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For Our Town From Our Town

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Volume 32 No 1, October 17, 2025

Town Veterans Received a Quilt of Valor



QOVF is an Internet-based foundation started in 2003 by Cathrine Roberts. it's goal is to wrap Veterans in a warm and giving quilts.

Robert Viglione, US Navy, Rank at discharge E4, service years 1965 - 1971 (far left)

Edward Donadio, (center)US Army, Rank at discharge E4, service years 1961 - 1963



WELCOME TO ASCEND BANK- FORMERLY GUILFORD SAVINGS!

We were honored to represent the Town of North Branford as the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce celebrated Ascend Bank, formerly known as Guilford Savings Bank! They have been a trusted name in community banking for over 150 years and continue to offer the same service at their locations in Northford Center and elsewhere. We look forward to continuing to work with them to support residents, businesses, and causes here in North Branford.

Photos: Mayor Rose Angeloni, Town Manager Michael Downes, and Dee Jacob of the Shoreline Chamber celebrate with the team at Ascend Bank in Northford.



WELCOME TO THE NEW OWNERS OF HIDDEN KITCHEN!

The Town of North Branford is excited to welcome the new owners of Hidden Kitchen, Nicole Laudano & Kaitlin Kenney! Hidden Kitchen, located at 2341 Foxon Road, is a cozy breakfast and lunch spot in North Branford known for their fresh, homemade menu and special daily muffin flavors. Hidden Kitchen offers gluten-free and other allergy-friendly options and fun and creative coffee drinks that make every visit a little extra special.

The team looks forward to welcoming the community to enjoy warm hospitality and locally-loved dishes. They are open for 8 AM – 2 PM Monday, Thursday and Friday with breakfast until 11:30. They also offer take-out Thursday through Monday from 6 AM – 8 AM. Saturdays and Sundays they are open from 8 AM to 1:30 PM serving breakfast only. Stop by and say hello!

Photo: Mayor Rose Angeloni, Town Manager Michael Downes, Asst. Town Manager Rory Burke, Dee Jacobs and her team from the Shoreline Chamber welcome Nicole Laudano and Kaitlin Kenney as the new owners of Hidden Kitchen.

In an effort to satisfy all needs, both editorial and advertising wise, for the upcoming elections and holidays, the Totoket Times will have the following publication dates for the remainder of the year.

October 31

November 21

All These issues will be full mail



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TOTOKET TIMES

Deadline	Publication Date
October 24	October 31
November 14	November 21
Novemebr 28	December 5
December 12	December 19



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*Totoket Times is mailed free to all town residents.
If you wish to discontinue contact 203-410-4254.*

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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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Vincent J. Mase Sr. LLC
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AT LAW

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“Join me in voting for Stephanie Byrd”

Dear Editor:

I am extremely proud to support my friend, Stephanie Byrd, for the North Branford Board of Education.

Stephanie has always been the kind of person you can count on. She is loyal, thoughtful, and ready to help whenever there's a need. As a friend, she is a great listener and a steady presence. As

a community member, she shows the same care, commitment, and integrity in every role she takes on.

Stephanie's professional experience speaks for itself. She is a former NBHS teacher, a current House Principal, and a proud NBIS parent. She has many years of experience in education and was honored as Teacher of the Year at North Branford High School. These achievements reflect her expertise and deep passion for students and learning.

Stephanie is an effective communicator who builds bridges, a problem-solver who seeks common ground. She is a community member who has invested her life in North Branford as a lifelong resident.

I encourage everyone to join me in voting for Stephanie Byrd for the Board of Education.

Sincerely,
Maria Melillo



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State Representative Vincent Candelora



When I wrote in these pages in August about the federal probe into funding connections between nonprofit organizations, state agencies, and community groups, I expected many of my legislative colleagues would be formulating reforms to how the state allocates money. After all, there had been talk about a special legislative session this fall, and it made sense to implement changes before the legislature's job of adjusting the second year of the biennial budget in the spring.

That hasn't happened. And I wouldn't blame residents—taxpayers—for being frustrated. The trial for a pay-to-play school construction scandal involving a high-ranking state employee started recently, leading a series of crises over the past couple of years that haven't received the response from elected officials that they deserve. These include improper spending by the \$450,000-a-year colleges and universities chancellor (since demoted to a no-show job with the same outrageous salary), a state pier construction project whose cost ballooned from \$90 million to \$300 million, and a Medicaid fraud scandal.

