

Walking path not likely to see summer completion

By Willow Bradford

The Park and Recreation Commission indicated during their June 1, 2026 meeting that the walking path project at the Community Center likely will not be completed by the end of the summer. The project – which aims to build a half-mile, handicapped accessible paved loop around the Community Center fields with benches and outdoor equipment stations – was originally due to be completed last fall but was delayed due to weather and contractor issues.

The Town has since terminated the contract with the original contractor, a Westchester County-based construction firm, Southern Industries, and the remaining costs for completion are still unknown. No legal action is being taken against Southern Industries, with the Town

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Photo by Sherry Karraker

Wild turkey eggs now are hatching throughout Redding. Here, a mother hen and three poults seen last spring on Poverty Hollow Road. CT DEEP’s Wildlife Division encourages residents to report any wild turkey sightings, especially hens and poults, from June 1 through August 31 as part of their annual Wild Turkey Brood Survey. Submissions can be made at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Report-a-Wildlife-Sighting>. If you have a photo you’d like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Boards of Education consider K-12 bell-to-bell cell phone ban

By Anne Young Albanese

With the increased use of personal technology (smartphones, wearables, e-readers, and AI assistants), the Easton, Redding, Region 9 (ER9) Policy Committee has revised its personal technology policy, proposing a bell-to-bell ban in all ER9 schools. The three Boards of Education accepted the policy for its first reading on May 26, but due to extended discussion, it may be revised before a final vote is taken.

While there are several proposed changes, the controversial portion of the policy would involve banning cell phones from the start to the end of the school day at Joel Barlow High School. There appeared to be a consensus among the Board members on a ban in the lower schools, but there was disagreement regarding the proposed bell-to-bell ban at the high school. Several Redding parents attended

the May 26 meeting or sent in public comments on the policy. “I’m here because I’m a strong supporter of the bell-to-bell policy in our schools, beginning in elementary school and continuing through high school. Personal devices have become increasingly distracting to our students and a source of social pressure at younger and younger ages,” said Michelle Van Steinberg. “In high school, a bell-to-bell policy becomes even more important because students are preparing for college and adult responsibilities. Maintaining focus and engagement through the entire class period helps build discipline and respect for structured expectations.”

“As a parent of two ER9 children in high school and middle school within the district, my husband and I fully support the bell-to-bell ban of cellular devices. The current restrictions on cellular devices within

the school is weak and haphazardly enforced. There are a multitude of reasons and studies to support the removal of devices from the school. No student’s brain should be constantly worried about being photographed or filmed while they’re trying to learn,” said Kelly Donahoe in an e-mail. “For too long, our children have been the guinea pigs of modern tech companies. It is time the district stands up and protects them like the many exemplary surrounding school districts.”

Others pointed out that there is value to having some contact with students throughout the school day.

“While I understand universal application allows for consistency, there’s a difference between kids in kindergarten and seniors in high school, and the policies that apply to them should reflect those

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REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

Seasonal sounds of water

Turkington Falls and the Reeve Biggers Trail | By Mary Flieger



Photo by Mary Flieger

Come while it lasts. Though our drought has tempered the effects of snow melt and we are still experiencing a rain deficit, one of my favorite springtime watercourses is still going strong for the moment: the cascade at Turkington Falls. When the summer heat arrives, this all but dries up, and if you think you are hearing water...it’s the wind in the trees, or the passing of cars on Gallows Hill Road.

But for now, the water is running, and it is a joy to behold. Parking is available off Old Stagecoach Road, just south of the intersection with Gallows Hill Road. The Turkington Falls Trail loop is a beautiful, easy walking trail. It is perfect for young legs – flat and wide – and is a safe distance from the water as it approaches the stream. There are plenty of fun rock formations for climbing, stone wall openings, and long straight stretches for running. The first encounter with water is at the top of the stream where the remains of an old earthen dam are still visible; just across is land that is part of the Centennial Watershed State Forest. Listen carefully and you can just hear the falls. They sound far away – and they kind of are, given the way the trail is routed. The fact that you can’t see them but can hear them is motivating, so head for the turn-off to the Reeve Biggers trail.

Finding the falls is a bit of an adventure, and one best left to those with older legs. A short connector from the Turkington Falls Loop trail drops you down to the Reeve Biggers trail, where you will spend a few minutes looking for the driest spot to ford a shallow stream. Once across, your ears should lead you (but also follow the signs!) to the “Cricket” trail which takes you directly up, up, up along the steep side of the falls. At the top, a perfectly placed bench always brings a smile to my face, and I privately thank the person who placed it there years ago. ■

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

Planning and Zoning work toward compliance with new State mandates

By Rocco Valluzzo

To help align the Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) with recent State mandates, the Planning Commission discussed increasing collaboration between municipal departments at its Tuesday, May 26 meeting.

The Commission agreed to adopt a concurrent work process with other Town boards and commissions to prevent 30-day delays in communication and to prepare for the on-boarding of a new planning consultant this month. It also emphasized that the Town’s new planning consultant serves both Planning and Zoning, which should facilitate better alignment.

As the Planning Commission focuses on updates to the POCD, the Zoning Commission also must make certain changes to Redding’s Zoning Regulations to comply with Connecticut H.B. 8002, signed into law last November. The bill mandates significant changes to local zoning laws effective July 1, 2026, specifically regarding minimum parking requirements and housing density.

Planning Commission member Jess Gaspar noted that the bill grants developers the right to build mixed-use developments on commercial lots through summary review (which does not require a public hearing or special use permit process). Additional changes include restrictions on hostile architecture (structural elements deliberately built into public spaces to restrict, guide, or deter certain behaviors), and a requirement that manufactured homes be treated the same as site-built homes in zoning.

Uncertainty remains on how the Town will accommodate incremental parking needs now that developers cannot be denied permits for certain development projects based on a lack of parking.

“We have a need for parking, which is not being addressed given the changes in H.B. 8002,” said Gaspar. “As a consequence, the Town or some other organization needs to accommodate the incremental need in parking.”

The Commission discussed the shift from developer-funded “fees in lieu of parking” to potential Town-led solutions, as developers are now less incentivized to build parking.

Current plans for Georgetown will focus on street parking and surface lots rather than multi-level garages due to cost and security concerns.

Commission member Elizabeth Jensen advocated for a “collaborative vibe” where Planning provides the guiding vision and Zoning implements enforcement, ensuring the two departments “stitch well together.” Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee member

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Powerful concert marks America 250 and Redding history



Photo by Susan Clark

The Greater Bridgeport Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director Eduardo Leandro (*center right*), gave a triumphant performance on Saturday, May 30 at Joel Barlow High School in honor of America’s 250th anniversary. The “Redding 250” concert included Charles Ives’s boundary-pushing *Three Places in New England*, Aaron Copland’s *Lincoln Portrait* with live narration by Diana Canova, and several rousing patriotic pieces encompassing the American spirit during which Barlow student musicians (guided by Barlow Music Director Chris Breault) joined the orchestra to perform. The evening was the culmination of months of work by a small group of residents, led by Sean McNamara, to mark Redding’s local history and America 250 in a significant way that incorporated education, music, and history. Town Co-Historians Bruce Nelson and Brent Colley hosted three spring events leading up to the concert that brought the history of the music and Redding’s role in the Revolutionary War to life. Funding for the concert was provided by a number of individual donors, local businesses, community groups, CT Humanities, the Town of Redding, and over 400 ticket buyers.

LEGAL NOTICES

At a meeting of the Redding Conservation Commission on 6/2/2026, the following action was voted:

App’l #26-04, Adam Czarnik (owner), Michael Mazzucco, P.E. (agent), 34 Whortleberry Rd. Approved with conditions an application for a site development plan for construction of a single-family dwelling, well, septic, and stormwater management within the regulated area.

The above-referenced file is available for inspection at the Redding Land Use Office. ■

David R. Pattee, Chairman

NOTICE OF REDDING SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Legal Voters in the Town of Redding, Connecticut, and those entitled to vote therein are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Special Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Redding Town Hall to consider and vote upon the following:

1. Approval of the 2026 CT Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program Proposals.
2. Approval of Zoning and Inland Wetlands Citation Ordinance.
3. Approval of Historic District #1 and Historic District Commission Ordinance.
4. FY26 Line-item Transfers within the Budget for Highway Snow Removal.

To do any and all things legal and necessary to accomplish the above-named purpose and to take any other action that may legally and properly come before the meeting.

DATED at Redding, Connecticut this 8th day June of 2026. ■

Redding Board of Selectmen:
Julia Pemberton, Diana M. Carlino, Michael Thompson

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Planning and Zoning work toward compliance with new State mandates / continued from page 1

Richard Wenning noted that all proposals, including those from Pirie Associates, the consulting firm who led the Revitalize Georgetown project, must be reviewed by the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG), which directly impacts financing and infrastructure endorsements.

Jensen and Gaspar agreed to prepare a review of H.B. 8002’s potential impacts on the POCD for the Commission’s next meeting. Redding Land Use Officer Mike Moran will investigate the specific role and timing for WestCOG involvement regarding the development of a regional housing growth plan, another requirement set out in H.B. 8002.

The Commission confirmed the expectation to complete Chapter 10 of the POCD, which will incorporate the recently completed Georgetown Revitalization plan, by the end of the year. The specific mechanics of how local Chapter 10 plans must mesh with WestCOG’s regional housing growth plan are yet to be determined. ■

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,

Bravo and congrats to Sean McNamara for organizing last month’s 250th Anniversary Concert at Joel Barlow High School. Loved it, as did all those in attendance.

Sean, thank you for your extraordinary vision to create this memorable performance in honoring our country’s unique history. It proves, once again, that individual determination and selflessness for a larger cause remain alive in this country – at least in Redding.

It was inspirational in the atmosphere of music of the Greater Bridgeport Symphony to listen again to the words of Joel Barlow, Abraham Lincoln, and the brave men who pledged their “lives, fortune, and sacred honor” to declare independence from England and to proclaim the revolutionary concepts that all men are created equal and that they should be governed by their consent.

I’m hoping that the concert was recorded so that perhaps Joel Barlow and John Read students might be fortunate to share this experience. I noted that the audience was “older.” I saw few younger citizens in attendance.

