seniors Finn Bermingham and Conrad Newell; juniors Annie Peters, Mel Ploss, and Sassy Wood; sophomores Bryce Hopkins and Saira Menon; and freshman Francesca Curatilo.

The All-State Festival will be held this coming weekend, from March 26 to March 28, at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. These dates include rehearsal times, with the concert itself being held on Saturday, March 28. The Mixed Choir, Treble Choir, and Jazz Band performances will begin at 1:00 p.m. The Concert band and Orchestra show will begin at 3:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at [brushfire.com/cmea/all-state-festival-26/626310](http://brushfire.com/cmea/all-state-festival-26/626310).

Since its inception in 1932, Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA) has been dedicated to providing programs and activities for professional educators, students, and future music educators striving to enhance the quality of music education for all children. ■

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# Barlow chemistry students receive accolades for their research

By Anne Young Albanese

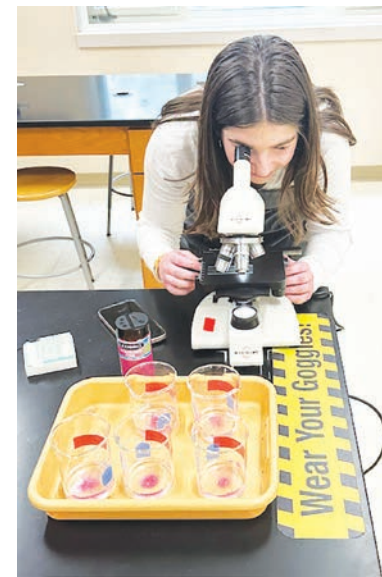


Photo by Paul Testa

Grace Masone collecting data for her research project by using a microscope to observe how glitter has been altered in different salinity solutions.

As part of Paul Testa's AP Chemistry course at Joel Barlow High School, students develop and conduct research projects for competitions throughout the state. These research projects are in addition to the preparation required for the AP Chemistry exam, which will take place in early May.

"We are incredibly proud to recognize the outstanding achievements of three Joel Barlow High School juniors from [my] AP Chemistry class," Testa said. "These students showcased their high-level scientific research at the state level, representing our school with excellence and innovation."

One of the competitions in which students participated was the Connecticut High School Science and Humanities Symposium (CT HSSHS). The Symposium is designed to challenge and engage students in grades 9-12 in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). Students compete for scholarships and recognition by presenting the results of their original research before a panel of judges and an audience of their peers.

The first step includes students

presenting their project online to judges. The top students are then invited to present in person at UConn Health in Farmington.

Carolyn Hopstaken was one of only 16 students from Connecticut to earn a spot as an oral presenter. Her research project, "Photocatalytic Degradation of Polypropylene via Iron-Modified Titanium Dioxide," explored advanced methods for breaking down common plastics using light-activated catalysts.

At the same Symposium, Christopher Alvarado was one of 18 students invited to compete in the Competitive Poster Session. His project was "Assessing the Effectiveness and Performance of Adaptive Authentication in Isolation against Volumetric DDoS Attacks." His work delved into cybersecurity and the resilience of digital infrastructure against high-volume network attacks.

Another Barlow student was recognized at the Connecticut STEM Fair, which aims to promote critical thinking skills and motivate students to pursue science and engineering after high school. Grace Masone came in third place in the Environmental Proposal category. Her project was "Salinity and Degradation of Cosmetic Glitter and Microplastics." Her proposal investigated how different water environments affect the breakdown of micro-pollutants found in consumer products.

"These students have spent countless hours designing experiments, analyzing data, and preparing their presentations. Their success is a testament to their hard work and the rigorous academic environment fostered in our Science Department," Testa said. "I am extremely proud of these students [for being] recognized at this level. Where many students across the state complete their research project over multiple years in a separate research class, my students completed them in only six months as part of the curriculum in their AP Chemistry class. That alone is quite an accomplishment for all my AP Chemistry students." ■

# A tapestry of colors and cultures Redding Elementary School hosts International Festival



Photos by Anne Young Albanese

On Saturday, March 21, Redding Elementary School hosted its annual International Festival. The big gym was filled with creative displays on countries from five continents, educating students and families about different parts of the world. The Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton hosted crafts for attendees. Entertainment included a Polish children's dancing group and Israeli dancing. (From top left, clockwise): Kailee Scales and her daughter, Chloe Hanning, showcased the beauty of Puerto Rico; Patrycja Pedzinska and her son, Julian Joczyn, shared some of Poland's rich history; Emily Parker and her son, Barnaby Parker, invited the Queen of England for photo opportunities with visitors; Ioannis Rountos, mom Angela Rountos, and Eleni Rountos shared their Greek heritage with attendees.

## Redding sees 7.95% increase in Region 9 budget / continued from page 1

students in Region 9; Redding will pay 49.4% of the budget while Easton pays 50.6%.

The Board's recent focus was to get the overall budget increase below 3% and the Redding increase below 8%. The Board and district administrators worked together to meet these goals.

When budget season began in February, Superintendent Jason McKinnon proposed a budget of \$27,434,883, which was an increase of \$945,728 or 3.57%. This would have led to Redding's portion of the budget being \$13,552,832, which would have been an increase of \$1,094,112 or 8.87%. Over the following several weeks, the Board encouraged McKinnon to find savings without compromising the students' education and experience. McKinnon and Sara Scrofani, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations, and Technology, examined the budget after each meeting and found some additional savings.

Before the March 17 meeting, the Board had asked the administration to trim another \$150,000.

Ultimately, \$176,286 in savings was found.

Some of the most recent cuts involved moving certain purchases up to the end of the current fiscal year due to savings and grant funds. Others involved savings that the administration was able to identify.

The Region 9 Board of Education will hold its annual District Hearing on Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Joel Barlow High School Library Learning Commons. This allows the community to learn more about the budget, ask questions, and provide feedback.

