

REDDING SENTINEL

APRIL 25, 2024

REDDING, CONNECTICUT

Volume 3 / Issue 2

\$3

Are there unmarked graves at Lonetown Cemetery? Find out when the Ground-penetrating Radar survey is presented May 1

By Donna Christopher

Unmarked graves may have turned up at Lonetown Cemetery, where a gravestone of American Revolutionary War Patriot Isaac Bertram is of interest among burial plots.

On May 1, archeologist David Leslie Ph. D. of TerraSearch Geophysical will present his findings from a two-day ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey there last month.

The event is an opportunity to learn about Redding's ancestors, literally from the ground up.

The GPR survey was conducted on March 26 and 27 to find out who is buried in the cemetery.

Leslie's survey findings are not available yet but will be shortly before the presentation, Louise Wagner, who managed the project, told the *Sentinel*. The report will assist the Redding Historic Cemetery Committee (RHCC) and the Town to better mark the disturbance sites and to determine what work is needed to restore the cemetery.

"Dr. Leslie suspects the images revealed between the cemetery fence and the street may well be several unmarked graves," she said. The location is where people usually park at the cemetery.

Wagner was the grant writer last year for two \$5,000 grants for use by the RHCC to renovate the town's historic cemeteries. The GPR work is being paid from a State Historic Preservation Grant.

On March 26, she arranged for teachers and students from the special advanced mathematics class at Redding Elementary School (RES) to go to Lonetown Cemetery to see Leslie at work. The field trip opportunity allowed fourth-grade students to experience history, science, and math come to life in "the real world" said Matt Farina, K-4 Advanced Learning Opportunities Instructor at RES.

Farina, along with math teacher Melissa Null and the students, met with Wagner, Leslie, Robert Paradise, who oversees the maintenance of the town's six public cemeteries, and his son Michael Paradise at Lonetown Cemetery. The students came prepared with questions and ready to watch Leslie at work.

Robert Paradise, a lifelong Redding resident, told the students that the people who built Redding were buried in the cemetery. The students had earlier in class come up with questions

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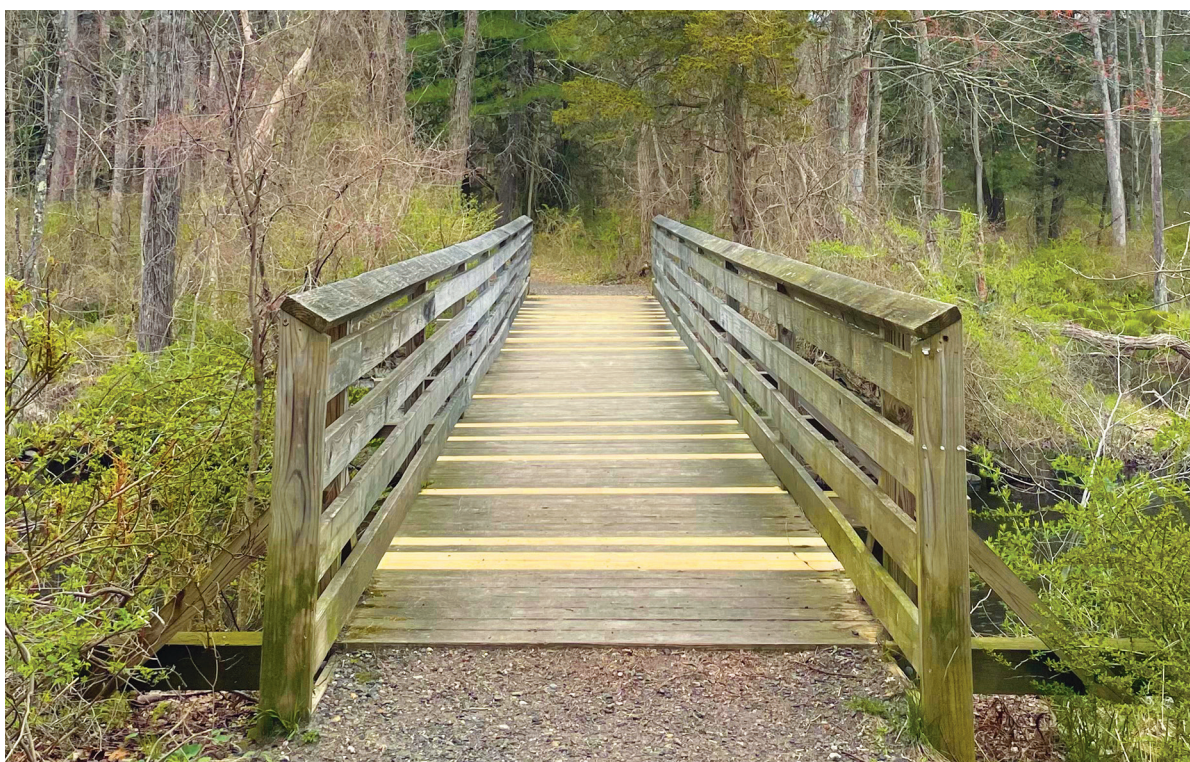


Photo by Erin Dummeyer

The Saugatuck Falls Bridge invites us to take a walk into spring. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, with credit of course, please e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org

New Pond Farm revises restoration project

By Rocco Valluzzo

After making some reductions with respect to scope, disturbance and other factors, New Pond Farm Education Center presented a revised version of its wetland renewal project at the Monday, April 15, meeting of the Redding Board of Selectmen.

The project, which is estimated to cost \$547,000, will be funded in part through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) with the town matching 50%. Work is expected to begin this summer.

"We are so excited about this," said Ann Taylor, executive director of New Pond Farm. "It means so much to us."

According to Tom Ryder, an ecologist with Landtech in Westport, the project originally called for expansion of the pond and a four-bay vernal pool on the property on Marchant Road. It will now keep the original footprint of the pond and create a wetland area with three basins.

"We have maintained the

same ecological benefits but it's a smaller footprint, less disturbance, less soil removal," said Ryder. "Overall, it's more compact and in line very well with their educational goals of promoting ecological restoration and promotion."

The project will be done in two phases. The first involves the dredging of the pond to its original depth, creating wetlands through the vernal pools systems, and creating a planting area, all of which will be done this year.

Creating vernal pools is relatively simple, noted Ryder. It can be done in a week and in the summer. Planting will be done in the fall.

The pond dredging will take about a month. It can be done mechanically or hydraulically, which will determine the cost and timing.

The second phase includes replacing the existing culvert on Blackman's Pond Brook with a

box culvert to allow water to flow in more efficiently, which will require changing the instantaneous flow of this brook for a day. It will take about a year to go through the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) water diversion permit process.

"Replacing culverts is very routine," said Ryder, citing it can be done in a day or two. "The DEEP is not going to have any issues with that."

Phase 2 also involves removal of a dam at the north end of the brook. Currently, it is a barrier to fish migration.

"It's critical that we do Phase 1 and 2," said Taylor. "Replacing those water structures really helps with flow of water. Right now, when we have a high rain it's so constricted the water goes up and over the land. I just don't want to invest in beautiful plantings without accommodating the water flow." ■

REDDING'S BIG OUTDOORS

Brief Excursions – Part 2

By Cole Tucker-Walton



Photo by Cole Tucker-Walton

A beaver-created swamp provides valuable habitat for wildlife and birds.

The second of a two-part series about Redding's shorter hikes. Part 2 covers excursions over twenty minutes and properties without trails.

Last week, I began reflecting on trails that don't entail too much of a "time commitment or chance of getting lost." This week, I continue with a few properties that

require more minutes, and a few that require a more intrepid mood.

Twenty minutes to spare may be just enough time to power walk the mile-long loop on Redding's side of Putnam Memorial State Park, under some very tall tulip-poplars and brooding rock faces, or to trace a meditative line across the fields at the Town's Couch Hill Preserve (not, in fact, part of Huntington State Park). While Couch Hill is delightful in all seasons, make sure to return in late summer; in August, riots of various goldenrod species are buttressed by native spiraea, ethereal tan grasses mingle with white fleabanes, pink patches of American groundnut weigh grass-leaved goldentop to the ground, and, in the wetter north field,

Continued on page 8

Selectmen request funds transfer, reallocation Board of Finance approves

By Rocco Valluzzo

To cover a significant increase in Police Department overtime costs, the Board of Selectmen requested the Board of Finance approve a \$170,000 line-item transfer from the current fiscal year budget to fund the overtime at its Tuesday, April 16 meeting.

At a Special Meeting on Monday, April 22, the Board of Finance approved the line-item transfer requested by the Selectmen. Since the amount is in excess of \$20,000, the Selectmen will now schedule a town meeting for voter approval at a date to be determined.

The Police Department is currently short several officers. One has been out on short-term disability since the end of October and another resigned unexpectedly in November. That position will soon be filled with a new recruit to start at the end of April.

Another officer is on maternity leave and the school safety officer at John Read Middle School resigned in March.

According to Finance Director Jim Sanders, the Police Department is \$78,000 over budget for overtime through the end of March, an average of \$18,000 to \$19,000 per payroll cycle. By the end of the fiscal year, he believes it will be overspent by approximately \$208,000.

He added that the Board of Selectmen's budget for retirement expenses for the current fiscal year is significantly underspent. A line item transfer of \$170,000 to police overtime would cover the cost for the remainder of the fiscal year.

"In a perfect year, I would have nobody out," said Police Chief Mark O'Donnell. "I was doing really well until October when the officer went out and the avalanche started. "It's very difficult in a small police department because people go out."

Selectwoman Peg O'Donnell expressed concern about the mental health of the town's officers who end up working a lot of overtime. She encouraged the Board to think about this when building future budgets.

"We want to have good police protection in our town, and we do," she said. "We want to make sure it stays that way."

The Selectmen also approved reallocating \$365,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase capital equipment for the town highway department. The money, which was originally to be used to fund the Barlow Nest project and the dry fire hydrant for Lonetown Marsh, will now be used for the purchase of a six-wheel dump truck (\$280,000) and a Ford F-150 pickup truck (\$85,000). ■

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EDITORIAL

Traffic safety and speeding on Redding's roads have been hot topics in the past and now again recently. We're squarely in the current cultural frame on this one – studies about traffic and speeding are being released in Connecticut and around the country in rapid succession.

These studies differ in their focus and therefore conclusions. Some look at urban areas and pedestrian deaths, others at accidents on major roads. Some look at the interaction between cars and cyclists, as well as pedestrians. Some focus on impaired driving.

The solutions proposed by these studies are as varied as their points of view. One concludes it's not drivers at fault, it's about road design. Another puts responsibility squarely on drivers. You can wade through a stack of these studies and not find a single agreed solution to the challenge of making our roads safer.

For Redding, the challenge is even greater because the studies that have been done pay most attention to big roads and big cities. Our sparsely populated rural town with narrow, winding roads doesn't deliver bang for the research buck.

In a way this lack of attention can be liberating. We have the freedom to figure out how to stop speeding and improve road safety right here in Redding, on our own.