Again, thank you for all your efforts in organizing 250th Anniversary events for our community. ■

Jane Hamilton-Merriitt, Poverty Hollow Road

To the Editor,

Redding Celebrates America 250 Concert was a huge success! Thank you, Sean McNamara, for your vision and efforts to create this wonderful concert and to recognize through music our town’s, and our nation’s, amazing heritage and history. Also, a big shout out to Bruce Nelson, our Town Co-Historian, for his special input and efforts. ■

Susan Boone Durkee, Mark Twain Lane, Mark Twain’s “The Lobster Pot”



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GRADES 6-8

POLICE BLOTTER

Police activity from May 26 – 31 | By Donna Christopher

Police responded to eight citizen calls and assisted in seven emergency medical service calls.

Traffic

Police conducted 42 motor vehicle stops, issuing two summonses, 19 infractions, five written warnings, 15 verbal warnings, and took no action in one instance. The infraction rate was 50%.

A one-vehicle accident occurred on Black Rock Turnpike during the early hours of May 26 at the intersection of Route 58 and Sunset Hill Road. A vehicle left the roadway and overturned, coming to rest on its side approximately 15 feet from the road. The crash caused damage to traffic control signs, landscaping, and roadside features in the area. The driver was taken to Danbury Hospital for minor injuries. The incident remains under investigation.

Five other motor vehicle accidents occurred, resulting in no or minor injuries or property damage.

Suspicious incidents

During a call on May 25 on Umpawaug Road, officers identified a reported suspicious male and brought him back to Bethel where he lives.

A caller on Peaceable Street on May 27 reported that someone had broken into their house and was still there. The house was checked with no issues, according to police.

A realtor checking in with a property owner was reported as suspicious by someone on Sport Hill Road on May 28. Police identified the person and the situation was checked as okay.

A neighbor on Great Pasture Road reported a U-Haul truck in a nearby driveway while the homeowners were away on May 31. Police were unable to locate the vehicle. ■

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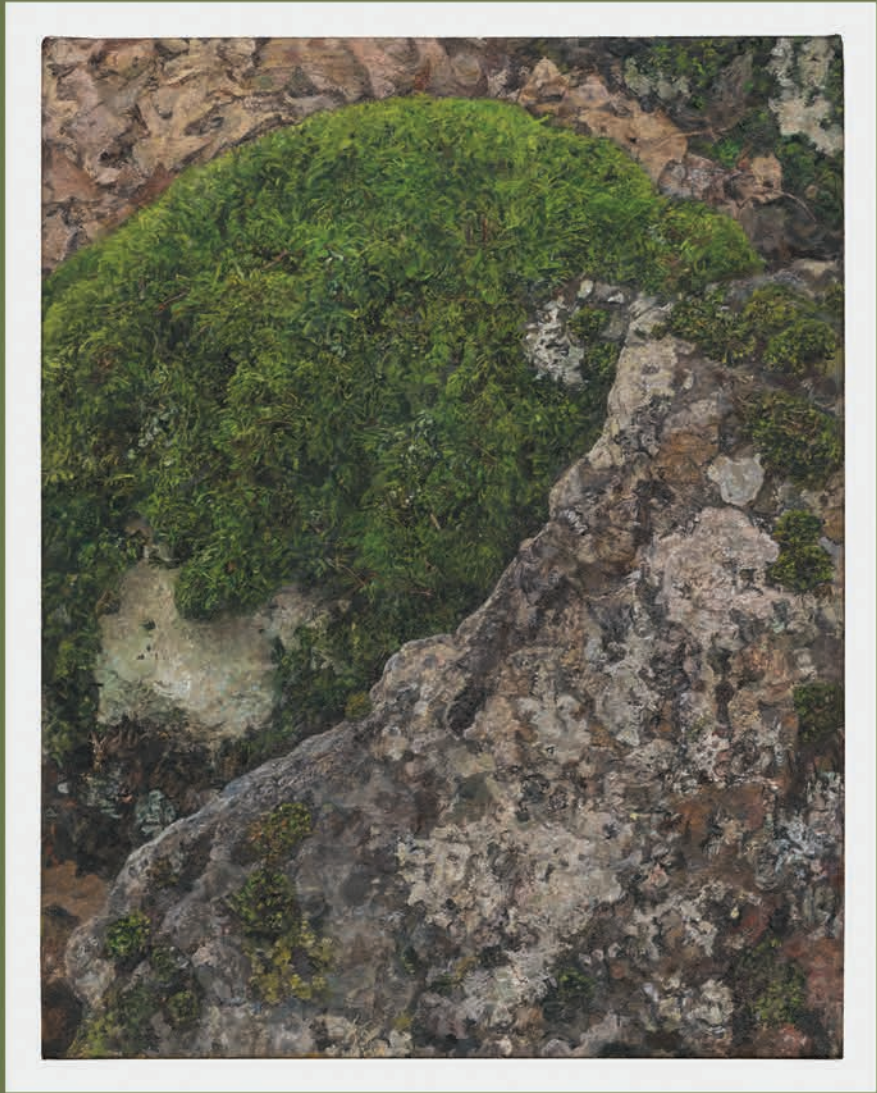
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SPORTS

Barlow clinches silver in State Class M Girls track and field

By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High’s Phoebe Cora Smith won the gold medal in both the 100-meter high and 300-meter intermediate hurdles at the State Class M girls track championship on Monday, June 1. The Barlow team was runner-up with 53 points.

For a small group in terms of numbers, the Joel Barlow High girls track team had a big impact at the State Class M championship.

The Falcons had just eight athletes competing at Willowbrook Park in New Britain on Monday, June 1. Between them, however, they went on to score 53 points, taking second out of 28 teams.

Defending champ Bloomfield was far ahead of the rest of the field, winning its fifth straight title with 157. Sheehan of Wallingford was third with 47.5.

“Bloomfield is on another level, with far more athletes qualified,” said Barlow Head Coach Ryan Swift. “But we definitely knew that the eight girls we had entered were going to be amongst the best at the meet.”

Barlow’s first gold medal came in the 100-meter high hurdles. Fresh off her victory in the South-West Conference championship, Phoebe Cora Smith gave a repeat performance, this time capturing first in 14.57 seconds, qualifying for the event in the State Open.

The Falcons also qualified in the 400 meters. Vika Abukhovich posted 59.61, breaking the one-minute mark and taking fourth overall.

Smith earned her second individual gold medal in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles. A 44.83 qualified her for the State Open as well. “Phoebe is, obviously, a huge part of our success,” said Swift. “She works harder than any athlete I’ve ever seen, and it paid off at the Class Ms.”

Competing in her first Class M

meet, freshman Kate Duggan also earned points. A 2:15.11 in the 800 meters earned her the silver medal and qualified her for the State Open.

Senior Olivia Taylor’s 25.39 in the 200 meters was a personal best, good for fourth and a spot at the State Open. She, Abukhovich, Smith, and Duggan comprised the 4x400 relay team that won the gold medal in 3:59.59 to qualify for the State Open as well.

“I am also wildly proud of our 4x400 team and our distance and mid-distance athletes for the role they played in the finish,” said Swift. “Liv Taylor had a great day in the 200 and the 4x400 and will be sorely missed next year.”

Several Barlow athletes also scored in the field events, including Taylor in the long jump; her leap of 16 feet, 5.5 inches was good for seventh and a spot in the State Open. Duggan also qualified in the pole vault; she was one of three athletes to clear 9 feet 6 inches and took third based on number of attempts.

A handful of Barlow athletes were back at Willowbrook Park five days later for the State Open. Together, they totaled 25 points, tying Greenwich for seventh overall in a field of 65.

Once again, defending champ Bloomfield was the winner, this time with 64 points. Naugatuck was runner-up with 40, and Manchester took third with 38.

As in the South-West Conference meet, Smith scored in the hurdles. A 14.75 was good for fourth in the 100 high and she ran a personal best 44.46 in the 300 to place fourth there as well.

Duggan ran the 800 again, taking fifth in 2:15.94. She also ran the anchor leg of the 4x400 that included Abukhovich, Smith, and Taylor to capture Barlow’s best finish, taking the silver medal in 3:56.14. ■

Barlow routs Berlin in Class M opener

Boys lacrosse By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Will Thrasher, right, scored five goals for the Joel Barlow High boys lacrosse team in the second round of the State Class M boys lacrosse tournament on Wednesday, June 3. Barlow defeated Berlin 21-6.

Between dominating face-offs and quickness on attack, the Joel Barlow High boys lacrosse team was in command right from the start during the second round of the State Class M tournament last week.

The fifth-seeded Falcons struck early and often when they hosted 12th-seeded Berlin on Wednesday, June 3. Taking the lead only seconds into the game, they soon built on that momentum for a 21-6 victory.

With midfielder Jacob Cummings winning eight face-offs in the first quarter, the Falcons created multiple scoring opportunities and capitalized on several of them. Led by Frank Branca and Matt Branca in particular, they amassed an 8-2 lead after one frame.

“Jacob Cummings is one of the best face-off guys in the state, so he’s been doing a great job for us all year,” said Barlow Head Coach Taylor Leahy. “With the Brancas back there and Jake Russo, their

chemistry’s grown as the season’s gone on down there on attack.”

The Falcons increased their lead in the second frame with three consecutive goals by Kaden Holub, Gray Stant, and Frank Branca before the Redcoats responded with Gavin Brown finding the net with 5:12 left in the half to make it 11-3. An illegal body check penalty put the Falcons down a player; Berlin took advantage of the situation for another goal, but Barlow still scored twice more in the time remaining courtesy of Alan Gurney and Will Thrasher for a 13-4 lead at halftime.

Barlow outscored the Redcoats 4-1 in the first six minutes of the third quarter, and the game switched to a running clock for the rest of the contest. The hosts also used this opportunity to make frequent substitutions, giving the entire team time on the field.

Ten players would score for the Falcons during the contest. Thrasher played a pivotal role as the game progressed, stepping up to score five goals to lead the attack and providing a spark when the team needed to solidify its lead.