Redding's share of the Region 9 Board of Education budget will be included on the ballot at the Budget Referendum, currently set for Tuesday, May 5. Voting will run from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Redding Community Center at 37 Lonetown Road. When voting closes, the Board of Finance will meet to approve the tax (mil) rate or revise the budget, depending on the Referendum results. ■

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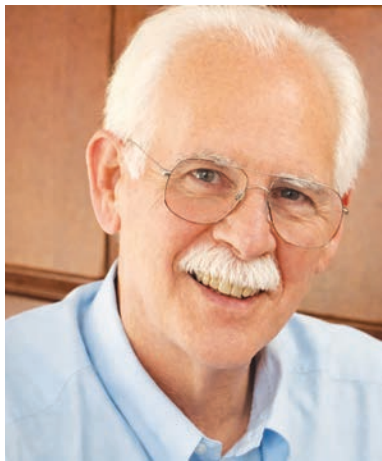


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# OBITUARIES

## Paul Vincent Guarniere

July 5, 1945 – March 19, 2026



fueling up their matching MGB GTs, hers red and his green. Not surprisingly, Paul asked the station owner, Steve, for Barbara's name and where she went to church, and the rest is history.

Paul was an outstanding father to their son, Christopher, of Redding, a loving father-in-law to Amanda, and served as best man at their wedding. He was a devoted grandfather to his beloved granddaughters, Reagan, Gemma, and Grace. "Poppie," as he was known to his girls, will be deeply missed, along with his weekend pancakes, lifeguarding the deck kiddie pool, hugs, and squeezes. He loved traveling to Disney World with them, and his favorite ride was Soarin' Around the World.

Paul is also survived by his sister, Joan Simler and his nephew, Craig Simler of Dallas, TX; his cousin, Barbara (Glenn) Jarvis; and many other beloved family members and close friends.

Paul enjoyed traveling, riding ATVs, and snowmobiling. He spent more than 25 years running The Handyman Workshop, a home

improvement contracting business. He leaves behind a legacy of craftsmanship and creativity across many homes and properties in the area, and if you were fortunate enough to be a client, his family hopes you will remember Paul when you feel the warm hug of your home.

None of his career success would have been possible without his dedicated and talented crew, whom Paul truly considered family. He shared a special bond with Gabe, Victor, Alberto, Ramiro, Oscar, Luis, and their families.

A Catholic Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, March 27, 2026 at 12:30 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church, 44 Washington Avenue, North Haven, Connecticut.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Paul's memory to Unidada Latina en Accion ([www.ulane-whaven.org](http://www.ulane-whaven.org)), reflecting the respect and care he showed to the people he worked alongside and considered family. Donations may also be made to Connecticut Yankee Council, Scouting America ([www.ctyankee.org](http://www.ctyankee.org)). ■

Paul Vincent Guarniere, 80, of Northford, Connecticut, passed away at home on March 19, 2026, after a long illness.

Born July 5, 1945, in New Haven to Letha (Kenney) and Vincent Guarniere, Paul grew up and lived there for many years before moving to Northford. He was predeceased by his parents.

Paul is survived by his wife of 56 years, Barbara (Ricciardi). In 1966, Paul met Barbara at the Shell gas station in Northford, where they both happened to be

## Joseph F. DiPietro

February 17, 1945 – March 23, 2026



A union electrician for over 40 years, Joe founded Redding Electric in 1988, which he ran until his retirement. He coached many Little League Baseball teams through the Redding Boys & Girls Club and was a past president. Later in life, he became an auxiliary police officer for the Town of Redding – a big point of pride.

Joe is survived by his children, Marcie Rouman (Chris) of Seattle and Joseph A. DiPietro (Xochitl) of Redding; his granddaughters Joanna and Carina DiPietro; his sister Gloria DiPietro of Norwalk; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, his wife Janice, his brother Andy DiPietro of Portsmouth, NH, and his sister Mary-Ann Cardillo of Redding.

A graveside service will be held Friday, March 27, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Umpawaug Cemetery, 149 Umpawaug Road, Redding. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

To offer online condolences, please visit [www.boutonfuneral-home.com](http://www.boutonfuneral-home.com) ■

Joseph F. DiPietro, 81, of Redding, passed away on Monday, March 23, 2026, at Regional Hospice of Danbury with his children by his side.

Joe was born in Norwalk on February 17, 1945, to the late Andrew DiPietro and Chiara (Benincasa) DiPietro. He graduated from J.M. Wright Technical High School in Stamford in 1963 and married Janice Perrotta in 1966. He built them a house in Redding in 1978, where they lived together until Janice's passing on November 8, 2024.

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## Celebrate America's 250th Birthday

Join us for cocktails and a screening of the Academy Award-winning film, *Glory* (1989), the heroic true story of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment, whose courage inspired the powerful first movement of Charles Ives's *Three Places in New England*.

**WHEN:**  
April 23 at 7:00 PM

**WHERE**  
Greenwood Features, 269 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT  
7:00 PM – Cocktails & Conversation  
8:00 PM – Film screening

**TICKET PRICE: \$30**  
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All proceeds benefit the Redding Celebrates America 250 Concert on May 30, featuring Charles Ives's music performed by the Greater Bridgeport Symphony — joined by talented students from Joel Barlow High School — in a special educational and community celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary right here in Connecticut!

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**Redding Celebrates America 250**

# SPARK

## Arts and culture around Redding and beyond

By Julie Durkin Marty

Three art shows not to miss this spring.

**Between the Lines**  
G-Town Arts, 5 Main Street, Georgetown  
Through Saturday, March 28  
gtownarts.com

Have you ever stared at a word so long it stopped making sense? That's where this show starts. Fifteen artists explore what happens when language breaks down — when words become shapes, marks become meaning, and pictures say what words can't. You don't need to know anything about art to feel it. Fern Apfel paints letters so worn and faded they can never quite be read — it is quietly haunting. John O'Connor builds a visual loop of competing ideas that never resolves, which feels very much like the world right now. Come for the closing reception and artist talk on Sunday, March 28, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. It's free, it's in your backyard, and the conversations are always worth having.

