

State recognizes Police Department with citation

By Rocco Valluzzo

In recognition of its response to a crisis situation last year, the Redding Police Department was presented a citation from the Connecticut General Assembly at the Board of Selectmen meeting on Tuesday, January 21.

According to Police Captain Tim Succi, the Department had responded to numerous calls over several months regarding a resident having psychiatric issues. A number of officers were involved.

“I don’t know exactly how many calls for service we responded to, but it was quite a few,” said Succi.

Impressed with the Department’s response, another resident reached out to State Representative Anne Hughes and State Senator Ceci Maher and requested the Department receive a citation. Although the Department has received citations in the past, this was the first that involved a crisis response. ■



Photo by Dana Taylor

Snow blankets a frozen Lonetown Marsh across from Redding Elementary School. If you have a photo you’d like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Selectmen prioritize bridge repairs over road repaving

By Rocco Valluzzo

The Board of Selectmen has requested the Board of Finance re-allocate an amount up to \$675,000 for the design and engineering of bridges that were designated total losses as a result of the August 18, 2024 rainstorm.

Approved at a Town Referendum last May for the 2024-25 fiscal year budget, the \$675,000 was originally allocated for repaving the northern part of Umpawaug Road and has not been spent yet.

The summer storm left over eight inches of rain in its wake and caused approximately \$20 million in damages to public property in town. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will reimburse Redding 75 cents-per-dollar of damages.

Immediately after the storm, First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton had Tighe & Bond, the Town’s engineering firm, perform an emergency field assessment of the dam-

age. Bridges on Sport Hill Road, Brookfield Road, Greenbush Road, and Long Wall Road were deemed total losses and could cost at least \$2 million each to replace.

“I’m not getting a lot of public demand for repaving Umpawaug at this moment, versus the public demand for fixing the bridges,” said Pemberton at a Board of Selectmen meeting on Tuesday, January 21. “We have some residents on this who would agree with me that Sport Hill is probably the highest priority we had to triage, because it’s a significant detour for people – not just for residents and general traffic, but for public safety as well.”

“I agree that would be a good use of the money if Umpawaug is in safe, drivable condition,” said Selectwoman Diana Carlino. “Certainly, the bridges aren’t.”

Pemberton noted that Finance Director Jim Sanders has been working closely with FEMA and

the Highway Department to get through the list of projects that would be eligible for funding reimbursement. The Town has an 18-month window to complete the work.

FEMA also requires that the projects go out to bid for at least a 30-day period. As a reference point, the Town has received an estimate for design and engineering from one firm of around \$180,000. This does not include any construction administration or inspection.

“We’ll have the discussion during our budget season about what the funding for roads will be next year,” said Pemberton. “We would have the design and engineering done hopefully in time to include in the May Referendum a question about funding, maybe for the bridge project, which if we’re really fortunate on timing, will perhaps begin at the end of 2025.” ■

Redding schools plan for new Curriculum Director and increased special education spending

By Jessie Wright

Redding School District has its sights set on one of its strategic priorities in particular as it puts the budget together for the 2025-26 fiscal year: high quality teaching and learning.

Throughout the Superintendent’s budget presentation to the Redding Board of Education on Thursday, January 16, there were several notable proposals for investing in curriculum and staff development to target increased student learning and performance. This comes on the heels of a report last year which showed mathematics and English test scores in the district dropping sharply and slowly rebounding following the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The total proposed budget increase over the current fiscal year is 5.48%, with the largest increase coming from Pupil Personnel Services (up \$502,871) and the largest percent change (almost three times this year’s budget) occurring in Curriculum and Instruction. That total rate of increase is roughly in line with the average being proposed in comparable districts to Redding, according to McKinnon, which is 5.69%. The current proposed increase for Easton School District is 7.59%.

Pupil Personnel Services increase driven by special education costs

Pupil Personnel Services is currently proposed to increase by roughly half-a-million dollars, largely due to additional costs for special education. The greatest increases come from tuition and out-placements for special education students (an increase of \$148,000) and associated transportation costs (an increase of \$189,000).

Additional full-time certified special education teachers are also being added, including one Junior Bridges teacher at John Read Middle School and one Second Bases teacher at Redding Elementary School.

There are also 15 behavioral technicians for Redding Elementary School in the 2025-26 proposed budget, compared with 13 in the current fiscal year, representing a \$106,481 increase.

Curriculum and Instruction budget almost triples

While it represents a very small portion of Redding’s overall budget (only 0.71%), proposed investments in Curriculum and Instruction are worth noting. The cost center is seeing a proposed increase of roughly 2.9 times the 2024-25 fiscal year budget, with money being put towards curriculum development, professional services, and professional texts.

REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

Going on a bear hunt

By Jessie Wright and Arthur



Photo by Jessie Wright

One of my favorite things about this column is the rotating nature of its contributors – we get to experience Redding’s open spaces in different seasons, from different perspectives, and through different voices. Some writers bring an encyclopedic knowledge of local flora and fauna; others dive into the history of a trail or tract of land; others offer practical advice and tips. It makes even the most familiar trails feel new.

This week, my own outdoor excursion happened to be narrated by my three-year-old son, Arthur. He is often my hiking companion, and, as many parents of three-year-olds might recognize, his questions are coming fast and furious. He unknowingly became this week’s guest columnist, as his unbridled curiosity spilled out during every moment of our walk through the recreational side of Putnam Memorial State Park on Sunday.

As we got on our boots and mittens, readying ourselves to leave the house:

“Will we see a bear? Is it asleep? But why? We have to be careful, so the bear doesn’t CHOMP us. I would be so SAD to get chomped. Sometimes there is a bear, and sometimes there isn’t. We’ll have to go check.”

Once we arrived, spotting his favorite swing set with the baby seat swing he barely fits in anymore:

“Why is it windy? AH a STORM IS COMING! Do my shoes fit? Where are the geese? What’s that noise? Is that airplane my airplane? But why? I see a dog coming! Higher! Faster!”

On our walk along the park’s paved loop, crunching over the packed snow:

“Where’s the bear? I don’t see him. Maybe a fox is here. Or maybe a mole. Or a squirrel! What’s that stripey thing on the snow? Is that a shadow? But why? Let’s go throw rocks in the pond.”

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EDITORIAL

Small town, federal funds

Deep into municipal budget season, the Town and the Redding and Region 9 school districts are busy planning for the 2025-26 fiscal year ahead. The proposed budgets represent Redding’s immediate needs, varying priorities, and future goals. By far, the largest revenue source that pays for these activities is property taxes. But there are some grants and funding received through the State and Federal government that support special projects and offset specific costs.

The news this week that a pause has been ordered on Federal funding and grant programs has resulted in many questions. What programs does the order apply to? Can funds already committed be pulled back? As of press time (Tuesday, January 28), there aren’t many answers.

How much money does Redding receive from the Federal government? On initial review, here are some of the major grants and funding:

FEMA reimbursement for storm damages: The August 18, 2024 rainstorm caused roughly \$20 million in damages to public property throughout town, including roads and bridges. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently reported it will reimburse Redding’s damages 75-cents-on-the-dollar.

EPA grant for Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill: Last spring, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a nearly \$2 million Brownfields Cleanup grant to the Town of Redding to help with remediation at the Gilbert & Bennet Wire Mill site in Georgetown.

Redding Board of Education IDEA grants: Every year, the Redding School District receives offsets through IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) grants, which are administered by the U.S. Department of Education and passed through the State Department of Education. In the current fiscal year, roughly \$183,000 in IDEA grant offsets are budgeted for Redding School District. The proposed 2025-26 budget numbers currently show \$257,600 in IDEA grant offsets for special education services across Pre-K to Grade 8.

The news is fresh, and clarification for how the pause may affect Redding will become clearer in the coming days. It’s probably fair to say, however, that areas of the budgeting process – and their timelines – just got more complex. ■

LEGAL NOTICES

At a Special Town Meeting held on January 21, 2025 it was unanimously voted that the Town of Redding grant an access easement to The Nature Conservancy over the Bruzelius Trail for access to the Granskog property on Dorethy Road. ■

*Michele R. Grande, Town Clerk
January 22, 2025*

At a meeting of the Redding Conservation Commission on 1/21/2025, the following actions were voted:

App'l #24-15, Phoebe, LLC (owners), Chris Robinson (agent), 32 Sunny View Drive. **Approved with conditions** an application to construct a stone wall at the entrance of the driveway over existing easement within the regulated area.

*David R. Pattee
Chairman*

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the ZBA Commission held on January 21, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM the Board reached the following decision.

Application #01-01-25 – 33 Black Rock Turnpike (Assessor’s Map and Lot #39 & #25): Owner: Daniel Capossela: Requesting a

*Beth Williams – Chairman
Redding Zoning Board of Appeals*

The Redding Zoning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing for February 12, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. in person at the Town Hall Hearing Room 100 Hill Road, Redding, CT. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the following application.

1. Application #25-01Z – 145 Old Redding Road (Assessor’s Map and Lot #27-7) – 145 Old Redding Road LLC – In

*Matt Lecher – Chairman
Redding Zoning Commission*

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■

LETTERS 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,

We would like to take this opportunity to commend the Redding Highway Department for their outstanding efforts in keeping our roads clear and safe in a timely manner, storm in and storm out. Whether it is snow, tree branches, or other matter that would otherwise impede our residents from passage, their teams are always there.