Frank Branca was next with four and led in assists with six. Holub netted three. Matt Branca scored two goals (four assists) as did Russo (one assist). Braylon Bennett, Alan Gurney, Tyler Young, Cummings (one assist), and Stant all had one apiece. John Gurney made seven saves in goal for Barlow, now 10-9 overall.

“I think that we could still be a little bit better on ground balls than we were,” said Leahy. “But we’ve worked a lot with transition, getting back in transition defensively and pushing the ball in transition offensively. And I thought we did a pretty good job both ways today.” ■

Pomperaug upsets Barlow for league crown Boys volleyball

By Rocco Valluzzo

The resiliency of the Joel Barlow High boys volleyball team would hold up only for so long in the South-West Conference championship.

Trailing 0-2 in sets, the top-seeded Falcons battled back against second-seeded Pomperaug, winning the next two to even up the match. But with little margin for error in the final set, they fell short 2-3 (20-25, 12-25, 25-19, 25-22, 8-15) on Friday, May 29, at Newtown High.

“We just made too many errors in set five,” said Barlow Head Coach Kevin Marino, whose team defeated Pomperaug twice (3-0, 3-1) during the regular season. “With it being shorter, you can’t really do that, but we started slow today.”

A back-and-forth affair, the first set featured 10 ties, the last coming at 15-15. Taking advantage of several errors on Barlow’s part, Pomperaug won back the serve and

reeled off seven straight points on the serve of Sawyer Rayno for a 15-22 lead before closing out the win.

The Panthers were off to a strong start in the second set, taking a 2-11 lead with the help of three straight kills by Jacob Passey. Despite strong play at the net by Sky Fiuczynski, the Falcons could not close the gap before eventually succumbing.

“Pomperaug played great,” said Marino. “You can’t take anything away from them.”

Down 0-2 in sets, the Falcons found themselves trailing 2-4 in the third but stepped up their play at the net with kills by Miles Prusa, Fiuczynski, and Alex Stinson for a 12-9 advantage. It remained a two-or three-point set before Barlow’s Sam Stinson served up three late points, the last coming on an ace, for a 25-19 win.

Holding onto the momentum in the fourth set, the Falcons were

helped in part by a few Panther errors early to go up 6-2. Barlow faulted on several serves but made up for this in kills, eventually going up 14-7. Despite kills by Pomperaug’s Rylen Brennan (match MVP), Barlow held on for the win.

After taking a 4-2 lead in the final set, the Falcons committed several hitting and passing errors, falling behind 5-9. Two kills by Brennan late in the set, including one on match point, helped the Panthers secure their first league title since 2023 (also coming against Barlow).

“It’s a good learning moment for us to get battle tested,” said Marino, whose team will now compete in the State Class S tournament as the second seed. “Obviously we wanted to come out on the other side of things, but it doesn’t always go that way.” ■

Falcons finish in second round Baseball

By Rocco Valluzzo

A late lead did not hold up for the Joel Barlow High baseball team in the second round of the State Class M tournament.

The 22nd-seeded Falcons were up by a run when they visited sixth-ranked Waterford on Tuesday, June 2, only to have their opponent tie it up in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Despite taking the lead in the extra frame that followed, they could not hold off the Lancers, who rallied for a 7-8 win in extra innings to end the season for the Falcons.

Lancer starting pitcher Nico Argarin kept the Falcons off the board for the first four innings. Waterford also benefitted from some shaky Barlow defense. The Falcons committed five errors in the contest, and the hosts scored two runs in the bottom of the second with the help of a Barlow error.

Falcon starting pitcher Jimmy Kennedy did not allow a run in the third and fourth frames, and then Barlow’s offense awakened. Cash Kady and Quinn Kirik drew walks before advancing on a passed ball. Gavin Maryott’s single to center field brought in two runs to tie the game.

Barlow’s Ken Esposito and Brennan Maryott followed with singles to load the bases. A fielder’s choice and a two-run single by Kennedy put the Falcons up 5-2.

The Maryott brothers added another run for Barlow in the top of the sixth with Gavin singling to left and Brennan later doing likewise to

increase the lead to 6-2. Two Barlow errors and a double by the Lancers in their next turn, however, got the hosts to within one (6-5) going into the last frame.

Barlow went quietly in the top of the seventh and the Lancers tied things up in the bottom of the inning with the help of a walk, a single, and a wild pitch, forcing extra innings. Barlow’s last lead (7-6) came in the top of the eighth on Drew Gutowski’s RBI single.

Two walks and an error loaded the bases for Waterford with one out in the bottom of the inning. Waterford’s Colby Sheehan tied it up with a sacrifice fly to left, and Zaydin Martinez’s walk-off double to right completed the comeback win for the hosts.

Gavin Maryott led Barlow with two runs, two hits and two RBI in his final game. Brennan Maryott had three hits, driving in a run and scoring one.

Gutowski and Kennedy each had a hit and drove in two runs in their last game for Barlow. Steve Czerkowski, Kirik, and Brenden McDermott scored one run apiece.

Starting pitcher Kennedy went five and two-thirds innings, giving up four unearned runs on four hits with five strikeouts and two walks. Reliever Desmond Kady took the loss, pitching two innings with four runs (only one earned) on three hits with one strikeout and three walks.

Barlow finishes the season at 10-13 overall. ■

Walking path not likely to see summer completion / continued from page 1

opting instead to work around the difficulties.

First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton has received an extension for the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant that is providing partial funding for the project from the State of Connecticut, and the Commission has been in contact with both the bond and insurance companies. Once the contract and documentation of events have been reviewed by the bond and insurance companies, the project will be able to

move forward.

“The money that we’ve spent has been returned to us by the State so we are whole in terms of expenses, and we have money remaining in the project,” Pemberton said. However, the cost for completion as well as any additional funding that may be required, is still undetermined. Pemberton further stated that the bond company will likely “send someone to assess what’s left to do, what has to be redone, and the value of the work completed.”

As the Commission is currently

waiting to hear back from the bond company and insurance company, it is unlikely a new contractor will be hired before the end of the summer. In the meantime, the footprint of the path is functional and available for use. Currently, the path is unpaved, yet it is safe and compacted. The Town will alleviate any silt runoff by replacing lost soil, filling trenches created by rain, evening the grade of the path, and erecting orange fencing where areas lack stability. ■

How much “screen time” is happening at school?

Boards of Education discuss technology use in the classroom

By Anne Young Albanese

On May 26, the Easton, Redding, and Region 9 (ER9) Boards of Education met to provide the first reading of proposed policy revisions and new policies that would take effect on August 1, 2026, in the three school districts.

One proposed policy that has generated much interest from parents and community members is “Responsible Screen Time, Digital Learning, and Educational Technology.” This would be a new policy that recognizes and addresses the growth of technology in students’ everyday school experiences.

Many parents are concerned about how much time students spend on computer-based learning compared to teacher-based learning. The use of technology, including educational software, has increased in schools, limiting the available time for teachers to educate the students directly and expanding the amount of screen time in class. The Boards and many parents want to limit that time.

The ER9 Boards’ Policy Committee has suggested that students access educationally beneficial technology in a manner that is determined to be safe and developmentally appropriate by the Superintendent or someone he chooses.

The Boards of Education voiced their support for direct instruction, student discourse, and hands-on learning, which remain important for effective education and should comprise most of the students’ day. They also identified the importance of active use of technological tools, which requires critical thinking, over passive use, which involves consuming digital content without reflection, imagination, or participation.

Several parents attended the meeting, while others submitted written testimony to the Boards expressing their concerns about technology use by students.

“Our family has made a conscious effort to limit screens such as cell phones and tablets with my daughter since she was born. We believe that imagination, social skills, and physical coordination are best developed off-screen.

We do not need over reliance on screens at schools,” said Redding parent Kristen Terrana-Hollis. “I understand that technology is advancing rapidly and our children must be prepared for the world, but there is a time and place for computers, such as active use of technology. All passive use should be restricted, especially in elementary and middle school.”

“I’m in favor of reducing passive technology use during the school day. Unstructured times and transitions are important opportunities for children to develop social skills through natural peer-to-peer interaction,” argued another Redding parent, Michele Van Steinburgh. “When teachers default to screens during these times for ease or pacification, students miss valuable opportunities to learn how to communicate, navigate friendships, and engage with the world around them. I’m glad to see the Easton, Redding, and Region 9 Boards of Ed discussing these issues, and I urge you to move forward.”

During the following discussion amongst members of the three Boards, a consensus developed regarding technology use in the classroom. The agreement seemed to be that the use of passive software should be banned, and the use of active software should be limited. The details should be district administration-driven because of their familiarity with the programs, the curriculum, and State requirements. Alisha DiCorpo, ER9’s Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and Elizabeth Stewart, ER9’s Director of Curriculum, have already been reviewing the software programs in use to determine which are appropriate.

This policy passed its first reading. The policy committee will take the Boards’ suggestions and come back with a revised policy for its second reading at a future meeting, which the community is invited to attend and provide additional public comment. ■

Contact information for the ER9 Boards of Education can be found at er9.org/boardsofeducation

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MUSIC NOTE

Concerts on the Green kick off June 21

By Pamela Brown



Photo by Jessie Wright

Summer is nearly here, and most in Redding know that means the return of Park and Recreation’s beloved annual Concerts on the Green series. This year, attendees are in for a treat.

“Seven out of eleven [acts] are new and have never played on the Green,” pointed out Park and Recreation Director Rob Blick.

The concerts are held on summer Sunday evenings on the Town Green at 100 Hill Road from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., running June 21 through August 30. This year’s lineup includes: Sister Funk on June 21; Violet Engine on June 28; What It Is on July 5; David Morgan on July 12; Ethan Fiske and the Big Love Band on July 19; Snakeskin Boots on July 26; Marc Berger on August 2; Sweet Megg on August 9; The Lonetown Boys on August 16; The Juicy Grapes on August 23; and Bookends Band on August 30.

“It’s a mixture of local bands, some returning, some new, and some that travel. I try to rotate bands and keep it new,” said Blick.

Ushering in this year’s series and making their Concerts on the Green debut is Sister Funk, an all-female rock-country, folk-pop band based out of New Haven. “They’re very upbeat and will be the perfect way to kick off the event,” Blick noted. Winning last year’s Mohegan Sun “Locals Live” music competition, the band plays multiple instruments and performs creative interpretations of their favorite songs. The band has shared the stage with Melissa Etheridge, Foreigner, ZZ Top, and more.

