

The leaf blower debate

By Donna Christopher

Gas-powered leaf blowers generate noise pollution and emit air pollutants, according to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. They disturb wildlife and ecosystems, with insects, birds, and soil impacted by the disruption of leaf litter.

But their use is beneficial to landscaping businesses that rely on leaf blowers because they save time, especially over large areas. They are more cost-efficient in certain operations – and, if the nearly constant sound of them in the fall is any indication, there is plenty of local demand for their use.

The State of Connecticut does not regulate leaf blower use; individual towns have the authority to create their own restrictions or ordinances on landscaping equipment.

Ordinances regulating the use of gas-powered leaf blowers are in place in Greenwich, Norwalk, Wallingford, and Westport. Many other Connecticut municipalities, such as Danbury, have noise ordinances, and the use of leaf blowers

Continued on page 10



Photo by J.C. Martin

Views inside the Umpawaug Schoolhouse during a Redding Historical Society open house on Sunday, November 2. The 18th century building is one of only a handful of one-room schoolhouses left in Connecticut. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Vacancy opens on Redding Board of Education

By Anne Young Albanese

The Redding Board of Education is seeking a new member to replace Meghan Bendish, who was elected on November 4 to the Region 9 Board of Education. Her resignation will be effective as of November 30, and two years remain to serve out her term.

The Redding Board of Education consists of seven members who are elected on a rotating basis and who oversee Redding Elementary School and John Read Middle School. The Board approves the operating budget of Redding's K-8 school system for recommendation to the Board of Finance at least 60 days before Redding's Annual Budget Meeting. The Board of Finance may request a revision of the total dollar figure, but specific line-item distribution remains the responsibility of the Board of Education. The Redding school budget becomes part of the annual Town budgetary process once the

Board of Finance accepts it and it goes to Referendum.

The Board of Education is also responsible for monitoring the budget throughout the fiscal year and ensuring that school and district goals are met. If they are not, the administration will be asked to present their recommendations to the Board and explain how they will work. The Board shares several committees with the Easton and Region 9 Boards of Education. These include a Curriculum Committee, a Facilities Planning Committee, a DEI Task Force, an Operating Committee, and a Wellness Committee. Committee membership will be designated by Laura Worosz, Chair of the Redding Board of Education.

Regular meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month (or as posted on the Redding Board of Education link on the ER9 website) at 7:00 p.m. The meetings take place in the

Community Room at John Read Middle School at 486 Redding Road.

Worosz said the Board is looking for the following qualities when considering a new member: a history of engagement in the schools and community; an understanding and preparedness for the time commitment, including committee work; a long-term and broad interest in serving on the Board rather than interest in a single topic; a readiness to serve as a partner and supporter of the schools and the administration.

All interested candidates should submit a resume and statement of interest to Worosz at lworosz@er9.org by November 30. According to Worosz, candidates will be invited to join the December 2 regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. at John Read Middle School, during which the Board plans to appoint Bendish's replacement. ■

Changes on horizon for municipal retirement system

By Rocco Valluzzo

Some changes to the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System (CMERS) will affect Redding employees hired after a certain date.

These adjustments by the State Employees Retirement Commission (SERC) represent a hybrid retirement tier which is a combination of a defined benefit pension as well as a defined contribution account.

According to Town Finance Director Jim Sanders, the changes will apply only to employees who are hired on or after July 1, 2027. All the employees who are already covered by CMERS will remain part of the current plan. Under the hybrid system, employees will contribute to both a defined benefit and a defined contribution plan. The Town will be required to match certain employee contributions strictly to the defined contribution plan, and specifically the employee contribution is limited to just 5% of variable pay for regular employees and 8% of variable pay for public safety (police) employees.

"It's a pretty dramatic change in terms of the employer contribution level," said Sanders at a Board of Finance meeting on Monday, October 27. "Everybody who's in the system today and through June 2027 will be grandfathered in. These are gradual changes that we'll see over the longer-term horizon."

During the financial crisis of 2008-09, Redding and other towns elected to stop enrolling employees in CMERS and enrolled new, non-union employees in a less costly defined contribution plan, similar to a 401(k) plan, starting in December 2010. SERC then argued those employees should have instead been enrolled in CMERS and claimed several years of back contributions were owed, and the Town and SERC entered settlement negotiations.

Voters at a Town Meeting last December approved a cash payment not to exceed \$2 million to account for some of SERC's claimed losses as part of the settlement. Earlier this year, the Town reached a settlement with SERC in the amount of approximately \$1.45 million (funds in the defined contribution plans also were rolled over to CMERS).

Sanders noted that the Town of Ellington and SERC were in the middle of a legal action, as the former also had ceased enrollment of new public works employees in 2012. All new employees were enrolled in a different defined contribution plan. On October 14, 2025, the court issued a summary judgment in favor of SERC. In the summary decision, the judge did not specify an amount but supported the actuarial "make whole" calculation submitted by SERC.

"We were fortunate to be able to engage in productive discussions with the State rather than have the courts decide," said Sanders. "I think the Town made a good decision to take the offer that we had." ■

REDDING'S BIG OUTDOORS

View from a visitor

By Jessie Wright



Photo by Jessie Wright

My sister was visiting this weekend from the Midwest. Saturday turned out to be a top-three glorious fall day, and so she and I set off on a walk through one of my most frequently traveled places – Collis P. Huntington State Park and Couch Hill Preserve.

Everything about our loop was familiar to me, so I was stunned to realize I had never taken her to my favorite park in town. We began at the main parking lot on Sunset Hill Road and started our journey down the grassy hill. Not

20 feet into our walk did we meet four-month-old yellow lab/golden retriever puppy "Wilde," a bundle of fluffy, exuberant sweetness. As she stretched across the sun-warmed grass asking for belly rubs, we chatted with her human companions who told us all about Wilde's training to become a seeing-eye dog for the blind.

We continued onto the gravel section of the slope, where we came upon a parade of beaming horseback riders atop Icelandic horses from Farm Jibe-iT. My

sister waved to the group's leader in recognition – she had given riding lessons to my nieces during another visit two summers ago.

Along the familiar path, my sister found more moments of wonder. "Look at that incredible rock!" and "What a perfect spot for paddle boarding!"

We passed over a bridge and said hello to two women fishing off the side. "Any bites yet?" I asked. "Just one so far," the first said, smiling.

As we neared the three-quarters point, we heard boisterous conversation and laughter coming up behind us. A group of about 15 teenagers with adult leaders came rolling through on mountain bikes. "Mountain biking lessons!" one of the leaders shouted to us. "Last one of the season!"

"You are killing me with this!" my sister said as we finished our walk across the sprawling fields of Couch Hill Preserve and back to my car. "What kind of magical place is this?"

"It's Redding," I said. ■

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DANBURY CT
PERMIT NO. 254

Index

Big Outdoors	1
Editorial	2
Letter to the Editor	2
Election 2025	2
Legal Notice	2
Police Blotter	2
Sports	4
Business Spotlight	6
Book Review	8
Library Corner	8
Classified	8
Why Redding?	9
Opinion	10
Calendar of Events	11



EDITORIAL

Meet and greet the season

It’s time to meet and greet your neighbors!

The “Shop Local” movement has gained momentum nationwide since the end of Covid pandemic lockdowns, and is particularly strong during the end-of-year holiday season. In this issue of the *Sentinel*, we join the crowd and present our first-ever *Shop Local for the Holidays* center spread.

There are many reasons to Shop Local – reducing environmental impact, supporting small businesses, creating a virtuous circle with local suppliers – and we’d like to draw attention to another one.

As we wandered the streets of town, inviting local businesses to participate in this special issue, we chatted with small business owners we count as friends and ran into shoppers we know. We also met business owners we hadn’t yet met, and spoke with customers we didn’t know.

The candidates running in the municipal elections who the *Sentinel* profiled in last week’s issue repeatedly used the word “community” when describing their reasons for loving Redding and wanting to serve its residents. While people move to Redding for all sorts of reasons, it seems we decide to stay here for the community we discover and become part of. That sense of community is perhaps not uncommon in a small town, but it feels special in a spread-out town like Redding.

When we started the *Sentinel* in 2022, our research told us people wanted to know about Redding above all else, and they really wanted to read about their neighbors. So, we do our best to focus on Redding in both our news coverage and our feature stories. We try to help build Redding’s sense of community.

How does that community thrive? When we shop local, eat local, and enjoy local entertainment and programs, we’re not just supporting local businesses, we’re building our community one encounter, one purchase at a time. With every connection we make at a local shop, each time we run into a friend at The Granite or The Owl or New Pond Farm, when we meet neighbors at the Library, we’re strengthening Redding’s community.

Please join us this holiday season, in our local community. We look forward to seeing you. ■

ELECTION 2025

Complete election results

Candidate Name	Party Endorsed	Votes
First Selectman		
Julia Pemberton*	Democratic	1805
Selectman		
Diana M. Carlino*	Democratic	1504
Michael P. Thompson*	Republican	768
Town Clerk		
Michele R. Grande*	Democratic	1614
	Republican	632
Town Treasurer		
W. Wesley Higgins*	Democratic	1595
	Republican	634
Tax Collector		
Patricia J. Moisio*	Democratic	1581
	Republican	629
Board of Finance		
Roger E. Van Ausdal*	Democratic	1697
Jenifer Wyss*	Republican	955
Redding Board of Education		
Laura Worosz*	Democratic	1554
Chirag Sadana*	Democratic	1544
Katie R. Risk*	Republican	716
John Belfatto*	Republican	667
Board of Assesement Appeals		
Gregory Stackpole*	Republican	1148
Planning Commission		
Laurie L. Heiss*	Democratic	1707
Steve Gagnon*	Republican	982
Jess Gaspar	Republican	1048
Zoning Commission		
Amy L. Atamian*	Democratic	1700
William Miller*	Republican	957
Zoning Board of Appeals		
Jonathan Hopkins	Democratic	1685
Jill H. Cilo*	Republican	979
Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate		
Sarah Unfried*	Republican	996
Leif Smith*	Green	819
Constable		
Cheryl Graziano	Democratic	1556
Jeffrey A. Boxer*	Democratic	1498
Jeffery Fligelman	Democratic	1490
Ron Derven	Democratic	1454
Urs B. Furrer*	Republican	690
Jeanine Herman	Republican	744
Leif Smith*	Green	245
Regional 9 Board of Education		
Meghan Bendish	Democratic	1748
Kristina Scaviola	Democratic	1744

*incumbent

LEGAL NOTICE

Town of Redding Notice of Public Hearing for Proposed Historic District

The Historic District Study Committee of the Town of Redding will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, November 24, 2025, at Redding Town Hall Hearing Room, 100 Hill Road at 7:00 p.m. to consider the establishment of a proposed historic district in the Georgetown area in accordance with the provisions of CT General Statutes 7-147a-7-147y. A report containing details of the proposed historic district can be found on the Town’s website at www.reddingct.gov or obtained at the Town Clerk's office. All interested parties are invited to attend and be heard. ■

The Redding Historic District Study Committee

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

To the Editor,

Thank you for the November 6 piece, “What’s the deal with door-to-door?”