When considering our move to Redding over 20 years ago, we were concerned that town roads, such as Hill Road, would be treacherous when there was inclement weather. However, over those years we have been consistently pleased with the Highway Department’s work. Whenever the weather is bad and we must venture out, we are always careful, yet ever confident in what they have done to clear the roads. We have every confidence that they will continue with their fine work! ■

*Anita and Thom Field
Dry River Court*

To the Editor,

Thank you for the enjoyable January 23 article on northern Maine’s *cryoseisms* or “frost quakes.” It brought me back to my early twenties when the woods not of Maine but of Central New Hampshire were lovely, dark, and, deep; and I was living in them in a one-room cabin heated by wood and warmed by the soft golden light of a kerosene lamp.

It was the late ‘60s — early ‘70s, the time of the Back to the Earth movement. There were a few score of us scattered generally about the Lakes Region. “Yurt people”, the long-suffering Granite State old-timers called us.

Living with but a few inches of pine planking between us and the deep stillness of sub-zero winters, we were immersed in nature and very aware of everything that went on, every sound we heard, from the joyous cries of a society of chickadees hundreds of yards away, celebrating one lone bush of berries in the winter morning sun, to the distant boom of a tree at midnight bursting its bark when the temperatures dropped under 15 below zero.

Like frost quakes, that’s another North Country sound I suppose few have ever heard. It generally happens in the dead of night when stars glimmer, and all the forest stands silently still as it endures the arctic air.

Despite its antifreeze load of spring-waiting sugars, the sap gives up the fight against the freezing cold and, freezing into ice, swells beyond the bark’s ability to hold it in. Pushed past its limit, the bark bursts with a report in the woods almost like a gun.

I have come upon such trees in warmer seasons and wondered at the vertical scars on their trunks. Lightning can do the damage, but so can deep, deep frost. Like the poet of that name once pondered, fire and ice.

Thankfully, most trees survive. We’ll see how well the world will do. ■

*Ken Brooks, Pastor
Calvary Independent Baptist Church
West Redding*

New appointments to commissions

Planning, Park and Rec, and Historic Cemeteries | By Jessie Wright

At the Board of Selectmen meeting on Tuesday, January 21, the Selectmen made three appointments to three different Town boards.

Toby Welles was re-appointed to the Planning Commission as an Alternate. His term will expire February 1, 2029.

Jenna Siegel was appointed to the Park and Recreation Commission. Her term will expire June 30, 2027.

Thomas Kirk was appointed to the Redding Historic Cemetery Committee. ■



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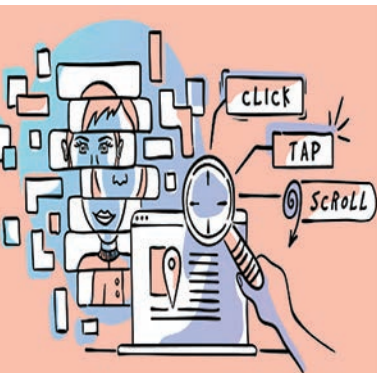
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How Connecticut residents can block web tracking under new privacy provision

By Gabby DeBenedictis



Connecticut consumers can now opt out of most targeted advertising and sales of their personal data by using a single tool, like a browser extension.

Residents can send what's known as an "opt-out preference signal" to websites – essentially an automatic message – indicating whether they want the site to track their data. And under a portion of the Connecticut Data Privacy Act that went into effect January 1, businesses are required to adhere to those preferences.

"We're all familiar now with the 'ask site not to track' pop-ups. Starting January 1, you can install a simple browser extension to answer that question once and for all – and sites you visit will be responsible for knowing and following your preference," Attorney General William Tong said in a statement.

Here's what to know about the change.

How can I opt into, or out of, targeted advertising and the sale of my personal data?

Consumers can send an "opt out preference signal" by using a

privacy protecting browser or a browser extension.

For example, Global Privacy Control, a signal that is used by over 50 million people, can be sent to websites using several browsers and extensions. Among them is DuckDuckGo, which offers a privacy browser, and extensions like Privacy Badger that can be added to a user's Google Chrome, Firefox, or Microsoft Edge browser.

The "personal data" the tools cover is any non-publicly available information like a user's home address, driver's license or state ID number, passport information, or login credentials.

Which companies will be required to adhere to my preference signal?

All businesses operating in Connecticut that in the previous year controlled or processed the personal data of at least 100,000 consumers – or those that controlled or processed data from at least 25,000 consumers if they derived over 25% of their gross revenue from selling personal data. Businesses are subject to the rule regardless of whether they're headquartered in Connecticut or not.

Entities known as "controllers" of consumer health data that operate in Connecticut are required to honor the opt-out requests, regardless of their size. "Controllers" are operators that have decision-making authority over the purposes and means of personal data collection, whereas

"processors" handle the processing of that data – the collection, use, storage, and sale of it.

What if I choose to opt out but have previously opted into targeted advertising?

If a consumer who previously opted into data tracking wants to opt out via an opt-out preference signal, that choice will supersede their previous data tracking selection.

That could affect the consumer's participation in programs like loyalty rewards. Businesses have the option to inform customers that their signals are conflicting and that choosing to opt out of data tracking could affect their ability to participate in rewards programs.

What else does the Connecticut Data Privacy Act (CTDPA) cover?

Initially passed in 2022, the CTDPA is a consumer privacy law that formalized policies around controlling and processing personal data. The attorney general's office has called it one of the first "comprehensive consumer privacy law(s)" in the nation.

Other parts of the law have previously taken effect, including provisions that give consumers the right to access personal data that a collector has collected about them, correct inaccuracies within it, delete it, and obtain a copy of it that allows them to transfer it to a different collector with ease. ■

This article originally appeared in CT Mirror

Georgetown fire company revises solar project funding timeline

By Rocco Valluzzo

The Board of Selectmen accepted a revised proposal from the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company (GVFC) to be included in the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit program for 2025 to continue fundraising for its solar panel project.

The program is designed to provide funding for municipal and tax-exempt organizations by providing a tax credit to businesses that make cash contributions of up to \$150,000 to these entities. Under the program, the Georgetown Fire District can accept donations from businesses which would then receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for any funds donated to the specific project.

According to First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton, the District has raised less through the program than its original goal of \$130,000. But the funds need to be expended within a two-year window of the project, which ends in February.

After she spoke with the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services and the GVFC, the solution was for the GVFC to submit a revised proposal to the Board of Selectmen. Rather than install the full program of solar panels now, they would use the money raised thus far to begin the work to make the building solar-panel ready.

"It still would fit within, we agree, the intent of the original application, which was to install solar panels and reduce the utility expense of the District, which is passed along to taxpayers, so there would be a benefit there," Pemberton said. "Their goal would be for us to approve the revised application, allowing them to use the \$30,000 to make the building solar-panel ready, and then they would apply for the 2025 program, which wouldn't come to us until the spring to continue fundraising for the rest of the project."

Pemberton added that the original Neighborhood Assistance Act application went to a special town meeting and was approved. She was unsure if the revised application needed to go back to a special town meeting or if the Selectmen's authorization was sufficient.

"At a minimum, we would need to approve the new application, and I would send a letter back to the Department of Revenue Services establishing that if we do approve it, we believe that the revised proposal meets the requirement of the original request that fits within the parameters," Pemberton said.

The revised request is \$33,599, which the District has already raised. The business entity that has donated the funds needs to claim the tax credit either this year or the prior year.

"It's essentially asking for the \$33,599 tax credit instead of the \$130,000, so they can use the money they have," Pemberton explained. "Otherwise, they can't do the project that was approved, and the donor could potentially lose the tax credit, which we don't want to see happen and they (the fire department) don't want to give the money back. I think this gets them on their way. They can continue to raise money." ■



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SPORTS

Knights take fight out of Grizzlies

Hockey | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Greyson DiBlasi scored one goal for the Joel Barlow/Weston/Abbott Tech (JBWA) hockey team in its game against Guilford on Saturday, January 25. JBWA won 5-2.

A less-than-stellar performance in the first period wound up having little bearing on the outcome of the Joel Barlow/Weston/Abbott Tech (JBWA) hockey team’s game against Guilford last weekend. The Knights more than made up for it the rest of the way on Saturday, January 25. With stronger performances in the following frames, they remained on track for a 5-2 win at the Danbury Arena. Despite having the better of possession in the first period, the Knights missed a number of scoring chances, with most shots either missing the mark or being stopped by Guilford goalie John Maroney. They did capitalize on one chance with 6:48 left in the period when

Greyson DiBlasi got to a loose puck and slipped a shot past Maroney. Sean Fenton Samuels got the assist, and the Knights were up 1-0 after one frame. “We played a very sloppy first period,” said JBWA Head Coach Bob Stearns. “We don’t really have an answer as to why we played that way, but we settled them down in between periods and then came out and played a lot better.” Despite a couple of penalties for roughing and tripping, the Knights killed off both successfully in the second period. Back at full force, they scored with 6:33 left when Wes Arees corralled a loose puck before putting it past Maroney. Brandon D’Angelo assisted to make it 2-0.