**Chenlu Hou and Chiara No: What the Hands Remember to Hear**

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, 258 Main Street, Ridgefield  
Through Monday, May 25  
thealdrich.org

Two artists, both working in clay, both making objects that are meant to be heard as much as seen. Chenlu Hou makes hand-built ceramic rattles and figures drawn from Chinese folklore — small enough to hold in your palm, rich enough to spend an hour with. Chiara No makes bells shaped after ancient figures, painted in vivid color, with little dangling legs inside that clang



Photo by Julie Durkin Marty

Work by Chenlu Hou on view at The Aldrich.

when you move them. Together their work feels less like an art exhibition and more like a conversation across cultures and centuries. This is Hou's first museum show — a good reason to go.

**Ursula von Rydingsvard: States of Becoming**

The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich  
Through Sunday, May 10  
brucemuseum.org

Ursula von Rydingsvard builds her sculptures by stacking and gluing cedar beams — the same four-by-four lumber you'd find at a hardware store — into forms that can stand over 10 feet tall and feel like they've been pulled from the earth. She's been doing this for 50 years and the work only gets more powerful. This show at the Bruce traces where she's been and where she's going, including newer pieces made from handmade paper that are fragile and raw in a completely different way. If you've never stood in front of a sculpture and felt genuinely moved, this might be the show that changes everything. ■

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### Redding's Big Outdoors: Chasing waterfalls / continued from page 1

and went on our opposite ways.

I had the rest of the hike to myself, for which I was grateful. The main falls, where the water tumbles down and bends around to join the river, almost knocked me over with its power. I checked my clock — 10:44 a.m. Almost there. I left the trail to climb down to a large, flat rock jutting out over the water, a front-row seat to the cascade. I sat down on its mossy cushion and closed my eyes.

Stretching both arms out, I threw my head back and welcomed spring. I stretched my neck, opened and closed my mouth, wiggled my ankles. I shook off the stiffness of winter, letting the thunderous thrust of the water show me how time pushes onwards, how change and return are inevitable. I sang a song,

emboldened by the water's volume to truly sing it, not just hum it to myself. Taking deep breaths, my lungs filled with the scents of wet earth and fresh water. "Welcome welcome welcome," I chanted, and the sun came out from behind the clouds again, turning up the volume on light and warmth.

My ritual concluded, I stood up, brushing my pants off and turned back towards the trail. I didn't have much more time, so I continued upwards, emerging out of the forest at the Powerline Trail (it's not marked here, but it is unmistakable — a cleared path underneath enormous power lines). Turning left up the steep hill, I huffed and puffed my way to the entrance to the Oak Trail, taking another left back into the woods. More hills to climb

here, and I started contemplating if perhaps doing this loop the opposite way might be worth a try next time.

Oak Trail links up with Knapp Way (onto which I veered left) and then intersects with Hemlock Trail. I took a left down Hemlock, which deposited me back into the golden meadow where the Falls Trail began. My cheeks were flushed, my jacket now tied around my waist. I made my way back towards the trailhead, an unmistakable spring in my step. ■

*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*

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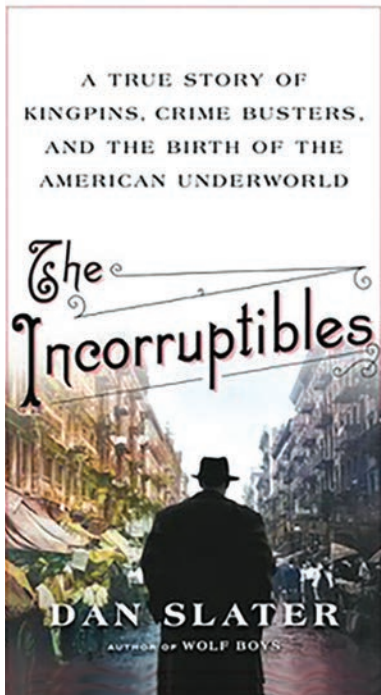
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## BOOK REVIEW

### The Incorruptibles

By Dan Slater

424 pages / Little, Brown and Company / \$32.50



*The Incorruptibles* by Dan Slater is a true-crime novel that tells the story of New York City corruption at the beginning of the 20th century. Gambling, prostitution, and graft were the legacy of Tammany Hall in the 1890s, but Jewish immigrants from Russia and Germany organized criminal activities in ways that flourished under an iron-clad rule of silence difficult to penetrate. Irish and Italian criminal organizations later copied those practices of Jewish gangs and criminals of the day. They were effective. Politicians, judges, the police, and various organizations like the Independent Benevolent Association (protecting pimps and prostitutes, often with violence) served to perpetuate criminal purposes very well.

Author Slater – who lives next door in Easton – brings light to new technologies of the time. In 1911, the first conviction using fingerprints was obtained. Detective Faurot, an early advocate of evidentiary science who studied in France, appeared in a 1911 film called *The Thumb Print*. The tapping of telephone lines was also a new source of evidence that found early success in breaking the social barriers to reform and change. Slowly, precedents were set. The reader is drawn into the *fin de siècle* corruption that defined New York City. Slater details well the push and pull

of labor reform, the gradual and difficult eradication of social rot as it existed then among the swollen tide of Russian and German Jewish immigrants and their children. Vice and violence brought money. The money was then used to continue the corrupt practices until a shift came in cultural attitudes that favored reform. World War I and the onset of Prohibition expressed a social shift. A change of cultural attitude must exist when conflicts and contradictions can poison reform efforts. Dan Slater details these moments with precision.

Transportation and communication improvements combined with European and Russian political unrest resulted in great waves of 19th century immigration that led to 20th century social problems and reforms. Slater details what amounts, finally, to social growing pains, which can be measured in misery of the day. Strangers in a strange land were vulnerable. Pickpockets and fraud beset them. *The Incorruptibles* tells the story of leaders of reform (who themselves were not exempt from criminal connection). They had a sense of future and limitation.

Among the principal characters of this true story is Abe Shoenfeld. Shoenfeld lived with a prostitute and was an inveterate gambler. Eventually, he became a reformer connected to the police department and was able to effectively use his connections in the underworld to effect reform. He died in 1977, one month before the author was born. Dan Slater, on his own early aspirations: "...if I ever became a writer, I wanted to tell the story of the 'Jewish Rambo.'"