As residents who feel inviting others to church to hear the gospel is not just our Christian duty but even more a neighborly gesture, our members do indeed go “door-to-door.”

We do so politely, during daylight hours, and in such a way that, as you say, respects private property and the expressed wishes of homeowners.

When a Bethel resident years ago questioned our right to do this without a license, that didn’t sound right in light of the First Amendment’s “Free Exercise” clause, so we consulted the office of the Connecticut Attorney General.

Their lawyer told me that not only can no homeowners’ association decide for the group lest it abridge the right of individual occupants to decide for themselves, but also “the free distribution of religious literature” is not solicitation.

So, when we knock on someone’s door and offer him a religious pamphlet, we are not soliciting.

But, suspecting few may know that legal nicety, we respect “No Soliciting” postings, taking them as the occupants’ expressed wish that we not interrupt their day. After all, we want to be good neighbors, for we live here too.

So, Donna Christopher, thank you. And thank you for continuing the *Sentinel*’s tradition of journalism that is not only helpful, but also accurate. ■

Ken Brooks
Pastor, Calvary Independent Baptist Church
Redding Road

Barlow student urges Region 9 to take advantage of solar tax credits before they disappear

By Anne Young Albanese

Alexandra Humphrey, a sophomore at Joel Barlow High School, is proposing a program to install solar carports in the senior parking lot at the high school to lower energy costs. She has developed a presentation she hopes to share with the Region 9 Board of Education after months of extensive research.

Humphrey has consolidated research on other Connecticut school districts with similar solar installations. Her presentation shows that Ridgefield High School is expected to save \$4 million over 20 years. Stratford High School expects to save \$4 million over 15 years. Holy Cross High School is currently meeting 80% of its energy needs through solar.

Humphrey contends that there will be no expense to Region 9 if the district uses the Connecticut Green Bank’s Solar MAP+ program for schools. The Solar MAP+ program provides research, design, and execution services for introducing solar at schools and municipalities.

Through her research, Humphrey has determined that owning the panels, rather than leasing them, provides less of a financial benefit. If Region 9 develops the program by receiving the Federal Solar Investment Tax Credit and a Power Purchase Agreement, where the school would purchase electricity from the solar panel owner, Humphrey estimates that the district will save \$127,206 in the first year, with a total savings of \$2,395,219 over the life of the project.

According to Humphrey, the window for development is between January 1, 2026, and July 4, 2026. This would allow the district to lock in its investment tax credit before its phase-out. To do this, the district would need to have a signed contract and procure materials that are equal in value to at least 5% of the total project cost.

Humphrey is being mentored through the process by Susan Auslander, a resident at Meadow Ridge and the leader of that community’s Solar Committee, who helped lead the effort to get a solar installation online there last year. First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton introduced Auslander to Humphrey, and Auslander has been able to guide Humphrey through the research needed specifically for a project at Joel Barlow High School.

Humphrey is the student government representative to the Region 9 Board of Education and a dedicated environmentalist. She hopes to share her research with the Board at the November meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Joel Barlow High School Library Learning Commons at 100 Black Rock Turnpike. ■

POLICE BLOTTER

Police activity November 3 – 9

By Donna Christopher

Police assisted in four emergency medical calls and responded to one emergency committal.

Disorderly conduct

On November 4, a misdemeanor summons for disorderly conduct was issued to a 38-year-old man on Portland Avenue with a court date set for November 5 in Danbury. He was given full no contact conditions of release after he caused inconvenience, annoyance, and alarm in a domestic relationship. On November 5, the man was arrested for violation of the protective order. A November 6 court date was set.

Fraud

Someone on Newtown Turnpike reported on November 3 that her property in Redding was put up for sale online.

Someone on Putnam Hill Drive reported they inadvertently released credit card information and Social Security Number online, which resulted in identity theft.

Traffic

Police stopped 84 motor vehicles during the period, issuing one summons, 32 tickets, 12 written warnings, 36 verbal warnings, and three instances of no action taken.

Police assisted in clearing away a tree in the roadway on Redding Road on November 4.

A vehicle hit a deer on November 5 on Umpawaug Road.

A vehicle hit a pole to avoid a deer on November 9 on Black Rock Turnpike, causing property damage. ■

Redding Sentinel Ltd
News and Views of Redding, Connecticut
Publisher, Susan Clark
Managing Editor, Jessie Wright
Creative Director, Debora DeCarlo Rosa
Assistant Graphic Designer, Connor Feeney
Marketing Operations Manager, Nicole DuBois
Reporters:
Anne Young Albanese
Pamela Brown
Donna Christopher
Justin Reynolds
Rob Sample
Rocco Valluzzo

Printed by The Republican, Springfield, MA
Telecommunications by CCI Voice
www.reddingsentinel.org
203.938.3800
Contact us at:
editor@reddingsentinel.org
advertise@reddingsentinel.org
subscribe@reddingsentinel.org
publisher@reddingsentinel.org
legalnotices@reddingsentinel.org

Single copy price \$3.00 / Annual subscription \$95.00

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



Visit our website

TD Bank to close Georgetown location

By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Jessie Wright

As part of its plans to shift, in part, to a more "digital-centric model," TD Bank will close its Georgetown branch as of January 29, 2026.

Located at 60 Redding Road, the branch is one of three in Connecticut set to shutter in the new year. Branches in Plainville and Wolcott are also set to close. The

company said in an announcement that the closures will help support their plans to deliver a stronger, more scalable U.S. retail presence through branch enhancements, digital banking capabilities, and personalized services.

The Georgetown property, owned by Elio Cavicchia, has seen other shifts in recent years. Adjacent to the TD Bank branch is the former location of the Black Cat Grille, which closed last year and re-opened in its new location on Ethan Allen Highway in Branchville in February. First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton referenced during a Brown Bag Lunch conversation last week that Cavicchia has said he plans to build housing on the property. She noted the property was previously a branch of Westport Bank and Trust, and then housed several different banks over the years before becoming TD Bank.

According to Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Chair Amy Atamian, the branch's closure should have no adverse impact on the ongoing Georgetown Revitalization project. All three design options drafted by New-Haven based architectural and landscape firm Pirie Associates specify the site as mixed residential/commercial use, which would increase the potential for residential in addition to its current commercial uses, she said.

"It is private property, so it will be up to the owner on what his plans are," said Atamian. "I've heard various rumors about the owner's interest in residential development at this site, but to my knowledge, no plans have been offered."

Atamian added that no definite plans for the property have been submitted yet to the Zoning Commission or the Water Pollution Control Commission. ■

Scam aware Open enrollment is open season

By Anthony Freyberg

Autumn is here, and so is Medicare Open Enrollment (October 15 to December 7). This is a peak season for Medicare fraud. Scammers descend like locusts upon unsuspecting seniors who may be changing coverage options or are new Medicare subscribers.

As I can personally attest, the one phone I have unprotected from scam calls has been inundated lately with scammers posing as insurance providers, agents claiming to be from Medicare, or some fake supplemental company with tempting offers of care, free gifts, or limited-time offers.

Callers fake the caller ID so it appears the call is from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), a doctor's office, a pharmacy, or some official-looking entity. Scammers offer free durable medical equipment (DME) like braces, wheelchairs, or "free genetic tests" claiming Medicare will pay. The real intent is to get your Medicare number (or other data) and bill Medicare fraudulently or commit identify theft.

Always remember: CMS will not call you out of the blue and ask you to verify your Medicare number, bank account, or send payment

over the phone. Protect your Medicare number and other personal info like you would your bank or credit card number. Only share with trusted providers when you have initiated contact.

There is help. Connecticut Attorney General William Tong announced a multistate effort ("Operation Robocall Round Up"), warning that Medicare robocalls are "a primary pathway for scammers to steal information and inflict serious financial harm." The State is actively monitoring and prosecuting large healthcare/Medicare fraud schemes. On August 29, 2025, a resident of Middletown and a company he formed were charged with a healthcare fraud scheme involving billing for DME (orthotics) allegedly provided to beneficiaries under Medicare Advantage.

Remember you can use your phone carrier's spam-blocking features (AT&T Call Protect, Verizon Call Filter, etc.) Report scam calls to: FTC Complaint Assistant: reportfraud.ftc.gov or Connecticut Attorney General's Office: portal.ct.gov/ag.

Enjoy the Thanksgiving season, and stay scam aware. ■



We now offer Redding Sentinel logo merchandise, just in time for the holidays!

We have custom blend coffee, caps and T-shirts.

Learn more at www.reddingsentinel.org/shop



Since 1985
Custom Ts'n More

Custom Embroidery, Screen Printing, Spiritwear and More!

We Do All Work Right Here in
Ridgefield, CT at 135 Ethan Allen Highway
203-438-1592 • info@tsandmore.com





GET READY FOR WINTER

20% OFF

HONDA & Simplicity

UNTIL ONE INCH OF SNOW HITS BETHEL!

Don't wait to service your cold-weather gear. Looking for new equipment? Shop powerful snowblowers and more!

Featuring leading brands & more:



We Sell the Best & Service the Rest

6 Francis J Clarke Circle | Bethel, CT | (203) 790-5889 | bethelpower.com

Authorized Dealers | Factory-Trained Technicians



SPORTS

Last-second touchdown brings victory

Football | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo
Ben Noome punts the ball during a Joel Barlow High varsity football game. The Falcons pulled off a narrow 36-35 win over Masuk on Friday, November 7.

It would come down to one play for the Joel Barlow High varsity football team when it visited Masuk last week. Trailing by five points, the Falcons had the ball on the Masuk seven-yard line with only 14 seconds left to play. With no time out left, they had one more chance. As the seconds ticked away, Luke Bishop caught a 12-yard pass from quarterback Keeler Pheeney before making his way into the end zone with 10 seconds left for a narrow 36-35 win under the lights in the rain at Benedict Field in Monroe on Friday, November 7.