Another debut band this summer is Violet Engine, a rock trio fronted by Joel Barlow High Schooler Julian Davies that plays feel-good modern pop-rock, including classic covers. “I’ve seen him play before and he’s talented. I’m confident he’ll do a great job,” said Blick.

Marc Berger previously played Lyrics Coffeehouse but is new to Concerts on the Green. Berger’s music is inspired by the American West, offering a romantic connection to the area. Richie Havens, the popular singer-songwriter and guitarist, played Berger’s “The Last One” at many of his concerts. Berger has performed at Austin’s South by Southwest Music Festival and The Kerrville and Falcon Ridge Folk Festivals and has opened shows for Bob Dylan and other national acts.

Sweet Megg is a Nashville-based, genre-blending vocalist and songwriter who released a jazz album *Massive Negroni* last month. “She’s unbelievable. She’s my highlight of the summer,” said Blick. Her music weaves jazz, country, and blues into a timeless, fresh style. She’s traveled the world honing her music from Parisian jazz clubs to Southern honky-tonks.

The Lonetown Boys, a Hank Williams Sr. tribute band, will be performing classic country and bluegrass from the 1940s through the 1970s, including honky-tonk favorites and heartfelt ballads. They are masters of the steel guitar and fiddle. “I love that old country style,” said Blick.

Get ready for funk, rock, and soul with The Juicy Grapes. “They’re really good,” said Blick. Their music unites vintage grooves with rock grit and sultry harmonies. Their high-energy performances, led by powerhouse vocalist, Tara, will have the crowd on their feet. They’ve shared the stage with The Village People, Strangefolk, and The Meters.

Fittingly, the Bookends Band closes out Concerts on the Green. Four vocalists will offer an eclectic mix of original compositions and interesting covers. “I saw the six-piece band. They’re so good,” Blick said. Playing for over four decades, they offer traditional rock band instrumentation, bass, drums and keyboards, playing rock and blues songs from the ‘70s along with their own original music.

Returning favorites include What It Is, a big funk dance band comprised of seasoned and experienced professionals from the Connecticut and New York area playing a variety of time-tested popular music featuring vocal harmonies and a four-piece full horn section.

Redding’s own David Morgan, whose performance was rained out last year, is a multi-instrumentalist, jazz pianist, producer, musical director, educator, and owner of The Music Shed. He has more than 30 years of experience in performance and music education and creates his own music based on original tunes. His original music has been featured on major networks like CBS and NBC Sports, Discovery, and A&E. This past June he was the musical director for the benefit concert, *Trevor Live*, in New York City.

Ethan Fiske, a singer-songwriter from Middlebury, leads the Big Love Band, a four-man band that recently celebrated its new album at Greenwood Features in Bethel earlier this month. They are returning to the Green after a few years, bringing an immersive modern pop sound with vintage elements that highlight themes of love and acceptance. Fiske’s music is influenced by 1960s Motown, the ‘70s and ‘80s, and 2010s Electro-Pop.

Another returning band is Snake-skin Boots (formerly known as the Kurt & Helen Band), a country rock band comprised of award-winning musicians known for its mix of original songs and covers.

Once again, the Girl Scouts will be selling hotdogs, hamburgers, and soft drinks. Food and alcohol are allowed, and Blick encourages people to pack a picnic, bring a blanket, and enjoy the show.

Concerts on the Green are 100% funded by generous business and private donations. “The concerts are free and we need support for the series so we can find the best bands we can,” said Blick. “It’s a place to see live music that brings the community together in a family-friendly environment.” ■

In the event of inclement weather, call (203) 938-5036 x3 after 4:00 p.m. for up-to-date concert status. To support the series, contact Blick at rblick@reddingct.gov or call (203) 938-2551 x6.

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Houses That Make Redding Special

The Turney Sanford House, 5 Stepney Road | *By Bruce Nelson*



Esther Waterman’s Farm shown here in 1913.



The house at 5 Stepney Road today.

Turney Sanford was born January 23, 1825, the eldest son of James and Eliza Sanford who resided at today’s 15 Foundry Road. Turney’s great-grandfather was the Reverend John Beach, the pastor of the Episcopal Church on the Ridge during the time of the Revolution.

By 1848, James Sanford was running a successful iron foundry on the south side of Stepney Road, just east of the Aspetuck River. By then, his family included 10 living children, all of whom were residing at his recently built brick home that sat at the top of Sport Hill Road.

Turney remained single until 1862, when he wed Mary Elizabeth Roe, 16 years his junior. Turney and Mary had only one child, a son named George.

Turney was an entrepreneur like his father before him. By the 1860s, he and his younger brother were manufacturing buttons in a factory they had built on the original family homestead. By then, the family had constructed two dams on the Aspetuck; the upper mill pond served as the power source for the button factory, while the lower pond served the iron foundry.

It would likely be around the

time of his marriage that Turney built the present house at 5 Stepney Road. An elegant Italianate design, it sat on 35 acres of land that Turney’s father had deeded him. His brother, Stephen, would build his first house about 300 yards to the east shortly thereafter.

In the early 1870s, Turney built a barn that was made of solid concrete with a mixture of small field stones, “like raisins in pie,” as one newspaper described it. The walls were strong, but their weight sat on ground with no footings, so one-by-one, each wall either collapsed or tilted so much, it required rebuilding.

In 1892, he invented a pocket comb and built another factory to manufacture it. He partnered with his younger brother, Henry, to open a cider mill alongside the lower pond that would produce as much as a thousand gallons of cider a day by 1896. He purchased another button factory in Shelton in the late 1880s.

In the early 1890s, he invested in a railroad that was scheduled to be built through the Aspetuck Valley that would run from Norwalk to Hawleyville and would have

provided an excellent source for hauling freight from the family’s four factories – unfortunately, the recession of 1893 put an end to those plans.

Turney cultivated Redding’s largest crop strawberries on a parcel behind his home, built a greenhouse where he could harvest lettuce as early as late February, and invented an incubator that could provide heat to hatch as many as a thousand chicks at the same time.

After Turney and Mary’s only son, George, died in 1894, they raised his daughter, Beulah.

Mary died in 1901, and by 1903, Turney’s failing health forced him to move back to the family house on Sport Hill Road where youngest sister Abbie provided for his care. His nephew, Elbert, moved into his house in the valley and took in boarders during the summer months. After Turney’s death in 1906, the house went to his granddaughter, Beulah, and after she married Richard Osborn and moved to Ridgefield in early 1909, the house was offered for sale.

By the early 1900s, the industries in the Aspetuck Valley had failed and closed. Many Redding

farms had also failed by then and the best market for Redding real estate became wealthy city dwellers, artists, and writers who were looking for country homes where they could spend quiet summers.

Samuel Clemens, Albert Bigelow Paine, Daniel Beard, Noble Hoggson, Frederick Driggs, and Charles Ives had already purchased property in Redding by the time that wealthy heiress Esther Dimon Waterman decided to move to Redding as well.

It was November of 1909 when a deal was made to sell Turney Sanford’s home to Esther Waterman of Southport for \$3,500. Esther and her partner Aline Kate Fox had spent the past two years as summer residents at the Redding Ridge Inn on Black Rock Turnpike. In addition to the house and barn, the Turney property included the mill pond, the dam, an icehouse, and the cider mill.

In 1910, Miss Waterman would add an additional 13 acres to her parcel when she purchased the George Keeler farm after a deal to sell that parcel to journalist and women’s suffragist Rheta Childe Dorr collapsed.

Esther agreed to allow the cider mill to operate one additional year in the autumn of 1911. The equipment was then sold and the mill moved across the road where it would become a residence. In 1912, she had the dam rebuilt and a hydraulic ram pump installed to bring water to the house where indoor plumbing had recently been installed.

The Bridgeport Hydraulic Company (BHC) had been in the process of purchasing many of the properties along the shores of the Aspetuck since 1910. Farms were torn down and most dams that had created mill ponds were destroyed. In 1913, Esther and her upstream neighbor, Daniel Hegeman, convinced the BHC that not only were their properties not polluting the river, but that their homes relied upon the mill ponds to supply them with water. This resulted in the company allowing the dams of both the upper and lower mill ponds to remain.

Pierpont (Pete) Adams was born May 15, 1902, to Ernest Kempton Adams and his wife Margaret. Ernest died in 1904 in Wakins Glen, NY, from complications of nephritis; he was only 30 years of age. He left his wife with two young boys, Pierpont and Kempton, who was only a year old.

In 1905, Margaret married Samuel Carter Shaw of Redding. In 1911, Shaw built his new family a luxurious home on Redding Ridge that he named after the eldest of his two step-sons – Pierpont.

Pete would graduate from Yale before starting his career in finance.

Continued on page 8

Real Estate

May 2026 real estate report | *A look at trends in the local housing market* | *By Bill Whitehead and John Talley*

In May, the Redding real estate market continued to reflect a strong sellers’ market with sale prices surpassing list prices by 6%. Other nearby towns showed similar results. Year-to-date, Redding sales have reached 25 properties sold, eight fewer than 2025. For the year so far, the price-per-square-foot rose to \$368 versus \$346 in 2025, a 6% increase. The average price of a house sold in Redding so far this year is \$1,037,045 versus \$1,049,224 last year, a 1% decrease.