Organized crime in New York City is focused mainly on Italian machination. But Dan Slater has given us the story of their Jewish precursors, and their canny and relentless infrastructure. This is his telling. ■

Review by Tom Casey, author of *Human Error*, *Strangers' Gate*, and *Unsettled States*

## LIBRARY CORNER

### The science of libraries | By James Falotico

Hello, everyone. My name is James, and I serve as the circulation assistant at Mark Twain Library. With Erin away this week, I am pleased to share how I entered the Library Science field and what it is like to pursue a Master's in Library and Information Science.

My path to Library Science has been more dynamic than most. I began my undergraduate studies at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) as a Computer Science major with a focus on Game Design, but soon realized my interests and passions lay elsewhere. Seeking a field that combined technology, history, and reading, I joined RIT's Special Collections as a digitization lab assistant and multispectral imager. My responsibilities in-

cluded imaging and scanning artifacts, creating metadata, and uploading digital surrogates to RIT's online archives. I also used multispectral imaging to produce false-color images that reveal hidden or faded text on cultural heritage artifacts.

This experience led me to switch to Museum Studies. Over the next three years, I studied the history and practices of Museums, Archives, and Libraries (LAMs), explored emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, AR/VR, and 3D scanning, and learned to implement them in library and archival workflows.

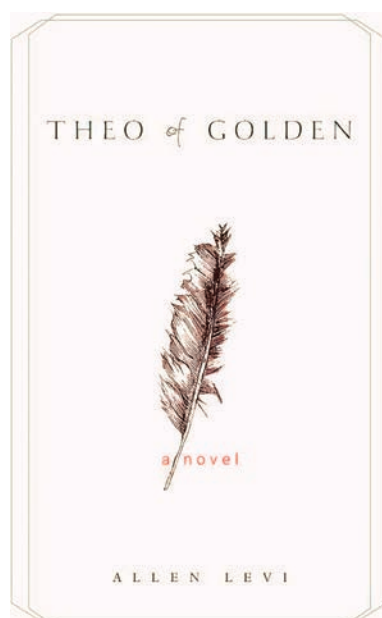
After graduating from RIT in 2024, I pursued further education in Library Science and Informatics.

I was accepted to Simmons University in Boston, where I am now completing my final semester with a focus on cultural heritage. Simmons is recognized for its focus on hands-on learning through co-ops, which led to my position at Mark Twain Library. My experience at Simmons has helped me connect theory with practice, particularly in digital preservation, metadata management, and archival work. These opportunities have strengthened my confidence in managing cultural heritage materials and adapting to new technologies.

The program's emphasis on professional development and practical experience has been invaluable.

Continued on page 9

### Good books for good readers | By Margi Esten



It's difficult to read anything even remotely related to books and not hear about the word-of-mouth

smash hit debut novel *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. I read it in a few sittings; it is a light, fast read but beautifully crafted and prompts one to consider some of the larger meanings in life.

The plot is simple: An elderly, mysterious, foreign stranger arrives in the small town of Golden, Georgia and immediately asks many more questions than he answers. Only known to the local townspeople as Theo, he begins buying up a local artist's portraits of the town residents and gifting them back to the subjects along with offering hope and connection.

The cast of characters is intriguing albeit ordinary: James Ponder, his landlord and confidant; Asher Glissen, the talented portrait artist; Tony Wilcox, the Vietnam veteran bookseller; Ellen, a homeless woman

with an extraordinary intellect; Simone Lavoie, a gifted cello student; and many more. All end up representing different facets of Theo's life and are instrumental in helping to accomplish his mission – which isn't obvious throughout the story and only revealed at the surprising end.

*Theo of Golden* is well worth the read, as much of it lingers long after you've finished reading, encouraging hope and connection, giving and receiving, seeing others with love, practicing selfless acts, and finding joy in simple moments.

Allen Levi, an attorney and judge, has been a prolific songwriter, storyteller, blogger, and letter-writer for decades and much of *Theo of Golden* is inspired from his own life and experiences. This is his first novel. ■

### Second panel of artists announced for Library series | By Lisa Goldstein



Photo by Lisa Goldstein

A full house attended the first discussion in "The Secret Lives of Artists" series on March 12.

The second panel of artists in a four-part series at Mark Twain Library will be in discussion live on Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m. The series, called the "Secret Lives of Artists," offers residents and neighbors the opportunity to get to know the many talented artists who live within our community.

In this session, featured artists include sculptor and writer Mary Bailey, opera singer Sarah Hawkey, symphonic composer Fred Newman, and novelist Carolyn Prusa. Veteran television producer and painter Bob Marty, a longtime Redding resident and a creative force unto himself, is the moderator for

all the series conversations. Prusa conceptualized the series along with fellow author and Redding resident Tom Casey with the hopes of bringing artists together and bringing their creative voices out of the shadows.

The final two installments will take place in Fall 2026, currently slated for September and November, with exact dates yet to be determined. Future panelists will also reside in Redding or a nearby Connecticut town and be announced at a later date. The first program in the series took place on March 12 and included Emmy-winning writer Annie Evans, famed jeweler

Robert Lee Morris, internationally renowned artist Rob Mars, and award-winning documentary filmmaker Cindy Meehl.

The "Secret Lives of Artists" is presented by The Allen and Helen Hermes Arts Series, which was founded in 2003, and is funded by a generous gift the couple donated to Mark Twain Library. The mission of the series is to enrich the quality of life in the community of Redding by producing and supporting events in the visual, literary, theater and musical arts. ■

For more information and to register visit [marktwainlibrary.org](http://marktwainlibrary.org)

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

# Modern day treasure hunting

## Liberty Ridge Coins & Bullion helps uncover the value of old coins, precious metals, and jewelry

By Justin Reynolds



Jay Goodman and his dog Jazz in front of some treasures from his hobby-turned-business.

With the value of gold and silver hovering near all-time highs, old jewelry boxes, family heirlooms, and coin jars could be worth more than you think.

To help neighbors better understand that value, Jay Goodman is turning a long-time hobby into a local small business called Liberty Ridge Coins & Bullion, which buys and sells rare coins, jewelry, gold, silver, and other precious metals. The business also offers evaluation and testing services and advises on other liquidation options, like auctions and consignment.