The win was Barlow’s first win over the Panthers since 1991. “We’ve been close a couple of times,” said Barlow Head Coach T.J. Cavaliere, whose team won its third straight game with the contest. “We’ve played some close games with them.” It would be a back-and-forth affair for the Falcons, who trailed early in the first quarter. Masuk struck first when quarterback Aaron Champagne connected with Steve Curtin for a 53-yard touchdown pass. With the extra point, the Panthers led 0-7 with 10:28 left in the frame. The Panthers also came up with another big play in the second frame. Cole Henderson took a pitch from Champagne on first down and went 59 yards down right for the touchdown early in the second quarter. Missing the extra point, the hosts led 0-13. Although the Falcons managed a pair of touchdowns before half-time, the most dramatic was their second. With five seconds left, Pheeney unleashed a pass that, despite being tipped by a Masuk cornerback, found the arms of Bill Miller for a 31-yard completion in the end zone to cut the lead to 12-13 as time expired. When play resumed, the Falcons took their first lead of the night with back-to-back touchdowns, including one set up by a 45-yard run by Kaden Holub to get the Falcons

into the end zone before Pheeney later scored to make it 24-13. Masuk, however, was far from finished. Early in the fourth quarter, Mike Charland caught an 18-yard touchdown pass, and Barlow’s lead was cut to 24-20. The Falcons’ passing game remained strong, leading to another touchdown, this one a 27-yard pass to Tyler Young and a 30-20 lead with 7:38 to go. But this was still enough time for the Panthers to score twice more for a 30-35 lead, helped in part by a successful two-point conversion on the second touchdown with 3:08 left. On what would be the Falcons’ final drive, they advanced into Masuk territory as the clock ticked away, setting up Pheeney’s touchdown pass to secure the win. Pheeney threw for 104 yards and three touchdowns, one to Young, one to Miller, and one to Bishop. He also ran for 88 yards and two scores. Holub led in rushing with 191 yards and a touchdown. Defensively, Ben Noome led Barlow with eight total tackles and had one sack. Young (solo) and Jack Hall (combined) each had six with Bishop getting four. Now 4-4, the Falcons have two more regular-season games remaining and keep alive their chance for a spot in the state Class SS tournament. They host Bethel on Friday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m. ■

Falcons finish in second round

Field hockey | By Rocco Valluzzo

Having pulled off one upset, the Joel Barlow High field hockey team was trying for another in the state Class S tournament last week. The 10th-ranked Falcons, who defeated seventh-ranked Lauralton Hall 3-2 in overtime in the first round of the tournament, then faced South-West Conference (SWC) rival Immaculate in the second round on Thursday, November 6. Unfortunately, the second-ranked Mustangs had other ideas, turning away any Barlow threat for a 0-3 shutout on their home turf in Danbury. “They are a great team,” said Barlow Head Coach Nora Curley, whose team fell to the Mustangs 1-7 during the regular season. “It just wasn’t our day.” SWC finalist Immaculate put

pressure on the Falcon defense from the start. After the Falcons turned away one Mustang penalty corner early on, the hosts did not wait long before getting another opportunity. Immaculate’s Emma Scheckner stole a pass on a Barlow restart in the latter’s half of the field before getting into the circle and firing a shot from the right that made it into the cage for a 0-1 lead with 8:31 left in the first quarter. The Mustangs managed a couple of more corners in the remainder of the half, but the Falcon defense was up to the challenge, denying them both times as it remained a 0-1 game at the break. While the Falcons had few scoring chances of their own, they also limited the number of attempts by

the Mustangs. But with 4:22 left in the third quarter, Immaculate’s Mikayla Hanel gave her team some insurance with a goal of her own. Putting things likely out of Barlow’s reach, Scheckner scored once again, coming with 12:23 left to play. Maya Tedawes got the assist in the 0-3 lead as the Mustangs advanced to the quarterfinals. “Overall, I’m super proud of everybody and how far we made it,” said Curley, whose team qualified for both the SWC and state tournaments. “We haven’t won a state tournament game in a really long time. That was a big deal for us.” Barlow finishes the season at 7-10-2 overall. ■

Redding-Easton Falcons win conference championship

Youth football | By Jessie Wright



Photo by Damon Sean
The Easton-Redding Falcons won the AYF Western Connecticut Conference Championship on Sunday, November 2.

The Redding-Easton Youth Football team, the REF Falcons, have soared to victory, winning the 2025 AYF Western Connecticut Conference Championship on Sunday, November 2. The team defeated the Plainville Colts by a

decisive score of 27-12 in a game played at Plainville High School. This victory follows a season defined by dedication and teamwork. Head Coach Tim Rappoccio praised his players in an announcement of the win.

“This championship title is a testament to the hard work put in by every single player,” Rappoccio said. He emphasized that the team showed dedication, discipline, and heart all season long and noted that they truly “play as one.” The celebration was brief, however, as the team quickly shifted its focus to their next major challenge, the AYF League State Championship game on Sunday, November 9 against WaterOak at Wolcott High School. They lost in a 0-56 decision. The Redding-Easton Football organization is a non-profit, age-based youth tackle football program supporting athletes in grades 4 through 8. The program helps support the development of players who may one day play for the Joel Barlow High School football team. ■

Barlow finishes in Class M quarterfinals

Girls soccer | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo
Joel Barlow High’s Mia Tartaglia, right, clashes with Lewis Mills’ Jillian Tiso during the state Class M girls soccer quarterfinals on Friday, November 7.

What started as a bit of a run came to a halt for the Joel Barlow High girls soccer team in the state Class M tournament. The 16th-seeded Falcons had won their first two contests, including a 2-0 upset of top-seeded Bacon Academy of Colchester last week. Containing eighth-seeded Lewis Mills of Burlington, however, would be a different matter. The Falcons found themselves down early on Friday, November 7. Things did not get any easier the rest of the way as they came up short 0-3 to the defending champs to end the season at the Nassahegan Recreational Complex. “They’re very talented,” said Barlow Head Coach Ben Weiss. “Probably a lot of them play together at the club level.” The Spartans wasted little time in making good on scoring opportunities. Just under a minute into the action, Lillian Castle received a through-ball from Olivia Brunetti and deposited a shot into the Barlow net to give her team a lead it would not surrender the rest of the game. With a lot of time left to play, the Falcons had a few chances of their own, including a few corner kicks, but were denied each time. Defensively, they repelled the Spartans until the last minute of the first half. But with 46 seconds to go, Jillian Tiso’s pass found the foot of Leah Najman. Her high shot

was partially deflected by Falcon keeper Sophia Bianco but still had the momentum to find its way into the net for a 0-2 lead at halftime. When play resumed, the Falcons had what was their best scoring chance in the first minute. Vika Abukhovich took the ball down the left side before taking a shot that went wide to the right, keeping things at 0-2. With 33:42 left, Brunetti nearly added to her team’s lead after stealing a pass and taking a shot that went wide. The Spartans would not be denied, however, finding the net a minute later with another goal by Najman. Barlow managed a few shots in the time remaining, only to be denied by Spartan keeper Anna Henry. The Spartans out-shot Barlow 16-10. Bianco made 10 saves. “The whole message today was that I just wanted them to leave everything on the field,” said Weiss. “I think they should be proud of how they performed.” The Falcons finish the season at 10-6-3 overall with their best performance in the state tournament in a number of years. “I am so proud of them,” said. Weiss. “I think they accomplished a lot. They put Barlow back on the map.” Barlow graduates five seniors after this season: Olivia Taylor, Amelia Winter, Berkeley Hanson, Ava Gillon, and Mia Tartaglia. ■

Thank you to our Shop Local advertisers

- Ally Bally Bee
- Amazing Graze Wagyu
- Casa Rosetti
- Community Shellfish
- Fleur de Lis
- The Georgetown Owl
- Georgetown School of the Arts
- The Granite
- G-Town Arts
- Iron Hill at Holbrook Farm
- Kermit’s Bake Shop
- Love + Light Salon Studio
- The Number One Cafe
- Quarternone Coffee Roasters
- Redding Artisan Holiday Market
- Redding Garden Club
- Redding Nails & Spa
- Redding Neighbors & Newcomers
- Redding Wine & Spirits
- The Shops at Auburn Landing
- Stems + Co
- Wild Blueberry

Barlow hosts veterans last week

By Anne Young Albanese



Photos by Anne Young Albanese

Veterans shared their experiences with students and staff at Joel Barlow High School on Friday, November 7.

Joel Barlow High School invited veterans to the school last week for a series of programs to honor their service to the country. Vice Principal Dameon Kellogg, a veteran himself, put

together the program to educate students about the military and to give them a glimpse into the military experience.

The program on November 7 started at 7:45 a.m., with a breakfast

for the visiting veterans before they attended breakout sessions with students in four different classrooms. From 9:20 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., the veterans got together in one classroom to allow students and staff to stop in to ask questions, hear stories, or simply thank them for their service. Another set of breakout sessions followed, and the day ended with a session for feedback from the veterans during lunch.

The visitors represented service members from the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marines. Many served in conflicts ranging from the Korean War to Afghanistan. Some were active duty while others were in the National Guard.

Veterans Day at Redding schools



Photos by Anne Young Albanese

Redding Elementary School and John Read Middle School hosted Veterans Day activities on Tuesday, November 11. RES held an assembly where family, friends, and community members who are veterans were recognized. Students sang songs, the student council shared information on the branches of government, and a video created by the student council was shown featuring interviews honoring veterans. At JRMS, the Chamber Choir sang “Flanders Field” during morning announcements, and social studies teachers incorporated lessons about the military into their daily instruction. (Left): Second grader Emily Ethier and fourth grader Oliver Ethier escorted their father, Nathan Ethier, to the RES assembly. (Right): Army veteran Richard Sills was joined by his daughter and RES parent, Traci Greenberg.

Notes from a neighbor Salute to spit

By Carter Wiseman

Around Veterans Day, I am reminded of a ritual familiar to all who went through Army basic training in years past. It was “spit-shining,” a term few would recognize these days and would put some off their dinners altogether.

The process involved long hours of rubbing black polish on combat boots and “low quarters” – as our street shoes were known – with cotton balls moistened with water, or, better, spit. The saliva was thought to have some chemical property that would enhance the shine better than the tap product. Indeed, when performed with enough time and effort, spit-shining produced a mirror glow one could almost shave by.

Spit-shining was made obsolete by the invention of Corfam, a

plastic-coated substitute for leather that never lost its shine, and forced drill instructors to find other excuses to put recruits on kitchen patrol. But Corfam didn’t last. The faux-hide turned out to be sweaty and inflexible and was retired as a commercial flop. Since the Vietnam War, when leather boots rotted in the humid jungles, combat footwear has been made of a combination of materials, including desert-friendly composites.