The Grizzlies were not as fortunate when it came to penalty killing, with two players getting two minutes for high sticking and tripping, which allowed the Knights to score on a power play with Peter Robinson scoring unassisted. The Knights later killed off an interference penalty of their own with 2:30 left. Guilford stopped the shutout in the third period with Barlow down two players for holding and roughing. This allowed Kellen Rinehart to find the net on the power play to make it 3-1 as his brother Cade assisted with 10:16 to go in the game. This was enough time for the Knights to score twice more, first with Robinson finding the net with Dylan Hilario assisting at the 7:02 mark. The Rinehart brothers answered with 2:24 to go on a goal by Cade with Kellen assisting. After calling a timeout with less than two minutes to go, the Grizzlies pulled Maroney for an additional skater, but the Knights were ready. Arees got the last word in with a goal with 1:26 to go with an assist from Robinson. “We played a solid third period,” said Stearns. “When you have Connor Thomas in net, and when you have Peter Robinson putting them in the net at the other end, it’s a good combination.” Robinson (one assist) and Arees led the Knights with two goals apiece. DiBlasi had one. Fenton-Samuels, D’Angelo, and Hilario had assists. Now 8-2-2, JBWA takes on the Northeastern Shamrocks in Bolton on Saturday, February 1 at 6:45 p.m. and visits the Milford Mariners on Wednesday, February 5 at 7:15 p.m. ■

Barlow falls against Brookfield/Shepaug

Wrestling | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High’s Connor Lee, top, pinned Brookfield/Shepaug’s Jake Livingston at 285-pounds in a wrestling match on Wednesday, January 22. The Falcons lost to the Bobcats 30-50.

A run of victories by its opponents put the Joel Barlow High wrestling team in a tough spot against Brookfield/Shepaug on Wednesday, January 22. At one point in the match, the host Bobcats won six straight contests. Ultimately, the Falcons could not make up for lost ground in the remaining ones, coming up short 30-50. “They’re well coached,” said Barlow Head Coach Emmett Cole, noting the Bobcats’ efforts. “They wrestled well. Things started on a good note for

the Falcons, however. Kai Timozek would take the 106-pound class by forfeit as the Bobcats had no eligible wrestler. The momentum then went Brookfield/Shepaug’s way, starting with Thomas Scalon outlasting Grady Mumbach 13-5 at 113 pounds. Matt Bray then followed by pinning Zack Jhilal in 2:24 in the 120-pound class. Two quick wins went to the Bobcats in the next two weight rounds. Evan Gresso needed just 20 seconds to pin Jake Hamelin at 126 pounds, and James Feather

did likewise to Ben Azzara in 39 seconds at 132 pounds. With Ryan Knob out sick, Barlow had no wrestler at 138 pounds, giving the Bobcats the win by forfeit. Another Brookfield/Shepaug win was at 144 pounds with Nate Smith outscoring Alex Krois 16-2. The run stopped with the 150-pound class, as Scott Romano got the win by forfeit. Barlow’s Claudio Barbosa took the win at 157 pounds in the same fashion. However, the visitors trailed 18-32 at this point. Brookfield/Shepaug followed by winning the 165-pound class with Isaac Mancini pinning Anthony Azzara in 1:33. The Falcons had no wrestler at 175 pounds, resulting in another forfeit, but won at 190 when Rob Gaspar got the win when the hosts were without a wrestler. Trey Parker got the Bobcats the win at 215-pounds by pinning Pierce Counter in 26 seconds. Connor Lee gave Barlow the last word when he pinned Jake Livingston in 1:12 to win the 285-pound class. Barlow is back at Brookfield on Saturday, February 1 for a tournament at 9:00 a.m. and visits Weston on Wednesday, February 5 at 6:00 p.m. ■ help motivate my steps up the hill. “We’re going on a bear hunt... gonna catch a big one... I’m not scared!” He joined in. We chanted, looking all around us in the chilly sunlight streaming between the trees – for bears, for mice, for birds, for the answers to all the questions either one of us could think of. ■

Falcons take fifth, sixth overall

Boys and girls skiing | By Rocco Valluzzo

The first major snowstorm of the new year made for good racing conditions for the Joel Barlow High ski teams last week. Boys ski team The Falcon boys would post their fastest times of the season when they traveled to Mount Southington on Thursday, January 23. Trimming more than 18 seconds off their team time from the previous race, they placed fifth out of nine teams in 306.03 seconds. Leading the team was Quinn Williston, whose combined time of 46.45 was good for 13th, just 0.03 seconds behind Cheshire’s Luke Hayden. Williston was one of two Barlow skiers to crack the top 20. Luke Mutuski was in the number two spot for the Falcons, finishing 19th overall in 49.15. Next came Andrew D’Amaro in 51.49 and in 35th overall. Four places later was Sam Walker with a 52.05, beating Wilton’s Sean Raftery by 0.04 seconds. In 42nd was Max Luca in 52.48. Completing the scoring for Barlow, Barrett Commisso took 51st in 54.41. Not far behind him was teammate Grayson Lapine, who was 53rd in 54.97, 0.04 seconds behind Weston’s Ryan Bigin. The remainder of the Barlow varsity team finished within a span

of four places. Bryce Hopkins took 94th in 66.47, two places ahead of Bodhi Mond in 69.62. Connor Smyth immediately followed in 97th with a 70.09. Girls ski team In the girls’ race, the Falcons posted a similar finish. A time of 336.74 got them sixth out of 10 teams. It was a competitive field, with Barlow taking only one spot in the top 30. That went to Lucille Zima, who was 29th in 52.92. Three Barlow skiers finished in succession. Katherine Stowell, Elisa Beka, and Caroline Lippoth took the 40th through 42nd spots with times of 55.8, 56.05, and 56.17 respectively. Helena Zima, who was 47th, was just edged out by Wilton’s Charlotte DiNapoli. Both had times of 56.59. Ruby Ludwig completed the scoring for the Falcons in 59.21, taking 56th. Also in the varsity race, Gabby Boehlert was 84th in 65.5. Hailey Watson was 91st in 66.6. In 103rd, Elizabeth Kimball had a 72.25, 0.01 seconds behind Greenwich/Brunswick Academy’s Stella Oshana. Holly Landa was 106th in 74.01. The Falcons return to Mount Southington on Thursday, January 30 for a race at 3:00 p.m. ■

Sports stats and schedules



Boys basketball

Results: January 21: New Fairfield 67/ Joel Barlow 56 January 23: Kolbe Cathedral 66 / Joel Barlow 38 January 18: Bethel 65/ Joel Barlow 46 Record: Joel Barlow 2-10 Next games: January 31: at home versus Bunnell at 7:00 p.m. February 4: at home versus Bethel at 7:00 p.m. February 6: away versus New Milford at 7:00 p.m.

Girls basketball

Results: January 21: Joel Barlow 52 / New Fairfield 42 January 23: Kolbe Cathedral 40 / Joel Barlow 35 Record: Joel Barlow 9-4 Next games: January 31: away at Bunnell at 7:00 p.m. February 4: away at Bethel at 6:30 p.m.

Gymnastics

Results: January 20: Joel Barlow/Bethel 120.35 / Newtown 117 Record: Joel Barlow 4-6 Next meet: February 8: away at Brookfield at 4:00 p.m.

Hockey

Results: January 18: JBWA 12 / Housatonic/Northwestern/ Torrington/Wolcott Tech 1 January 20: JBWA 2 / Bethel/Brookfield/Danbury 2 (2 OT) January 22: JBWA 5 / Shepaug Valley 3 January 25: JBWA 5 / Guilford 2 Record: JBWA 8-2-2 Next games: February 1: away versus Northeastern Shamrocks at 6:45 p.m. February 5: away versus Milford Mariners at 7:15 p.m.

Boys swimming

Results: January 21: New Milford 85 / Joel Barlow/Bethel 61 Record: Joel Barlow 0-2 Next meet: February 4: home versus Bunnell/Stratford at 5:30 p.m. February 11: home versus Brookfield at 4:30 p.m.

Wrestling

Results: January 22: Brookfield/Shepaug 50 / Joel Barlow 30 Record: Joel Barlow 2-3 (SWC) Next matches: February 1: away at Brookfield/Shepaug tournament at 9:00 a.m. February 5: away at Weston at 6:00 p.m.

Troop 306 serves up community spirit... and a mean stack of pancakes

Breakfast fundraiser on February 8 | By Rose Villani



Photo by Jana Beksa

Chef Stephen Alward with Scouts Phoebe Swedrock, Lilia Vero, and Rose Carney at Troop 306’s 2024 breakfast.

On Saturday, February 8, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the West Redding Fire Station, Redding/Easton’s female Scout Troop 306 will hold its annual gourmet breakfast fundraiser. This Valentine’s Day-themed event will feature all-you-can-eat omelet and pancake bars, coffee and juice, and games. Stephen Alward, Head Chef at The Redding Roadhouse, volunteers his time to help prepare the menu, supervise the kitchen, train the Scouts, and oversee them throughout the meal. Patrons enjoy watching the girls build made-to-order omelets with cheese, ham, bacon, caramelized onions, and other fillings. Pancakes hot off the griddle are topped with berry compote and whipped cream, along with real maple syrup.