“Liberty Ridge is a local resource that helps people understand what they have and make informed decisions,” Goodman said. “I evaluate everything piece by piece – not just metal value, but collectible value, rarity, and where the value actually comes from. If there’s something valuable there, I want the owner to benefit from it, not the next person down the line.”

If you have scrap gold, silver, or old coins cluttering up drawers or taking up space in the attic, Goodman can also help convert them into investment-grade bullion.

“I have clients who actively do this as a way to turn existing items into a more intentional precious metals position,” he explained.

Goodman has been collecting coins and metals for many years; he calls it the only hobby he’s had that hasn’t actually cost him money. During the pandemic, he kicked the hobby up a notch, getting involved in online communities and marketplaces dedicated to precious metals and coins.

“I quickly went from collecting to buying, selling, trading, and taking on administrative roles,” he said. “I’ve bought collections from people I’ve never even met.”

The collecting community, Goodman added, is built on trust.

“Your word is your bond,” he said. “If you do one person wrong, you’re excommunicated globally. It’s all about integrity.”

Goodman – who also runs a lighting engineering and sales company called GoodJayGo – said he intends to bring that same level of trust and transparency to the local community.

“I’m building this in the community I live in, where I’m raising my family, and where my reputation really matters,” he said.

Skyrocketing gold and silver prices have attracted a flood of new hobbyists.

“Everyone wants to buy gold and silver, and no one really knows what they’re doing,” he said. “People want to learn, and I figured this is something I can bring to the community.”

When it comes to collecting coins, Goodman is most excited about “treasure hunting” – what he calls the “discovery side of the hobby.”

“You don’t need to be an investor to discover treasure,” he said. “A lot of people don’t realize that an old half-dollar, quarter, or dime can be worth much more than face

value just because of the year, the silver content, or a rare detail.”

After you’ve ransacked your house looking for treasure, perhaps you’d like to pick up the hobby of coin roll hunting: head to a bank, get rolls of coins, search through them, then exchange what you don’t want for cash.

“It’s a way to get involved at almost no cost,” he said. “I’ve worked with people who have done this and found silver coins. In one case, someone found a 1932-D Washington quarter, which is a recognized key date. Even in circulated condition, that’s a coin with real premium value.”

After a decade in Brooklyn, Goodman moved to West Redding with his wife, Katie, in 2023.

“We were ready to plant roots and start our family,” he said, adding that they now have a young daughter. “We came here through a personal connection and quickly fell in love. There’s a real sense of community here and a creative, artistic feel that we both really connect with. This really feels like home.”

Since moving to town, Goodman has daydreamed about how he might be able to help enliven the West Redding business district.

“Maybe Liberty Ridge could do it,” he mused. “It would be like a thrift store, coffee shop-type space supported by a coin business. A place where you can meet a friend for coffee and a snack, where kids can come after school. Maybe one day.”

For Goodman, Liberty Ridge Coins & Bullion all comes back to a simple idea.

“Sometimes real value is hiding in things people already have,” he said. ■

For more information, visit [libertyridgecoins.com](http://libertyridgecoins.com) or call (203) 884-6474

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## Scam aware

### Stolen mail, altered checks: The rise of check-washing fraud

By Anthony Freyberg



SCAM AWARE

That check you mailed may not be the one that gets cashed. Stolen mail and altered payments are part of a growing wave of check-washing scams, a crime built on chemistry and opportunity.

Mail is stolen from residential mailboxes, mail trucks, and blue USPS collection boxes. Even checks mailed inside the post office are vulnerable to theft as I recently found out. Once the check is stolen, thieves use acetone, paint thinner, and other household chemicals to remove the original ink from a legitimate check and then rewrite key fields while leaving the signature intact. In my case, only the payee was changed. Victims often learn the truth days later when oil deliveries stop or mortgage payments show as unpaid.

Fraudsters often deposit altered checks via ATMs or mobile apps, moving the money before banks detect the fraud. Stolen checks are sometimes sold online to other

criminals who then alter or counterfeit them. Electronic bill pay is widely considered the most effective ways to reduce the risk of check-washing scams, because it eliminates the main vulnerability: a paper check traveling through the mail. But for those of us who like keeping a closer watch on our finances, here are some measures that will significantly reduce the likelihood that a mailed check can be stolen, chemically altered, and forged:

Mail checks inside a post office lobby or hand them to a postal clerk. Avoid leaving checks in a residential mailbox overnight. Use a locking mailbox for incoming mail. Use permanent ink pens designed for check writing and gel ink pens with pigment-based ink that are very hard to remove or alter. Never include your phone number, Social Security number, or driver’s license number on checks. Fill the amount line fully so extra numbers cannot be inserted. Review transactions often. Enable bank alerts for withdrawals and check clearing. Report suspicious activity immediately. Banks can often reverse altered checks if reported quickly as they did in my case.

Bottom line: the most effective defenses are secure mailing, fraud-resistant ink, and close monitoring of bank accounts. ■

Library Corner: The science of libraries / continued from page 8

able, helping me build technical skills and meaningful connections within the Library and Information Science community. Simmons has also introduced me to non-digital areas through courses such as international and comparative librarianship, archives collection management, and community outreach. Through coursework and hands-on experiences, I have gained a deeper understanding of how these areas shape libraries’ impact locally and globally.