Some years back, I took my old low-quarters to a shoe-repair shop in Georgetown (now long gone) to be re-soled. The cobbler was impressed by the condition of the uppers. When I gave him the back-story, he said, “They don’t make ‘em like this anymore,” and gave me a 10% break for my service. Both my

sons danced in the updated veterans at their high-school proms.

I am happy to hear that spit-shining is back for military footwear on formal occasions, when the Pentagon apparently still wants to put its best feet forward. The brass seem to have realized that effort over time is a reliable test of quality, at least in the care of equipment.

I recently came upon my son’s Mizuno baseball glove. It hasn’t been used for years, but it is as supple as it was when he won his last game in middle school. He never spit-shined the glove, but he gave it regular applications of neats-foot oil, rubbing it in as vigorously as if my feared Sergeant Riggs was about to inspect the result. And now the glove will be ready for his son, unless the boy prefers pickleball.

Meadow Ridge veterans reflect

By Pamela Brown



Photo courtesy of Dan Sharp

Dan Sharp, now a resident at Meadow Ridge, served in the U.S. Army in Korea.

Just a few days ago, the nation celebrated Veterans Day – a day set to thank and honor the men and women who dedicated themselves to serving our country in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. On that day Meadow Ridge, a continuing care retirement community in Georgetown, held its annual celebration in the Atrium, filled with patriotic music, a display of photos of residents from their time in the service, enlightening conversation, and a special reading by resident Doug Dawson.

The celebration paid respect to all veterans and honored Ernie Pyle, Pulitzer Prize-winning American journalist and war correspondent. Dawson read Pyle’s prize-winning column, “The Death of Captain Waskow,” at the celebration. “He was my great uncle and served the U.S. during WWII, reporting infantry-men’s perspective of Army life from the front lines. He died reporting from the field in the battle for Okinawa in spring of 1945,” said Dawson, who himself was an officer in the Coast Guard.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, there are approximately 18 million veterans living in every state and territory in the country. The Veterans Day National Committee, comprised of almost 50 veteran-serving non-profit organizations, proclaimed this year’s Veterans Day theme as “Service to Our Nation.”

Dawson, along with fellow resident Dan Sharp shared reflections on this annual commemoration.

Sharp was a Captain in the Army. He served in the Military Police for the 24th Infantry Division and spent 18 months in Korea. At one time, he was acting Division Provost Marshall on the Commanding General’s staff, a full Colonel’s position he held for six months while still a Second Lieutenant.

He recalled a poignant memory of his time in the Army. “Arriving in Korea at the Replacement Depot and seeing the returning wounded soldiers from the Unit we were entering as replacements. It raised my concerns, which quickly passed once we were in the Unit and doing our job,” said Sharp. “As an MP 2DLT (Military Police Second Lieutenant), 24/7 at the de-militarized zone, I rode in an open Jeep – no tops were allowed as a threat of North Korea air attack. Our missions were vice control, helping

soldiers return to their units during nightly raids, and traffic safety for the one exit road to our south with orders to push any vehicles over the side that blocked traffic south and keeping the dirt road open and passable.”

For Sharp, they were harsh conditions. “During the winter, I wore all seven layers of clothing issued when riding routine patrol at night in the open Jeep. As the only MP officer in my division left in Korea, I was on duty 24/7,” he said. In addition, Sharp served as a judge in the General Court-Martial. “Our cases involved death penalty options for AWOL, etc. I also had to put down one race riot in the stockade. I had to assure our commanding general that he could tell Syngman Rhee (former President of South Korea) that there would be no dogs during the division football game. That took me and my men a full week.”

Today, Sharp said he feels a different kind of danger. “Not so much from foreign military attack but rather from internal enemies leading our government away from democracy and toward a corrupt autocracy,” he said. He noted that awareness of experiences like his and a study of the country’s previous political and wartime actions are essential.

“Learning our history may be the only way that many will learn why it’s essential to preserve our democratic government with rule of law, not rule of one. The risk is real and imminent,” he warned.

Dawson also reflected on his time in the service. “I was stationed in Washington D.C., doing engineering work related to transport of hazardous materials like explosives and toxic chemicals. I had great admiration for both the soldiers serving in Vietnam doing their duty, and the protestors who tried to stop such an ill-conceived venture. There are at least two sides to every story,” he said, adding he felt safe during his stint. “In fact, we were only allowed to wear our uniforms once per week, to keep D.C. from appearing an ‘armed camp.’ My contributions were aimed at keeping dangerous materials safe while transported by commercial shipping.”

Serving in the Coast Guard and gaining experience in U.S. history was important to Dawson. “In my California public high school, we had to pass a test on the U.S. Constitution with at least a 70% grade to go to high school and then study U.S. history during our junior year. We also had to take World Geography for a semester to understand where the U.S. fits into this wider world. Military service was a similar stepping stone toward maturity and understanding realities in that globe,” said Dawson, who shared a special message in honor of Veterans Day. “I want vets feeling honored that they were contributing something useful to the country, whether at war or during peacetime, and that they were learning how to be good citizens while in their military jobs.”

THANKSGIVING CATERING

Entertaining made easy.

Fully cooked
complete
Thanksgiving
Dinners
and more!

catering.caraluzzis.com

BETHEL	NEWTOWN	WILTON	DANBURY
98 Greenwood Ave	5 Queen St	920 Danbury Rd	102 Mill Plain Rd
203-748-3547	203-270-7500	203-544-7021	203-743-8003

Thank you to our
advertisers

August West Chimney

Bethel Power Equipment

Caraluzzi's

Coldwell Banker Realty

Custom Ts 'n More

New Pond Farm Education Center

Portofino Restaurant and Wine Bar

Redding Nursery

Svanda Painting



Shop local this

Support local

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Clover & Clay creates organic moments with intention

By Justin Reynolds



Stephanie Borgese and Joanna Ruvo

Planning an unforgettable event is hard work. Finding a truly thoughtful gift for family, friends, clients, or employees? Even harder. An answer to those challenges has come from the new friendship and budding business partnership of two Redding moms. Joanna Ruvo and Stephanie Borgese recently launched Clover & Clay, an event planning and

artisanal gifting business. The company brings both women’s skill sets together, with Ruvo overseeing events and Borgese heading up gifting, though the business partners are constant collaborators. Ruvo and Borgese each moved to the area in 2021. Earlier this year, they met at Maple Hill Montessori School, where their daughters are currently enrolled. “We found out we shared an

artistic, creative interest and got to know each other better through that,” Ruvo said. “After a while, we decided that we wanted to have a local business that was our own, where we were doing what we enjoyed, and that’s how Clover & Clay started.” Like most know too well, life gets busy. When you are juggling

Continued on page 9



REDDING ARTISAN HOLIDAY MARKET
Saturday December 13th 10-4
John Read Middle School
Redding





FROM OUR PASTURES TO YOUR TABLE

Celebrate the season with the rich, buttery flavor of American Wagyu, raised with care, tradition, and respect for the land.

Our cattle are raised on small, sustainable farms, producing tender, beautifully marbled beef for life’s most meaningful gatherings.

PLACE YOUR HOLIDAY ORDERS TODAY, QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED.


www.amazinggrazewagyu.com | 203.948.6435
info@amazinggrazewagyu.com

AMAZING GRAZE AMERICAN WAGYU
VERMONT-RAISED • CONNECTICUT-CRAFTED

Follow us @amazing_graze_wagyu

Life without ART is just Blah!

G-TOWN



ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER

IRON HILL
AT HOLBROOK FARM
BETHEL, CT



Your Local Farm

Our Own Produce
Artisan-Made Goods
Farm-Fresh Products from other nearby Farms

- Produce
- Meat
- Dairy Products
- Artisan Bread
- Honey
- Jams
- Childrens Clothes
- Candles
- Cards & Art
- Soaps

**45A Turkey Plain Rd. (Rt 53)
Bethel 203.733.8428**



Scan to visit our website

We source goods from local farms, artisans and small businesses.

FLORALS HOME CLOTHING VINTAGE GIFTS JEWELRY





Lily Astraea The Shop Vintage & Home Five And Nine Designs

THE SHOPS AT AUBURN LANDING
28 Main Street, Redding, CT, 203-587-1130
Follow Us: @shops.at.auburn.landing



Redding Garden Club

Holiday Boutique

All items handmade by Garden Club members!

Saturday, November 15 / 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Redding Community Center, 37 Lonetown Road, Redding, CT

Jewelry, ornaments, quilted table runners, hats, scarves, aprons, holiday decor and more!

holiday season

businesses



STEMS+CO

Event Floral Design Studio
Holiday Market & Greenery
Lifestyle Boutique

stemsandco.com | @stemsandco
2 Main St, Georgetown



REDDING WINE & SPIRITS



119 Black Rock Tpke
Redding Ridge

(203) 938-2131

Frank@reddingwineandspirits.com
reddingwineandspirits.com

First Fridays hopes to build momentum for art, restaurants

By Donna Christopher

Main Street drew a dinner crowd on a mild fall Friday evening last week, as Julie Durkin Marty welcomed visitors to G-Town Arts & Cultural Center for the second gathering of its new “First Fridays” initiative. The art gallery was open for anyone interested in browsing art, enjoying a happy hour, or a casual visit with friends while spending an evening out in Georgetown.

Marty said that First Fridays – held on the first Friday of the month – are aimed at encouraging other local galleries or arts businesses to join in and perhaps rotate the experience. Marty hopes to also collaborate with local restaurants to build momentum. The hour-long gathering on November 7 drew a roomful of people, including some of the artists whose work is currently on view at G-Town Arts.

“With all the restaurants being right here, I was thinking I’d talk to different restaurants and ask, ‘How can we work together? Can you make a signature cocktail that we’ll feature one month, and the next month we’ll feature another restaurant’s drink? Maybe your restaurant can even offer a coupon,’” Marty said. “There are several restaurants, so we can do a different one each month.”

Among the people to stop by the event this month was Jennie Carr, a multidisciplinary artist whose painting *Story of a Life* (acrylic on paper) is currently on view at the gallery. Her work spans photography, painting, and mixed media.

“I think evening hours at G-Town are a great idea to capture the people going to restaurants,” said Carr. “More art, please! I was there to support the gallery, meet artists, and talk to people about my painting in the show.” ■

Call 203.800.4040 to place your order



**Lobster • Oysters
Mussels • Crab • Clams
Scallops • Fin Fish**

23 Francis Clarke Circle, Bethel
203.800.4040
www.communityshellfishct.com

A special Gift for
a loved one

Call to arrange a class gift
at the Georgetown School of the Arts



25 Old Mill Road, W. Redding, CT 06896
203.544.8551 - info@georgetownarts.com
please call or email to arrange your gift

Georgetown **ARTS**
School of the



**REDDING
Nails & Spa**

203 587 1288




LOVE+LIGHT
salon studios

SHOP LOCAL THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON!