Inventories year-over-year continue to hover around 30 properties. These numbers reaffirm that higher mortgage rates are dissuading a certain segment of property owners with lower mortgage rates from putting their homes on the market. This is constricting the available inventory of houses for sale; for the time being, demand is outpacing supply. ■

Bill Whitehead and John Talley are realtors with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

May 2026													
Town	Current Inventory	Homes Sold		Average Days on Market		Average List Price		Average Sale Price		Percent Sale Price > / < List Price		Average Price/SqFt *	
	As of June 8	May	2026	May	2026	May	2026	May	2026	May	2026	May	2026
Redding	31	7	25	131	175	\$839,557	\$1,057,224	\$892,714	\$1,037,145	6%	-2%	\$358	\$368
Ridgefield	49	18	73	76	100	\$1,339,000	\$1,469,493	\$1,436,634	\$1,479,798	7%	1%	\$456	\$452
Weston	31	10	29	68	94	\$1,415,300	\$1,345,345	\$1,495,591	\$1,406,683	6%	5%	\$495	\$453
Wilton	31	12	52	103	93	\$1,390,667	\$1,371,750	\$1,468,418	\$1,485,716	6%	8%	\$399	\$467
Easton	22	7	24	70	83	\$1,134,143	\$1,095,083	\$1,154,857	\$1,110,408	2%	1%	\$363	\$357
Bethel	19	11	48	52	87	\$667,073	\$631,458	\$701,318	\$643,512	5%	2%	\$365	\$304
Newtown	43	31	101	102	101	\$755,532	\$682,343	\$779,019	\$690,058	3%	1%	\$307	\$301
Average	32	14	50	86	105	\$1,077,324	\$1,093,242	\$1,132,650	\$1,121,903	5%	2%	\$392	\$386

REDDING SOLD - May	Sale Price	List Price	%/ List Price	Price/Sqft*	Days on Market
34 Dorethy Rd	\$500,000	\$485,000	3%	\$386	23
64 Portland Ave	\$549,000	\$549,000	0%	\$404	141
101 Sport Hill Rd	\$705,000	\$669,000	5%	\$307	58
5 South Ln	\$740,000	\$630,000	17%	\$358	54
45 Great Pasture Rd	\$975,000	\$849,900	15%	\$245	476
19 Mine Hill Rd	\$1,195,000	\$1,195,000	0%	\$455	74
36-40 Fox Run Rd	\$1,585,000	\$1,499,000	6%	\$349	91
Average	\$892,714	\$839,557	6%	\$358	131

REDDING CURRENTLY FOR SALE	List Price	Price/Sqft*	Days on Market	REDDING CURRENTLY FOR SALE	List Price	Price/Sqft*	Days on Market
37 Highland Ave	\$439,000	\$420	11	16 Shady Ln	\$1,299,000	\$301	16
57 Olmstead Rd	\$499,000	\$593	13	10 Chapman Pl	\$1,325,000	\$300	35
219 Redding Rd	\$499,000	\$404	95	281 Newtown Tpke	\$1,349,000	\$266	53
70 Dayton Rd	\$639,000	\$666	59	74 Black Rock Tpke	\$1,450,000	\$307	77
27 Apple Ln	\$745,000	\$404	3	28 Goodridge Rd	\$1,500,000	\$317	25
268 Umpawaug Rd	\$749,000	\$293	68	12 Werf Dr	\$1,549,900	\$384	153
37 Lamppost Dr	\$799,000	\$307	18	74 George Hull Hill Rd	\$1,645,000	\$344	40
471 Newtown Tpke	\$825,000	\$465	14	110 Sport Hill Rd	\$1,695,000	\$319	20
86 Fire Hill Rd	\$850,000	\$365	13	7 Long Meadow Ln	\$1,699,000	\$316	123
76 Pocahontas Rd	\$885,000	\$375	12	2 Longwood Dr	\$1,795,000	\$287	18
33 Topledge Rd	\$929,000	\$333	31	63 Turney Rd	\$7,400,000	\$786	176
127 Limekiln Rd	\$995,000	\$451	7	229 Umpawaug Rd	\$7,495,000	\$1,116	392
5 Side Cut Rd	\$995,000	\$353	38	206 Umpawaug Rd	\$7,725,000	\$751	21
11 Long Meadow Ln	\$1,245,000	\$301	3	25 Starrs Ridge Rd	\$999,000	\$202	0
98 Hopewell Woods Rd	\$1,250,000	\$337	82	207 Redding Rd	\$1,200,000	\$384	1
18 Church St	\$1,275,000	\$434	9	Average	\$1,733,674	\$416	52

Listings continue on right side of table

* Calculated using livable square footage

Sunny Georgetown Day draws crowds



Photos by Debora DeCarlo Rosa and Susan Clark

The 23rd annual Georgetown Day was a rowing success on Sunday, June 7, as Main Street and the surrounding Georgetown area were filled with thousands of people enjoying live music, food, activities, booths from local groups and businesses, raffles, and more.

Boards of Education consider K-12 bell-to-bell cell phone ban / continued from page 1

differences,” said Kristi Sogofsky of Easton, in a comment to Devon Wible, Chair of the Easton Board of Education. “In short, I oppose a bell-to-bell cellphone ban at the high school but do support it at the middle and elementary schools. The policy put in place this year at Joel Barlow High School also works, in my opinion. It allows students to check their phones in limited locations during study hall or between classes. Having a freshman this year, it’s actually quite important to have that access. Coaches who are not teachers in the district use apps such as WhatsApp or SportsYou to communicate last-minute schedule changes, bus times, or uniform updates to their players. Phone access also allows students to communicate with home on any items they may need to be dropped off at school before the end of the day or coordinate rides if they decide to stay after school for any number of reasons.”

John Stinson, a Region 9 Board of Education member, argued on May 26 that students’ perspectives on the changes had not been adequately considered.

“Their voices are nowhere in this. They have not been consulted. I can tell you right now, the kids at this high school have no idea that this conversation is happening, and when they get wind of this, it is going to be pandemonium... that doesn’t mean we should just capitulate because they’re upset about it. Maybe they’re wrong. Maybe they need to just have no phones at school, but we need to make them feel heard,” he said.

After an hour of discussion, the three Boards of Education agreed to accept the policy for the first reading, so that it could advance to its second reading. The time between the first and second reading is an opportunity for the Policy Committee to consider public comments, Board’s comments, and make revisions.

In an unusual action, the Boards chose to schedule an event on Monday, June 8 to discuss the policy further with the community. They recruited four members of Joel Barlow’s award-winning Debate Team to provide community members with an opportunity to hear more about the facts involved in both sides of the issue. The topic was: “Resolved: High schools should prohibit student access to personal cell phones throughout the entire school day.” Tenth grader Charles Rabinowitz and ninth grader Sophia Baker represented the pros of a bell-to-bell ban. Tenth graders Emily Oppenheim and Annabel Lau presented the cons.

Both teams expressed themselves very clearly, following extensive research. The pro-team shared ways to implement the ban and its positives. The anti-team shared the negatives of the ban and noted that such a policy easily could be bypassed.

Following the debate was a panel of Barlow students discussing the ban. While the panel did present some positives to the policy, the overall consensus was opposition.

Following the panel was public comment, in which several parents and students spoke.

A joint Policy Committee special meeting was then held following the debate and discussion. The Committee will decide if the policy should be altered in time for a second joint Boards of Education meeting. The joint Policy Committee plans to meet again to bring up the cell phone policy for a second reading. If the revised policy is accepted for its second reading, there will be a vote to determine if the policy is ready for the three Boards of Education to vote on it. If it passes, it will become policy; if it is declined, the current personal technology policy will stand. ■



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Book Review

Boomers | By Helen Andrews

256 Pages / Sentinel / \$16.35

The premise of *Boomers*, by Helen Andrews, is in the subtitle: *The Men and Women Who Promised Freedom and Delivered Disaster*. A reader who enters Andrews’s radius of argument will find little to celebrate in the legacy of a celebrated generation. But what is the source of her perception? Her essays willfully ignore the musical contributions and episodes of political malfeasance on the part of certain baby boomers. Too much of current cultural relevance is ignored. Often her assumptions are unexplained and unsubstantiated. One begins to feel the effects of the thin oxygens of partisan persuasion in these essays. “Earl Warren was dumb as a post.” Really? Why? He was a Supreme Court Chief Justice and before that he was Governor of California. Perhaps prejudice is blinding.

Nevertheless, Helen Andrews has the raw intellect to add much to a dormant national dialogue, but her views would be better presented by means of cogent argument. Her technique of stark omission or sweeping generalities, meant to stand as conventional wisdom, falls flat when not curated with balance. After listing complaints against the boomer generation, she ends with “The smugness of it was infuriating...” She further writes. “Trying to follow the thread back to the original led me to write about many topics beyond the usual Beatles and Bill Clinton clichés.” The last time America achieved a balanced budget was in the Clinton administration. The Beatle’s authentic creative genius is put aside as taken for granted.

While her writing is enjoyable, has anything been “proven wrong?” Andrews merely states a viewpoint as though it were true. If you allow that, you have agreed to what might well be a false premise. And we go from there. *Boomers* is a reading experience like having an adversarial conversation where what you say is wrongly summarized for clarity. This wordy sleight-of-hand is not an honest representation of facts. Still, Helen Andrews makes intelligent points and gives some bona fide facts. But facts, interesting or compelling as they might be, are just that. Analysis is something else.

Andrews deserves close scrutiny because she seeks to be, and probably is, a celebrity intellectual (by de facto consensus), and successor to Susan Sontag, who died in 2004. Like Sontag, Andrews is an essayist.

And like Sontag, her evolving thought comes forward in contemporary media interviews and in her essays. Significantly, though published in 2021, except for passing references to the Trump first administration in the Sotomayor essay, there is no mention of Trump politically, his stranglehold and virtual destruction of Republican conservatism on the public stage. Has this been positive for American culture? It is too big a gap to ignore.

Finally, coy statements don’t work in formal argument. With Andrews, they exist in *Boomers* but reduce her premise from formal dialogue to gossip. For example, comments about salary or honorariums seem gratuitous. Andrews writes of Sonia Sotomayor, “Her memoir, for which she received a reported \$1.175 million advance, is full of insecurities.” Sotomayor was the first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the Supreme Court. Overcoming racial barriers to high office might factor in a profile of insecurity. This is not considered, which undermines argument, contributing to a bad practice of presenting unsubstantiated opinion. This is a fault. It is whimsically selective. It seems like prejudice.