If you or someone you know is considering a major in Library Science, I hope my experience

offers helpful insight as you explore this evolving field. Throughout my journey, I have met many dedicated individuals who are passionate about the profession and making a positive impact in their communities. I have also had the opportunity to study and conduct research in Germany, the Netherlands, and Norway, which broadened my perspective and deepened my appreciation for the global importance of Library Science. I highly encourage anyone with a curiosity for learning, service, and innovation to consider a career in Library Science. ■

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Riverbrook Regional YMCA

Svanda Painting

## THE GRANITE

### UPCOMING EVENTS

SWING DANCE WITH TOO BLUE AND FRIENDS

Sat. March 28

ORION PIANO QUARTET: RESONANCE

Sun. March 29

RACHEL SUMNER & TRAVELING LIGHT

Fri. April 3

SHE SINGS DYLAN

Fri. April 10

KATE KEELER EXHIBIT: ARTIST TALK

Sat. April 11

LINDSAY FOOTE

Sat. April 11

A BIRD CAME DOWN THE WALK

Sun. April 12

OLD TIME JAM

Wed. April 15

CHAMBER MUSIC READING

Sun. April 19

JACOB’S LADDER

Sun. April 19

[thegranitechurch.org](http://thegranitechurch.org)

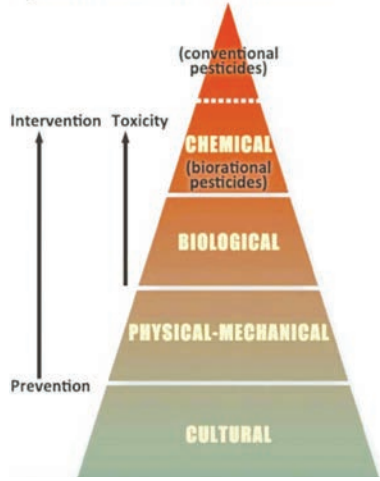


# THE NATURAL WORLD

## Eschew the chemical cocktail

Practice Integrated Pest Management | By Terry Karpen

### Pyramid of IPM Tactics



- Pathogens: Bacteria, fungi, viruses, and other microorganisms that cause plant or animal diseases.

### The core principles of IPM

**Action thresholds:** Before taking any action, IPM practitioners determine the point at which pest populations or environmental conditions indicate that pest control action must be taken. IPM focuses on management rather than elimination. Doing nothing is an option.

**Monitoring and identification:** Not all pests are harmful. IPM involves regular scouting to identify which pests are present and in what numbers. This ensures that chemical controls are only used when necessary and that the right product is chosen for the specific organism.

**Prevention:** The first line of defense is managed by making the environment less hospitable to pests. This includes cultural controls to make the environment less favorable for pests, such as choosing the right plant for the right place and proper planting in the landscape or improving sanitation and creating physical barriers in the home.

**Control:** If prevention and monitoring indicate that action is necessary, IPM selects the least risky control method first.

### The IPM hierarchy of management strategies

Often visualized as a pyramid, IPM is a tiered approach that prioritizes pest control methods from the most sustainable and least hazardous to the most intensive. Prevention is the foundation of IPM. This is the most critical and proactive stage. It focuses on making the environment unappealing to pests through design, sanitation, and maintenance. The core principle is to use the methods at the bottom of the pyramid first and only escalate to the next level if the previous measures fail to keep pest

populations below an acceptable threshold. Instead of automatically reaching for the bottle of synthetic pesticide, IPM follows these four steps:

1. **Physical/mechanical control:** These methods of control kill a pest directly, block pests out, or make the environment unsuitable for it. Physical controls include hand-picking bugs, hand-weeding or using mulch to suppress weeds, water sprays or creating barriers to prevent damage, such as screens and netting to keep vertebrates or insects out. Traps for rodents are examples of mechanical control.

2. **Biological control:** Involves using natural enemies – such as predators, parasites, or pathogens – to manage pest populations. For instance, releasing ladybugs to control aphids or using specific microbes to target pest insects.

3. **Chemical control:** The judicious, targeted use of chemicals only as a last resort. IPM, used correctly, applies pesticides, herbicides or other chemicals to target a specific pest (plant disease, insect, weed or other pest).

### Conclusion

Integrated Pest Management is used in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, turf, home landscapes, and human habitations. IPM is not about the total eradication of pests; it is about balance. By understanding the biology of pests and the environments they inhabit, we can manage them in a way that is economically viable and ecologically responsible.

A future article will take a closer look at biorational pesticides and organic pest control and their use in IPM strategies. ■

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

### What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

An ecologically-based approach to managing pests with an emphasis on using multiple management strategies, while minimizing risks to human health, beneficial organisms, and the environment. The principles of IPM can be applied to any pest of food production, landscapes, and home and urban environments. IPM is an integrated decision-making process because it combines a range of biological, organic, cultural, mechanical, and chemical options for pest problems.

### What is a pest?

Pests aren't just insects. Most "pests" are actually an important part of the ecosystem. IPM is about managing the population, so it doesn't cause harm, rather than trying to wipe a species off the face of the earth.

### The four main categories of pests in IPM

- Invertebrates: Insects, mites, ticks, spiders, and snails.
- Vertebrates: Rodents, birds, deer, or rabbits that damage crops or property.
- Weeds: Any plant growing where it isn't wanted.

Feature	Traditional Pest Control	Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
<b>Primary Goal</b>	Eradication (Kill everything)	Management (Keep below harmful levels)
<b>Toolbox</b>	Primarily chemical	Cultural, physical, biological, chemical
<b>Environmental impact</b>	High risk to non-target species	Low; preserves biodiversity
<b>Cost structure</b>	High recurring chemical costs	Higher initial labor/knowledge; lower long-term cost

## If trees could talk

A huge love for trees | By Laurie Heiss



(Top row): Photos by Hugh Karraker / Trees eating things – metal wire and a no trespassing sign – around Redding. (Bottom): Photos by Laurie Heiss / Some of Hugh Karraker's handiwork showcased on the Town Green.

Some people see more in trees: patterns, amazement, and art potential. Here in Redding, Hugh Karraker was one of those talented people; an actor by trade, but woodsman, wood worker, and tree photographer by hobby and passion.

It was Hugh who introduced me to "trees eating things" as a category, and I've never stopped looking for these delights. Hugh's wife, Sherry, lent me his book of images. The most common occurrences of 'eating' here in Redding would be the bark and then cambium layer of a tree engulfing barbed wire or a posted sign. Walking Redding's trails, capturing the metal-mouth images over the years and collecting others' images, Hugh had assembled a spectacular photo album.