The common thread? Consistent disrespect for taxpayer dollars. Recently, I joined several colleagues to offer solutions to the nonprofit funding issue—the one the legislature has the most control over. What's spurred Republicans to act this fall is that federal probe involving a Democratic state senator, and whether he steered funding to preferred organizations or programs, and what the money was actually used for. He has denied wrongdoing. The state budget includes millions of dollars for a wide variety of organizations and initiatives. Too often, there's no explanation of why these groups need the money, who they are, or which legislator requested the funding. In some cases, a nonprofit receives a large sum, then distributes money to other groups with even less oversight or accountability. For lack of a better term, it's a Wild West approach.

The vetting process is so minimal that we're funding organizations whose names are misspelled in the budget and writing checks to entities with little or no online presence. One grant recipient, listed simply as "Sports Academy," is receiving \$250,000—yet the only organization matching that exact name was dissolved in 2021. Another recipient has been under FBI investigation—tied to the probe involving the senator—since December.

This process must change. Today's metrics for allocating money are irresponsible: Is the legislator in a tough district? Is the legislator well-liked? Does the organization have a compelling story? Sadly, those are the guideposts.

That's why my colleagues and I introduced comprehensive reform proposals to bring sunshine to this opaque process. Our plan is straightforward: require grant recipients to submit detailed written requests explaining their public purpose, participate in public hearings before the Appropriations Committee, disclose any criminal convictions among officers or board members, and submit to random state audits.

We're also demanding transparency in reporting. Grant recipients would need to provide detailed accounting of how they spend public money—including administrative costs, lobbying expenses, and all sources of additional income. If grants are passed through to third parties, those organizations must meet the same requirements.

These aren't radical proposals. They're common-sense guardrails that should have been in place years ago. Every private foundation and corporate grantmaker requires this level of documentation. Why should government be less diligent with taxpayer money?

I want to be clear: this isn't about partisanship. I know Democrats who are equally disgusted by what we're witnessing. This is about restoring public trust in state government.

As we potentially head into a special session this fall, I'm urging my colleagues across the aisle to work with us on these reforms. Connecticut taxpayers deserve prudent, transparent spending. They deserve a government that respects their investment.

Rep. Vincent Candelora -House Republican Leader
86th Assembly District North Branford, Durham, East Haven, Guilford

Lets be “Frank”

Well brother, not much space in this issue as I can't compete with minds sharper than mine from the political front. I do wish some of them didn't ignore my pleas to be short and sweet. The good news is most of them were sweet and my creative genius was able to get all of the letters in print.

My time has been taken up by preparations for our upcoming trip to Greece, Sicily and the Amalfi Coast.

Rememebr when we worked in Pacelli's and the anchovies came tightly packed and salted in a large tin can, That's how I will feel during the ten hour plane ride. I may have used this quote before but my buddy Al Carofano (God rest his soul) use to say. "People want to go to heaven but they don't want to die. I guess I will have to die on the plane to experience heaven in Europe.

Take care and I'll see you soon.

“...Formal request for your vote...”

Dear North Branford residents:

Please accept this letter as my formal request for your vote in the upcoming election for North Branford Town Council. As a resident of North Branford for the past 12 years, a small business owner and an involved member of our community. I believe I can offer a pragmatic constructive and inclusive voice in our town government. For me community always outweighs politics.

When deciding to move to North Branford, my wife and I did not know much about the Town, but understood it to be a close knit community full of hard-working people and families, with a solid school system. We made the choice to raise our family here because everything we had been told about North Branford was true and much more. With two children currently enrolled in the North Branford public school system, I have a personal stake in the decisions our town makes about education, safety, and long-term planning. Additionally, I coach youth sports teams in town ranging from softball, T-ball, soccer and basketball and those experiences have deepened my appreciation for the families, volunteers and leaders who make this town such a special place to live.