“The omelet station is fantastic, and Chef Alward is such a great coach for the girls,” says Redding’s Rachel Bermingham, who has at-

tended the breakfast the past two years with her sons. “I’ve been impressed by how hard the Scouts work, and how much everyone enjoys it.” For the Scouts, this event is more than an opportunity to raise funds; it’s also one of the highlights of the year – one that emphasizes the troop’s place in their community. “I love how the breakfast brings people together,” says Scout Francesca Curatilo. “It’s really fun to cook, serve our guests, and then share and eat a big family meal together.” The breakfast is Troop 306’s primary fundraiser and underwrites the group’s outdoor program of hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, and kayaking. According to Scoutmaster Kelly Donahoe, the troop plays an essential role in the Redding/Easton community by facilitating friendships between girls who like to hike and camp. “Not all teen and tween girls want to spend time in

the outdoors,” she says. “For those that do, this troop helps them make connections and build community.” Last summer, Donahoe and several other members of Troop 306 flew to New Mexico to complete a 60-mile backpacking trek. Former Redding resident Kevin Blackwell, who has since relocated to Virginia, founded Troop 306 in 2019, the year that girls were officially allowed full membership in the Boy Scouts program, which was rebranded that same year to Scouts BSA. The troop started with just a handful of girls and has since grown to its current membership, which fluctuates between 16 and 20. Its roster of current Scouts and alumni includes six Eagle Scouts. The troop chose its designator – 306 – from the address of its sponsoring organization, the West Redding Fire Station, located at 306 Umpawaug Road. They meet on Wednesday evenings at the Redding Community Center and welcome girls aged 11-17 from Redding, Easton, and other local towns. Troop 306 Scouts regularly perform service projects in Redding, Easton, and surrounding communities. In the past year, Scouts have volunteered at the Mark Twain Library Book Fair, cleaned tombstones at Easton’s Aspetuck Cemetery, installed signage and removed invasive vegetation for the Woodcock Nature Center, and conducted parcel inspections for the Ridgefield Land Conservancy. Annually, they can be seen marching in Redding and Easton’s Memorial Day parades, running the toddler play area at Georgetown Day, and bringing Santa and s’mores to Redding’s holiday tree lighting. ■

To purchase tickets or to learn more about Troop 306, visit reddingtroop306.org

Barlow Beat | By Juliana Qiu

As we move into the heart of winter, Joel Barlow High School has a variety of exciting events lined up in the next few weeks. The third marking period began on Tuesday, January 22, bringing with it a fresh start for students. One of the highlights is the College Admissions Panel scheduled for 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 30 in the auditorium. Hosted by the Counseling Department, this event is designed to help families navigate the college application process with greater clarity and understanding by offering important tips and advice. The panel will feature representatives from the following universities: University of Connecticut, Providence College, Penn State University, Lynn University, Miami University, and Western Connecticut State University. While the event is specifically geared toward students in grade 11, families of freshmen and sophomores are also welcome to attend if interested. On Friday, February 7, Barlow will hold a schoolwide Coffee House event in the Library Learning Commons, an evening celebrating the musical and artistic talents of students from all grade levels. From 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., students are invited to showcase their performances in a casual and welcoming environment. For those who play an instrument, sing, read

poetry, or are open to sharing any other form of artistic expression, the Coffee House provides a platform to display such a diverse range of talents. Be sure to sign up by Wednesday, February 5 to secure a spot. The month will also bring a welcome break in the form of early dismissal on Friday, February 14. Students will be released at 12:00 p.m., which will mark the beginning of the much-anticipated February break that extends all the way through Sunday, February 23. School will resume on Monday, February 24. Whether planning to enjoy some outdoor winter activities or simply unwind with family and friends, this offers the perfect opportunity to recharge before jumping back into the new semester. Wishing everyone a happy and restful break in advance! January has already been filled with exciting events, and there is still much more to look forward to in February. Whether attending the College Admissions Panel or partaking in Coffee House, there is something for everyone. For additional details regarding any of the information above, please visit the school’s official website at jbhs.er9.org ■ Juliana Qiu is a senior at Joel Barlow High School

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Keystone Club sets March 29 for Spelling Bee

By Rob Sample



Keystone Club members (top row, L-R) James Pereira, Lucas Perales-Hudson, Jackson Schildt, Eddie Chiamonte, Lyra Robinson, Keaton Zimmer, Noah Caldwell, Chris Caldwell, (bottom row, L-R) Sara Jones, and Mackenzie Kassner.

Is your elementary-school child a whiz at spelling? Check out the Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton/Keystone Club 2025 Spelling Bee, set this year for March 29. The Spelling Bee is open to all students in grades three and four, with mentoring by the high school members of the Keystone Club. The group is gearing up to make this year’s Bee a larger and improved version of the event that took place last year. “Last year, we only had 10 members in the Keystone Club – which limited the number of mentors available and the number of children who could participate,” said Autumn Tooker, Program Director for the Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton. “As a result, we had only nine third- and fourth-graders last year.” At that time, the Keystone Club had just reorganized after a multi-year hiatus. “Last year’s Spelling Bee was a good start, with the Keystone Club just getting off the

ground,” said Tooker. “We’re hoping for 15 in each grade level – 30 students overall – but we’ll be happy if we reach 25 in total.” Tooker said interest is strong in this year’s Bee, with past participants, siblings, and newcomers already signing up. In addition, the Keystone Club now has approximately 35 members, which means there will be no difficulty in providing mentors. “We are having an orientation meeting for mentors and contestants on February 6,” noted Keaton Zimmer, the Keystone Club’s Head of Community Outreach. “It will be from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club.” All high school students are invited to join Keystone Club, and membership is not limited to students at Joel Barlow High School. Members also can attend private and parochial high schools, magnet schools, vocational-technical high schools, or be homeschooled by their families. Mentors and contest participants

will meet each week prior to March 26. “This year, we’re aiming to ‘double up’ our mentoring – meaning, each student who participates will be paired with two mentors,” said Tooker. Tooker and Keystone Club members also plan to develop an assortment of games to accent practices for the Bee – even utilizing the Boys & Girls Club basketball court while sounding out the spelling of words. “We want to make each mentoring session fun and engaging,” said Tooker. For years, The Boys & Girls Club Spelling Bee was a popular tradition in Redding that went back to the Club’s earliest days. In fact, the community spelling bee has distinctly American roots: according to *Smithsonian* magazine, Benjamin Franklin recommended their use in a 1750 proposal for a school. By the 1800s and early 1900s, spelling bees were commonplace throughout the country. Nationwide, Boys & Girls Clubs have continued that tradition. The Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton held its last Spelling Bee in March of 2020, just as shutdowns began for the Covid-19 pandemic, before restarting the tradition last year. Besides looking forward to this year’s Spelling Bee, both Tooker and Zimmer have been encouraged by Keystone Club’s growth this year. Its emphasis is on community involvement, and the Club has mounted a full complement of those activities this year. “Keystone Club students have recently begun a partnership with SOAR Together,” said Tooker, referencing a local organization that

Continued on page 6

National Charity League recruiting new members

Two information sessions this month

By Anne Young Albanese



The Redding Area Chapter of the National Charity League (NCL) is recruiting new members from Easton and Redding for 2025-2026. NCL is a philanthropic organization that unites mothers and daughters in a commitment to community service, leadership development, and cultural experiences. A meeting for interested Redding and Easton mothers will be held at The Redding Roadhouse on Wednesday, February 5 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The event is for mothers with daughters in 6th to 8th grade. Those considering joining NCL will have a chance to meet current members and learn more about the Redding Area Chapter in a casual environment while enjoying light refreshments. A more formal informational meeting will be held on Monday, February 24 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Easton Public Library at 691 Morehouse Road. Attending either or both events does not commit you to joining the chapter. According to NCL Inc., the Redding Area Chapter “promotes social

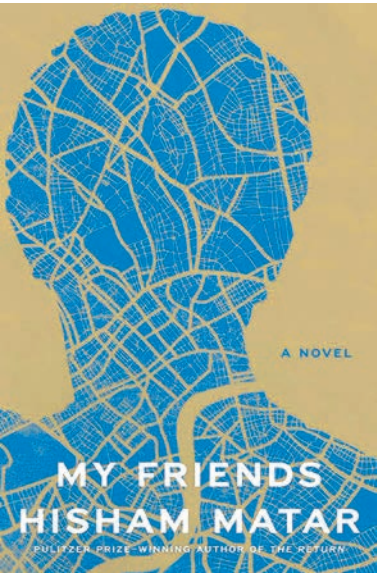
awareness by considering the local community’s needs and selecting appropriate non-profit organizations to support through hands-on service as mother and daughter teams.” Last year, members in the Redding Area Chapter contributed 7,000 service hours to the surrounding communities. Some charities the local chapter has worked with include the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, Ann’s Place, Dorothy Day House, Easton Public Library and Mark Twain Library, Heritage Center, and Easton Senior Center. NCL is also dedicated to leadership development for its student members. The organization concentrates on skills such as confidence, consensus building, team building, conflict resolution, event planning, and parliamentary procedure. Both mothers and daughters hold board offices and join committees. Each grade is dedicated to building different leadership skills. Cultural experiences fill the group’s calendar as well, including the annual Mother-Daughter Tea, theater visits, museum exhibits, musical events, educational day trips, and cultural enrichment dinners. ■ RSVP for informational events by e-mailing MeganMicola@membershpreddingarea@nclonline.org Learn more at nationalcharityleague.org/chapter/reddingarea

Book Review

My Friends

By Hisham Matar

416 pages / Random House / \$18.00



My Friends, by Hisham Matar, tells the story of three expatriate Libyans – Khalid, Mustapha, and Hosam – who are living in London to begin with. Two return to fight a civil war that defeats, unseats, and kills Muammar Gaddafi, and one remains to tell the story. Who are these men, and why do they do what they do?