It was Hugh who also collected gnarled pieces of dead laurel and cedar from friends' properties or from hikes – wherever he went. Often, he was on his friend-circuit, moving extra plants around, sharing food, stories, stones... he was the walking pulse of an ethereal, bounty network that connected disparate people in small, meaningful ways. Along the circuit, showing off his woody treasures,

those he visited were encouraged to look at the undulating laurel or sinewy cedar, and would come to appreciate its beauty and strength. Hugh constructed amazing benches, gates, and artistic compositions from dead laurel pieces. There are so many recognizable Hugh Karraker benches on open space trails, in private yards, and in public spaces around town, that his presence is felt and each work of art is treasured by the passerby.

It was Hugh who was planing, routing, shaping, joining, and sanding in my informal workshop. He shared the zen and scent of freshly planed stacks of boards, curled shavings, and soft piles of wood dust – he was in his element.

As a wood worker, artist, tree whisperer, and photographer, if Hugh were still here, he would have been smack dab in the middle of the reclamation and reuse project around Redding's beloved (but diseased) holiday tree that was taken down last Friday.

Sometimes, if you look closely or perhaps step further back, you can pick out a face in a tree trunk. And sometimes, these faces resemble Hugh, with a big smile. ■

## The Outside Story The lengthening days of spring

By Maggie Weng

Light in the evening brings the first sign of spring's arrival. Before the snow has fully melted or any scraps of green start to appear, those lengthening days are a promise. Just when I've forgotten the world was ever anything except cold and gray, I'll step outside into a mauve six o'clock sunset and remind myself to be patient. Soon the salamanders will be stirring in the leaf litter, the fiddleheads will poke their sleepy heads above the ground, and color will return. But how does the forest know when spring has truly arrived?

You may have heard that trees are triggered to shed their leaves by the shortening days of autumn. The opposite effect is also true. Day length – or photoperiod – is an important way for plants and animals to tell time, tracking the changing seasons regardless of variations in temperature. This seasonal clock is especially important for animals arriving from far away, such as migratory birds, which must anticipate when to embark on their journey.

Longer days are a reliable indicator that their summer homes will soon be filled with plentiful food. Plants and insects use photoperiod to help avoid the tricks of "false springs," periods of unusually warm winter weather.

But how do plants and animals sense day length? The answer involves both the ability to sense light and the regulation of internal biological cycles. Daily clocks, also known as circadian rhythms, govern the fluctuations of hormones, proteins, and other cellular machinery across a 24-hour period, leading to changes in energy level and behavior. In humans and other mammals, circadian rhythms influence when we feel sleepy, hungry, and alert. A small region of the brain known as the suprachiasmatic nucleus, or SCN, presides over these rhythms like the conductor of an orchestra. Using the light-sensing information from our eyes, the SCN keeps our internal clocks in sync with the exterior environment. When sudden changes disrupt this

cycle, such as international travel, the SCN scrambles to react, leading to symptoms like jet lag. As days lengthen in the spring, circadian rhythms adjust accordingly. This can often be accompanied by increased energy, activity, and restlessness, sometimes called "spring fever."

For hibernating animals, telling time with internal biological clocks is even more complicated. The peaks and valleys of daily circadian rhythms, although still present, are blunted as they slip into metabolic torpor. Instead, these animals depend on longer-term circannual rhythms to govern their emergence from dormancy. Since many hibernators burrow out of the sun's reach, it is not the light that directly summons them, but their changing hormones which trigger an internal recognition of spring.

Temperature and other environmental factors also play major roles, and different animals have varying degrees of sensitivity to these cues. For example, ground-

hogs use a combination of warming temperature and internal hormonal cycles to determine when to end their hibernation. This usually occurs around Groundhog Day in early February. Therefore, whether the groundhogs emerge as expected can be indicative of warm weather on the way – though it's a heavy burden for poor Punxsutawney Phil to represent his entire species.

The degree to which each forest dweller relies on photoperiod can also lead to mismatches in timing, particularly as the seasons become more unpredictable due to climate change. Leaf emergence is heavily influenced by temperature, and despite photoperiod helping to keep plants on schedule, decades of historical observation and citizen science show that "budburst," when leaves and flowers start to grow, has shifted earlier by about two weeks in the Northeast. Yet late snows and unexpected below-freezing nights haven't changed the same way, leading to more intense "false spring" episodes and dieback. The

crossed wires between photoperiod and temperature can also lead to differing rhythms between animals and their food sources, such as insects hatching out and developing before migratory birds arrive. While day length will always reliably indicate the return of spring, these changing patterns can disrupt long-standing evolutionary expectations about what spring looks like.

Next time you're outside, close your eyes and count to 120. Each day in March gains about two minutes of light. This may not seem like much, but it carries a wake-up message for the whole world, one that reads: together, we have made it through another dark season. ■

*Maggie Weng is a writer and scientist currently working as a NASA postdoctoral fellow. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org*

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies  
R = registration required

## This Week's Featured Events

### 5K Bunny Hop

**Saturday, March 28**  
9:15 a.m. Check-in begins  
10:00 a.m. Race start  
Sponsored by Joel Barlow 2027 Class Council  
Joel Barlow High School / Main Entrance  
100 Black Rock Turnpike  
[runsignup.com/race/ct/redding/5kbunnyhoprace](https://runsignup.com/race/ct/redding/5kbunnyhoprace)  
\$, R

### Redding Land Trust Annual Meeting and Spring Gathering

**Sunday, March 29**  
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Hear updates, meet new trustees, and enjoy refreshments  
Highstead  
127 Lonetown Road  
[zefly.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-meeting-draft](https://zefly.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-meeting-draft)  
R

### Poll Worker Information Sessions

**Tuesday, March 31**  
12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall  
100 Hill Road  
[reddingct.gov/government/town-administration/registrar-voters](https://reddingct.gov/government/town-administration/registrar-voters)  
R

### Want to feature an upcoming event?

E-mail us at [advertise@reddingsentinel.org](mailto:advertise@reddingsentinel.org) for more information.