About thirty years ago, this writer was head of the roads and traffic subcommittee of the Redding Planning Commission. A very helpful young police officer at the time had maintained a detailed log of all traffic accidents in Redding over two years. When analyzed, it showed that about a quarter of accidents were caused by cars hitting deer. We have fewer deer now, so fewer of this type of accident. A significant majority of accidents were single car collisions. Not cars running into each other, but cars running off the road into trees, stone walls and other obstacles. The cause of most of these accidents was clear – driving too fast for conditions.

Sound familiar? We still have accidents caused by drivers traveling too fast. For a bucolic little town, we've had far too many deaths-by-car.

What I have learned from reading quite a few studies about traffic safety is that no one knows the answer, there is no one solution and you just have to keep trying until you find something that works. Not all remedies are within our Town's control, but we need to start somewhere. Here are a few suggestions.

Figure out who is causing the problem.

Retrieve data from the Police Department about all traffic stops: reasons, driver, circumstances. If the data don't exist, start collecting them.

Scare the speeders into slowing down.

April 25, our day of publication, will see the biennial mock car crash at Joel Barlow. Held just before Prom, the program graphically illustrates the immediate impact of bad driving – and the time needed by first responders to help.

Years ago, near the current TD Bank location in Georgetown, the Police Department staged a car totaled in a wreck as a reminder of what speeding could get you. It slowed people down, a lot, for at least a while.

Should we change the road signs that currently say "Entering Redding" to include "We ticket speeders!"?

If they don't slow down, catch them.

We are now allowed under state law to use speed cameras. There are limits to how and where they can be used, but certain roads in town will likely qualify.


Make the punishment hurt.

Police officers should be encouraged to ticket speeders rather than issue warnings.

There are undoubtedly other tactics to use to begin to improve the safety of our roads. There is one place I'm aware of where speeding is no longer. In the winding, narrow residential roads of Oslo, Norway, not dissimilar to those in Redding, if you speed you will be ticketed. And the fine is based on your wealth. It works.

Please e-mail your thoughts about traffic safety in Redding to speeding@reddingsentinel.org. We'll report your ideas in a future issue. ■

DON'T NEGLECT TO



Budget Referendum May 7

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New Pond Farm Golf Outing

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,

A Big thank you to the Mark Twain Library for hosting the Live Jazz Music Series with Redding's own David Morgan at the piano. The sessions were well-attended and a real treat to all!

David is a consummate jazz pianist who never ceases to amaze his audience with his musical skills, his broad knowledge and his sense of humor!

The next and last session will be on Tuesday, May 28th. Mark your calendar. You'll be glad you did! ■

Harvey J. Kulawitz, Esq.

To the Editor,

National Library Workers Day – April 9th - marked the official date to recognize the valuable contributions library staff make to their communities. For the warm, wise and wonderful staff of the Mark Twain Library – one day certainly wasn't enough, so we've expanded it to STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK. Please stop in and thank the MTL team for cataloging, connecting, programming, searching, finding, recommending, answering, teaching, tech-ing, cuddling, bubbling, smiling, welcoming, honing, expanding, listening, helping and sometimes even shhhhh-ing.

Our founder was a national treasure, his library is a local treasure, and its staff is a tireless and talented treasure. Join us in saluting Erin Dummeyer, George Avidon, Lisa Cederbaum, Dave Daignault, Cathy Filiato, Lisa Goldstein, Mary Hoskinson-Dean, Janet Ivaldi, Midge Loery, Maggie McIntire, Sandi O'Reilly, Kay Reinehr, Ken Rietschel, Elaine Sanders, Kathryn Zimmerman and Sarah Zimmermann. ■

With Gratitude,

The Board of Trustees of the Mark Twain Library Association

To the Editor,

Spring time in Redding means the end of gray stick season and the vibrant regreening of this verdant neck of the woods. This annual transformation – heralded by the peeper frogs – inspires all to get outside and Frolic! That's right, everyone from stroller to senior is encouraged to celebrate spring excitedly and energetically at the 27th Annual Frog Frolic Festival on Saturday, May 4th at the Redding Community Center. From 10 am to 4 pm come play, sip, eat, dance, bid, and bask in this colorful town-wide celebration to benefit the Mark Twain Library.

Our team behind this great green undertaking has been working for months to make magic, but we are in need of many, many hands the day of to ensure success. Please consider lending a hand – volunteer shifts are only 2 hours; you're bound to see friends, meet new ones and join in a crucial effort to make ends meet at the library. To sign up, just email frogfrolicvolunteers@marktwainlibrary.org. Middle school and high school students are most definitely encouraged, too!

Thanks in advance for doing your part to make the Frog Frolic Festival a success.

Sincerely,

*Meghan Huszagh,
Mark Twain Library Trustee and Chair, The Frog Frolic Festival*

LEGAL NOTICES

At a meeting of the Redding Conservation Commission on 4/16/2024, the following action was voted:

App'l #24-07, Aquarion Water Company of CT, Intersection of Greenbush Rd. and Huckleberry Rd. Approved with conditions an application for removal and replacement of an existing bridge, decking, and abutments, and grading of woods road to meet bridge decking within the regulated area.

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

*David R. Pattee
Chairman*

The Legal Voters in the Town of Redding, Connecticut, and those entitled to vote therein, are hereby warned and notified to vote on a referendum at the Redding Community Center, 37 Lonetown Road in Redding, Connecticut on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to vote on the following questions:

1. Shall the Town of Redding appropriate the sum of \$54,401,794 for the annual budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025? (This includes \$16,961,130 for the Town Operating Budget; \$25,453,622 for the Redding Board of Education Budget and \$11,987,042 for Redding's share of the Region No. 9 Budget)

2. Shall Regional School District No. 9, composed of the Towns of Easton and Redding, appropriate and authorize the expenditure of \$25,407,041 as the operating budget of the district for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025? (Easton's share is \$13,419,999 and Redding's share is \$11,987,042)

3. Shall the Town of Redding approve the expenditure of \$675,000 for the repaving of Umpawaug Road to be paid from the Unassigned Fund Balance or otherwise, as determined by the Board of Finance?

4. Shall the Town of Redding approve the expenditure of \$375,000 for the Redding Elementary School (RES) and John Read Middle School (JRMS) Educational Spaces Modernization Project Phase 2a to be paid from the Unassigned Fund Balance or otherwise, as determined by the Board of Finance?

5. Shall the Town of Redding approve the expenditure of \$350,000 for the Town Hall fire sprinkler system code compliance upgrade to be paid from the Unassigned Fund Balance or otherwise, as determined by the Board of Finance?

6. Shall the Town of Redding approve the expenditure of \$150,000 for a JRMS secondary well to be paid from the Unassigned Fund Balance or otherwise, as determined by the Board of Finance?

7. Shall the Town of Redding approve the expenditure of \$150,000 for the replacement of the Community Center roof to be paid from the Unassigned Fund Balance or otherwise, as determined by the Board of Finance?

8. Shall the Town of Redding approve the expenditure of \$115,000 for the RES and JRMS internet improvement project to be paid from the Unassigned Fund Balance or otherwise, as determined by the Board of Finance?

9. Shall the Town of Redding approve the expenditure of \$50,000 for the repair of the RES and JRMS roofs to be paid from the Unassigned Fund Balance or otherwise, as determined by the Board of Finance?

Absentee balloting for those persons unavailable to vote in person will be available in the Town Clerk's Office starting April 25, 2023. ■

Dated at Redding, Connecticut this 19th day of April 2023.

*BOARD OF SELECTMEN-
Julia Pemberton,
Margaret L. O'Donnell
and Michael Thompson*

*TOWN CLERK-
Michele R. Grande*

Redding Sentinel Ltd
News and Views of Redding, Connecticut
Publisher, Susan Clark
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Creative Director, Debora DeCarlo Rosa
Assistant Graphic Designer, Connor Feeney
Marketing Operations Manager, Nicole DuBois
Reporters:
Donna Christopher Justin Reynolds
Rocco Valluzzo Pamela Brown
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Printed by Trumbull Printing
Telecommunications by CCi Voice
www.reddingsentinel.org
203.938.3800

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Single copy price \$3.00 / Annual subscription \$85.00

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

The British march through Redding | *By Bruce Nelson*



Photo courtesy of Bruce Nelson
A Revolutionary War reenactment

In late April 1777, a British fleet consisting of a dozen transports, a hospital ship, and a few smaller boats was assembled in New York and placed under the command of Captain Henry Duncan. The landing force consisted of 1,500 uniformed British soldiers, around 300 loyalists from the Prince of Wales American Regiment, and a small contingent of the 17th Light Dragoons, led by Generals William Erskine and James Agnew. The entire operation was under the command of Major General William Tryon, the former governor of the colony of New York.

On April 22, the fleet sailed from New York into Long Island Sound. The mission was to land on the Connecticut shore near Fairfield, then march inland to Danbury where the Continental Army had established a major supply depot that could provide food, clothing, shelter, and ammunition to its troops fighting the spring offensive in the Hudson Valley near West Point. The depot was guarded by only 50 Continental soldiers and about 100 local militiamen, making it a relatively easy target for such a large contingent of British regulars. The initial plan was to raid the depot, purloin as many supplies as could fit in the wagons they planned to commandeer, and then destroy the supply houses before returning to their ships with their plunder.

On Friday, April 25, the fleet was spotted close to the shoreline near Norwalk and messengers were dispatched to warn militia leaders of what appeared to an eminent landing of the British forces.

It was early Friday evening when the fleet set anchor near the mouth of the Saugatuck River at Compo Point. They were undisturbed as they disembarked and assembled for their march northward. Encountering only a small group of armed men about a mile from where they landed, they marched otherwise unimpeded towards their goal until they reached a meadow on Redding Road near today's border between Fairfield and Easton. There they rested for approximately six hours before resuming their march on the morning of the 26th.

The route the British chose to reach Danbury was the one that was the least difficult to navigate on foot. They would only cross one river by bridge, the Aspetuck at today's Easton by the Gilbertown Cemetery. The remainder of their twenty-six-mile journey would be relatively easy.

The march through the parish of North Fairfield (Easton today) was done in the early morning hours of Saturday. Despite previously published writings based on greatly embellished oral hand-me-down tales of local history, the area along their march saw no destruction and only minor confrontations that were quickly quelled by the advancing forces.

By 10:00 a.m., the British were on Redding Ridge where they paused in front of the Church of England, ministered by loyalist preacher John Beach, that is located at the intersection of Black Rock Turnpike and Cross Highway. There, the British officers were treated to cakes and wine by Mister William

Heron who resided next door to the church. The rest of the force took their midday meal in the fields directly north of that church, and they were on their way by noon as storm clouds began to gather in the sky.

Generals Wooster and Arnold were in New Haven when they received word that the British had landed a few miles west of Fairfield. They immediately set out to catch up with General Gold Silliman who had managed to summon about 500 militiamen by midmorning on Saturday the 26th. Silliman and his men set out after the British, arriving in Redding by the late afternoon. There, Wooster and Arnold caught up with him, and all three were invited to dine with Mister Heron.