Matar presents his male characters in a context of death and displacement. By the end of the novel, they have fulfilled their destiny. But their journey feels finally more like parody than history, and they seem as psychologically adrift at the end as they did at the beginning. After the war, one friend becomes for a while the Minister of Culture in fragile post-Gaddhafi Tripoli, but moves eventually to America with his undescribed (except that she is much younger) wife and children. The other friend disappears into further revolutionary activity and family life. But strangely, it all seems rather unfulfilled and infantile.

This might be due to cultural dissonance. Matar writes well about his ethnic gravities, but they are intellectually and emotionally Middle Eastern, sometimes quite unlike Western understanding. Matar, Libyan by birth, consciously or unconsciously represents his cultural underpinnings: women do not really exist in this novel; they are present as stick figures. God exists only in these pages as an admission of affiliation, no more. Speaking of his close friend, Mustapha, narrator Khalid writes, “‘Then all news from him stopped. I even wondered if he was still alive. Then I heard a rumor that he had got married,’ Hosam said, and then fell silent.” It is a masculine silence that carries the whole cultural and religious burden that accurately or inaccurately represents reality worth fighting and dying for. We feel it, but it is their reality. Their fight and their homeland and their culture.

In *My Friends*, Matar makes an examination of spiritual static arcing along the fault lines of social, religious, and political affiliations. Khalid and Mustapha are literally blood brothers, both wounded as students in London during a Libyan protest rally in 1984. Rana, a female friend and also a student, appears briefly and vanishes from the book after a serious surgery, an authorial construction that facilitates the meeting between Khalid with Hosam Zowa, fomenting a relationship which becomes close and meaningful afterwards. It is a somewhat ham-handed transition, however.

Strengths: Matar writes clearly with a quality of exposition, and when it suits him, he can build a scene artfully. Weaknesses: there is much telling and little showing. Also, women are substantially absent. Friendships among men are depicted with homoerotic intensity. Rightly or wrongly, emotions that bring tears and tender feelings between men seem, in Western literature, more specific to relations with women. In addition, emotions between men seem infantile, arrested at the sophistication level of a pre-teen with a boy-crush. Reflexive jealousy among men for men, for example, stands out inordinately. And the kind of preening masculine ego that seeks identity through war or makes a show with guns and death for other men is like watching rifles shot into the air in celebration of something.

Finally, *My Friends* projects a kind of cultural puzzle under an umbrella of political paranoia. Affiliations mark the fellow traveler to some, though there seems to be a critical lack of individual growth. To the degree that these affiliations are dominant, Western-style freedom seems nevertheless the final default desire. If it is retrograde to theocracy dominant in the region, Matar does not delve into reasons for this. Cultural change is implied obliquely. Family, for example, represents a strong support structure in a hostile world. It can be also an infantilizing affiliation with negative behavioral conditions that encourage dissimulation. Devoted to his father, mother, and sister, at the beginning Khalid nevertheless lies to them constantly about his circumstances. This might mean something less damaging to Middle Eastern psychological profiles than Western understanding can abide. We will have to wait for Matar’s next novel to intuit great changes that seem fairly bursting to take place in his world. ■

Review by Tom Casey, author of Human Error, Strangers’ Gate, and a new novel, Unsettled States, available now

Keystone Club sets March 29 for Spelling Bee / continued from page 5



aims to end loneliness and social isolation. “Next month, the Keystone Club will be working with SOAR Together on Flower Power. The students will make bouquets from flowers donated by supermarket floral departments as well as other places. They in turn donate the bouquets to people in the community who need our support.”

Club members have also helped in the past year at the 2024 Illuminated Forest, which is run by

Westbrook Nature School, and held a coat drive for needy teens in Waterbury. ■

High school students can contact Zimmer at keatonzimmer9@gmail.com for information on Keystone Club

Contact Tooker at (203) 938-3166, or programs@bgcre.org for more on Boys & Girls Club programming

Library Corner

Take Your Child to the Library Day

February 1 | By Erin Shea Dummeyer

The first Saturday in February is known amongst Connecticut children’s librarians as Take Your Child to the Library Day – and it’s no different here in Redding. On February 1, Mark Twain Library is going to be the place to be if you have kids. We’ll start off with bagels, donuts, coffee, books, toys, and great company! There will also be an assortment of craft kits and craft supplies that can be used to make something for your special Valentine.

At 11:00 a.m., “Rockin’ and Reading with Pete the Cat!” will

take place upstairs. This highly interactive musical performance promotes the joy of reading and empowers kids to discover their own potential for becoming life-long readers. Al de Cant’s spirited performance includes toe tapping music, storytelling, and audience participation to celebrate the joy of reading.

Afterward, browse for your next great read and enjoy a mini rice krispie treat when you check out your books. Take Your Child to the Library Day was founded in 2011 at the Waterford Public

Library in Connecticut by retired librarian Nadine Lipman with help from librarian Caitlin Augusta and author/illustrator Nancy Elizabeth Wallace. Since the launch of the holiday in 2011, celebrations have been held across the United States and Canada and around the world, serving 48.7 million people. Last year, Mark Twain Library hosted over 200 people, and we hope to do so again. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

Good books for good readers | By Margi Esten

Sitting here looking out my kitchen window this chilly morning, it seems apropos to talk about *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Originally published in 2003, it is an historical fiction/mystery novel based on the real-life events of Martha Ballard, an 18th-century midwife.

Set in Hallowell, Maine in 1789, it follows the life of this extraordinary, tough, and forward-thinking midwife healer who keeps a diary

of her family life and the births she attends. She is called in to examine a body discovered frozen in the river; once she determines that it was murder and not an accident that put him there, the reader witnesses the six-month drama that ensues involving her family and many of the townspeople she interacts with. There are a lot of babies being born and many of them out of wedlock – a bit surprising for 1789, but a primary theme is that while the

women are trying to do what’s best and keep their families together, the men abused their power over them. Martha Ballard bucks the system and refuses to accept anything less than justice. Worth a read.

Ariel Lawhon is a critically acclaimed author of historical fiction. Some of her other works include *I Am Anastasia* and *Code Name Hélène*. ■

Nature, wax, and photography melt together at Bethel Public Library | By Pamela Brown



Redding artist Rebecca Dunn with one of her encaustic paintings.

Encaustic painting, a technique that uses hot beeswax mixed with damar resin, is unfamiliar to most, and it was that intrigue and the medium’s unpredictability that appealed to artist Rebecca Dunn.

“I’ve created my own unique style that blends the wax with photography to create realistic yet whimsical works with lots of texture,” said Dunn, who moved to Redding almost three years ago. “I had been experimenting painting with melted crayons in 2009 and loved the uniqueness and texture you could create; then in 2018 I learned of a workshop at Silvermine Gallery in New Canaan teaching how to paint with melted beeswax, so I was instantly drawn to it.”

Over 20 pieces of Dunn’s work are on exhibit now at The Morton Gallery at Bethel Public Library through February 27. The art exhibit spaces are accessible during the Library’s open hours.

“As a Library, we aim to provide the public with services that meet their needs. One of these services is the art gallery where local artists get an opportunity to share their work with the public,” said Thom-

as Borysiewicz, Adult Services Librarian.

Dunn appreciates exhibiting at the gallery because it helps make art more accessible to the community. “I enjoy when you don’t have to go out of your way to find art, and I love when local cafes, libraries, restaurants, and breweries open their walls to showcase local artists. It seems to be a mutually beneficial situation for everyone involved,” she said.

The exhibit features Dunn’s collection of works titled *Stone Walls and Art of Noticing*. “The stone walls seem to be a metaphor for life – at first glance they are monotonous, similar stones propped up against one another, but if you take a moment to actually look at them, you see that they are each unique,” she explained. “This reminds us of the days of our lives, where looking back they might all blend together, but on closer inspection each holds its own distinct personality. These walls are more beautiful together woven in their pattern than they are as an individual, as we are within our communities. They were built for a reason but have broken down in areas, damaged by falling trees and by humans themselves, but they have also been repaired, protected, and admired – as we are.”

Dunn’s work focuses mostly on landscapes and nature. “I’m obsessed with fungi, rocks, and ice formations,” she said. “I find the intricate details in nature to be so mesmerizing. It’s fascinating that colors in nature never clash. There’s this perfect harmony in nature that I couldn’t do better myself.”