Helen Andrews, female intellect and talking head, might be around for a long time. And she should be. If she writes an essay or follow-up book of essays on conservative values she admires versus the second Trump administration’s aspirational promise and negative practical social effects, she will be in adult terrain with no platform to score empty points from the generational victim she’s created in *Boomers*. She has the stuff to rise above the chaos which exists today and understand it. In *Boomers*, she views political and religious conservatism from 30,000 feet at night, and only sees glimmering aspects of perfection in what she approves. Using the same (or more refined) critical formulae, Helen Andrews will eventually overcome her stated disinclination to write about buffoons and psychopaths. She will have to. In the world she inhabits, she has no choice. When she creditably brings her skill and insight to less cranky partisan projects, an intellect visible in this flawed book will enlighten her work and her writing will shine. ■

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

Library Corner

Pipeline problem-solving | By Erin Shea Dummeyer

Our tagline at Mark Twain Library is “Books are just the beginning,” because our founding collection was made up of books from Mark Twain’s personal book collection. But the same can also be said for the books (or lack thereof) that currently occupy our “New Fiction” section.

This week, I nearly jumped out of my heels when I saw the New Fiction section with approximately seven books in it. At the beginning of each month, a staff member changes all our “new” books that are no longer considered new to “old” status and physically moves them to the stacks located further back. Normally, this shouldn’t decimate the collection enough to be noticeable, but this month it caused a book chasm so large that patrons started to comment. I ran to my computer to see if we were expecting a delivery from our main book supplier Brodart. After a bit of digging, I have some theories about how this came to be, but I am sorry to report that the issue is *complicated* and although it can and will

improve, it’s going to take a little time.

I first checked how many adult books we added to our collection in May and found that we added only 55. To provide some context, we added 89 in March and 104 in April. Next, I wondered if I had simply been *ordering* fewer books, which is entirely possible because I am still trying to figure out the most efficient way to find books coming out and order them for our collection. Discoverability of books was far easier when we ordered through Baker & Taylor, the wholesale supplier that went out of business last November. I typically order books a month or two before they publish, so it’s a bit difficult to differentiate between correlation and causation. But I can tell you that I only ordered 51 books in February, versus 195 last December. So, ordering fewer books probably has something to do with the bareness of the shelves.

So why, per chance, did I order fewer books this spring? I have a few hunches. First, I was probably really busy. That can affect how

much time I spend on reading book reviews and sussing out titles that will fit well in our collection. Second, as I mentioned previously, discoverability is not as effortless as it was when I ordered through Baker & Taylor. Third, I will admit that as I approach the end of each fiscal year, I get a bit more restrained with spending money. Then, there are of course other factors beyond my control: the speed at which our book supplier, Brodart, processes and sends books to us. The speed at which Brodart receives those books from the publisher. In any case, I took some time this week to find some fabulous books to add to our “New” shelf... to the tune of 129 titles. Meanwhile, I will be working behind the scenes with our Mark Twain Library staff members to figure out how we can get more books that Redding readers want to read in a manner that is efficient in both cost and effort. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

Good books for good readers

Short books that make a deep impression | By Margi Esten

As many of us have learned, some of the best things come in small packages: *The All of It* by Jeannette Haien is her award-winning debut novel. Set in the rural, coastal town of Roonatellin, Ireland, this 160-page poignant story revolves around parishioner Enda’s deeply moving confession and a moral quandary for Father Declan. Her tale is not a formal Catholic confession but rather a profound revelation of her extraordinary and secret life. The story challenges Father Declan – and the reader – to grapple with the realities of love, morality, and absolution. Despite

its lack of recognition when it was first published in 1986, *The All of It* has maintained cult-classic status, and it won the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction.

Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan is another slim novella at only 126 pages. Published in 2021, this poignant and critically-acclaimed book is set in 1985 in a small Irish town during the pre-Christmas season. Bill Furlong is a quiet coal merchant who uncovers dark secrets about the local convent and finds he must choose between simply looking the other way – or taking a somewhat

dangerous but courageous stand. *Small Things Like These* was long-listed for the prestigious Booker Prize.

The Girls of Slender Means by Muriel Spark was published in 1963 and, at 176 pages, is a brilliant and tragic novella by a talented Scottish author. Set in post-WWII London, the story follows the inhabitants of a ladies’ boarding house as they navigate love and ambition while coping with poverty. *The Girls of Slender Means* was selected by Anthony Burgess as one of his “Ninety-Nine Novels: The Best in English since 1939.” ■

Houses that Make Redding Special: The Turney Sanford House, 5 Stepney Road / continued from page 6

After marrying his first wife in 1925, he moved to Paris where he was employed by Banker’s Trust. Upon his return to the United States, in the early 1930s, he began a 35-year career working as a stockbroker with Butler, Marshall, Wood, and Walker. By the time he retired, he was a senior partner.

After marrying his third wife in the late 1930s, they purchased the house at 5 Stepney Road from Esther Waterman. Pete gave his new home the name, “A Place Beneath.”

During their 40-year tenure, the Adams remodeled the home, removing the cupola at the center of the roof and the large covered front porch, while adding a screened-in portico to the western side. The original pair of brick chimneys were removed from the interior walls, and a single chimney added to the exterior of the western wall. Portions of the land were sold off, until eventually the parcel it sits on today totals a little under six acres. Pete passed away while on a

cruise during his 75th year in 1977, and his widow sold the home shortly thereafter.

The home remains an excellent example of mid-19th-century architecture that has seen a minimum of remodeling to transform it into a comfortable 21st-century residence. ■

Bruce Nelson is Co-Historian for the Town of Redding and Co-Founder of the Redding, CT History Project

Open space celebrated from all angles in Redding Land Trust

Photography Show | By Jessie Wright



Photo by Johannes Banck

Adult first-place winner, “Slow Turn of Water” at Saugatuck Falls

On Wednesday, June 3, over 145 people gathered at Mark Twain Library to celebrate the opening of the second annual Redding Land Trust Photography Show. The juried show, which will hang in the Library rotunda at 439 Redding

Road through the month of June, features the work of amateur and professional photographers capturing the beauty of Redding’s open space.

The first iteration of the show was conceived as part of the Land



Photo by Susan Clark

Rose Durgee celebrated her Youth second prize win with younger sister, Willow.

Trust’s 60th anniversary celebrations last year. It garnered enough praise and community enthusiasm to hold the contest again this year. Rick Tango, a local professional photographer, served as juror for the show, using a blind judging

process. The show includes three categories – adult, high school, and youth (under 13 years old).

The first, second, and third-place winners in each category were announced at the June 3 opening evening.

Adult
First place: Johannes Banck, “Slow Turn of Water”
Second place: Richard Wenning, “Bridge View from Streamway”
Third place: Matthew Sacco, “Fallen Tree Heart”

High School
First place: Cooper Mars, “The Great Ledge”
Second place: Caleyse Miserendino, “The Great Ledge”
Third place: Finn Bermingham, “Huckleberry Swamp”

Youth
First place: Scarlett Sacco, “Saugatuck Natural Falls Area”
Second place: Rose Durgee, “Reflections”
Third place: Andrew Massaro, “A Little, Little River”

Some of the photographs in the show are for sale and are marked as such. ■

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Relationships and storytelling propel photographer Meghan MacKay | By Justin Reynolds



Photo by Tony Gale

Redding’s Meghan MacKay launched Meg MacKay Photography alongside a career in marketing, content creation, and graphic design.

Surrounded by cameras from her mother and uncle at an early age, Meghan MacKay developed an interest in photography long before picking one up professionally. After graduating from The New School in 2022, she began working full-time in creative roles, including graphic design, social media strategy, and brand and content management. Then, in pursuit of her passion for photography, she launched her own business, Meg MacKay Photography, which she describes as a “photography and creative studio focused on portraits, branding, lifestyle, events, and hospitality content with a candid storytelling focus.”

“What I love most is capturing genuine moments and helping people tell their stories visually,” said MacKay, who lives in Redding. “I’ve been building the business

over the past few years through both local Connecticut clients and larger brand partnerships.”

MacKay takes a “very people-focused and intentional” approach to her craft.

“I want photos to feel authentic and natural while still reflecting the personality of the people or business I’m photographing,” she said. “I really enjoy working with local businesses and community members to create imagery that helps them grow and feel confident.”

Over the years, MacKay has worked with a variety of brands across the real estate, hospitality, wellness, and lifestyle sectors. She also photographs events and shoots engagement, maternity, and family portraits.

Most of her clients come through word-of-mouth referrals, social media, and networking. She’s

particularly proud of the work she’s done through Meg MacKay Photography with The Redding Roadhouse and The Corner Market & Sandwich Shop in Fairfield, along with the work she does at her full-time job at Greenwich Engine, a marketing agency.

“I’ve had the opportunity to work on larger hospitality, real estate, and lifestyle campaigns in New York and beyond,” she said. “Both experiences have helped me grow creatively in different ways.”

To date, the most rewarding part of MacKay’s career has been building relationships through photography.

“I’m passionate about being someone people can turn to when they need event coverage, updated headshots, branding content, or photography for their business or family,” she said. “I love building long-term relationships within the community and helping people feel seen through my work.”

In addition to photography, she also offers freelance graphic design services – think social media images, marketing assets, and website visuals.

MacKay has lived in Redding for a year and values the sense of community here.

“I love being able to work with local businesses, families, and organizations and hope to continue being a creative resource for the area,” she said. ■

For more information, visit megmackayphotography.com or follow @megmackayphotography on Instagram

Notes from a neighbor

It’s a dog’s life | By Carter Wiseman



Photo licensed through Shutterstock

I recently received the annual reminder to register my dog with the local authorities. I hustled down to Town Hall, collected his tag, and forked over the \$8 with more pleasure than any other bill I have paid. It took a while to feel this way.

Growing up on the island of Manhattan, I viewed dogs primarily as producers of the poop I had to sidestep on the way to school, work, or the movies. Indeed, to qualify fully as a native Manhattanite, one had to have eyes (or noses) in the soles of your shoes.

Moving out of the city changed that. In their early years, our children bombarded us relentlessly with demands to get a dog like the ones their friends had. We put them off by saying that they would have to look after the beast – whether Bernese Mountain, English Bull, or Bernedoodle – and that settled it.

But our defense worked only until the kids had set out on their own. I began to get pressure from a neighbor who was concerned about the time I spent rereading the classics I had skipped in college. He told me how much dogs had meant to him throughout his life. Indeed, he said that his mother’s dying words were, “Don’t ever let Jimmy be without a dog.”