Heron would later be identified as a double agent. There is no doubt that he served both sides during the Revolution, but letters he produced after the conclusion of the war appeared to prove his loyalty to the rebels. But there are many historians who believe Heron could and would have produced similar correspondence with the British that could have proven his loyalty to the Crown, should the British have prevailed instead.

At Redding, it was decided that Wooster would pursue the British along the same route they had taken to Danbury earlier in the day, while Silliman and Arnold would take their contingents north through Ridgefield should Tryon attempt to return to the coast along that route. By the time Wooster reached the village of Bethel, it was nearing 11:00 p.m., it had been raining

heavily for several hours, and his men's powder was undoubtedly too wet to rely on firing. It was decided to camp there and wait until dawn before engaging the enemy at Danbury.

Tryon's plans had run into a major snag at Danbury earlier that evening. Expecting more loyalists than he encountered, he learned that when the local teamsters had heard of the approaching British forces, they hitched up their heavy wagons and all headed north. By the time Tryon's forces had reached Danbury, most of the wagons he had expected to find there were already in New Milford. With no way to transport their bounty back to their ships, it was decided to inventory the supplies and then destroy them along with the storehouses where they were kept.

In all, 4,000 barrels of pork and beef were destroyed, along with 1,000 barrels of flour, 89 barrels of rice, 100 hogsheads of sugar, 50 hogsheads of molasses, 20 casks of coffee, 15 large casks of assorted medicines, 5,000 pairs of shoes, over 1,000 tents, and 120 puncheons of rum – a good deal of which was consumed by Tryon's troops before they set fire to everything. A total of 19 houses, as well as all 22 of the storehouses and barns that made up the depot were consumed by fire and destroyed.

By 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, Tryon was apprised of the proximity of Wooster's forces, and he decided to retreat to his ships via Ridgefield. Leaving long before Wooster's men reached Danbury, the British ran into Arnold and Silliman's forces at Ridgefield where several skirmishes took place throughout the day as the British found themselves suddenly being attacked on both sides. Wooster's men continued to attack from the rear, with Wooster being mortally wounded at Ridgefield during one of the larger skirmishes.

Arnold's troops were stationed at every major river crossing along the way. They had the bridges secured, but the British had recruited enough loyalist guides to provide them with the best places to ford each river and stream evading the Continentals while seldom engaging them in battle.

By the time Tryon's forces made it back to the ships on Monday, his army had sustained 154 men wounded or killed with another 40 listed as missing or captured. On the other side, the Continentals had seen 20 men killed with another 80 listed as being wounded. While the raid on Danbury had been a tactical victory for the much larger British forces, it turned out to be a strategic success for the Continental Army and the militia, as the area which had remained mostly neutral in a war that many Connecticut residents had felt mostly ambivalent about, suddenly experienced an increase of about 3,000 young men who were willing to fight against the British. That raid would be the last inland incursion by the British in Connecticut during the remainder of the war.

On Saturday, April 27, 2024, you can see a partial reenactment of the Battle of Ridgefield take place at the old Onion Field on Lonetown Road in Redding (just north of the Redding Elementary School). Sponsored by the Drum Hill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Redding Historic Cemetery Committee, this event will be a two-day affair, with Friday devoted exclusively to teaching third-graders at RES about the events of that weekend in 1777, with Saturday open to the general public with military exhibitions and demonstrations by the Brigade of the American Revolution.

Beginning at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday morning, the Brigade will provide several activities including artillery, medical, and other demonstrations through the morning and early afternoon that will culminate in a battle reenactment at 3:00 p.m.

Background and registration information can be found online @ Wiltondar.org. Advance online admission is \$12.50 for adults. Tickets purchased at the gate will be \$15. Children under 12 will be admitted free, as will veterans, active military, and first responders. Because of the noise created by the firing of muskets and artillery, absolutely no pets will be allowed on the grounds during this event.

Food trucks will be available for sustenance and refreshments throughout the day. ■

NEW POND FARM EDUCATION CENTER'S
21 YEARS
GOLF OUTING
 AT REDDING COUNTRY CLUB
 TUESDAY, MAY 21ST

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS!

Environmental Education Since 1985

New Pond Farm Education Center

21ST ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
MAY 21ST

Our enthusiastic foursomes are in place, the RCC greens are in beautiful shape, and there is still time to support this fantastic event by joining our herd of generous sponsors!

All proceeds will support the environmental and agricultural programs that we share with schools, children, families, and adults throughout Fairfield County.

Please visit our website or follow this QR code to see the many levels of tax-deductible sponsorship that are still available.

Thank You!

newpondfarm.org

REMEMBERING REDDING

The Zalmon Read Barn Story | *By Dan Souza*

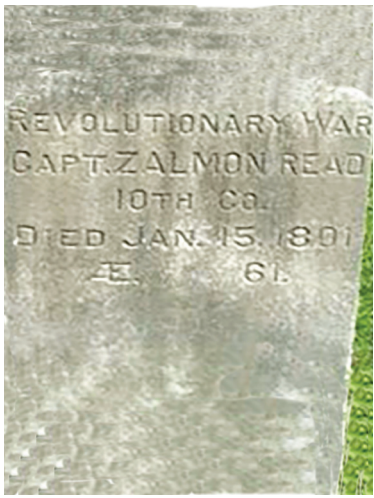


Photo by Lisa Henry Prindle
Captain Zalmon Read's headstone



Photo by Wikimedia Commons
Zalmon Read Barn at 43 Lonetown Road



Photo from Redding Historical Society archives
Moving Zalmon Read Barn in 1980

The history of Redding is inextricably linked to the legacy of the Read family, dating back to the 18th Century. Redding, originally called "Reading," is named after John Read (1679 - 1768). Read, a Harvard graduate at age 17, was one of the earliest and most prominent settlers who played a crucial role in establishing the vibrant community. When John Read moved to Boston, eventually to become Attorney General of Massachusetts, his son Colonel John Read (1699 - 1786) took over the administration of Lonetown Manor, the Read family homestead. Under the Colonel's leadership, Redding and the surrounding area continued to thrive. Zalmon Read (1740 -1801) was the son of Colonel John Read and grandson of Redding's founder.

Zalmon Read was a captain in the Continental Army, playing a significant role during the Revolutionary War. He led around 100 Redding volunteers during this time and engaged in campaigns including those in Danbury and New York. Zalmon Read, his wife

Huldah, and five children settled on a farm north of Lonetown Farm in Redding. Zalmon Read died at age 61 and is buried at Redding Center Cemetery located at 4 Cross Highway.

Zalmon Read Barn

Zalmon Read Barn was built circa 1760 on what would become Zalmon Read's property. It was originally located about a half mile north of its current location on grounds now owned by the Redding Country Club. The barn is the most historically significant structure of its vintage bearing the Read name that survives today. The legacy of the Read family is enshrined in the Zalmon Read Barn and in the Lonetown Farm Museum where Zalmon's sister Esther and her husband Daniel Bartlett lived over 200 years ago. Today, the Museum is the home of the Redding Historical Society. Both properties are located at 43 Lonetown Road. In 1993 the National Register of Historic Places recognized Zalmon Read Barn as "a good, well-preserved

example of an English-style barn, with central doors and threshing floor and box lofts to the sides." That year, the Lonetown Farm Museum was given "Recorded Property" status in the National Register of Historic Places.

Zalmon Read Barn is thus at the heart of Redding's heritage. The structure reminds us of Redding's agrarian beginnings when barns were indispensable for sustaining the livelihood of the early settlers. Zalmon Read Barn is both an essential part of Redding's history and an important part of the character of our town today. It has been recognized for its architectural and historical significance. Its presence on Lonetown Road is an important part of the viewscape of Redding Center. Preserving Zalmon Read Barn today is to preserve Redding's past for future generations.

The golf course at the Redding Country Club was the original location of Zalmon Read Barn. In 1980, the Country Club donated the barn to the Redding Historical Society to be preserved. Community donations helped

pay for the barn's dismantling, transport by truck down Route 107, and reinstallation at 43 Lonetown Road where it now stands. The barn and Lonetown Farm Museum, situated close to each other, are companion structures that link the Redding of today to its founding family.

Zalmon Read Barn has been used over the years for a broad range of community activities. It is the scenic venue of Redding's annual July 4th fireworks, music and food celebration sponsored by the Redding Historical Society. The barn has been the historic venue for events such as car shows, antique fairs, lectures, plant sales and private events, including weddings and graduations. Completion of the restoration of the barn now underway will enable it to accommodate community events once again, taking advantage of its captivating rustic ambiance and expansive surrounding landscape.

Historical Society was awarded \$40,000 of federal ARPA funds in 2023 to begin the repair and restoration of Zalmon Read Barn. An additional \$60,000 is needed to complete the project in a manner consistent with the original barn construction. Your contribution of any amount will be instrumental in helping Redding preserve this historic structure for posterity.

How you can help

You may mail your check payable to the Redding Historical Society to P.O. Box 1023, Redding, CT 06875.

To volunteer for any of our many events and activities, or learn more about the Redding Historical Society, please e-mail us at info@reddinghistory.org.

Dan Souza is a Board Member of the Redding Historical Society

Funding the Restoration

With the support of the town and community, Redding

Are there unmarked graves at Lonetown Cemetery?

Find out when the Ground-penetrating Radar survey is presented May 1 / continued from page 1



Photo by Matt Farina

Students from Redding Elementary School learn about Ground-penetrating Radar at Lonetown Cemetery.

to ask Leslie, an expert in the field of geochronology and historic preservation, whose company discovered an 18th-century African-American cemetery in Wilton.

GPR, students learned, are waves of energy that move through surfaces. When the waves look different on a screen, it means that there is an object present below the surface. The machine measures how long it takes for the waves to bounce back and they can begin to map the area and create a grid based on the size of objects found. The GPR machine used in Lonetown Cemetery had a frequency of 350 MHz and penetrated four meters, about 13 feet, deep, Farina said.

"It is non-invasive and does not impact the burial site. The GPR done at Lonetown Cemetery is an act of stewardship and a way, if anything is found, to commemorate and honor the people of Redding's past. The images they will receive will come with a high degree of certainty," he explained to his students in a summarized write-up about the day's activities.

Leslie explained that GPR is used to map interruptions in soil sequences caused by human or natural processes. The company uses various GPR antennae to accurately map cemeteries, and prospect for unmarked graves, and archaeological sites.

Leslie described GPR as a remote, non-invasive sensing technique that uses a machine to learn information about what is buried in the ground without excavating graves.

"As an archeologist normally

I dig, sift through the soil, and make conclusions on what we find. We use the radar. It's the same technology to determine the location of planes in the air but it's coupled to the ground, so the antenna shooting out the radar goes mostly down into the ground and happens very fast, in nanoseconds. It is accurate if used the right way. As the machine shoots the radar into the ground, radar goes through the soil, rocks, tree roots, or a coffin. It travels through or speeds up and slows down or is reflective and radar signals bounce back."

The radar looks at three-dimensional items under the earth such as coffins, grave shafts, or headstones.