Professionally, I own an operate a law firm assisting clients with their legal needs through Connecticut. As an attorney, I have the privilege to represent and advocate for people fighting to ensure their voices are heard. In this position, I believe I have a unique perspective of the challenges and opportunities facing homeowners, employees, and small businesses. My work requires empathy, listening, closely, negotiating fairly, and finding practical solutions to difficult situations. These are skills I believe are essential on the Town Council as we work to advance a collective voice focused on the best interest for all of North Branford.

I believe the good ideas in good leadership transcend party lines. I am committed to working respectfully, transparently and effectively with neighbors and colleagues of all political affiliations to serve the best interest of all our residence. I am a candidate who upholds and reflects the values of hard work, honesty, decency, and common ground values I know we share from our town.



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I would be honored to earn your vote in this year's election so that together we can ensure we have a beautiful, thriving town for all, now and in the future.

Very truly yours.
Daniel Seiden

Letters to the editor...

This paper encourages all readers to voice their opinions and comments. The Totoket Times is not responsible for erroneous information or statements in letters to the editor. Letters should be as brief as possible. All letters must be signed. A telephone number should be included and no personal attacks. This paper reserves the right to edit all letters. All letters should be addressed to :



The Editor
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The publisher assumes no responsibility for typographical errors. In the event of an error, the publisher will issue a credit adjustment on only the incorrect portion of the advertisement, as well as a retraction in the next issue.

For the Health of it...

Pumpkin Spice & Everything Nice... for Gut Health!



To the delight of many, we are currently immersed in pumpkin spice season. I too love a delicious pumpkin and cinnamon treat and have noticed that pumpkin spice fans tend to fall into 2 categories. There are those who won't even think about indulging their senses in the warmth and aromas that define the coziness of Fall until summer is officially over, (that's me) and those who follow the "retail calendar." These are the fans who dash to the nearest coffee shop to grab a pumpkin spice latte in August or sooner. Intoxicated by that first sip, they can often be seen picking up festive fall decor on the way home to adorn the front porch with pumpkins and haystacks creating the perfect ambiance. (Of course this may not be well received by beach loving neighbors who would prefer an endless summer).

Regardless of which tendency is true for you, I'd like to share some really good news. Not only are autumn foods, spices, and flavors easy to love, they also have gut healthy properties! I don't mean to detract from the romance of it all, but this is a great time of year to nourish both your body and your digestive system with seasonal favorites. The gut is where it all begins so that is where we will focus.

When the gut is thriving we feel more energetic and balanced, especially when things are running smoothly. The fall harvest brings an abundance of fiber rich vegetables like sweet potato, butternut squash, and... pumpkin. The gut loves fiber, a beneficial nutrient that in its support of gut health, feeds the good bacteria, promotes regularity, and reduces inflammation. Beyond fiber, these vegetables are rich in vitamins and other nutrients.

The healing properties of spices is ancient info, there's nothing new here. But rather, these simple facts have been forgotten as we've become more accustomed to masking our food with artificial ingredients that are intended to imitate the real thing. So perhaps we are enjoying similar flavors but we are missing out on all the benefits the real deal has to offer. Pumpkin Spice is a combination of cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, and ginger. That's powerful stuff! Each has been used to calm digestive discomfort for centuries.

This season let's get back to the true flavors we know and love in their natural "unmasked" state, and enjoy the health benefits they have to offer while allowing time to savor each bite and sip. Below are a few simple recipes to help you on your way.

- Pumpkin Spice "Latte" 2.0**

Give your latte a makeover—save your “go-to” as an occasional treat

 - 1 cup unsweetened almond milk (or coconut or dairy milk of choice)
 - 2–3 tbsp pumpkin purée (not pumpkin pie filling)
 - 1 tsp maple syrup, stevia, monk fruit, or honey to taste)
 - ½ tsp pumpkin pie spice (or a mix of cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, and cloves)
 - ½ tsp vanilla extract
 - ¼ cup strong brewed coffee or 1–2 shots of espresso (cold or room temperature)
 - 1 scoop vanilla protein powder

Pour into your favorite portable blender cup and give it a whirl, pour into a small pan and heat on top of the stove (or pour into your favorite mug and heat in the microwave)

Top with frothed milk (optional)

Sprinkle top with a little more cinnamon

For an iced version, add ice to your portable blender cup after all other ingredients and pour directly into your favorite glass or shake bottle

Sweet and Simple (roasted sweet potatoes with cinnamon & nutmeg)

No need for maple syrup, that natural sweetness will come through.