At this very time, some dear friends came to visit, bringing their dog, Oskar, a Lhasa Apso, a Tibetan breed I had never heard of. I

had expected to be put off by this intruder, and worried about keeping Oskar clear of our expensive new carpet. But I was smitten. For reasons I cannot explain – the way he cocked his head when I spoke to him, his frisky energy, his sassy attitude – Oskar provoked feelings of affection I did not know I had.

Some months later, my wife was away in Ireland, and on a whim, I started idly surfing the internet for Lhasa Apsos. To my amazement, I found a breeder two towns over who was advertising a new litter. I called Eileen in Kilkenny and asked her what she thought of bringing a dog into our child-free home. Happily, she agreed, even to the name I had come up with, Wizard (a variation on our family moniker).

All went well until the neighbor who was never to be without a dog confessed that he had held something back in our earlier conversation: Getting a dog, said Jim – who had buried three on his property – was the “first step on the road to heartbreak.”

I was bummed by the gloomy counsel but figured that I was ready to face the risk. Having avoided pooches of all breeds in my past, I now felt a strange kinship whenever I passed one of any origin – even in Manhattan! I felt like urging them to e-mail or text Wizard, maybe share a bone or some kibble after a tough day vetting deliverymen. Meanwhile, he wakes us every morning with a shake of his floppy ears, and leaps into my lap when I am paying the bills I don’t like.

As an Army veteran who never faced any danger, I am nevertheless occasionally greeted by people who say, “Thank you for your service.” Of course, Wizard has never worn a uniform, but I think he and I should share the credit. After all, what are dog tags for? ■

Redding family helps bring clean water to Uganda

By Scott MacMillan



Kaleeba



Laura Cunningham



Sylvia Namukasa

Sylvia Namukasa recalls walking four kilometers every day as a child in Kirinda, Uganda, to fetch water for washing, cooking, and drinking. The oldest of seven, she and her mother would make the journey alone when her siblings were young. “I could tell that the water was contaminated, even as a child,” she said. “We stepped into the water and shared the same water source with the animals. Sometimes we had to go before 8:00 a.m. so that the cows didn’t contaminate the water more.”

Laura Cunningham recalls walking to the sink for water when she was a child in Wilton.

Laura and Sylvia have never met in person, but when they connected through a friend, those stark differences prompted Laura, who now lives in Redding, to start Kaleeba. The non-profit is dedicated to providing water to Kirinda, a village of 600 in the Central Region of Uganda, through a community center that Sylvia founded there.

I spoke at length recently with Sylvia via WhatsApp. I asked her about growing up in Kirinda.

“I remember once a week, we took a very big bag to the water source, which was a wetland, and watched and waited for the clothes to dry before returning home,” she said. “I carried the clothes back home while my mother carried a 20-liter jerrican of water.”

They walked the same distance for firewood. “This was the routine of the community,” she said. “Every family did the same.”

Laura and James Cunningham, parents of three children in the Redding school system, began sponsoring the local organization Sylvia founded, Kirinda Youth Environmental Management and Poverty Alleviation Program Uganda (KYEMPAPU) in 2020, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Laura and James are not especially wealthy patrons. Laura is an artist now studying for her master’s in mental health counseling, and James is an accountant. Yet over the years, they have bought four 10,000-liter rainwater harvesting tanks for about \$1,000 a piece for KYEMPAPU. One serves the needs of 10 nearby families, while the

other three provide irrigation for a community garden. The Cunninghams also bought and donated two acres of land for the community garden.

Laura’s immediate goal is to buy at least two more tanks – which according to Sylvia, would be enough to likely avoid going empty during the dry season – and improve and expand the garden.

With James providing legal and tax support, Kaleeba recently registered as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, called Kaleeba Inc. (“Kaleeba” is a Ugandan folktale about a distracting songbird, with a moral to stay focused on your mission.) Donations are therefore tax-deductible.

Full disclosure: The Cunninghams are my friends. Their youngest child is my daughter’s close friend in fourth grade at Redding Elementary. Both girls are riding horses in my backyard as I type. (My wife offers riding lessons as the owner and sole employee of Riding in Redding.)

But for anyone who might be harboring skepticism, Sylvia’s

story rings true with my experience, having visited Uganda many times for work in the last 15 years. My job with BRAC (formerly the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee), a large non-governmental organization known for its evidence-based anti-poverty work, takes me to several African countries, including Uganda, on a regular basis.

What impressed me about Sylvia was not just her story, but her commitment to a holistic approach to poverty: KYEMPAPU addresses local challenges in agriculture, water, sanitation, nutrition and hygiene – even menstrual hygiene for adolescent girls.

For instance, one of KYEMPAPU’s projects helps keep girls in school through the provision of menstrual hygiene kits. Many young women in Uganda drop out of school soon after they begin their period. They lack access to affordable, clean sanitary products at home and private sanitary facilities at school. “We realized that so many [local] girls were dropping out of school because they didn’t

have an option during their menstrual period,” says Sylvia. “So, we fight menstrual stigma.”

Her next project is to tackle the lack of latrines in her village. Just days before I spoke to her, she received a visit from the district health department, which had just completed a survey showing that 85 percent of the households in Kirinda did not have latrines.

I asked Sylvia more about her background. After her father encouraged her to finish secondary school, she moved to Uganda’s capital, Kampala, to attend Makerere University, where she graduated with a bachelor’s in environmental science. After a short stint with UNESCO, the UN agency, she moved back to her home village determined to do social and environmental work. She launched KYEMPAPU in 2010. In addition to running it, she is an expert trainer of pig farming and coffee processing, and a professional motivational speaker.

She says she is not only the first person in her family to get a university degree: she is the first person from her village and even the surrounding villages.

Closer to home in Redding, Laura just launched a website, Kaleeba.org, which allows anyone to donate (kaleeba.org/gofundme).

■

Scott MacMillan is a Redding author and the Director of Learning and Effectiveness at BRAC International. He wrote a biography of BRAC’s founder, Hope Over Fate: Fazle Hasan Abed and the Science of Ending Global Poverty, which is available at Mark Twain Library and Byrd’s Books in Bethel.

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth Ann Robey *March 1, 1932 – May 25, 2026*



On May 25, 2026, the world lost a Gem, though heaven gained an Angel. Elizabeth Ann Robey passed away at the age of 94 after a wonderful life filled with love, faith, and devotion to family.

Betty was born in Peoria, Illinois, on March 1, 1932, to Emil and Helen Henrich. She and her

older brother Emil were “practically” raised at Geier Florists, the family business in Peoria, where they learned from an early age the value of hard work, community, and the timeless art of growing flowers from seed. As a teenager, she could often be found behind the wheel of a Suburban, delivering floral arrangements to help mark life’s special moments for families throughout town.

After high school, Betty remained in Peoria and earned a degree in Home Economics from Bradley University... and then took it to the next level. With a smile that could light up a room coupled with exceptional culinary skills, she bloomed in her new role as host of the televised cooking show Easy Does It. In time, she was introduced

to Lee Robey, who was completely smitten from the moment he saw her. He won her heart, and the rest, as they say, is history. They married on August 24, 1957, and together built a loving home for their three sons: John, Paul, and Matthew.

Lee’s career with IBM took the family first to Grand Blanc, Michigan, and later to New Canaan, Connecticut. Wherever life took them, Betty created a warm and welcoming home grounded in faith and love. When not in her garden or whipping up a batch of “Grandma Henrich’s World Famous German Potato Salad,” you could find her volunteering at church, school, or leading a Cub Scout meeting. Not one to sit on the sidelines, she fly-fished, hiked, and cross-country skied with the best of them at their

family home in Vermont. As the boys grew older, she and Lee embraced tennis and golf, and perhaps her greatest athletic achievement was breaking 90 at Pinehurst. She could give lessons on how to hit ‘em straight and stay out of trouble!

After Lee retired from IBM, the couple moved to Savannah, Georgia, where they enjoyed their retirement years together. The family expanded to include their beloved grandchildren: Ben, Connor, Tara, and Kyle. The four fondly recall lively card games, rounds of Monopoly, Grandmother’s hot fudge sauce, and her yummy chocolate chip cookies.

Betty is lovingly remembered by her sons: John; Paul, and his wife Gordana; Matt and his wife Pam; and their four grandchildren. She is

preceded in death by her husband, Lee; her parents, Emil and Helen; her brother, Emil, and sister-in-law, Joan.

We, the family, would like to especially thank the caregivers and support staff at the Meadow Ridge memory care unit in Redding, as well as the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association, for their compassionate care over the last year. While lovingly tending to Betty, they also cared for us.

A funeral mass will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Patrick Church in Redding. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to the Alzheimer’s Association, Connecticut Chapter: alz.org/ct and spread kindness in honor of Betty.

Joanne Raymond *August 16, 1942 – May 26, 2026*



Joanne Raymond, 83, of Easton, passed away peacefully on May 26, 2026.

Joanne was a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, and friend whose life was marked by love, kindness, and dedication to those around them. Born on August 16, 1942, in Freeport, Long Island. Joanne resided in Redding for the last 60 years. She was an avid bridge player and a volunteer at the Ridgefield Thrift Shop. Joanne

dedicated her life to family, friends, and service to others. She will be remembered for her compassion, kindness, resilience, as well as for the simple, meaningful moments shared with loved ones. Whether through playing bridge, traveling, or volunteering. She made a lasting impact on everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Joanne Raymond is survived by her two children, daughter Jayne Sterk and her husband Christopher

Sterk of New Milford, and her son, William Coward Sr and his wife Cindy Coward of Easton; four grandchildren, Emily, Katie, Jack, and Matthew; one great grandchild, Eleanor; as well as her sister, Marilyn Avartin, and brother, Raymond Zender, and his wife Hollis; and many loving nephews, nieces, cousins, and relatives who all meant the world to her.

A Celebration of Life will be held on June 13 at Lounsbury

House in Ridgefield, CT from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to a charity of their choice in honor of Joanne.

Though Joanne is no longer with us, the love and memories shared will remain forever in our hearts. Online condolences may be left at SpadaccinoFuneralHome.com ■

Mary C. Morris *December 9, 1929 – May 29, 2026*



Beloved mother and grandmother, Mary Blanche Carley Morris died on May 29, 2026, at the age of 96. She was born on December 9, 1929 in Brooklyn, New York, the third child and first daughter of John Vincent and Blanche Moren Carley.