## MEETINGS

**Thursday, March 26**

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

**Friday, March 27**

**Region 9 BoE Select Committee on Academic Rigor, Standards, and Grading**  
8:30 a.m.  
Joel Barlow High School / Room A108  
100 Black Rock Turnpike

**Monday, March 30**

**Board of Finance**  
7:30 p.m.  
Town Hall / Conference Room and Virtual  
100 Hill Road and Zoom

**Tuesday, March 31**

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

**Tuesday, March 31**

**Poll Worker Information Sessions**  
12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall  
100 Hill Road  
[reddingct.gov/government/town-administration/registrar-voters](https://reddingct.gov/government/town-administration/registrar-voters)

**Wednesday, April 1**

**Ives Trail Meeting**  
9:30 a.m.  
Town Hall / Hearing Room  
100 Hill Road

**Wednesday, April 1**

**Brown Bag Lunch with First Selectwoman**  
12:00 p.m.  
Town Hall / Hearing Room  
100 Hill Road

**Wednesday, April 1**

**Region 9 Annual District Hearing**  
7:00 p.m.  
Joel Barlow High School / Library Learning Commons  
100 Black Rock Turnpike

**Monday, April 6**

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

\*See meeting agendas and minutes at [reddingct.gov/agendas-minutes](https://reddingct.gov/agendas-minutes)

## ARTS

**Saturday, March 28**

**Artists Talk and Closing Reception for Between the Lines**  
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
GTown Arts  
5 Main Street  
[townarts.com](https://townarts.com)

**Saturday, March 28**

**Swing Dance with Too Blue and Friends**  
7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
Introductory lesson then dancing with a live band  
The Granite  
5 North Main Street  
[thegranitechurch.org/events](https://thegranitechurch.org/events)  
\$, R

**Sunday, March 29**

**Orion Piano Quartet: Resonance**  
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Music of Mozart, Dvořák, and Joe Gianono  
The Granite  
5 North Main Street  
[thegranitechurch.org/events](https://thegranitechurch.org/events)  
\$

**Wednesday, April 15**

**Bus Trip to NYC to See Wicked**  
9:00 a.m. Leave Redding Community Center  
2:00 p.m. Performance  
Meet at Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
[ctreddingweb.myvscloud.com](https://ctreddingweb.myvscloud.com)  
\$, R

## CHILDREN | TEENS

**Now through Wednesday, April 22**

**Applications open for The 2026 Mary Clinton Scholarship**  
Redding high school seniors pursuing studies in a number of environmentally-related fields can apply for a \$2,000 award through Redding Garden Club  
Volunteer hours, essay, and letters of recommendation required  
[reddinggardenclub.org](https://reddinggardenclub.org)

## HOLIDAY | SEASONAL

**Friday, March 27**

**Flashlight Egg Hunt (Grades 3-5)**  
8:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Dress for the weather and bring your own flashlight  
Ridgefield Parks & Recreation Center Fields  
195 Danbury Road  
Ridgefield  
[ridgefieldparksandrec.org/programs/events/21721](https://ridgefieldparksandrec.org/programs/events/21721)  
R

**Saturday, March 28**

**5K Bunny Hop**  
9:15 a.m. Check-in begins  
10:00 a.m. Race start  
Sponsored by Joel Barlow 2027 Class Council  
Joel Barlow High School / Main Entrance  
100 Black Rock Turnpike  
[runsignup.com/race/ct/redding/5kbunnyhoprace](https://runsignup.com/race/ct/redding/5kbunnyhoprace)  
\$, R

**Friday, April 3**

**2026 Torch Club Egg Hunt**  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Egg hunt begins around 12:00 p.m. for kids 8 and younger, meet the Easter Bunny  
Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton  
170 Cross Highway  
[bgcre.net/2026-egg-hunt](https://bgcre.net/2026-egg-hunt)  
\$, R

## NATURE

**Sunday, March 29**

**Redding Land Trust Annual Meeting and Spring Gathering**  
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Hear updates, meet new trustees, and enjoy refreshments  
Highstead  
127 Lonetown Road  
[zefly.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-meeting-draft](https://zefly.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-meeting-draft)  
R

**Thursday, March 19 – Monday, April 20**

**Submissions open for Redding Land Trust Photography Show**  
Submit photos of Redding's open space for a chance to be showcased in juried show in June  
[reddingctlandtrust.org/photoshow](https://reddingctlandtrust.org/photoshow)  
\$, R

**Saturday, April 4**

**Think Outside the Bait Box**  
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Hosted by Newtown Conservation Commission, learn about rodenticide poisons and policies regulating their use  
Newtown Community Center  
8 Simpson Street  
Newtown

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**Wednesdays**

**Progress Not Perfection**  
6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.  
Weekly Al-Anon meeting for family and friends of alcoholics  
St. Patrick's Church / Conlisk Hall  
169 Black Rock Turnpike

**Tuesday, March 31**

**History of Hats Through the Centuries**  
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
[marktwainlibrary.org](https://marktwainlibrary.org)  
R

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
44 Portland Avenue  
[bethlehemlutheranct.org](https://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](https://cibcredding.org)

**Christ Church, Episcopal**  
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.  
184 Cross Highway  
[christchurchredding.org](https://christchurchredding.org)

**First Church of Christ, Congregational**  
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
25 Cross Highway  
[firstchurchredding.org](https://firstchurchredding.org)

**Long Ridge United Methodist**  
Sundays at 11:30 a.m.  
201 Long Ridge Road  
Danbury  
[longridgeumc.com](https://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](https://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, March 27  
7:00 p.m.  
Welcome Shabbat Together  
82 Portland Avenue  
[templebnaichaim.org](https://templebnaichaim.org)

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30 Blanket Meadow Rd, Monroe | \$1,325,000  
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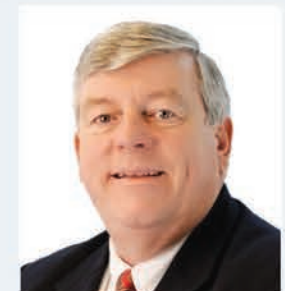
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Based on total number of units from SmartMLS for the state of Connecticut in all price ranges for the period 2/1/2025-1/31/2026. Sales volume is calculated by multiplying the number of buyer and/or seller sides by the sales price. One unit equals one side of a transaction (buyer or seller). Source data is deemed reliable but not guaranteed. The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2026 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logo are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.