The soils in Connecticut are topsoil (A), sub-soils (B) and glacial soils (C). "We think of them as uniform. When somebody digs a grave shaft they dig through the ABC profile, place a coffin in it. So what you have is normal soils of ABC profile, then a grave shaft is mixed, not the same. Radar specialists are good at picking up the interruption in the profiles," said Leslie.

Historically, and even today, not everybody is buried in a coffin so it is difficult, for instance, to find a body buried in a shroud. Some coffins are decomposed for various reasons, often from compression, normal weathering or soil processes that happen over time in areas of subsidence or grave slumping.

The GPR detects a wooden surface because radar will speed up dramatically.

There are several person-



Photo by Matt Farina

Mapping the grid with the students at Lonetown Cemetery

size depressions where a grave has decomposed and the soils have settled as a sort of slump. "Shrouded burials...organic remains decompose quickly. Soil is acidic in Connecticut. If there is no embalming which there wouldn't have been in the historic past."

Farina said his students learned about GPR before the field trip. They connected the radar sensing to the sonar in bats, dolphins and whales.

The recent learning experience at Lonetown is a follow-up to last year's learning, when students talked in class about records kept in Town Hall, Chicken Warrups, John Read, and the town's history pre-dating the Revolutionary War.

"We also read and interpreted graphs and charts that I found dealing with GPR. Mrs. Louise Wagner has established a positive working relationship with myself and Melissa Null, our math specialist at RES. Together, we planned last year's third grade field trip we called "Tour de Redding" in which the third grade traveled around town learning about Redding and Connecticut's past."

"The history was inherent in the cemetery itself but also the work being done to honor Redding's past and for the town to have accurate, up-to-date records using new technology available," Farina said.

The GPR findings presentation is Wednesday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Redding Community Center. ■

Redding educators recognized by Connecticut PTA

By Susan Clark



Jennifer Desmarais (l) and Danielle Lingo (r), John Read Middle School awardees.

Our Redding winners:

Outstanding 2024 Middle School Principal: **Jennifer Desmarais**, John Read Middle School

Outstanding 2024 Middle School Teacher: **Danielle Lingo**, John Read Middle School

Outstanding 2024 "Dawn Hochsprung" Elementary School Principal: **Melissa Labrociano**, Redding Elementary School

Outstanding 2024 Elementary School Teacher: **Matthew Farina**, Redding Elementary School

Outstanding 2024 School Psychologist: **Dr. Sami Gureasko-Moore**, Redding Elementary School

The Connecticut Parent Teacher Association has announced its Outstanding Educator Awards for 2024, and Redding's teachers and administrators did very well.

The educators will be recognized at an event in Waterbury on June 2.

Congratulations! ■

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FAMILY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY
MAY

4

RAIN OR SHINE
10AM
to
4PM

At the Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road

An event for the whole family!
Food • Music • Silent Auction • Photo Booth • Games • Crafts • Bouncers and more!
All proceeds go to the Mark Twain Library

SPORTS

Barlow bats blast Brookfield

Baseball | *By Rocco Valluzzo*



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Relief pitcher Lucas Asanovic got the save in the Joel Barlow High varsity baseball team's 9-4 win over Brookfield on Wednesday, April 17.

Extra-base hits played a big part in the Joel Barlow High varsity baseball team's success against Brookfield last week.

The Falcons belted a pair of home runs as well as three doubles on Wednesday, April 17. Racking up 13 hits in all, they remained unbeaten with a 9-4 win at home in a rematch of last season's South-West Conference championship.

"Brookfield's tough," said Barlow head coach Matt Griffiths. "We always expect a tough battle with them. They're one of the better teams in the SWC.

The defending SWC champ

Falcons went to work in the bottom of the first inning. Christian Nilsen doubled to left field and later scored on Will Gregor's single for a 1-0 lead.

Barlow starting pitcher Ian Nilsen kept the Bobcats scoreless through the first four innings. In the meantime, the Falcons rallied in the bottom of the third.

With two outs, Ian Nilsen singled. Gregor, Cam Forte and Lucas Asanovic hit three straight doubles in three runs. After a pitching change, the Bobcats ended the inning without further damage but trailed 4-0.

Brookfield ended the shutout in the top of the fifth. Connor Jordan led off with a double to right field and Jack Murray walked. After a single by Sam Consalvo loaded the bases, the Bobcats scored on a fielder's choice before the side was retired.

A big fifth inning just about sealed the win for the Falcons. Christian Nilsen led off with a home run to right. Ian Nilsen followed with a walk and Gregor singled to center. Forte's homer cleared the bases for an 8-1 lead.

Getting their first two runners aboard in the top of the sixth, the Bobcats took advantage of a wild

pitch and a groundout to bring one run in and added another on Jordan's second double.

The Falcons' final run came in their next turn when T. J. Baer singled and later scored on a hit by Christian Nilsen. Although the Bobcats scored once in the top of the seventh, they were far short of catching the hosts.

Asanovic and Christian Nilsen each had three hits with two RBI. The latter also scored two runs.

Gregor also had three hits, driving in a run. Forte had two, driving in four runs and scoring two.

Starting pitcher Ian Nilsen threw five innings, allowing one run on three hits for the win. He struck out five and walked three.

"He's been our workhorse all year," said Griffiths. "He did a good job against a really good hitting team."

Asanovic threw one and two-thirds innings, allowing three runs (two earned) on three hits while striking out two and walking one for the save.

Barlow, now 8-0 overall, is at New Milford on Friday, visits Masuk on Monday and hosts Weston on Wednesday. All games are at 4:15 p.m. ■

Falcons are too fast for Green Wave

Girls lacrosse | *By Rocco Valluzzo*



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Maggie Valenti, right, contends with New Milford's Chelsey Hrostek during a girls varsity lacrosse game on Saturday, April 20. Barlow won 14-2.

Speed alone would give the Joel Barlow High girls varsity lacrosse team a bit of an edge in its game at New Milford last week.

The Falcons were quick in getting the ball deep into their opponents half of the field on Saturday, April 20. Able to maneuver around the Green Wave's defense, they racked up the goals in a 14-2 win.

"I would say we definitely had a lot of speed comparatively, especially in the midfield," said Falcon head coach Melissa Sportini. "We've got some really athletic players that help us out a lot."

Barlow, which never trailed, applied pressure on New Milford right from the start. It did not have to wait long to see results, scoring back-to-back goals by Elyssa Kalamaras in the span of a minute, as the visitors led 2-0 with 7:35 left in the first quarter.

Just 12 seconds later, Barlow struck again, this time on a quick goal by Allie Ogden. It took

advantage of two free position plays in the time remaining, adding two more tallies, one by Ogden and one by Helena Zima as the Falcons were up 5-0 after one frame.

"Nowadays a lot of teams are playing zone defense," said Sportini. "And so what happens is you have quick ball movement. There are more opportunities to draw shooting space and that's what was happening today."

Barlow continued the onslaught into the second frame with goals in the first minute by Kalamaras and Ruby Ludwig, the latter coming off a pass from Caroline Lippoth. A goal by Zima preceded two by Savannah Herrman, who got past New Milford's defense and slipped a shot into the net. She added another with an assist by Zima as Barlow led 10-0 at halftime.

With a double-digit lead and the clock running, the Falcons eased up a bit on attack. Following a fourth goal by Kalamaras, New Milford ended the shutout when Claire Christian scored with 4:07 left in the period. Lippoth, however, responded with one of her own with 30 seconds to go and it was a 12-1 game.

Goals by Lippoth and Ludwig made it a 13-point game in the fourth quarter but the Wave got the last word in when Lauren Carlson cored with 3 seconds left.

Six different players scored for Barlow. Kalamaras led the way with four goals while Lippoth, Ogden, Ludwig, Zima and Herrman each netted two.

Kalamaras also led Barlow by winning six draw controls. Lippoth led in ground balls with four.

Barlow, now 6-2, is at New Fairfield today at 5:30 p.m. and hosts Trumbull on Tuesday at 4. ■

Niculescu is national platform tennis finalist

By Rocco Valluzzo



Contributed photo

Redding Country Club Director of Racquets Gabriela Niculescu, right, and her partner Ellie Halbauer were runners-up at the American Platform Tennis Association's Women's National Tournament in March

Going far in the American Platform Tennis Association (APTA) Women's National Tournament is almost becoming routine for Gabriela Niculescu.

The director of racquets at Redding Country Club, she has reached the finals seven times, winning three national doubles championships in 2016, 2018, and 2019. Her most recent appearance was March 9 in Boston.

Niculescu and her partner Ellie Halbauer of Cincinnati were one of 64 teams competing. After reaching the finals, they finished as runners-up to Lynn Burus and

Macie Elliot.

Played primarily in the winter, platform tennis (also known as paddle tennis) is a doubles sport that combines tennis and squash elements on a smaller court. The APTA presides over platform tennis and organizes four grand prix regional tournaments culminating in the final contest each March.

"It's really fun and the points can go very long," said Niculescu, who started at Redding Country Club last May. "So it's a game of patience and strategy."

A native of Bucharest Romania, Niculescu played college tennis for the University of Southern California, winning a PAC-10 doubles championship and was named as an All-American in doubles in 2008.

After college, Niculescu began her career as a professional tennis player, reaching the rank of 376th for singles and 199th for doubles. In 2013, she made her debut in platform tennis and is currently ranked fifth among women.

Winning the tournament in 2016 with Martina Ondrejko and in 2018 and 2019 with Liz Cruz, Niculescu paired with Halbauer for this year's event. Although new to platform tennis player, she was ranked around 200th in the Women's Tennis Association national circuit.

"I saw her play last season," said Niculescu. "I knew she was a great racquets player. "So I emailed her and asked her if she would like to be my partner for the 2023-24 season."

Ranked fourth in the nationals, Niculescu and her partner breezed through their first three matches, posting 6-0, 6-0 wins in two of them. They faced more of a challenge in the semifinals.

Taking on second-ranked Florentina Hanisch and Ana Marija Zubori, they lost the first set 3-6 but rallied to take the next two 6-3, 6-3 to advance to the finals to face top-seeded Burus and Elliot.

Losing the first set 1-6, Niculescu and Halbauer battled back in the second 6-6, eventually tying it at 6-6 before losing 7-6 in a 7-2 tiebreaker.

The official 2023-24 season may be done but Niculescu will most likely return to the platform tennis circuit again in October. Depending on how things go, she hopes to be able to compete at the highest level for at least two or three more years.

"After that we will see what the future has installed for me, but I hope my 2 boys who are now four and five years old will be keeping me very busy with their sports," she said. "Hopefully one of my boys can become a future junior national champion." ■

Homeschoolers find success once again at Science Olympiad

By Pamela Brown

The Fairfield County Homeschoolers are back at it. Last month the group of students, whose home base is in Redding, returned to compete for the second time in the CT (Connecticut) Science Olympiad Division B competition held in Coventry. This time, they came home with more medals than expected and won second place overall.