She grew up in Brooklyn and attended Immaculata High School on East 33rd Street in Manhattan and graduated from Hunter College in 1952 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

While at Hunter, she played on

the basketball team and was Captain her senior year. At the time, Mary said it was a “very different game than today,” because women were only allowed to play in skirts, on a half court, and no male referees were allowed. After college, she was a part of the NY Cosmopolitan women’s basketball team, based in the Bronx, and eventually moved on to refereeing the game. Later in life, her love of the game led her to be a huge fan of the UCONN Women’s Huskies team. She and her sister, Eleanor, looked forward to watching every game.

Mary was a life-long fan of sports and the outdoors. She loved to share her favorite memories of the camps where she spent her summers as a teenager and young adult, teaching swimming, sailing, tennis, archery, basketball, badminton, lacrosse, and softball and pretty much any sport you can name.

Her adventurous spirit brought her to Europe one summer in the early 1950s, hitchhiking and biking through post-war France with friends. She imparted the love of

travel and adventure in her children, encouraging them to go out and see the world.

After teaching at various private schools in Westchester and Fairfield Counties, Mary was hired as a Physical Education teacher at Andrew Warde High School in Fairfield. Mary felt a deep sense of connection with her students and loved to watch them unlock their potential. Continuing her lifelong pursuit of knowledge, she earned a master’s degree from Fairfield University in 1961.

Following her marriage to William (Bill) Morris in 1965, she moved to Redding and became very involved in the community. She was deeply committed to Saint Patrick Parish, becoming the first woman to chair the Parish Council in 1980. Through the church, she volunteered regularly at Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, a soup kitchen located in Danbury. She was also involved in the PTA throughout her daughters’ school years.

In 2002, she and Bill moved to

Meadow Ridge and enjoyed the community she found there. Always competitive, she appreciated playing Mahjong with friends and spent many hours with family playing Cribbage and Shanghai Rummy.

Family was always of paramount importance to Mary. She adored her grandchildren and felt profoundly lucky to watch them grow and discover their amazing capabilities. She also loved all the family animals, especially the dogs, who held a special place in her heart. Whether it was summers on Nantucket with the Morris family or time spent at 1505 (Fairfield Beach) with the Carley clan, she loved family gatherings. And of course, at the beach it was always about the chocolate chip cookies.

She was a woman deeply committed to family, faith, and community. Her family would like to give special thanks to the amazing caregivers she came to know and love at Meadow Ridge. She was deeply loved and will be sorely missed.

Mary is survived by daughters Louise Martling-Hertzog (Keith

Hertzog) of Palm Coast, FL, Cindy Lewis (Tom) of Brick, NJ, Patty Short (Jim) of Ridgefield, CT, and Mary Ann Morris (Matthew Chojnacki) of Ridgefield, CT; and six grandchildren, Kent Martling, Jamie Lewis, Will and Ben Short, and Trevor and Connor Chojnacki. She is also survived by her sister, Eleanor Carley of Redding, and her sister-in-law Martha Schwuerzer of Germany. She is predeceased by her husband Bill Morris, and family members Joe and Eleanor Carley, John and Mildred Carley, Jim and Katy Carley, Paul and Signy Morris, and Peter Schwerzer.

A funeral service took place on Friday, June 5, 2026 at Saint Patrick Church, 169 Black Rock Turnpike, Redding, with interment following in Redding Ridge Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Meadow Ridge Scholarship Fund – 100 Redding Road; Redding, CT 06896 or Tunnels to Towers.

Kane Funeral Home was in care of arrangements. ■

Martin John Heibeck *Passed away June 1, 2026*



Martin “Marty” John Heibeck, 74, of Georgetown, passed away at his home on Monday, June 1, 2026.

A Norwalk native, Marty was the son of the late George Heibeck Sr. and Barbara Haajenen. Marty was happiest when he was working with his hands, especially fixing and towing cars for the family business. He was also incredibly proud of his service as a volunteer firefighter with the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department, carrying on

a long-standing family tradition of civic pride and community support.

To know Marty was to know his love for country music. Whether you jumped into his personal car or climbed into his tow truck, you were guaranteed to hear country tunes blasting from the speakers. Marty was the life of the party, and you could always count on finding an ice-cold bottle of Budweiser in his hand. He was also the ultimate town historian and neighborhood watch; if anything happened in town – from a minor incident to a major fire – Marty knew about it first!

Marty is survived by his children, Lindsay Ehrhard (Jeffrey), Christy Tassitano (Hunter), and Martin Heibeck Jr. (Jennafer). He was a beloved brother to Thomas, Michael, and George Heibeck, and Bobby Smith. He was also a proud grandfather to Jaxson and Ella Tassitano; Addyson and Benjamin Hei-

beck; and Derek, Colten, and Riley Ehrhard. The family also wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude to his loving and caring aide, Marissa Ridgeway, whose devoted companionship and compassionate support meant the world to Marty and his family.

Family and friends are invited to gather for calling hours on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. (noon) to 3:00 p.m. at Bouton Funeral Home, 31 West Church Street, Georgetown (Wilton), CT, 06829. A Celebration of Life will be held during the calling hours at 2:30 p.m. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Marty’s memory to the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department (P.O. Box 698, Georgetown, CT 06829). Online condolences and shared memories may be left for the family at boutonfuneralhome.com ■

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CLASSIFIED

My name is Adriana

If you need an extra hand I can help you!

Certified CPR, child care, light cleaning,
washing and ironing. Comfortable with pets.

References upon request. Own transportation.
Text: 475.366.4976 Thanks!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week’s Featured Events

Special Town Meeting

Tuesday, June 16
7:00 p.m.
To consider and vote upon adoption of three new ordinances
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road
reddingct.gov/event/special-town-meeting-8

Redding Lights the Way – Luminaria

Order deadline: Friday, June 19
Order paper bags and candles to illuminate your home or business on July 4
Proceeds go to Social Services
Order by June 19, pick-up July 2
Redding Town Hall
100 Hill Road
E-mail gfiore@reddingct.gov
\$, R

Summer Love / 10th Year Anniversary: Opening Reception

Saturday, June 20
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
G-Town Arts
5 Main Street
gtownarts.org

Want to feature an upcoming event?

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

AMERICA 250

Sunday, June 14

Art is Revolutionary
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Free event for all ages with artist demonstrations, refreshments, live music, and hands-on activities
Weir Farm National Historic Park
735 Nod Hill Road
Wilton
ridgefieldct250.org/events/art-is-revolutionary

Order deadline: Friday, June 19

Redding Lights the Way – Luminaria
Order paper bags and candles to illuminate your home or business on July 4
Proceeds go to Redding Social Services
Order by June 19, pick-up on July 2
Redding Town Hall
100 Hill Road
E-mail gfiore@reddingct.gov
\$, R

ARTS

Sunday, June 14

Summer on the Wind: Aubade Wind Trio
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Part of the Allen & Helen Hermes Art Series
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Saturday, June 20

Summer Love / 10th Year Anniversary: Opening Reception
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
G-Town Arts
5 Main Street
gtownarts.org

Sunday, June 21

Concerts on the Green: Sister Funk
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Rock-country, folk band
100 Hill Road
reddingct.gov

NATURE

Wednesday, June 3 – Tuesday, June 30

Redding Land Trust Open Space Photograhly Show
Library hours
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org

Tuesday, June 16

Understanding & Protecting Our Local Ecosystem
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Presented by Redding Land Trust, New Pond Farm, and Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwainlibrary.org
R

Friday, June 19

June Astronomy
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Family-friendly outdoor exploration of the heavens
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Tuesday, June 16

Sorting through Supplements: A Nurse’s Guide
3:30 p.m.
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road
E-mail mpilato@reddingct.gov

Saturday, June 27

Celebrate Redding Pride – Pride Picnic
1:00 p.m.
Bring blanket and picnic, beverages and ice pops will be served
Redding Town Green
100 Hill Road
reddingct.gov

Monday, July 13 – Friday, July 17

Mystery Island VBS
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Free evening Vacation Bible School with games, crafts, and snacks for grades K4-7th grade.
Calvary Independent Baptist Church
711 Redding Road
cibcredding.org/vbs
R

MEETINGS

Thursday, June 11

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

Thursday, June 11

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

Monday, June 15

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

Tuesday, June 16

Region 9 Finance & Operations
5:30 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School / Library Learning Commons
100 Black Rock Turnpike

Tuesday, June 16

Conservation Commission
5:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Conference Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, June 16

Public Hearing – NAA Program Proposals
6:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, June 16

Special Town Meeting
7:00 p.m.
To consider and vote upon adoption of three new ordinances
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road



September 19-20, 2026

SATURDAY

CHRIS LUQUETTE BAND

COLE QUEST AND THE CITY PICKERS

THE TALKING HEARTS • TIMOTHY • BUGS ON A LOG
HILARY HAWKE BAND • WIRES AND WOOD • KENTUCKY GIRLS

SUNDAY

THE ALPACA GNOMES

NORTH COUNTY BAND • THE SLIDE STOPS

HITCH AND THE GIDDYUP • JASON INGRISELLI & THE MILES NORTH
CARRIE LINSKY (OF CARAVAN OF THIEVES) • BUGS ON A LOG

FOOD ✦ VENDORS ✦ DANCE ✦ WORKSHOPS ✦ JAMS ✦ KIDS' EVENTS

LINE DANCE • COUNTRY TWO STEP • SQUARE DANCE • FLATFOOTING
COUNTRY BAND WORKSHOP • BLUEGRASS JAM CLASS • HARMONY SINGING • SONGWRITING
KIDS MUSICAL STORYTELLING • INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO

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#1 in Ridgefield/Redding.²



16 Shady Lane | Redding | \$1,199,000
Listed By: Alexis Bennett | 203.313.3110
alexis.bennett@cbrealty.com



44 Aunt Pattys Lane West | Bethel | \$810,000
Listed By: Carol Hanlon | 203.240.1233
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11 Long Meadow Lane | Redding | \$1,245,000
Listed by: Ira Stone | 203.240.5754
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