203.587.1095
WWW.LOVEANDLIGHTSALONSTUDIO.COM

SCAN TO BOOK



KERMIT'S
BAKE SHOP

An artisanal bakery selling fresh
sourdough breads and pastries,
coffee cakes, scones, and the
world's best brownies.

Open Wednesday through Sunday, 7 a.m.–2 p.m.
1 Main Street, in the Georgetown Shopping District
Redding • 203-309-2229



Fleur de Lis



Celebrating its 14th year this shop features vintage interior designer items including furniture, art, decorative accessories and gift items such as jewelry. Curated by Owner **Dottie Earle DeLuca**, former NYC Rockette and Broadway dancer, her selective eye has landed her pieces in a long list of TV shows, movies and celebrity homes. Shows such as *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *The Gilded Age* and now the feature film *Verity* with Anne Hathaway.

www.fleurdelisct.com

4 Long Ridge Rd. Redding, CT 06896
Thursday - Friday - Saturday 11-5
203-664-1673

quarternone
COFFEE ROASTERS

coffee bar & roastery

BREAKFAST | LUNCH | DINNER
GRAB-N-GO | COFFEE | SPECIALTY MARKET



**OUR GIFT CARDS CAN BE
USED IN BOTH THE MARKET
AND THE RESTAURANT!**

19 MAIN STREET | GEORGETOWN, CT | (203) 292-2695

casa ROSETTI

A curated collection of vintage home decor, featuring timeless pieces and unique objects sourced from travels near and far, each telling its own story and adding a touch of character to any space.

hello@casarosetti
www.CasaRosetti.com


2 Main Street, Unit B, Redding, CT 06896

WILD BLUEBERRY

Pre-loved, vintage, and sustainable finds for kids — beautifully made, thoughtfully chosen, and better for our planet.

hello@wild-blueberry.com
www.wild-blueberry.com

2 Main Street, Unit B, Redding, CT 06896



ally bally bee
bug local artisans

45 Ethan Allen Hwy
Ridgefield, CT 06877
203 493 5037
Open 7 days a week



Give the gift of a Granite experience this year.

Explore our current offerings!

THE GRANITE



thegranitechurch.org

CATERING SERVICES
WE CATER FOR ALL OCCASIONS



FINE DINING | CAFE
The #One
VEGAN OPTIONS

Follow us...
The #One

WE DELIVER WITH DOORDASH

Now Available ORDER ONLINE
menu

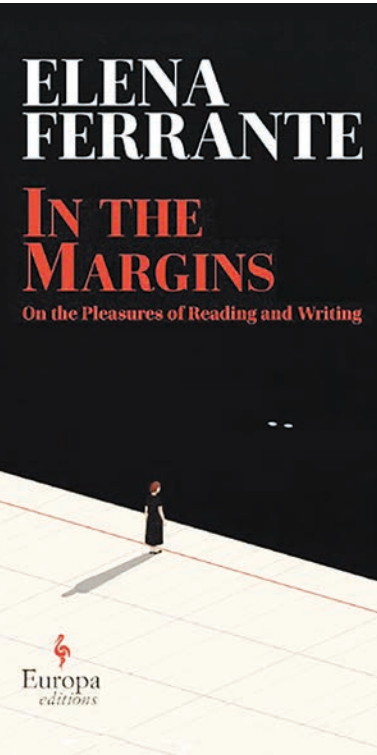
8 MAIN STREET Suite B
Georgetown CT
203-304-1821

MONDAY TO SATURDAY

Book Review

In the Margins | By Elena Ferrante

112 pages / Europa Editions / \$10.68



In the Margins, by Elena Ferrante, is a book of four essays on the art of writing, by an Italian writer whose identity remains a mystery. Elena Ferrante is a pseudonym. Elena Ferrante has been recognized as a strong and awarded writer of fiction, and in 2016, Italian journalist Claudio Gatti published a feature claiming that 72-year-old Anita Raja is the author of *In the Margins*, writing under the pen name Elena Ferrante. This claim was rejected, and there is no clear indication of who exactly Elena Ferrante might be. There also are less credible claims that Elena Ferrante is a man.

The first essay presented here, “Pain and Pen,” explains the emotional connection to the act of representing the material world in words. The approach is individual and articulate. Ferrante’s style echoes the essay-writing style of Virginia Woolf in *A Room of One’s Own*, and a three-page short story called “The Mark on the Wall.” Interestingly, Ferrante chooses Woolf’s quotation from *A Writer’s Diary*, where she acknowledges returning for inspiration “to get at the origin of this writing that eludes me.”

Does she? Writing literature is an artful strand of the discipline

to write, an individual experience with its own unique process. Each writer does it in a different way. Ferrante, finding Woolf’s evocation of 20 people bringing voice to a matter in an essay, is no less accurate than another writer claiming that 20 revisions allows different moods to evaluate what has been written under the influence of one of them. Another writer might say it in a different way, but if you are willing to receive the message in the writing, its truth is reliable.

There is a style of overthinking. That is, for example, what it means to write might include a short meditation on how chanting a name out loud over and over will sink meaning, but sometimes that fact must be considered. Sometimes, perhaps. The peril in this is a risk of seeming overwrought in the effort, or worse, pedantic.

Taken as a good faith effort to explain the inexplicable, Elena Ferrante gets into the weeds in her relationship to writing as the form of artistic expression that captured her. “Trying to tell the thing as it is can become paralyzing...at first I did this mainly to save from the void the hand that maniacally insisted on wanting to write.” In trying to write copiously about writing, she seems at times overwhelmed at being overwhelmed. At these moments in the text, the reader feels close to the source and methods of her creativity, but her writing at these times gets close to unintelligible, or more accurately, closer to the inexplicable, or impossible to express.

She tries, and kudos for that. But these are not essays to be spoken or read aloud, but rather attempts to say what possibly cannot be said. Elena Ferrante has taken the time, with her talent, to go to a different place as a writer. The essays are written and the thoughts in them captured to be read and studied. ■

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

Good books for good readers | By Margi Esten

Anyone up for a tense, twisty, psychological thriller?

His & Hers: A Novel by Alice Feeney involves a journalist and her ex-husband Detective Jack Harper as they become entangled as both suspect and investigator. Feeney is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Rock Paper Scissors*.

And, don’t miss *The Burning* by Jane Casey. A determined young police constable goes against an enigmatic killer in this series debut, particularly suited for fans of Tana French. Casey is also the author of *The Last Girl* and *The Reckoning*. ■

AugustWest[®]

Chimney, LLC

Making Redding's Chimneys Safer Since 1973

www.AugustWestChimney.com

203-226-0416

CLASSIFIED

Help available

Hi, my name is Adriano (17 years old). I am available in Bethel, Redding, Ridgefield, Newtown areas. Jobs I can do: cleaning stables, feed animals, maintenance, repairs, weed whacking.
Text: (475) 342-2590. ■

LIBRARY CORNER

Plugging the leaks | By Erin Shea Dummeyer

Last week, Mark Twain Library completed a very important project that showcases the glamour and pizzazz of library business: we replaced our roof. The flat roof over our 1970s addition has been springing leaks during big storms for the past few years. The leaks were unpredictable and sometimes caused by a falling twig piercing small holes in the roof. This section of our multi-roof building needed replacement before reaching the end of its warranty period. Adding to the complexity of the project, the flat part of our roof is covered with solar panels which generate much needed energy credit on our monthly Eversource bill. So, this begged the question: Are the panels worth replacing, should they be removed and reinstalled, or should they be upgraded? So, our Building and Grounds Committee got to work.

Luckily, the question of the solar panels could be answered using a simple math equation. Are the panels generating enough credit on our electric bill to make them worth keeping in their current state? Turns out that they are, and they are in pretty good shape! So, next we had to find both a contractor and an electrician (or solar panel specialist?) willing to work together on this project. We collected bids from five or so roofers and at least three solar companies. It was challenging to find solar companies that took interest in this project as one solar specialist noted, “No one will touch panels they didn’t install themselves.” This would prove to be a challenge for us, since the company that installed ours has changed hands.

After interviewing and obtaining bids from multiple roofing

companies, it turns out that the one that won this exciting contest was the same roofing company that replaced it 20 years ago. And, even better, they were willing to subcontract out the solar panel work to an electrician. This proved very advantageous for us, because it meant they could coordinate with each other, rather than requiring us to rent a crane, and coordinate the removal and protection of solar panels, and then the reinstallation. All in all, the project was completed on time and on budget, and now the Library’s books will remain dry no matter what the winter brings. And, we can take a breath before thinking about the two other roofs on our hodge-podge of a building. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is
Director, Mark Twain Library

NATURE TRIVIA

at New Pond Farm!

Explore the worlds of science, nature, and farming during this fun evening filled with facts and friendly competition.

Great prizes, good company, and plenty of surprises await!

This program is for adults only
Registration required
newpondfarm.org

All aboard for arts Barlow students showcased in traveling museum bus

By Lisa Goldstein



Photo by Lisa Goldstein
Barlow student Ava Jones created a piece that was selected this year for the cARTie traveling art museum.

High school senior Ava Jones has taken almost every art class offered at Joel Barlow High School. For Jones, art provides a nice break in the day and a place to express yourself. “The whole point of art is that you get to do it how you want to do it,” she explained.

One of the pieces Jones created at Barlow, along with a piece by Barlow junior Phoebe Smith, was accepted into a juried traveling art museum that brings art to public elementary schools throughout Connecticut that do not offer art in their curriculum. The cARTie art museum bus solicits art from middle and high school students around the state based on a different theme each school year. A jury selects which works to include in the exhibit, and the bus takes the display on the road, bringing art to elementary schools that sign up for the programs.

“It’s a tool for showing art to a young student who has never been in a museum,” said Clare Murray,

who founded cARTie in 2019 with her mother Trish. As for the older student-artists, “they will be helping build a positive relationship with art.”

Murray’s passion for museums and multiple degrees in education, along with Trish’s career in early childhood education, gave them the tools to launch the non-profit six years ago. They hope to showcase the diversity of student-artists and help young children see themselves represented and acknowledged in the art world.

“We all come to art with our own backgrounds and perspectives, and we’re all going to see different things,” said Murray. What she hopes others discover in the cARTie bus is that “together we can find new things.”

The student advisory board that determined this year’s theme, “Many Ways of Seeing and Thinking,” wanted to elicit multiple interpretations, which worked perfectly for Jones, who submitted a paper-mâché penguin titled “Outlook.”