Some of her work features Redding locales. “I take my son to Putnam Memorial State Park where we take pictures of mushrooms or the Lonetown Barn near my plot at the Community Garden. Collis P. Hun-

tington State Park has gorgeous views of the ponds and Devil’s Den Nature Preserve in Weston is another great spot to look to see nature in all of its glory.”

Dunn’s creative journey began as a young girl and expanded to include a wide variety of media, including cement sculptures, watercolors, duct tape, oil paints, and refinishing furniture. In 2012, she studied classical oil painting techniques under renowned painter Phyllis Shafer.

Dunn is inspired by other creatives, including Nicole Bricker of Anonymous Society in Redding and Kelly Edwards of Arbor Gallery in Carmel, New York. “They’ve opened and run their own galleries while being mothers and artists, creating spaces showcasing local artists,” said Dunn, a stay-at-home mother who spends evenings creating art.

Through the encaustic medium, featuring texture and light, Dunn gives the scene an ethereal quality through her distinctive style of merging photography with wax. Her landscapes offer an escape into peaceful, serene worlds, though her process isn’t always straightforward.

“Each piece is uniquely challenging,” she explained. “At first, it’s exciting, then it looks weird. I have to push through and continue working, and when it’s finished and I get to sign my name on the back, it gives me this whole body high because I’m proud of working through the problems and seeing it through to the end.” ■

Bethel Public Library hours and gallery information at bethellibrary.org

Learn more about Dunn’s work on Instagram @rebeccadunnart

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New Pond Farm celebrates 10 years of live radio plays with *The Philadelphia Story*

By Anne Young Albanese



Photo courtesy of Nancy Ponturo

Many cast members from last year's performance of *All About Eve* are returning this year.

On Saturday, March 1, at 7:00 p.m., professional performers from in and around Redding will perform *The Philadelphia Story* as a live radio play at the Georgetown Oratory behind Sacred Heart Church at 30 Church Street. This is the tenth anniversary of this beloved event, launched by Nancy Ponturo in 2015. The performance raises funds for New Pond Farm Education Center.

Playwright Philip Barry wrote *The Philadelphia Story* specifically for Katherine Hepburn before it was made into the popular film in 1940. The reading on February 8 will consist of a one-hour radio script developed based off the film for the Lux Radio Theatre in 1943. A half-hour of refreshments will follow the performance while guests can mingle with the performers.

The romantic comedy tells the story of divorced Philadelphia socialite Tracy Lord. As she prepares to marry the wealthy George Kittredge, she encounters her ex-husband, C.K. Dexter Haven, and reporter Macaulay Connor. Tracy must decide which one of these men she truly loves.

The tradition started a decade ago when Ann Taylor, former Executive Director of New Pond Farm, asked Ponturo to commemorate the Ponturos' 30th wedding anniversary

and the 30th anniversary of New Pond Farm with a special performance. Different performances have followed each year, and the show is one of the Farm's most popular fundraisers.

Ponturo has a long history with the organization, having directed the Farm's Shakespeare program for middle and high school students for 17 years in addition to directing performances at Joel Barlow High School and Weston High School.

The cast of this year's performance are all professional performers with close ties to the community.

Bob Ponturo owns Quartertone Coffee Roasters in Ridgefield. Quartertone will be opening a coffee bar within the soon-to-open Georgetown Owl Market and Saloon. He has performed in the New Pond Farm play reading series since its inception.

Don Striano has been a working actor since the '80s. He has appeared on daytime soap operas as well as on *The Sopranos*. He did a comedy special with Jeanine Garofalo and HBO pilots with Louis CK. He has appeared in several films and has been a performing guitarist since his teens.

Julia Levo is a classically trained professional actor and has performed in New York and repertory

companies around the country. She has been an education director in New York City, teaching Shakespeare to middle and high school students and also taught and directed Shakespeare at New Pond Farm.

Martin Robinson has been working with *Sesame Street* and The Jim Henson Company since 1981, along with designing, building, and performing with puppets in numerous other shows. He has been on staff at the O'Neill National Puppetry Conference since 1991. He wrote, designed, and directed a NYC run of the horror (comedy) musical *All Hallows Eve* with composer Paul Rudolph. He currently performs Mr. Primm in the Sesame Workshop series *Helpsters* for Apple TV+.

Annie Evans is also a respected puppeteer and actor. She has written for *Sesame Street* for 23 years and worked on numerous other children's programs. She has produced numerous plays throughout the country and beyond.

Fred Newman is an actor, author, musician, and sound designer for stage, screen, cartoon, and concert halls. Newman has won awards for his work on shows for PBS, Nickelodeon, and Disney.

Molly Garbe Brown has performed in plays and musicals both regionally and nationally. She has performed in many children's productions in Connecticut and Westchester, N.Y. She is a member of the Theater Artists Workshop in Westport and Bridgeport.

David Morgan has toured worldwide with national and international artists such as Jane Lynch, Neshama Carlebach, and his own jazz trio. He also runs The Music Shed, a local music school focused on training musicians to collaborate in a band with other musicians at their level. ■

Learn more and purchase tickets at newpondfarm.org or by calling (203) 938-2117

Dine out during Ridgefield's Restaurant Week

February 3 – 8 | By Pamela Brown

Bring your appetite and take a short drive to Ridgefield to enjoy Ridgefield Restaurant Week 2025. The event, sponsored by the Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce and presented by Chef's Warehouse, runs February 3 – 8 and celebrates the town's tasty food scene.

According to Diana Spence, Executive Director of the Chamber, the week is always a fun and popular event.

"Restaurant Week is one of the highlights of the year, bringing both locals and visitors into our vibrant dining scene. It's a great opportunity for people to try new places, revisit old favorites, and enjoy what Ridgefield's culinary community has to offer," she said, noting the main goal is to spotlight Ridgefield's incredible restaurants and promote community engagement. "It's also a way to support small businesses, drive foot traffic, and foster a sense of connection within the town."

This year, about 20 restaurants are participating. The Chamber extended an open invitation to all food establishments to participate, not limited to traditional restaurants only, which resulted in a variety of cuisines and tasting options on offer that represent Ridgefield's diverse culinary landscape.

Participating restaurants include: 109 Cheese & Wine; 850 Degrees;

Bailey's Backyard; Brasserie Saint Germain; Corner Café; Deborah Ann's Sweet Shoppe; Dimitri's Diner; Gallo Ristorante; John's Best Pizza; Nod Hill Brewery; Posa Restaurante & Vineria; Ross Artisanal Bakery & Café; Southwest Café; Stacey's Totally Baked; Subway; TerraSole Ristorante; The Benjamin; The Lantern; Tusk & Cup Fine Coffee; and Wooster Hollow Café. Many will be offering prix fixe menus, discounts, or special items created for the event. Information for specific offers is available at ridgefieldchamber.org or on each restaurant's website.

"Restaurant Week has a noticeable impact on the local economy by increasing dining traffic and encouraging people to shop locally while they're out. It's an effective way to remind residents of the value of supporting small businesses, especially in the slower winter months," said Spence. "Events like Restaurant Week shine a light on Ridgefield's culinary scene and remind people of the incredible talent and offerings right here in town. It's a win-win for both the businesses and the community." ■

Learn more at ridgefieldchamber.org



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Redding schools plan for new Curriculum Director and increased special education spending / continued from page 1

Currently, there is \$80,000 earmarked for curriculum development, including K-5 mathematics, physical education, health and wellness, school counseling, and social studies. Professional services have an increase of approximately \$51,000, including training for curriculum implementation and a suicide prevention presentation. Professional texts for the ARC (American Reading Company) reading program in grade 5 represent a roughly \$31,000 cost.

K-12 Director of Curriculum to replace K-8 Math Coordinator

The District is proposing the addition of a K-12 Director of Curriculum, to replace a K-8 Math Coordinator, who would serve students in all three districts (Easton, Redding, and Region 9). While the K-8 Math Coordinator position had been added in 2023, McKinnon noted that the District is now shifting its focus to curriculum development and implementation, after the Math Coordinator helped implement a new middle school

math program and a universal screening tool in math/literacy.

The change would ultimately represent a cost savings of \$15,325 for the Redding School District, as it had funded half the cost of the Math Coordinator (the other half funded by Easton), and the cost for the Director of Curriculum would be split three-ways, with Region 9 (which includes Joel Barlow High School) also contributing.

The new K-12 Director of Curriculum would ensure aligned learning experience across the three districts, provide curriculum implementation support and professional development to staff, and aid in accelerating new curriculum development.

Facilities costs increase

School facilities are also seeing a large increase for 2025-26 (though the cost center is a relatively small one at 2.65% of the overall budget) at 17%. Maintenance contracts, including landscaping and water testing, are up over \$11,000. (In his presentation

to the Board of Selectmen on Friday, January 10, Health Officer Chris Wegrzyn also noted the increasing water testing fees and service contracts the Town must contend with).

The District has also added a new line item under "Projects" for annual painting at both Redding Elementary School and John Read Middle School, representing \$50,000 (\$25,000 for each school) and a new floor machine at John Read Middle School for a cost of \$10,500.