"The students were elated! They worked really hard studying for their topics this year and were thrilled to see all their hard work pay off," said Iris Hokatov, a group coach from Redding who taught the kids about earthquakes, volcanoes, tectonic plates, and meteorology. Her son, Christian, also returned this year to participate in three of the events. "This is important because it's a good way for homeschoolers who are passionate about science to study the topics with other

homeschooling peers. It's also a good gauge of how their level of knowledge compares to that of public school students."

The competitors in Division B are middle school students in grades five to eight, ranging in age ten to fourteen. According to Hokatov, the team is allowed to have residents from two neighboring counties, so the participants come from Fairfield and New Haven Counties. The team was also allowed to have up to five ninth graders so one ninth grade student was part of the team. The students prepared for the competition for almost a year, working through the summer months. In addition to Christian, the team included Noah L., Hunter L., Victor Zapf; James Smeed, Alexander Anikeev, Dalia S., Karina L., Mike D., Dagne M., Garnet M., Holt M., and Kip M. The team won first place medals

in Air Trajectory, Can't Judge a Powder, Crime Busters, Flight, Forestry, Microbe Mission, Optics, Roller Coaster, Tower, Wheeled Vehicle, and Wind Power. They received a third-place medal for Codebusters.

The Science Olympiad is an international non-profit organization with a mission to improve the quality of science education, increase student interest in science, and provide recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers. Hokatov feels these competitions are valuable for students. "For homeschoolers, Science Olympiad is both an academic and social experience. But it's great for all kids who enjoy science and want to gain a deeper understanding of a particular topic." ■

Falcons win one of three in opener

Boys track | *By Rocco Valluzzo*

Some major competition awaited the Joel Barlow High boys track team in the opening meet of the season.

The Falcons had to fight every point when they visited Bethel on Tuesday, April 9. Dominating in most events, the host Wildcats took first place in all but one for 133-17 win.

Things were much closer for the Falcons in head-to-head competition with Newtown that afternoon. Although they did have the upper hand in a few events, they came up short 88-57.

The day still brought one victory Barlow's way in a 90-40 victory over Kolbe Cathedral.

Finishing second overall in the 4x800 meter relay, Barlow's Jackson Sobelman, Devin Tala, Julian Villaneuva and Christian Jhilar finished in ten minutes, 22.43 seconds. Nathaniel Dyar, Ethan Peters, Kyle Rwabukamba and Lucas Jandura ran the 4x100 in 48.49 behind Bethel and Newtown but picked up a win against Kolbe.

The Wildcats dominated both the 110 high hurdles and the 300 intermediate hurdles, sweeping the top three places in each. Rwabukamba was sixth in the former in 21.61 and Josh Hamilton was fifth in the latter in 1:02.63.

It was a fast field in the sprinting events. Barlow's highest finish in the 100 meters came from Dyar, who was ninth in 12.10. Ethan Peters was 12th in the 200 in 25.32.

The field was also tough in the 400, with Jandura taking tenth in 58.97. Jhilar ran the 800, taking eighth in 2:28.90.

Sobleman and Tala both had top-three finishes in the 1600, with the former taking second only to Bethel's Evan Bureau in 4:37.35 and the latter claiming third in 4:45.70. They also went the distance in the 3,200 with Tala finishing second in 10:10.31 and Sobelman in third with a 10:17.03.

Moving onto the field events, the Falcons were ninth overall in the shot put with Ian Sandor's 32' 4". He also threw the discus with a toss of 90' 9". His best finish, however, was in the javelin, placing second only to Bethel's Brandon Cruz with 144' 2".

Clearing 8' 6" in the pole vault, Jandura was seventh. Although Dyar was 12th overall in the long jump with 16' 5.5", he captured Barlow's Barlow's lone overall win in the triple jump with 37' 5".

Barlow hosts Brookfield and Notre Dame on Fairfield on Tuesday at 4 p.m. ■

Barlow Beat

By Siddharth Gupta

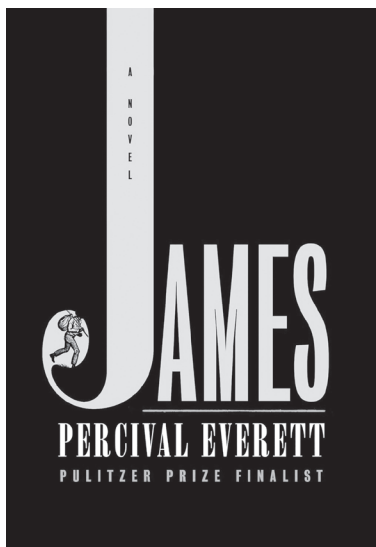
As Barlow enters, enjoys, and exits the week of Spring Break (Our last full break until Summer), really only one thing has happened of interest — prom tickets are on sale! Priced at \$105 the week prior to Spring Break, they are \$115 after Spring Break, until April 26. Prom is open to all Barlow Juniors and Seniors (any outside guests are required to complete and submit the separate permission form accordingly), and will be hosted from 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. on

May 17th at the Amber Room in Danbury. Students will have the option to choose among steak frites, chicken caprese, and pasta primavera as their choice of dinner for the night. All students must deal with any outstanding payments which they may have still pending on their MySchoolBucks account before purchasing a ticket. As of recently, that's all, as Barlow exits Spring Break, there will be more happening soon! ■

BOOK REVIEW

JAMES | By Percival Everett

303 Pages, Doubleday, \$28



James, by Percival Everett, purports to be the true account of Huckleberry Finn's friend, cohort, and runaway slave, Jim. Writing a side story that amplifies a truly great American novel is an ambitious and risky proposition. Good news, though; for the most part, Everett succeeds. *James* gives further dimension to Jim by showing the reader thoughts and feelings of a mind and sensibility that exist outside of brutal stereotypes and false assumptions that surround him and would deny him his family and life itself.

Voltaire wrote: "Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities." A caution for all time. When a class of people feels themselves superior to another class, leaders will sustain absurd cultural norms. They will promulgate laws to codify hateful expressions and abuse. Policies will criminalize the targeted class to sustain racial, economic, and social inequality. Aggressive instincts in human nature are dependable. Harnessed for atrocities these instincts expand abuse.

Mark Twain published *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* in 1885. The America Twain wrote about was best portrayed in satire. Huck Finn became a youthful foil for satirical understanding of ignorance and aggression. Huck is inculcated into but does not entirely share countervailing expressions of Christian religiosity in regard to slaves. In his adventures with

Jim, he experiences the propensity for grifting and injustice in a nation so conflicted. Mark Twain portrayed slavery as incompatible with freedom in a civilized world. Buying and selling human beings in a Christian community was the dominant symbol of moral corruption of the highest magnitude. Twain's message was that piety, credulity, greed, and pretention made America vulnerable to corruption, and that struggle against corruption defined freedom, which ultimately would define American identity.

Mark Twain used satire as a means of excavating cruelty and absurdity in the mix of free expression. Percival Everett continues the exegesis, and brings to the reader a deeper understanding of how American white culture's cruel assumptions can grind on the mind and soul of a human being existing in such a dangerous and preposterous context.

The introspective insights of *James* do not undermine the Huck Finn of Twain's understanding so much as add dimension. Instead of satirizing injustice Everett gives the reader the thoughts and feelings of Jim as he experiences the land of the free and home of the brave as a slave in the 1830s.

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is a whole masterpiece, and continues to stand as a great novel of early America. But time and history offer seasoned insights, and what might they be? "I saw the surface of her, merely the outer shell, and realized she was mere surface all the way to her core." This sentence is Jim's impression of a white woman staring at him, but it might be also Everett's take on America today. *James*, by Percival Everett, flatters Twain by answering an implicit call to speak once again, with compassionate sensibility, against toxic attitudes and their effect on freedom's purchase. ■

Review by Tom Casey

Tom is the author of *Human Error and Strangers' Gate*

If walls could talk

By Janice Rotchstein and Barbara Winkler



Did you ever wonder what your home's walls would say if they could talk?

Recently, the great, great, great grandson of the man who lived in our Redding home stopped by, and told us what our walls have heard.

His name: Richard "Rick" Reinhardsen. His relative: Aaron Sanford. The house: "The Cradle of Methodism," familiar to most Reddingites by its striking historical sign on Cross Highway.

Rick's "great, great, great" fought in the American Revolution not only locally but in the Battle of Quebec. After the fighting, Aaron Sanford returned home weary and disillusioned. No wonder, he refused a pension. No wonder, he turned to his diary to write down his thoughts, both ordinary occurrences and profound experiences— something he did until his death at 91.

Centuries later, Rick found those pages among many documents stashed in 20 archival storage boxes that the family had passed down through eight gener-

ations. He read Aaron's daily musings — about his wife Lydia, their 10 children, his fears, and his desire to find solace. In the process, Rick uncovered that his ancestor's peace came when Aaron met Preacher Jesse Lee on Wednesday June 24, 1789. Several years later Aaron added a meeting room onto the original 1750 home. It was there that Methodists would gather and hear his own sermons.

Flash forward to a chilly April afternoon in 2024. On that day, we sat with Rick in that same 1790s space (now our living room). We gazed at the back-to-back stone fireplaces that warmed the men on one side of the room and the women on the other. We then read the pulpit notes that brought those gatherings to life.

Rick continued to reveal secrets from the past as we walked around his ancestral homestead. He seemed thrilled as we shared the artifacts we had found while gardening, such as horseshoes and medicine bottles. And he appeared touched to see the original wide-planked chestnut floors, the old windowpanes, the protective Tomahawk door, the massive, hand-hewn beams, and the walk-in fireplace with its two small ovens.

It was a special afternoon, made even more so by what Rick inscribed in his book before he left.

To Janice and Barbara. Thank you so much for preserving the family home. Rick Reinhardsen

(We thank Janice Dimon and Bert Webbe of the Redding Historical Society for making the meeting with Rick happen.) ■

LIBRARY CORNER

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

Spring is in the air and that means the trappings of Redding this time of year: Bud's daffodil field, the Land Trust's annual meeting, the opening of the Granite Church, and my personal favorite — Mark Twain Library's Frog Frolic Family Festival. What was originally a small children's program on the Town Green set up to raise money for an easel has now evolved into a full-blown festival attracting 1,000 people with live

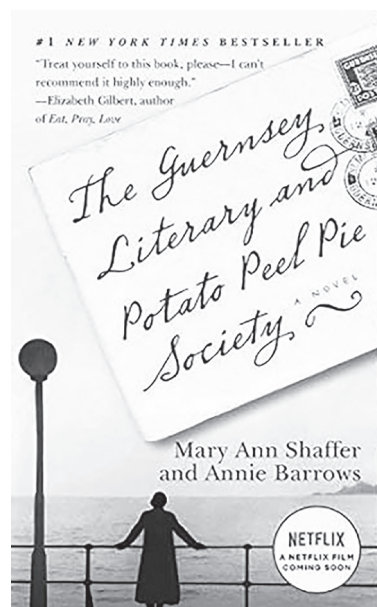
music, food trucks, and carnival games at the Redding Community Center. Now in its 27th year, the Frolic is the best way to usher in the nicer weather, especially if you have young kids. There are bounce houses, arts and crafts, a bubble garden, and revamped carnival games this year.