“Some may look at it as being all alone, or it could be that the penguin is looking out and observing others, it depends on how you look at it,” said Jones.

Smith’s work was also in paper mâché, an ostrich.

Murray said they receive roughly 50 submissions each year and display less than half inside the bus. A handful of Barlow students have been accepted over the years,

thanks to the encouragement and support of Barlow’s art teachers.

Connecticut’s Education Department does not keep track of arts programs taught in its public elementary schools, and according to cARTie, there is a compelling need for access to art and museum-based learning. Murray said the bus has brought art to over 9,000 children, which she said does not come close to reaching all who could benefit across the state. The bus travels to elementary schools daily throughout the school year and offers various programs, depending on the interests of each school.

Murray is always looking for additional submissions. Regardless of whether a piece is selected for the exhibit, anyone that submits artwork is asked to join cARTie as a student advisor and collaborate on setting the next theme. cARTie also provides summer internships for additional programs the bus offers when school is out.

At Barlow, the student artists seem to recognize the benefit of including art in their overall education. “Even when you’re young, it helps with motor skills and gives you creative freedom,” Jones explained. Without art, “you’d only be learning to do things from a reading and math perspective, and that’s not all there is.” As a self-described creative person who “doesn’t have a math or science brain,” Smith felt the same way. “I thrive in English and art, so I’d be pretty upset if they didn’t offer it at school.” ■

WHY REDDING?

A part-time place becomes a full-time home

By Pamela Brown



Photo by Melissa Lentz

Melissa, Tony, and Aurora moved to Redding full-time this summer.

The beautiful New England countryside and the chance for a relaxing yet full life captivated Tony Gale and his wife Melissa Lentz when they discovered Redding. The couple, who lived in New York City for the past 20 years, spent weekends in Redding over the last two years with their three-year-old daughter, Aurora, before moving to town full-time this summer.

“We moved here from Brooklyn. I am originally from northwest Washington and grew up wandering in the woods every day,” said Gale. “Redding feels more like that than I thought was possible. We found Redding by happenstance, and we absolutely love it.”

A charming, hometown feel has made the couple feel like they’re living a dream. “We feel incredibly lucky to have found Redding. It sounds silly, but we didn’t know that a place like this still existed in the modern era. We adore the connection to nature, the kindness of the community, and are finding it a magical place to raise our daughter,” said Lentz.

After splitting time between city

and country, the couple was ready to commit to being full-time Redding residents and enjoy the many places it offers. “We are within walking distance to three trailheads and close to Georgetown,” said Gale, a fan of the natural environment who has traveled to all 50 states and has proudly hiked the Grand Canyon, rim-to-rim. He has also become a contributor to the *Sentinel*, occasionally writing the Redding’s Big Outdoors column. “I appreciate the outdoors. We travel a lot, exploring the trails of Redding. Now that we are up full time, I am looking at being a bigger part of the community. The people we have met have been wonderful and friendly,” said Gale.

Lentz also chimed in about the welcome they’ve received. “The people are genuine and generous. We know more of our neighbors on our street than we did folks living on our hallway in Brooklyn,” she said. “There is a real sense of community and entrepreneurship. It feels like everyone in their own way has a creative bent – the energy is contagious.”

Gale noted the family is active in many town activities and events. “The Christmas tree lighting, Trunk or Treat, eating at Milestone and The Redding Roadhouse, caroling with the animals at New Pond Farm. Our daughter loves the playground at Topstone,” he rattled off. The Mark Twain Library is at the top of Lentz’s favorites list. “It was our first stop in town when we came to view the house for the first time. I told Tony, ‘I really hope we like the house... because that library is straight out of a fairytale.’”

Together for almost nine years, the couple each have their own successful careers. Gale is a photographer, photographing for editorial, corporate and advertising clients. A graduate of Duke University, Lentz is the founder of M. Hatter Consulting, a consulting firm that helps businesses with growth strategies and operations and is a fractional CEO of a global network for independent advertising agencies. “My business was inspired by *Alice in Wonderland* – managing the madness of change in ‘curiouser and curiouser’ times,” she explained. “Everywhere we travel, Tony seeks out a local bookstore to find me a copy of *Alice in Wonderland* in the country’s language with local artist illustrations.”

Outside of work, when not traveling, Gale enjoys cooking while Lentz dabbles in interior design and enjoys crocheting. “I’m still working on Aurora’s baby blanket!” she said.

Among other things, Redding has provided a place of calm to center their busy lives.

“We enjoy hosting friends and family, and the property offers so many fun opportunities to come together and enjoy the simple things in life,” said Lentz. “Evenings on the screened porch put even the most stressful day in perspective.”

■

Barlow Red Cross Club to host blood drive

Monday, December 8 | By Anne Young Albanese

The Joel Barlow High School Red Cross Club is hosting a blood drive on Monday, December 8 from 7:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the school’s campus and is open to all residents to participate. All donors must meet certain health requirements, such as blood pressure, heart rate, and iron levels. Students aged 16 may donate with parental approval, and students aged 17 and 18 may donate if they meet certain height and weight requirements.

Club members said that donating blood is easy and often painless. Patients will check in and then be called to speak with a volunteer or Red Cross employee for a short health check. The blood donation itself follows this process. After the blood donation, juice and snacks are available to help replenish the donor’s blood supply.

The JBHS blood drive will be collecting whole blood, which is the most flexible type of donation, as it can be transfused in its original form or used to help multiple people when separated into its specific components: red cells, plasma, and platelets. Whole blood is frequently given to trauma patients and people undergoing surgery.

“A blood drive is one of the greatest ways to support the community,” said Valerie Itah, RN, ONC, and Advisor for the Club. “Isn’t it cool how in just one day, so many pints of blood can be donated and save so many lives? Even

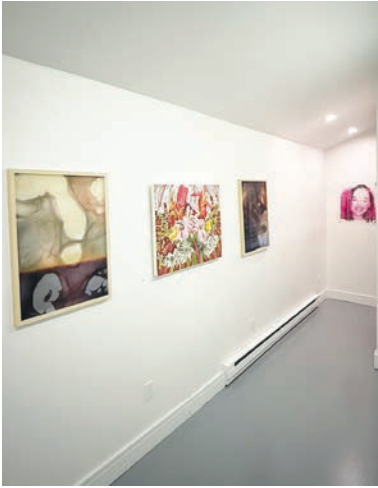
if we aren’t the ones directly doing a good majority of the work, it creates a great sense of accomplishment in our Club when we can do a successful blood drive. In my opinion, there is no better feeling than knowing your work goes onwards to helping someone, and a blood drive that saves lives is perfect for that.”

Donating blood takes approximately one hour. A blood donor card, driver’s license, or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. All blood types are in demand, though the rarest type is AB negative. When donating blood, patients can learn their blood type and receive a donation card by mail to facilitate future donations.

To register, community members can scan the QR code or visit redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive and enter their zip code to find the Barlow blood drive. Interested donors also may schedule by phone by calling (800) 733-2767 and contact Itah at Vitah@er9.org with any questions. ■



From sculpture to strings, arts and culture shine during busy weekend



(Clockwise, from top left): Photo by Jessie Wright / Avery Young, Sassy Wood, and Grey Krois perform in a vignette during a poignant production of *Almost, Maine* at Joel Barlow High School on Saturday, November 8; Photo by Jessie Wright / Stanley and Hilda Rhodes wait to have books signed at Redding Historical Society on Sunday, November 9 by visiting author Kevin R. C. Gutzman, a presidential scholar and biographer; Photo by Jessie Wright / Group exhibition *Remnants and Relics* opened at Anonymous Society art gallery on Thursday, November 6 and will run through November 28; Photo by Will Sarris / A sold-out crowd enjoyed the inaugural concert in The Granite’s Classical Sundays series on Sunday, November 9, featuring Beryl Diamond Chacon, Andrew Levine, and An-Lin Bardin; Photo by Donna Christopher / Julie Durkin Marty smiled during a First Fridays cocktail hour at G-Town Arts on Friday, November 7, where exhibits *Set in Stone* and *Re-Figured* are on view through November 22; (Center) Photo by Jessie Wright / Blues guitarist Brooks Williams gave a cozy but lively performance at the Community Center on Friday, November 7 as the first installment in this season’s Lyrics Coffeehouse series.

Clover & Clay creates organic moments with intention
continued from page 6

family, work, and other responsibilities, it’s not easy to find enough time to thoughtfully plan a milestone event or track down the perfect gift.

“We give people an opportunity to slow down and enjoy life’s most important moments,” Borgese said. “We’re here to handle the details so you can be fully present for what matters – whether that’s celebrating a friend, welcoming a neighbor, or simply saying ‘thank you’ in a way that feels truly meaningful.”

Clover & Clay sells handcrafted-quality gifts on its website and at pop-up events.

“We work with Redding artists and we also source internationally from places like Italy, Portugal, and India,” said Borgese, who fell in love with artisanal crafts while traveling the world when she was younger. “Our goal is giving artists a platform and helping clients get items they couldn’t find by going to a big store or buying from a typical online retailer.”

Borgese works as a creative director for a global sports and entertainment brand and has developed branding for many big events over the years.

“I’m excited to bring all that experience to local clients in Redding and neighboring towns who want something special,” she said.

Ruvo is a mom of two girls. She started volunteering locally to be more connected to the community, including working on the Mark Twain Library Art Show.

“I love event planning and creativity and bringing the community together,” Ruvo said. “You meet so many different people, and you learn so many different ways to collaborate.”

Ruvo’s passion for business and keen artistic eye are unmistakable. During our interview, Borgese praised her partner’s impressive photography skills, which are showcased in stunning fashion throughout Clover & Clay’s website.

Whether working on an event or a gift, the partners’ approach is detailed and highly personalized.

“We sit down and go over the goal for gifting, and we are focused on details all the way down to how something is wrapped,” Ruvo said. “For gifts we’ve delivered, we’ve gotten feedback like, ‘I would never have thought of that.’”

Clover & Clay is an intriguing name for a business – vivid, alliterative, and tied together with a graceful ampersand. What does it mean?

“The clover represents natural organic moments – gatherings that feel effortless and lucky,” Borgese said. “Clay is artisanal and refers to how each event and gift is crafted with intention.”

On Thursday, November 20, Ruvo and Borgese will be at The Redding Country Club for “Cozy and Crafted,” a wreathmaking workshop with cocktails and holiday shopping. The duo also will be at Redding Wine & Spirits on December 10.