Budget process continues

These numbers are all preliminary. The budget discussions continued on Tuesday, January 28 at the ER9 Joint Board of Education Meeting. There will be another Board of Education Meeting held on Tuesday, February 4 at 7:00 p.m. and a presentation to the Board of Finance on Monday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m. Updated budget materials are available at sites.google.com/er9.org/redding-budget/home ■

Scam aware Grandparent scam meets AI

By Anthony Freyberg



The grandparent scam is a long-standing, particularly callous fraud targeting older adults by exploiting their love and concern for their grandchildren. Recently, ABC's *Good Morning America* did a feature story about how it has taken a sinister turn with the advent of artificial intelligence (AI).

The scam involves a fraudster impersonating a grandchild in distress, urgently requesting financial assistance – usually for bail, medical bills, or some other emergency. The scammer insists on secrecy, pressuring the victim to act quickly without consulting other family members. In the past, these scammers relied mostly on emotional manipulation and simple impersonation to deceive their victims.

However, AI has introduced sophisticated tools that make these scams more convincing and harder to detect. Now, voice cloning technology makes it possible for these scammers to replicate a

grandchild's voice. It only takes a small sample usually obtained from social media to create a very realistic replica. AI can even generate real-time replies that mimic natural human conversation adapted to the victim's reactions.

These same resources supply very useful information that can be used to help deceive a worried victim. It doesn't take long for a scammer to learn about a grandchild's habits and recent activities. From there, they can craft highly personalized stories that align with the victim's family dynamics. In San Diego this past November, a grandmother named Maureen received a call from someone she believed was her grandson. The voice, which sounded "exactly like him," claimed to be in trouble after a car accident and needed \$8,200 for bail. The scammer used AI voice cloning technology to mimic her grandson's voice.

To combat this growing threat, public awareness is essential. Families should establish verification protocols like a code word or name. And as with all the other scams, verifying suspicious phone calls no matter how convincing they sound is a must. AI certainly offers immense benefits to society, but its darker applications remind us of the ongoing need to balance innovation with good, common-sense safeguards. ■

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The Natural World

Dwarf conifers

Magical mutants | By Terry Karpen



Pinus mugo “Slowmound”



Photos by Terry Karpen
Picea abies “Nidiformis”

What is a dwarf conifer?

Conifers are mostly ever-green trees and shrubs with needle-shaped or scalelike leaves and produce seed-bearing cones rather than flowers. Conifers come in all shapes, colors, sizes, and textures – some may grow less than three feet in 100 years, while others might reach 130 feet in the same period. Dwarf conifers are conifers that do not reach the normal height for their species. However, the term “dwarf” doesn’t refer to the size of a tree, but rather the tree’s growth rate.

A dwarf conifer is classified by the *American Conifer Society* as a conifer that grows between one inch and six inches a year. In comparison, intermediate conifers grow between six inches and one foot a year, and large conifers grow more than a foot a year. Mature sizes listed are based on average growth characteristics over a 10-year period. This does not mean that a dwarf conifer will grow to 10-year dimensions, then abruptly stop growing. That is not the case. And not all dwarf conifers are the same size at maturity because they grow at different rates. Therefore, dwarf is a relative term, meaning these plants are actually “slow- growing conifers”, than permanently small-scale. Over time, even a dwarf conifer can become very large. But there are many varieties that do stay small. For example, the white pine (*Pinus strobus*) can reach 80 feet tall. Dwarf white pine cultivars, on the other hand, only grow to four feet tall.

A very magical feature of dwarf conifers is the diverse foliage textures and colors that differ from the parent or “normal” species. Sometimes it’s impossible to identify the parent species!

What causes a dwarf conifer?

“Nearly all are the spontaneous mutation of an existing plant, or a seedling whose genetic combination came up significantly different than its parent,” according to Iseli Nursery.

Dwarfism occurs naturally in several ways:

Witches’ brooms

These are dense clumps of branchlets that sometimes grow on full-sized conifers. They can be caused by disease, insect, or genetic mutation. Rooted cuttings from a witches’ broom are propagated to grow new plants that maintain a dwarf habit.

Seedling mutation

Some seedlings’ genetic combination can be different from the parent plant – such as growth rate, shape, color, form or leaf shape.

Bud mutations

Also called “sports”, can cause a single bud to grow more slowly than the rest of the tree to create a dwarfed habit.

Environmental factors

Severe climates or poor soil conditions can cause a conifer to grow as a dwarf.

Once a dwarf conifer is discovered, all these types of changes can then be propagated and sold as a unique variety.

Wide variety of colors

Dwarf conifer colors, including many shades of green, can be blue, yellow, orange, white, and variegated. Some varieties change color with the seasons.

Wide variety of shapes

Dwarf conifers can be narrow or broad and upright, broad

and spreading, ground-hugging, conical, cushion or bun-shaped, weeping, globe-like or rounded, and everything in between. Some are symmetrical with regular, neat branching and foliage, while others are irregular with uniquely erratic growth patterns.

How to use in landscape design

Low maintenance, trouble-free plants with year-round color, texture, and structure, dwarf conifers are ideal for foundation plantings, mixed beds and borders, rock gardens, and all-season containers. With varieties in different shapes, sizes, and foliage colors, there are dwarf conifers suitable for any landscape design. Most prefer full sun and will tolerate partial shade. There are also a few shade-tolerant varieties.

Dwarf conifers can be especially effective in combination with perennials, ornamental grasses, flowering shrubs, and small trees. Also, multiple varieties of dwarf conifers can be used together to make elegant designs – examples of conifer species with dwarf conifer varieties: firs, spruces, pines, junipers, arborvitae, hemlocks, cedars.

Pruning dwarf conifers

Regular pruning is not necessary, but they can be pruned to shape them or to control their size. They are easy to prune by trimming or removing new growth, sometimes known as “candles”, in spring.

Visiting garden centers, nurseries, and public gardens throughout the year is an excellent way to discover available selections of dwarf conifers. ■

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

OBITUARIES

Benedict Buonomo

June 26, 1930 – November 3, 2024



Benedict J. Buonomo passed away on November 3, 2024, in Redding.

Ben was born on June 26, 1930, in Brooklyn, NY. Ben attended Brooklyn Technical High School; a special admission high school based on academic excellence. Ben was awarded his bachelor's degree in engineering from Polytech Institute, now known as the NYU Tandon School of Engineering. Ben served in the Korean War and was stationed at Hyde Park (Roosevelt's mansion) conducting war-related radio transmissions.

Ben married the love of his life, Tina L. Libertini, with whom he attended PS 209. As young adults, they reconnected on the subway and fell in love. Ben is survived by his brother-in-law, Sal Libertini; four adult children, Laura, Richard, Christine and Mark; and seven adult grandchildren, Tyer, Caylin,

Kyra, Chris, Kyle, Isabella, and Julia.

Ben's career spanned roles at General Electric, Fisher & Porter, and Simmons Precision. Ben's engineering skills combined with his ability to attract people evolved into impressive sales and marketing leadership. In the 1990s, Ben perceived the coming digital revolution and joined Lewis Business Machines, to navigate their transition from analog to digital print technology. In an ambitious gamble, Ben mortgaged the family home, purchased the company, and shepherded his “small shop” to its lasting success that continues today.

Ben’s remarkable blend of engineering, ingenuity, and agricultural skills resulted in the creation of a large garden patch which evolved into a one acre-plus farm at Meadow Ridge, the Redding senior living community in which he and Tina lived. The Meadow Ridge Farm became an educational opportunity for high school students and provided a vast array of fruits, vegetables, and fresh eggs to Meadow Ridge's elite restaurant, to the delight of residents and visitors.

"Benny Boy" will be long remembered as fun-loving, a true force of nature, intelligent with a never-give-up attitude. May our memories of Ben always be a blessing.

Services for Ben will be held late Spring 2025. ■

F. Joan (Mullins) Topham

December 21, 1929 – January 22, 2025



F. Joan (Mullins) Topham, age 95, of Redding, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family. She was born in Bridgeport to the late Cyril and Pauline Mullins Sr. She graduated from the College of New Rochelle with a degree in nutrition. Prior to her retirement, Joan was the Director of Meals on Wheels servicing the Valley area

for Team Inc. She was a world traveler and a Lifemaster in Bridge, but her favorite pastime was spending time with family and friends.

Joan is survived by her three children, Lee-Ellen Wolf and her husband Thomas, Mark Topham and his wife Mary, and Lisa Topham and her husband Marty Ludwin; her brother Cyril F. Mullins II; four grandchildren, Eric Wolf and his wife Melissa, Justin Wolf and his wife Attorney Kristen Wolf, Attorney Rachel Topham Crane and her husband Michael Crane, and Bella Topham; several great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband Jay Emerson Topham, her infant son Eric Topham, and her sisters, Marilyn Powers and Patrice Mulrain.

For more information or to leave an online condolence, please visit www.mullinsfh.com ■

February is Pet Dental Health Month

By Pamela Brown



Time to brush those teeth! We remind our children to keep their teeth clean, and it’s important for our pets, too.