Recently the Frolic added the word "Family" to its name because attractions have been added for all ages. There is a beer tent and a

stage with live music and demonstrations all day. The event is also popular with the middle school crowd as volunteering at the Frolic is a great way to earn volunteer hours while spending time with friends. I hope you'll "hop to it" and attend the Frolic on Saturday, May 4th. See you there. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

Good books for good readers | By Margi Esten



Many of my loyal readers now know that I often bristle at movie versions of books I love; the films rarely seem to live up to my expectations. But I am getting better at accepting them as two totally separate mediums and so here I am with a wonderful book/film combo: *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Annie Barrows and Ann Shaffer. Written in 2008, it is a fictionalized version of some very real events that happened in Guernsey during and after WWII. Guernsey was the only British territory that the Germans invaded and occupied during the war. It begins in 1946 and Juliet

Ashton, a young but successful writer of witty newspaper columns begins, by chance, a correspondence with Dawsey Adams, a pig farmer living in Guernsey to discuss — what else — literature. Juliet ends up visiting the island, delves into what really happened there during the war and what the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society really means and decides to write a book about their experiences. The film came out in 2018 starring Lily James as Juliet and the gorgeous scenery alone of this charming, quaint island makes it worth the watch. Take a rainy weekend and enjoy both of them! ■

Historic House Tour shares homes of famous Redding residents | By Pamela Brown

Everyone knows Mark Twain made Redding famous by calling it home from 1908 until 1910. But did you know that Redding was a haven for other creative individuals through the years? You can learn more interesting facts and information on some of the famous people who lived in town in the *Authors, Artists, and Actors in Redding: Historic House Tour*. The luxury bus tour takes place May 5 at 1:00 p.m. and runs approximately four hours.

"Whether they were born in Redding or came here later in life, Redding proved to be a solace. Abundant in natural beauty and history, a small but close-knit community, and a quiet escape from, yet still close to, Manhattan, these individuals were inspired by or drawn to its peacefulness," said Allison Casazza, tour production manager. Every year, Historical Tours by

Design presents a Redding tour with a different theme. "It will be a fun occasion to learn about a variety of notable and talented individuals, reflect on American history and culture, and inspire renewed appreciation for the man-made and natural beauty of Redding," she said. Guests will be able to step inside and tour five homes and places connected to notable individuals, including the famous patriot and poet Joel Barlow, illustrator Daniel Carter Beard, and Mark Twain. The tour passes by an additional fifteen homes.

"Another stop of the tour will bring guests inside the home of actress and environmentalist Carmen Mathews at New Pond Farm, an experience that will be unique even for those who have visited the educational center before," said Casazza, a Danbury native who has Bachelor's and

Master's degrees in historic preservation.

Established in 2019, the non-profit Historical Tours by Design's mission is to promote the appreciation and preservation of historic buildings and support local groups who share that goal. "That Redding was home to so many interesting people that impacted society and culture and as such, holds a special place in history, and that the preservation of the places associated with them gives us a very meaningful way to connect with these individuals," said Casazza. "We hope by celebrating these places on our tour that we're inspiring their preservation so that they may also be celebrated well into the future." ■

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit histoury.org or call (212) 683-2027

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WINTER-SUMMER 2024

Dear Members and Friends,

We are delighted to announce that the New Pond Farm Education Center will be open to the public for the winter and summer seasons. We have a variety of programs for all ages and are excited to share our beautiful farm with you.

"ALL ABOUT EYES"
A Play Reading
"All About Eyes" is a play about the importance of vision and how we use our eyes every day. It is a fun and educational play for children of all ages.

BIOLITZ
Bio Blitz
The Bio Blitz is a special event where we focus on the plants and animals that live in our garden. It is a great opportunity for children to learn about the natural world around them.

For the Love of Gardening
Join us for a day of gardening and learning about the joys of growing your own food. We will have expert advice and demonstrations from our staff.

Environmental Education Since 1985

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Please check out our website, newpondfarm.org, and discover outdoor adventures, science activities, culinary programs, crafting classes, outdoor workshops, Special Events, and **SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCES!**

Please call for more information **203.938.2117**



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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Born 2 Climb: Redding mom builds a business any infant would love

By Justin Reynolds

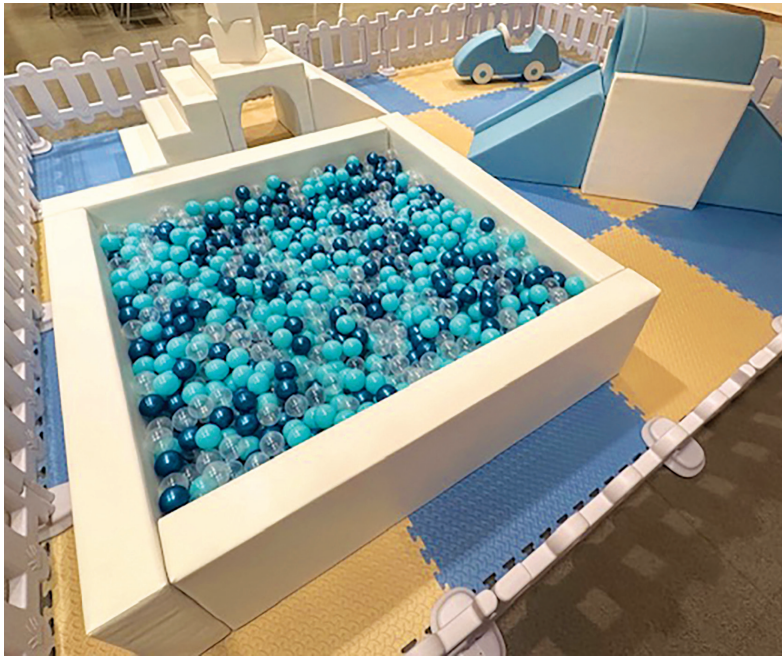


Photo by Jess Moran

One of Born 2 Climb's soft play packages set up at the Redding Community Center earlier this year.

In 2022, Jessica Moran and her husband Victor bought their eight-month-old son, Nolan, his first soft play toys. They were an instant hit. Nolan was crawling at the time and loved to climb over them. After that, the couple bought Nolan a ball pit for his birthday, added more soft play toys to their collection, and started building obstacle courses.

"He has a blast running and jumping from one thing to the next," Moran said. "We try to make it more fun for him the older he gets. He loves it, and it helps him develop climbing skills, explore his imagination, and burn energy in a safe space."

As a member of moms groups on Facebook, Moran always sees parents asking for ideas for toddler

birthday parties. Putting those requests and Nolan's sheer delight in soft play toys together, Moran launched a new business: Born 2 Climb.

"I wanted to bring Nolan's favorite experience to other families, so I started Born 2 Climb," Moran said. "It's a mobile soft play rental company that provides soft play areas for kids' birthday parties, baby showers, picnics, etc. We set up an area for kids ages zero to five so that they can have a place to play, run around, have fun, and be safe."

Born 2 Climb offers a basic package that includes foam floor tiles, a ball pit, soft foam blocks, a bridge, a rainbow, and other soft play climbing toys. Moran also offers many customization

choices, including mix-and-match color options, inflatables, custom party themes, and vinyl personalization.

"We can set up indoors and outdoors," she said. "Each area has a fence around it to keep the kids safe and contain all the balls and toys. If you don't have enough space, we can cater to the space you have — whether it's in your living room or at your venue."

Moran, whose second child is due in May, has a background in bakery management. Over the years, she's made and decorated cakes for parties and weddings. She believes this experience translates perfectly to event and party planning.

Customers interested in inquiring about Moran's services should visit born2climbct.com and fill out the online form; Moran will contact you within 24 hours. "I have so many customization options, so it might be more helpful to talk to me directly versus booking on the website," she said. "We have packages for all budgets." There is a special promotion available for Redding residents through June.

Looking ahead, Moran plans to expand her business to include other offerings. But for now, she's fully focused on soft play for young kids.

Moran grew up in Trumbull and bounced around a few different places in Connecticut and Westchester County before moving to Redding in May 2021.

"We love it here," she said. "We never want to leave." ■

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MEMORIAL DAY Picnic

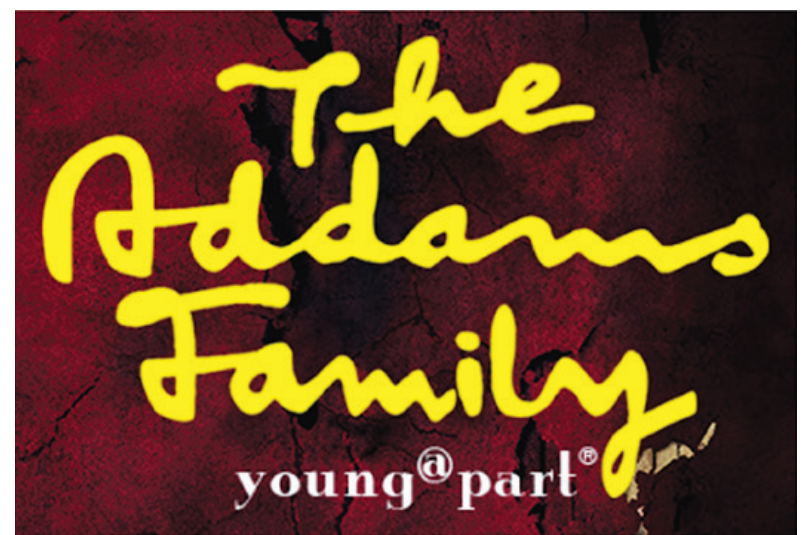
You're invited to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of the Jesse P. Sanford Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton with a day of live music, food, games & fun!

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF REDDING-EASTON
170 CROSS HIGHWAY
SATURDAY
MAY 25 FROM 1-5 PM

For more information and to purchase tickets, scan the QR code or go to BGCRE.net

JRMS players put on *The Addams Family Musical Jr.*

May 2 – 4 | By Susan Clark



Casting is complete and rehearsals are underway! John Read Middle School's spring musical will be on stage for just three performances, so get your tickets soon. The days and times are: Thursday, May 2 and Friday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 4 at 3:00 p.m. in John Read's Gymnasium.

The whimsical story revolves around Wednesday Addams unexpected tumble into love with the son of a normal family.

Wednesday, known for her embrace of the darker side of life, will be played by Scarlet Woods. Lukas Beineke, a sweet smart boy, is played by Nikolai Pardo.

The play is directed by Marcelle Morrissey, with Musical Director Eli Newsom. Producers are Bonnie Spies and Gabriella Intemann. Ms. Intemann is also in charge of costumes. Many students at Joel Barlow High School are helping out with the production, a true community affair. ■

John Read Middle School

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THE NATURAL WORLD

Tortured Garden Society

By Terry Karpen



Carlo Crivelli (1435 - 1495)
Detail - St. Augustine

Tortured Garden Society founder Terry Karpen is the last person you would want to be trapped in a car with during a drive through residential neighborhoods. You would have to endure a relentless commentary on the subject of distressing and improper gardening practices in the landscape. As the founder and sole member of a small secret society of a professionally-trained gardener, she knows firsthand the distress she experiences.