“Come out to some of our events, meet your community, and feel inspired,” Ruvo said. ■

For more information, visit cloverandclayct.com

On the Thanksgiving menu with...

Kate Perry of The Georgetown Owl | *By Pamela Brown*



Though turkey has long been the poster child for Thanksgiving cooking, for many, it’s the complementary side dishes that really make the meal. A delicious and satisfying fall salad is on the menu at The Georgetown Owl Saloon that features a delightful mix of autumnal ingredients, including shaved brussels sprouts, delicate squash, frisée (curly endive), and roasted grapes coated in a tangy mustard vinaigrette.

“The Owl’s Fall Salad is perfect for the holiday, since it makes

a great vegan or vegetarian side or main dish, and also pairs well with turkey, chicken, beef, and fish,” said Kate Perry, co-owner of the restaurant along with business partner and fellow Redding resident Gerry Valenti. “Our chefs, Glenn Czesnowski and Matt Abbott, love to develop unique and unexpected dishes.”

Perry encourages home cooks to experiment with interesting, fresh twists on their favorite Thanksgiving dishes. “Add a new flavor with an herb or sauce or another ingredient you don’t usually use. My family has been switching things up for the past couple of years by replacing turkey with pork or beef. This year, our star cook in the family is making a pot roast with Amazing Graze Wagyu beef that I’m excited for,” she said.

Located on Main Street, The Georgetown Owl Market and Saloon opened in March, offering two distinct experiences in one location. “The Market and Café is a casual spot for meeting friends over tasty sandwiches and Quartertone coffee, or taking your kids in for treats like pistachio blondies and croissants.

The Saloon and Restaurant has an equally casual vibe with delicious dishes like Duck Confit, Ricotta Gnocchi, Pork Ramen, and our Lobster Frites – a big hit now,” said Perry.

The cozy atmosphere of both areas, providing a gathering place for friends and family, is reminiscent of Perry’s favorite holiday – Thanksgiving. She divulged that stuffing is her own go-to side dish. “I like it plain and simple with sausage and rustic bread – but no celery.”

Perry also noted that both the Market and Saloon are closed on Thursday, November 27 so staff can be home to enjoy the holiday.

“We’re thankful for our wonderful community in Redding and the surrounding towns that’s been incredibly welcoming to the Owl,” she said. “We’re thankful for feedback that helps us grow, encouraging words of support, and our many customers that light up the Owl with their smiles and friendliness. We’re also supremely grateful for our absolutely amazing front- and back-of-house staff that allows the Owl to serve the community.” ■

The Georgetown Owl’s Fall Salad

Ingredients:

- 2 delicata squash
- Maple syrup, to taste
- Extra virgin olive oil, to taste
- Salt, to taste
- White pepper, to taste
- 1 bunch red seedless grapes
- Port wine, splash
- Apple cider vinegar, splash
- 4 heads frisée lettuce
- 6 pieces red chicory lettuce
- 16 pieces organic brussels sprouts
- Mustard vinaigrette (recipe follows)

Directions:

Cut squash in half end-to-end. Remove seeds and any soft flesh with spoon. Slice into half-inch pieces. Place in bowl and toss with maple syrup, oil, salt, and pepper.

Place on sheet pan and roast at 375° for 10 minutes or until tender. Set aside to cool.

Wash grapes and remove stem. Place in medium-sized mixing bowl. Add a tablespoon of maple syrup, a splash of port wine, and a splash of apple cider vinegar. Place on sheet tray and roast at 375° for 10 minutes. Set aside to cool.

Remove base and any dark leaves from frisée heads. Cut into bite-sized pieces and place into a bowl of ice water for 10 minutes. Pat dry and set aside. Remove base of each brussels sprout and peel off any unwanted leaves. Finely shred and set aside.

Place chicory on cutting board, inverted with the base facing upwards. At a 70° angle slice chicory rotating after each slice until you reach the core.

Combine all salad ingredients in a salad bowl. Add desired amount of vinaigrette, toss, and serve.

Mustard vinaigrette

Ingredients:

- 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/3 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 tablespoon whole-grain mustard
- 1/2 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 shallot, peeled and roughly chopped
- 1 egg yolk (optional)
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Directions:

Combine vinaigrette ingredients in a blender and pulse until thoroughly blended.

The leaf blower debate / continued from page 1

in some cases is subject to noise restriction.

Redding has neither a noise nor a leaf-blower ordinance.

“We do receive occasional calls about noise from lawn equipment, including blowers, typically during early morning or extended weekend use, but they represent a small portion of our overall noise-related calls,” said Redding Police Chief Robert Kalamaras. “In nearly all cases, officers resolve the issue on scene with a courtesy warning and a request to limit hours.”

In 2024, a petition for proposed revisions to the Town of Ridgfield ordinance regarding gas-powered leaf blowers sparked an immense reaction from residents, the Town posted on Facebook and reported in the media. “The Board of Selectpersons received hundreds of responses (both for and against the changes) at the Public Hearing and BOS meetings, and through e-mails and letters,” the Town wrote.

The petition was withdrawn, and the Town formed a Leaf Blower Task Force. Ridgfield does have a noise ordinance in place, however according to existing regulations, it exempts engine-powered lawn care equipment between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., provided the noise from exhausts is adequately muffled.

In January 2024, the Town of Greenwich restored its noise ordinance with an amendment to restrict the usage of gas-powered leaf blowers during specific times of the year to “prevent noise pollution and ensure the public health, safety, convenience, general welfare, and quality of life in Greenwich.”

In Westport, a leaf blower ordinance for the summer months came about after several years of study by the Representative Town Meeting. Members of the public spoke for and against the proposal before

it ultimately was enacted in January 2023.

One resident cited noise. “It is so annoying to me that our neighborhoods are so noisy that I can’t go home and sit on my back porch during the summertime and have it peaceful. So, I think there are bigger issues here. It’s about nature, protecting nature, and enjoying nature. But it’s also about the quality of life here in Westport.”

The health risks of hand-held gas leaf blowers, including the emission of fine particulate matter, were also discussed and are referenced in Westport’s ordinance.

“(Workers’) noses, their air passages, are practically at the tailpipe of those machines. These guys are going to get sick,” one resident argued.

One local landscaper opposed the ordinance, expressing financial concern for his business.

“I’ve been working in Westport for over 40 years as a landscaper. I don’t have any respiratory problems. I know people are complaining about it. I use the equipment every single day. Now, the problem with the electric equipment I have is hiring people to work for you. It’s costing \$25 an hour... I have a \$600 backpack blower that does the work of two guys.”

Redding lepidopterist Victor DeMasi talked recently about the ecological consequences of removing leaves and their impact on the food chain and insect populations. DeMasi noted that moth populations in particular are harmed by leaf removal. “If you eliminate the cocoon by blowing all the leaves around, you’re not going to have caterpillars to have moths, and they are necessary for birds for protein. There’s a big decline of insects. You’re really decreasing a portion of the food chain,” he explained. “I see people

bagging the leaves and sucking them up, but it seems like, why? This is an extra activity, collecting all these leaves when they’re organic and fertilize the soil.”

Naturalist, member of the CT Botanical Society, and former member of Redding’s Conservation Commission Susan Robinson cited several moth species that rely on ground leaves as well as wood frogs (*Rana sylvatica*), which spend the winter under leaves.

“They produce a kind of anti-freeze which prevents them from freezing,” she said. “Also, firefly larvae and pupae need the cover of leaves and the moisture that leaf cover provides.”

Robinson also cited some of the benefits of leaves acting as natural mulch. “They are beneficial to trees, like a Sugar Maple,” she explained. “The leaves have a lot of calcium, which is what the maples need. It makes for sweeter soil.

Lukas Keras is a local high school student who studies moths and led Moth Night at Randall’s Farm over the summer. He spent much of last year surveying and documenting the moth species at Highstead.

“Leaf blowers could potentially hurt butterfly and moth populations, as certain species overwinter in leaf litter,” he told the Sentinel. “However, stopping leaf blowers alone will not be very helpful for protecting moth populations. In fact, it may be more important to focus on addressing factors such as habitat destruction and pesticide use by planting natives to support both adults and caterpillars, reducing pesticide use, and maintaining preserved habitat (where leaf litter is already nearly always left undisturbed) to support its native plant community.”

While not addressing the impact

OPINION

The dangers of the fall

By Jim Cameron



Photo by Andrew Elliott

I love the fall. But I hate the leaves! Sure, they look pretty as they change colors, but when those leaves are spent and fall to the ground, they present real problems for travelers.

Whether you rake your leaves yourself or have someone “blow” them for you, disposing of leaves is a hassle. Growing up (many years ago) I remember we used to burn our leaves, heedless to the air pollution and health effects. A better alternative is to use a mulching-mower and just grind up the leaves on your lawn, providing much-needed nutrients to your soil. Or try composting them on your own property.

In most towns, leaves must be bagged and left curbside for pick-up. In other places, like Stamford, Middletown, and Farmington, you can just rake the leaves into a pile at the curb, loose, and the town will vacuum them up... eventually. Often however, the piles of leaves left curbside get rained on, creating a giant soggy mess, blocking parking and leading to slippery roads. At speeds of 40 to 45 miles per hour, it can take up to three times longer to stop on wet leaves compared to dry pavement, with stopping distance increasing from about 80 feet to over 200 feet.

But the slippery, almost winter-like driving conditions caused by wet leaves also affect our trains. Their wheels slip on wet leaves and the trains’ “brains” sense it and go into emergency braking. You’ll know this is happening when the trains suddenly “dump their air,” and brake quickly. Usually, it’s just a minute or so to reset the computer and you carry on. But as in a real emergency, braking and stopping distance are quickly diminished. Which is why railroads take a

number of defensive steps to literally clear the tracks.

So bad was the leaf slime problem in years past that Metro-North would have 25% of its fleet out of service as the trains’ brakes locked the wheels to a stop, grinding flat spots on the wheels, requiring repairs. This is especially a problem on the Danbury branch, a 397-foot uphill climb from Norwalk to “The Hat City”. Often, locomotive-pulled trains couldn’t get enough traction so that they had to skip stations like Cannondale just to keep momentum to climb uphill.

You see, on a diesel locomotive there are only eight traction wheels making contact with the rails. But on the electric M8 cars, every car is a locomotive, so contact with the wheels is spread across the entire train, increasing traction... another good reason to re-electrify the Danbury branch.

In years past, the railroad used high-pressure water jets to blast the slippery leaf pectin from the rails. But now they have resorted to lasers. Metro-North’s Laser Train uses high-intensity lasers to remove this contaminated layer in a single pass at speeds up to 60 miles per hour, allowing Metro-North to clean the entire network at least once a day. The train is a rare sight, usually operating overnight to clear the tracks in time for the morning rush hour. Last year, the Laser Train saw a 40% reduction in leaf-related “slip slide” events, leading to the lowest wheel-regrinding costs on record.