“If you can brush your pet's teeth daily to establish a routine, that's great! Make it part of the bedtime routine when you brush your teeth, as well,” said Dr. Sarah Romano of Bethel Village Square Animal Hospital, noting dental health is one of her favorite subjects. “Weekly brushing is adequate, as well, and

can be more manageable for most people.”

February is Pet Dental Health Month, a spotlight by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation on the importance of our pet’s oral health that serves as a reminder to make teeth brushing and periodic mouth checks an important part of your pet’s health routine. The organization reinforces that dental health should be a daily ritual all year long. “Many pet owners don’t realize how much dental health can contribute to overall wellness in our pets,” Romano said. “Excessive bacteria in the mouth of pets with excessive or prolonged tartar and calculus buildup can actually contribute to heart disease in some cases.”

According to Romano, pet owners should get into the practice of giving their dog’s teeth a thorough inspection at least once a week to

check for any fractured teeth, oral growths, or foreign material. Most often, a dog will show signs of an issue. “Slower or difficulty eating can be a sign of oral pain. Excessive lip licking can signal discomfort in the mouth, as well. Common problems include gingivitis, tooth root abscesses, crown fractures, loose teeth, and oral growths on the gingiva or tongue,” she explained.

When brushing, Romano encourages pet owners to use toothpaste specifically for dogs. “It’s impossible to prevent them from licking and swallowing it,” she said, also recommending the use of a special long pet toothbrush or finger brush for ease. If your dog is uncomfortable, Romano suggested specially made oral wipes that are sometimes better tolerated and effective. “Dental chews are helpful in removing tartar off the molars for dogs that won't let you reach these

areas. There are numerous products available, and I recommend looking for VOHC-approved (Veterinary Oral Health Council) products that have been proven to promote dental health with effective plaque and tartar control.”

Dr. Carol Gamez of Georgetown Veterinary Hospital sees many patients every day with periodontal disease. “Swollen gums, gingivitis, and gum tumors are just some of the conditions that we see in our patients. A broken tooth can cause pain and infected teeth can lead to other infections in the body,” said Gamez. “Bad breath or halitosis may be the first clue that your pet has periodontal disease. Dogs and especially cats will continue to eat and drink despite having mouth pain.”

A veterinarian can also provide the cleaning or a check-up. “During the annual physical exam, I will of-

ten discuss your pet’s dental health and I recommend seeing your veterinarian any time you suspect an issue. Your veterinarian may recommend a prescription diet specifically for dental health,” said Gamez.

Romano noted dental cleaning is individualized. “Some pets may never need a dental cleaning if their dental hygiene is maintained. Others may need a yearly dental procedure, which involves a thorough examination of the entire oral cavity while under anesthesia, dental probing for pockets, scaling of the crown and under the gingiva, polishing, radiography of teeth, and any extractions that may be needed,” she said. ■

For a list of healthy and safe dental chews for both dogs and cats, visit vhoc.org/accepted-products

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week’s Featured Events

Redding Neighbors & Newcomers Community Meeting Thursday, January 30 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Fireside chat to share feedback on club offerings The Redding Roadhouse 406 Redding Road reddingneighborsand-newcomers.org R	Winter Warmth Sunday, February 2 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Join Redding Prevention Council for an afternoon dedicated to mental health, connection, and warmth. Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road reddingpreventioncouncil.org	Redding Express – Bus Trip to <i>Hadestown</i> on Broadway Wednesday, February 19 9:00 a.m. Bus leaves 2:00 p.m. Show Orchestra and 1st Mezzanine Seats Meet at Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road townofreddingct.org/ parks-and-recreation \$, R	Want to feature an upcoming event? E-mail us at advertise@reddingsentinel.org for more information.
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ARTS

Thursday, February 6 – Sunday, March 16
“The Weight of Silence” Art Exhibition
Opening Reception on Saturday, February 8: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Anonymous Society
268 Simpaug Turnpike
anonymoussocietygallery.com

Wednesday, February 19
Redding Express – Bus Trip to *Hadestown* on Broadway
9:00 a.m. Bus leaves
2:00 p.m. Show
Orchestra and 1st Mezzanine Seats Meet at Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
townofreddingct.org/
parks-and-recreation
\$, R

Saturday, March 1
***The Philadelphia Story*, a Live Radio Play**
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Performance, desserts, and drinks with proceeds benefitting New Pond Farm Education Center
Georgetown Oratory
30 Church Street
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

CHILDREN | TEENS

Friday, January 31
Friday Games – UNO
4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
UNO and snacks for teens
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Saturday, February 1
Take Your Child to the Library Day
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Activities for children of all ages
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Saturday, February 1
Kids Day Out
2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Enjoy an afternoon out and about.
Riverbrook Regional YMCA
404 Danbury Road
Wilton
wiltonymca.org
\$, R

Sunday, February 2
Jr Staff: Animal Caretakers
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m .
Learn the ins and outs of animal care.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

Saturday, February 8
Valentine’s Craft
10:00 a.m.
Crochet hearts for ages 9 and older.
The Granite
5 North Main Street
thegranitechurch.org
R

Saturday, February 8
Preschool Open House
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Children are welcome
Riverbrook Regional YMCA
404 Danbury Road
Wilton
wiltonymca.org
R

FOOD | WINE

Saturday, February 8
BSA Troop 306 Valentine’s Pancake Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
West Redding Fire House
306 Umpawaug Road
facebook.com/groups/
bsa306redding
\$, R

Sunday, February 9
From Prep to Plate: Yogurt Dip Recipe Challenge
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Family program
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

HEALTH | WELLNESS

Sunday, February 2
Winter Warmth
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Join Redding Prevention Council for an afternoon dedicated to mental health, connection, and warmth.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
reddingpreventioncouncil.org

Tuesday, February 4
How We Create Pandemics, From Our Bodies to Our Beliefs with Smithsonian Curator Sabrina Sholts
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Virtual
Mark Twain Library
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Tuesday, February 4
Fireside Yoga
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

Thursday, February 6
Cozy Flow: A Winter Yoga Journey with Viki
12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Virtual
Mark Twain Library
marktwainlibrary.org
R

NATURE

Thursday, January 30
***The Voice of the Hudson* Movie and Discussion**
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Co-sponsored with New Pond Farm
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Saturday, February 8
Winter Wonderland Hike – Redding Community Hiking Club: Huntington Park
10:30 a.m.
A family-friendly, 75-minute hike
Registration closes on February 6
Collis P. Huntington State Park (gathering location shared with registrants)
marktwainlibrary.org/events/
winter-wonderland-hikes-redding-community-hiking-club-off-site
R

Saturday, February 8
Astronomy Night – Viewing the Night Sky
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Family, outdoor program
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Thursday, January 30
Redding Neighbors & Newcomers Community Meeting
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Fireside chat to share feedback on club offerings
The Redding Roadhouse
406 Redding Road
reddingneighborsandnewcomers.org
R

Wednesday, February 5
Grateful Gatherings with Flower Power
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Connect through flowers, coffee, and conversation with SOAR Together.
Lounsbury House
316 Main Street
Ridgefield
lounsburyhouse.org/calendar

Wednesday, February 5
National Charity League Prospective Member Social Event
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
For mothers of daughters in grade 6-8.
The Redding Roadhouse
406 Redding Road
nationalcharityleague.org/chapter/
ReddingArea
R

Thursday, February 6
A Black Soldier’s Revolutionary War Experience
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Historical re-enactment by historian Kevin Johnson.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Saturday, February 8 – Sunday, February 9
Formal Dress Exchange
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Saturday
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sunday
Browse and select formal dresses for a donation; drop-off date is Wednesday, February 5 from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church
95 Greenwood Avenue
Bethel
E-mail dawnfaw@aol.com

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. (in person) or 10:15 a.m. (Zoom)
44 Portland Avenue
bethlehemplutheranct.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

Temple B’nai Chaim
Friday, January 31
Welcome Shabbat
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
82 Portland Avenue
templebnaichaim.org

Please check church and synagogue websites for religious holidays and seasonal worship opportunities

MEETINGS

Sunday, February 2
Fire District #2 Commissioners’ Special Meeting
10:30 a.m.
306 Umpawaug Road

Monday, February 3
Park and Recreation Commission
7:00 p.m.
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road

Monday, February 3
Republican Town Committee
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, February 4
Conservation Commission
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, February 4
Redding Board of Education
7:00 p.m.
John Read Middle School / Community Room
486 Redding Road

Wednesday, February 5
Brown Bag Lunch with First Selectwoman
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Monday, February 10
League of Women Voters
4:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Conference Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, February 11
Redding Fire District 1
7:00 p.m.
186 Black Rock Turnpike

Tuesday, February 11
Planning Commission
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Wednesday, February 12
Region 9 Curriculum Committee
8:30 a.m.
Joel Barlow High School / A108
100 Black Rock Turnpike

Wednesday, February 12
Commission on Aging
9:00 a.m.
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road

Wednesday, February 12
Brown Bag Lunch with First Selectwoman
12:00 p.m.
Town Hall
100 Hill Road

Wednesday, February 12
Zoning Commission
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Thursday, February 13
Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee
6:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room and Virtual
100 Hill Road

For meeting details and agendas, visit townofreddingct.org/events

***Town Offices will be closed on Monday, February 17 for Presidents Day.**

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