Here are improper gardening practices that torture her the most -

Fallen leaves blown away - Bare, scorched earth left behind after overly ambitious fall and spring cleanups is an invitation for every opportunistic weed and invasive plant looking for a new home.

“The annual ritual of raking, blowing, piling, bagging and removing leaves costs each homeowner – or their landscaper – hours of time each fall. It also robs the yards of one of nature’s greatest resources: rich, natural compost.” - <https://www.leaveleavesalone.org>

Bad pruning - A common but incorrect belief is that it is mandatory for boxwoods and other shrubs to be sheared into balls or flat-topped hedges for optimal maintenance. Incorrect pruning accounts for most work done by homeowners and professionals alike. There are so many things to consider, from pruning time, the amount of pruning, to the correct cuts that need to be done. Correct pruning is a science and an art.

Tree-topping - This torturous practice is not only bad for the long-term health of a tree, it’s unattractive! Tree-topping is the practice of removing whole tops of trees or large branches. The tree’s ability to photosynthesize becomes compromised, and in an effort to survive, the tree grows new shoots and foliage as quickly as possible. This new growth, called water sprouts, is usually weak and regrows every time they are cut off. Lamentably, the tree becomes deformed and no longer provides beauty to the landscape.

Volcano mulching - Over-mulching in the shape of a mound around the tree trunk is pejoratively referred to as a “mulch volcano” and is extremely harmful to the health of trees. Mulch is piled up so high that the trunk flare is buried. The trunk flare is the base of the tree which tapers out just above where the root system begins. A buried trunk flare will lead to disease, decay, root rot and the eventual death of the tree.

Correctly applied, mulch conserves soil moisture, moderates

soil temperature, reduces growth of weeds, helps protect soil from erosion, prevents frost heaving in winter and adds organic matter to the soil as it breaks down. Mulch makes garden beds and landscapes look tidy and attractive.

Apply the mulch around the tree to a depth of two to four inches, making sure there is no mulch within four to six inches of the base of the tree. The mulch should be spread out almost flat. This applies for shrubs and perennials as well.

Bad soil - Topsoil and loam soil (garden soil) are not the same. Loam soil is topsoil that has been enriched to make it better suited for plant growth. This is a mix of local topsoil and organic matter. This is the healthy soil that is the foundation of a healthy garden.

Poor Planting Practices - Incorrect planting examples are choosing the wrong planting site, low-quality plant, a planting hole that is too small, planting too deep, planting too high.

Cutting wet lawns - Cutting wet grass can damage the roots and soil, or spread fungal disease. Mowers can compact saturated soil or cause ruts to form.

Landscape fabric - Landscape fabric will, over time, degrade, break down, poke through the soil or mulch, and become unsightly. Soil and mulch put on top of the fabric keep adequate amounts of water and air from reaching plant roots, leading to the plant’s decline. In fact, pulled up landscape fabric even after a deep soaking rain, can reveal dry soil beneath. The fabric also acts as a barrier to decomposing soil and mulch that cannot be incorporated, which leads to unhealthy soil. And the worst offense of landscape fabric is that weeds can still grow in the soil or mulch on top of the fabric, and some weeds succeed in growing through the fabric.

Loud leaf blowers - Some produce as much noise as a plane taking off. Most leaf blowers emit pollutants linked to cancers, heart disease, and asthma, and blast air many miles per hour, eroding topsoil and sending pollen, fertilizers, and herbicides adrift. U.S. cities and towns are taking action to limit gas-powered blowers.

Outdoor lighting - If you lived in Redding twenty years ago it was uncommon to encounter outdoor lighting beyond a light fixture by the front door, or a lamp post in the driveway, and rare for any lights to remain on all night. With little crime, safety was not in question. Observing the night sky was a treasured feature of living in Redding. Very gradually, the trend has grown to all-night lighting. And currently outdoor lighting is not just low wattage front door light fixtures, now there are floodlights and spotlights. Many of these high-output fixtures beam the light far distances. Light pollution, an excess of artificial light, is a global issue affecting human health, wildlife behavior, and plant life. Artificial light can disrupt natural body rhythms in both humans and animals. It disrupts the migration pattern of birds by disorienting them. In recent studies, scientific reports show that insects are attracted to lights which interferes with their natural way of knowing what direction is “up” while flying. A 2019 study released by Biological Conversation shows excess outdoor light affects how insects hunt and mate and makes them more vulnerable to predators. While impacts are still being studied, scientists do know exactly how light pollution is affecting the ways plants grow and reproduce. It disrupts their seasonal rhythms and the ability to sense and react to natural light, as well as the fragile relationship with pollinators.

The mantra of the Tortured Garden Society: “Right is right even if no one is doing it; wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it.” - St. Augustine ■

To learn more:
www.healthyyards.org

The Novice Gardener: Be kind, rewild

By Janet Ozzard

Q: How do I rewild my garden? I’ve heard a lot about it, but I’m not sure what that really means, or how to start that in my yard this spring.

A: In general, rewilding is what it sounds like: simply allowing your yard or lawn to revert to its natural state, with no mowing or other disruptions. Rewilding is based on the assumption that there are native seeds in the ground that can regrow, though some yards have been so disturbed by construction and landscaping that simple rewilding is not possible and will take some work. If the natural seed bank has been removed or

buried, you may need to supplement by planting native plants. You must monitor your garden, and keep an eye on the invasives, like bittersweet, burning bush, and barberry, that are spread by birds and can really take hold. Pulling out the invasives might seem like the right thing but it’s often better to cut them; traditional weeding can sometimes cause dormant invasive seeds to start growing. The best way to find out what is there is to let it grow for a year and see what germinates.

There are two big benefits to rewilding: first, we’ve lost a lot of natural habitats to development

and lawns, and when you’re rewild-ing, you’re giving some of that back. Also, large populations of wild plant populations have more diverse gene pools. That makes them more resilient and able to change under environmental pressures like climate change. Rewilding is a commitment; it can take years. But eventually you’ll get to a point where you’re not managing your yard with your lawnmower. ■

Geordie Elkins,
Executive Director,
Highstead Foundation

Big Outdoors - Brief Excursions – Part 2 / continued from page 1



Photo by Cole Tucker-Walton

A young serviceberry tree comes into bloom at McCormack Preserve on East Starrs Plain Road.

purple-flowered Joe-Pye-weed and New York ironweed hide the smaller American bugleweed.

Even without cut paths like Couch Hill’s, protected fields neatly organize your hiking options to clockwise, counterclockwise, or across. At Redding Land Trust’s **Karraker Field**, stroll with your dog, sit on the new bench, and watch out for poison ivy. You may see me in summer squatting over the pink urns of *Rhexia virginica*.

Just down the road, at **148 Cross Highway** (corner of Newtown Turnpike), you can park by the Redding Garden Club plot and take your pick of relaxation. Stare at daffodils or last year’s northern sea oats. Step away from the road to weave aimlessly through the shade of some giant sugar maples and their children. Step into the sun at the edge of the meadow and count daisies, black-eyed Susans, and common and butterfly milkweeds; look for little bluestem and purple lovegrass among the redtop bentgrass; again, watch for poison ivy. Back under maples, along Cross Highway, wonder where that old, bent frying pan came from, and why I haven’t picked it up yet.

Down in the valley, park at the edge of **Crossfield**, the meadow you’ve been admiring all these years. Berries, grapes, and wildflowers grow thick and tall over the summer, so you may not want to brave the center without Victor DeMasi and his butterfly net to guide you. Instead, follow the blazes to the stone wall, turn left before Equus Trail enters the woods, and follow the edge of the field with dappled shade, views of the stream, and, from uphill, a panorama of Crossfield, Little River, and the most picturesque of farmhouses.

If you have a fifteen- or twenty-minute break, you can park on Simpaug Turnpike and walk to **Poliak Preserve**, where Janice’s Loop will take you around Poliak Pond on a very flat tour of forest types. You’ll see white pines and white oaks, blueberry bushes and mountain laurels, alder shrubs and summersweet, and red maples and cattails on the brook.

From Fire Tower Road, off Old Redding Road, the basically level **Tina Miller Trail** will take you along the edge of a swamp under sassafras trees and oaks, past great big ferns at one end and mapleleaf viburnums at the other. Watch your step on some rocky and muddy patches.

Of course, the Town’s nearby Topstone Park has ample parking and well-worn paths; you might like a quick, mile-long stroll around the **Pond Trail**. If you have

more time, enough to walk just over a mile and a half roundtrip, the Norwalk River Valley Trail’s **Redding Mile** offers a wide, gravel path off Picketts Ridge Road.

On Drummer Lane, off Gallows Hill Road, the Land Trust’s **Yovan Tract** loop is less than half a mile long. At my pace, that’s theoretically a ten-minute excursion, but the path does go up and down, with some rocks in the middle, and if you’re pressed for time you’ll want to make sure you don’t veer off onto The Drummer Trail.

Robin’s Trail is a bit less than a mile long roundtrip, and the only moderate challenge is a steep hillside in the middle. Still, you may find you’re happy enough hanging out on the boardwalk near the entrance. Barrett Cram, whose father donated the property to Redding Land Trust, told me there was an apple orchard here before his father bought it in 1953. Now the stream is busy with highbush blueberry, maleberry, northern spicebush, winterberry holly, and nannyberry viburnum. A serviceberry tree is about to bloom.

The flat beginnings of many longer trails are worth a visit on their own. Only a quarter of a mile or so into these preserves, you’ll find plenty of enchantment: waterfowl, beaver lodges, and endless blueberries at the Town’s **Bogus Brook Preserve**; dappled shade, massive trees, and burbling, golden-brown water at the Land Trust’s **Blackman’s Brook**; New England asters and goldenrods in the fall, flowering dogwoods and long views in early May on the Redding side of **McCormack Preserve**, bayberries, blueberries, junipers and switchgrass on the Danbury side; a peaceful, shady, forest road right along the Saugatuck River on the Furlough Trail, at **Henry and Lotte Fields Preserve**; and waving grasses and flowers at **Brinkerhoff Preserve**. At the **Mary Anne Guitar Preserve**, on Old Mailcoach Road, start counterclockwise and follow the mossy, rocky height until you find a small bench overlooking a ravine.

A little wandering may reward

you on **Putnam Hill Drive** (off 58, north of John Read Road). Head south on the Little River North Trail, and you’ll see what appears to be a wide old road or stone wall veering off under the hemlocks, angling toward Black Rock Turnpike. Follow it a couple hundred feet to the Little River and find a shady spot to sit and look downstream, where water fans out under the sun.

If you have a few minutes and crave even more exploration without the threat of getting lost, try a preserve that doesn’t have a trail yet. **158 Lonetown Road**, at the corner of Putnam Park Road, features a gentle slope down to groves of highbush blueberry, viburnum, juniper, willow, and young pine, through and beyond which you will find a beaver-created swamp of electrifying freshness.