So, enjoy the fall and the beauty of the foliage. But beware the dangers, whether driving or training, of “slip sliding away.” ■

This column originally appeared in CT Mirror

PROTECT YOUR LANDSCAPING THIS WINTER WITH:

DeerPro™
Redding Nursery's Deer Repellent Service

Connecticut's Most Popular Winter Deer Repellent

For more information call:
203-938-3297

THE ONLY ONE THAT WORKS

B-0314

on ecosystems of leaf removal, alternatives to gas-powered leaf blowers, like electric models, are one solution.

“The importance of transitioning to electric leaf blowers is included in the reduction of noise pollution, the reduction of chemical particulates in the air, and the reduced impact of petroleum chemicals being

breathed by the leaf blower operator,” said State Senator Ceci Maher, whose district includes Darien, New Canaan, Redding, Ridgfield, Stamford, Weston, Westport, and Wilton. “I don’t believe it changes leaf collection or dumping, merely the way in which the leaves are moved about.” ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week’s Featured Events

Redding Garden Club Holiday Boutique Saturday, November 15 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Browse jewelry, ornaments, quilted table runners, apparel, holiday décor and more! Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road reddinggardenclub.org	Community Day in the Sculpture Garden Saturday, November 15 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Free, family-friendly activities all day to celebrate one year anniversary of Sculpture Garden and museum renovations The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum 258 Main Street Ridgefield thealdrich.org	Nature Trivia Night Tuesday, November 18 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Adult program with friendly competition New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R	Want to feature an upcoming event? E-mail us at advertise@reddingsentinel.org for more information.
---	---	--	---

ARTS

Saturday, November 15 Community Day in the Sculpture Garden 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Free, family-friendly activities all day to celebrate one year anniversary of Sculpture Garden and museum renovations The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum 258 Main Street Ridgefield thealdrich.org	Friday, November 21 Swing Dance with Austin Scelzo and Friends 7:00 p.m. Dance lesson 8:00 p.m. Dance The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org \$
---	--

Saturday, November 22 Bus Trip: Radio City Christmas Spectacular 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Depart from Redding Community Center, enjoy time in New York City and a live show 37 Lonetown Road reddingct.gov/parks-and-recreation \$, R	Sunday, November 23 Lino Carving 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Linoleum block hand printing New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R
Saturday, December 6 High Horse with Kat Wallace (Bluegrass Series) 7:00 p.m. Doors open 8:00 p.m. Show The Granite 5 North Main Street thegranitechurch.org \$	

FUNDRAISERS

Saturday, November 15 Holiday Photo Fundraiser with Santa 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Book a 15-minute session with horses and Santa with professional photographer, proceeds to support Georgetown Community Foundation Rising Starr Horse Rescue 93 Silver Spring Road Wilton bit.ly/GCPhotos2025 \$, R

Thursday, November 27

The Joyce Allen Great Turkey Escape 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Virtual 5K 8:00 a.m. 1K Kids Fun Run 8:30 a.m. 5K Run or Walk Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road runsignup.com/Race/CT/Redding/TheGreatTurkeyEscape \$, R	Friday, December 5 Mark Twain Library Art Show Preview Reception 7:00 p.m. Annual art show runs December 6 – 14 Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org \$, R
---	---

HEALTH | WELLNESS

Tuesday, November 18 Diabetes and Wellness Seminar 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Virtual program Riverbrook Region YMCA wiltonymca.org R	Monday, December 8 JBHS Red Cross Club Blood Drive 7:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Joel Barlow High School 100 Black Rock Turnpike redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive R
--	--

HOLIDAY | SEASONAL

Saturday, November 15 Redding Garden Club Holiday Boutique 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Browse jewelry, ornaments, quilted table runners, apparel, holiday décor and more! Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road reddinggardenclub.org	Friday, November 21 Refreshments with Friends – Friendsgiving 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Drop in for seasonal snacks Heritage Center 37 Lonetown Road
Tuesday, December 2 Holiday Make-Up for Mature Women 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Hands-on make-up demonstration Heritage Center 37 Lonetown Road RSVP to mstillman@reddingct.gov or 938-9725 R	

Tuesday, December 9

Holiday Music Luncheon 12:15 p.m. Live music by students at John Read Middle School with lunch Heritage Center 37 Lonetown Road RSVP to mstillman@reddingct.gov or 938-9725 R	Friday, November 14 Stargazing 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Bring lawn chairs and blankets New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R
--	---

NATURE

Saturday, November 15 NPF Walking Group: Fall Foliage 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org R	Tuesday, November 18 Nature Trivia Night 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Adult program with friendly competition New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R
--	--

Friday, November 28 Community Hiking Club: Dan Beard and Turkington Falls Trails 10:00 a.m. Register by November 25, location details sent to participants marktwainlibrary.org R
--

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Monday, November 17 Legislative Coffee Update with State Senator Ceci Maher 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Georgetown Owl Market 19 Main Street senatedems.ct.gov/senator/ceci-maher	Thursday, November 20 Festive Holiday Gatherings with The Thirsty Radish 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Virtual cooking program Mark Twain Library marktwainlibrary.org R
--	--

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Sundays at 10:00 a.m. 44 Portland Avenue bethlehemlutheranct.org	Calvary Independent Baptist Church Adult and Child Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. / Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m. Nursery provided for all services. 711 Redding Road cibcredding.org
Christ Church, Episcopal Sundays at 9:00 a.m. 184 Cross Highway christchurchredding.org	First Church of Christ, Congregational Sundays at 10:00 a.m. 25 Cross Highway firstchurchredding.org
Long Ridge United Methodist Sundays at 11:30 a.m. 201 Long Ridge Road Danbury longridgeumc.com	Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish St. Patrick Church: Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. Confessions: Saturdays 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. and Mondays and Thursdays 7:30 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. and before/after Weekday Mass Eucharistic Adoration: Mondays and Thursdays 7:00 p.m. 169 Black Rock Turnpike sacredheart-stpat.org
Georgetown Oratory of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 12:00 p.m. (Latin) Tuesday and Thursday: 8:30 a.m. Wednesday: 6:00 pm. (Latin) Holy Days: 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. First Fridays and Saturdays: 8:30 a.m. Confessions: Saturdays 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. and Wednesdays 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration: Saturdays 5:00 p.m. following Vigil Mass 30 Church Street	Temple B’nai Chaim Friday, November 14 7:00 p.m. Welcome Shabbat Together 82 Portland Avenue templebnaichaim.org

MEETINGS

Thursday, November 13 Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee 6:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room and Virtual 100 Hill Road and Zoom	Thursday, November 13 Fire District #2 Commissioners Meeting 7:00 p.m. West Redding Firehouse 306 Umpawaug Road
Monday, November 17 Swearing-in of Elected Officials 6:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road	Monday, November 17 Board of Selectmen 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room and Virtual 100 Hill Road and Zoom
Tuesday, November 18 Region 9 Board of Education Finance & Operations Committee 5:30 p.m. Joel Barlow High School / Library Learning Commons 100 Black Rock Turnpike	Tuesday, November 18 Conservation Commission 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road
Tuesday, November 18 Region 9 Board of Education 7:00 p.m. Joel Barlow High School / Library Learning Commons 100 Black Rock Turnpike	Wednesday, November 19 Water Pollution Control Commission 7:30 p.m. Virtual
Thursday, November 20 Historic Review Committee 6:00 p.m. Virtual	Thursday, November 20 Democratic Town Committee 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road
Monday, November 24 OPEB Trust Board Special Meeting 6:00 p.m. Virtual	Monday, November 24 Public Hearing for Proposed Historic District 7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road
*Sign-up to receive meeting agendas and notifications at reddingct.gov/subscribe	



Mark Svanda PAINTING, LLC
PAINTING & HOME IMPROVEMENT

FREE ESTIMATE
203-470-4240

Licensed & Insured • CT HIC Lic #0627856

GARAGE FLOOR EPOXY SPECIAL!
20% OFF
Labor on Garage Floor Epoxy Jobs*

Work must be ordered by 12/30/25
Not to be combined with other offers.
Not valid on jobs in process.

www.marksvanda.com
mark@marksvanda.com

Celebrating Our 35th Season

Are you enjoying the *Sentinel*?

Consider giving a gift subscription this holiday season!

E-mail subscribe@reddingsentinel.org or call 203.938.3800

CATERING TO THE
DISCERNING
Client

Coldwell Banker® delivers exceptional turnkey
experience with data- driven insights and
bespoke marketing materials.



16 Black Rock Turnpike, Redding | \$1,200,000
Jodi Langford 203.733.8804



175 Branchville Road, Ridgefield | \$1,565,000
Tim Dent Team 203.244.2277



15 Bartram Drive, Redding | \$949,000
Liz Furrer 203.733.0678

#1
Brokerage in
Redding & Ridgefield

\$200+ Million
in \$1 Million + Sales
Each Day

100,000+
Agents across
40 Countries

Today, Yesterday,
and Tomorrow.



Alexis Bennett
203.313.3110



Marilyn Caravetta
203.512.1822



Kim Cuniberti
203.733.6976



Mary Dent
203.715.8584



Tim Dent
203.470.5605



Margi Esten
203.241.8453



John Frey
203.240.0624



Liz Furrer
203.733.0678



Debbie Gore
203.417.5692



Joanne Grasso
203.733.9344



Jefferson Guthrie
203.788.9400



Carol Hanlon
203.240.1233



Sharon Hoverman
203.733.5073



Charlie Knoche
203.731.7770



Jodi Langford
203.733.8804



Heather Lindgren
646.932.4075



Heather Payne
203.470.7069



Anne Schmiedel
203.470.9159



Marilyn Sloper
203.770.6240

119 years of
guiding you home.

ColdwellBankerHomes.com

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



Tim Martin
SVP of Mortgage Lending
NMLS 16273
GRARate.com/TimMartin
✉ tim.martin@grarate.com 📞 (203) 917-2800



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



Jennifer Margnelli
Assistant Brokerage Manager
646.245.1383
jennifer.margnelli@cbrealty.com

1. Data based on closed and recorded buyer and/or seller transaction sides of homes sold for \$1 million or more as reported by affiliates of the U.S. Coldwell Banker franchise system for the calendar year of 2024, USGS. 2. Data based on closed and recorded buyer and/or seller transaction sides of homes \$1M and over in the 2024 calendar year. The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2025 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logo are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.