I could stand there for hours in the muck and moss, watching ferns and skunk cabbage grow, black flatworms float over the silt, blackbirds land on cattails, flickers dart through junipers, half-submerged bones turn green with algae... After my first visit, with Open Space Manager John McLeran, I had a dream that John and I were staring down into a black whirlpool by the beaver dam, as if transfixed by some anti-supernatural core of existence. Your experience may vary.

The long-ago **Brookside Park** is just behind the West Redding Post Office. Until recently, it was easy to see where a short path had been carved behind the mail trucks, through the privet to the tulip trees, pines, and Saugatuck River; however, a felled tree has landed squarely across the entrance.

A few minutes west, off Picketts Ridge Road, neighbors of **36 Olmstead Road** have easy access to a cliff overlooking Ridgefield’s Great Pond. Only a minute or so from the road, abundant hemlocks (and the only striped maples I’ve seen in the wild) give way to boulders with chestnut oak, mountain laurel, and several serviceberry trees whose pinkish buds broke into white bloom last weekend.

With a slight risk of wet feet, you can cross the mowed square at **31 Fox Run Road**, opposite Stormfield; under giant tulip-poplars, follow islands of dryish land toward a stone wall, which will take you down to the banks of the lovely Cemetery Brook.

Finally, requiring true rain or muck boots, the Land Trust’s property at the first turn of **Middlebrook Pond Road** (off Hopewell Woods Road) promises myriad swamp delights, including, as of last week, yellow blossoms of marsh marigolds. About 500 feet in, having walked with your feet in the water, you will reach a massive boulder cradled by a swift stream and patiently awaiting your reverential stares. ■

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week's Featured Events



Marching Through Redding
Saturday, April 27
 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Join a living history reenactment commemorating the 1777 burning of Danbury.
 The Onion Field
 37 Lonetown Road
 wiltondar.org

Lonetown Cemetery GPR Project
Wednesday, May 1
 6:30 p.m.
 Are there unmarked graves at Lonetown Cemetery?
 Presentation of findings
 Redding Community Center
 37 Lonetown Road

Artists, Authors, and Actors in Redding: Historic House Tour
Saturday, May 5
 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Join Histoury's bus tour of the former Redding homes of renowned artists, authors, and actors.
 Tour starts at Redding Community Center, 37 Lonetown Road
histoury.org/historical-tour-calendar-and-tickets/
\$, R

MEETINGS

Monday, May 6

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

Monday, May 6

Region 9 Annual District Meeting
 7:00 p.m.
 JBHS Library Learning Commons
 100 Black Rock Turnpike
er9.org

Tuesday, May 7

Budget Referendum
 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 Redding Community Center
 37 Lonetown Road

Tuesday, May 7

Conservation Commission
 7:00 p.m.
 Town Hall / Hearing Room
 100 Hill Road
townofreddingct.org

Tuesday, May 7

Redding Board of Education
 7:00 p.m.
 JRMS Community Room
 486 Redding Road

Tuesday, May 7

Board of Finance
 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 Redding Community Center
 37 Lonetown Road

Wednesday, May 8

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

Wednesday, May 8

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

Thursday, May 9

Redding Fire District #2 Commissioner's Meeting
 7:00 p.m.
 306 Umpawaug Road

Saturday, May 11

Town of Redding Shred Day
 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 Redding Transfer Station
 84 Hopewell Woods Road

Saturday, May 11

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event
 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 Newtown Public Works Garage
 4 Turkey Hill Road
 Newtown

Monday, May 13

League of Women Voters
 4:00 p.m.
 Town Hall Conference Room
 100 Hill Road
townofreddingct.org/

Tuesday, May 14

Georgetown Fire District Meeting
 5:00 p.m.
 Georgetown Firehouse
 61 Redding Road
townofreddingct.org/

Tuesday, May 14

Planning Commission
 7:30 p.m.
 Town Hall Hearing Room
 Subject to change to virtual or hybrid.
 100 Hill Road
townofreddingct.org/

Thursday, May 16

Historic Review Committee
 7:00 p.m.
 Town Hall Hearing Room
 Subject to change to virtual or hybrid.
 100 Hill Road
townofreddingct.org/

ARTS

Friday, April 26

Wilton Library Book Sale
 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 More than 70,000 items in 50 categories.
 Wilton Library
 137 Old Ridgefield Road
 Wilton
wiltonlibrary.org

Sunday, April 28

Open Mic: A Literary Event for Teens and Adults
 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 An open mic event for local writers and lovers of literature.
 Mark Twain Library
 439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Sunday, May 5

Greiser's Annual Outdoor Spring Artisans' Market
 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 Featuring 13 local creators of handmade goods plus Easton band Birdsey Beers.
 Greiser's Coffee & Market
 299 Center Road
 Easton
greisers.com

Wednesday, May 8

Virtual Artist Talk with Loie Hollowell
 6:00 p.m.
 Virtual conversation with the artist and Chief Curator Amy Smith-Stewart on exhibit Loie Hollowell: Space Between. A Survey of Ten Years.
 The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum
 258 Main Street
 Ridgefield
thealdrich.org
\$, R

Saturday, May 18

Easton Rainbow Market
 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Creative offerings from LGBTQ+ and Ally vendors.
 652 Morehouse Road
 Easton
eastonct.myrec.com/

CHILDREN | TEENS

Tuesday, April 30

The Secrets of the Apps
 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 For parents/guardians of tweens and teens to learn about the hidden use of smartphone apps and get safety tips.
 Joel Barlow High School
 100 Black Rock Turnpike
eastonsheretohelp.org/
R

Saturday, May 4

Spring Stroll in Downtown Ridgefield
 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 Community family event includes live music, stilt walkers, jugglers, face painting, etc.
 400 Main Street
 Ridgefield
inridgefield.com

Saturday, May 4

Frog Frolic
 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 A day of family fun.
 Redding Community Center
 37 Lonetown Road
marktwinlibrary.org

FOOD | WINE

Saturday, May 4

Honey Tasting
 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 Enjoy a tasty exploration of one of the most popular products of the beehive – honey.
 New Pond Farm
 101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

Saturday, May 4

Redding Scout Troop 15 – Spaghetti Dinner
 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 Dine-in is back. Tickets available weekends at Ridge Market and Uncle Leo's.
 West Redding Firehouse
 306 Umpawaug Road
\$, R

HEALTH | WELLNESS

Tuesday, April 30

Paths to Autistic Empowerment: Open Communication and Self-Advocacy
 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 Jeremy Farrell, Autism Spectrum Disorder Advocate, helps those with autism and their loved ones find ways toward open communication and advocacy.
 Mark Twain Library (in-person)
 439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Saturday, May 4

Yoga at Marchant Farm
 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
 All experience levels welcome.
 Marchant Farm
 12 Marchant Road
yogastationct.com/
\$, R

Tuesday, May 7

Free Community Yoga Class with Yoga Station
 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
 Held in the Open Farmhouse ballroom or outdoors weather permitting.
 Open Farmhouse
 11 John Read Road
openfarmhouse.com/
yogastationct.com/ for registration
R

Tuesday, May 7

Regenerative Farming – Eat Better, Save the Planet
 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
 Whitney Freeman, owner of Henny Penny Farm in Ridgefield, discusses Regenerative Farming, a conservation and rehabilitation approach to food production. (In-person or virtual)
 Mark Twain Library
 439 Redding Road
www.marktwainlibrary.org
R

MUSIC

Friday, April 26

Hitch & the Giddyup
 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 Original bluegrass, soulful Americana and honky tonk country.
 Nod Hill Brewery
 137 Ethan Allen Highway
 Ridgefield
nodhillbrewery.com

Saturday, April 27

Massive Diva
 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 Rock, blues and soul.
 Nod Hill Brewery
 137 Ethan Allen Highway
 Ridgefield
nodhillbrewery.com

Thursday, May 2

Nathaniel Hintz
 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 Country & western, rock & roll and gospel-influenced music.
 Nod Hill Brewery
 137 Ethan Allen Highway
 Ridgefield
nodhillbrewery.com

Thursday, May 2; Friday, May 3; Saturday, May 4

The Addams Family Musical
 7:00 p.m.; 7:00 p.m.; 3:00 p.m.
 Student musical production.
 John Read Middle School
 486 Redding Road
johnreadps.org
\$, R

NATURE

Saturday, April 27

Frothy Forage
 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 Bring the whole family for a one-of-a-kind hiking and tasting experience.
 Woodcock Nature Center
 56 Deer Run Road
 Wilton
woodcocknaturecenter.org/
frothyforage
\$, R

Saturday, May 11

Garden Club Spring Plant Sale and Community Event
 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 Shop for annuals, perennials, herbs, and Mother's Day baskets, learn from Master Gardeners, shop our garden-themed tag sale and more.
 Lonetown Farm
 43 Lonetown Road
reddinggardenclub.org

Wednesday, May 15

Spring Migration: Birding with Joe Bear
 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
 Leisurely early-morning birding walk through diverse habitats.
 New Pond Farm
 101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
R

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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

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

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

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

Long Ridge United Methodist
 Sundays at 11:00 a.m.
 201 Long Ridge Road
 Danbury
longridgeumc.com

Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish

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

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

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Saturday, April 27

Marching Through Redding
 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Join a living history reenactment commemorating the 1777 burning of Danbury.
 The Onion Field
 37 Lonetown Road
wiltondar.org
\$, R

Saturday, April 27

Battle of Ridgefield Tour
 10:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
 Living history walking tour of Revolutionary War sites.
 Meet at Casagmo Complex
 Ridgefield
ridgefieldhistoricalsociety.org
\$, R

Sunday, April 28

Candle-making Workshop
 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
 Try your hand at pouring your own candle, 21+.
 Nod Hill Brewery Biergarten
 137 Ethan Allen Highway
 Ridgefield
www.nodhillbrewery.com
\$, R

Thursday, May 2

Bearing Witness: Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day
 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 Redding's Renee Bronner Pessin will tell the story of her parents, Helen and Sam Bronner, who met while imprisoned in a concentration camp.
 Mark Twain Library
 439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Saturday, May 5

Artists, Authors, and Actors in Redding: Historic House Tour
 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 The former Redding homes of renowned artists, authors, and actors. Tour starts at Redding Community Center
 37 Lonetown Road
histoury.org/historical-tour-calendar-and-tickets/
\$, R

Saturday, May 18

Kitten Shower in honor of Danbury Animal Welfare Society
 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 Meet adoptable kittens, enjoy a cat-themed activity and have special treats. Donations of kitten food appreciated in exchange for goodie bag and raffle ticket.
 In Front of The Toy Room
 180 Greenwood Avenue
 Bethel
<https://linktr.ee/danburyanimalwelfaresociety>

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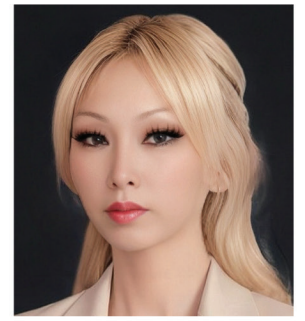
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Applicant subject to credit and underwriting approval (20221021-1745808)
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