Serve as a side dish or as a “bun” for your burger.

 - 4-5 peeled sweet potatoes sliced into ½ inch discs
 - Spray pan with olive oil or use parchment paper
 - Sprinkle potatoes with cinnamon and spray with EVOO
 - Bake at 400 until tender about, 20 -25 minutes flipping ½ way through
- Black Bean Pumpkin Soup**

(You can switch up the spices on this one and make it your own)

 - 2 tbsp EVOO
 - 1 small onion, minced
 - 3 cups low sodium vegetable stock
 - 1, 14.5 oz can low sodium diced tomatoes in juice
 - 2, 15 oz cans of low sodium black beans, rinsed and drained
 - 2,15 oz cans, organic pumpkin purée
 - 1 cup coconut (or your favorite) milk
 - 1 tbsp of *curry powder
 - 1.5 tsp of ground cumin
 - Dash of cayenne paper optional

Saute onion in a large pot with olive oil, when tender add tomatoes and spices, simmer on medium heat for 5 minutes. Add the pumpkin and coconut milk and stir well. Add all spices and simmer for 5 more minutes, add beans and reduce heat to low. Simmer for 30 minutes.

*Curry powder contains turmeric and ginger both of which have overlapping benefits in soothing digestion.

Let me know if you've tried any of these recipes or share one of your own by reaching out at joann@

"I Fully Support These Candidates"

To the residents of North Branford,

I write this letter as I prepare to participate in my last meeting as a proud member of the North Branford Town Council. While I am sadly not running again to focus on family and work commitments, I would like to take just a moment to look back at the proud accomplishments of the council.

I was honored to participate in a ground breaking ceremony of our beautiful state of the art Police Station. As a long serving Police Officer myself, it only took me one visit to the old facility to see that forward thinking changes were long overdue. We also added 1 Police Officer in a Task Officer Role which will bring experience and asset forfeiture funding to the department. I am also proud of the decision-making that went into utilizing the space for an amazing, upgraded North Branford Food Pantry. The volunteers involved in that project truly went above and beyond.

Upgrades in public safety didn't stop with the Police Department, as we were also able to replace

an antiquated Tower 1 with the brand new Truck 1, as well as a new Engine 1 being built and delivered upon completion. We've also worked to update an aging ambulance headquarters which will assist our increased fully staffed ambulances.

I also had the pleasure of coming into the Town Councilor role in time to see the final work being completed on our beautiful new High School and fixing the roof of the Intermediate School. When this project is finished, this campus will be a shining star of the surrounding area.

Unfortunately, I also had to witness what a state mandated re-valuation process bringing an unprecedented 36% increase to the Grand List looks like. Still, we as a Council were able to increase the Elderly Tax Credit while having to make some hard decisions on town personnel/position cuts. I am happy to say that we were still able to fund much needed upgrades to our Public Works Facility utilizing Fund Balance, without having to take on additional bonding for the project.

It was truly an honor and privilege to work alongside Mayor Rose Angeloni, Deputy Mayor

"Support the Republican Party"

Dear Editor:

This year's Board of Education election comes at a pivotal time for our community. With families and taxpayers navigating the challenges of a property revaluation, and with our schools continuing to face new demands, we need steady leadership, strong teamwork, and a clear vision for the future. That is why I am proud to support Marjorie Bonadies, Elizabeth Siena, and the return of Carolyn Candelora as the Republican candidates for the Board of Education.

As BOE Chair, Mrs. Bonadies has guided the board through strength and fairness. She has led the difficult work of carefully scrutinizing the budget in a year when every dollar counts, always keeping both students and taxpayers in mind. Mrs. Siena has been equally dedicated, serving faithfully on important committees that require countless hours outside of regular meetings. Both have shown their deep commitment to our schools and community.

This year, we welcome Mrs. Candelora back to the Board of Education. Carolyn has previously served with distinction, and her return is truly a gift to our district. She brings both experience and a heartfelt dedication to the students, teachers, and families of our town. Her perspective, combined with the proven leadership of Marjorie and Elizabeth, will strengthen the board in meaningful ways.

Together, the Republican team has worked to increase transparency by recapping BOE meetings via video posts on community Facebook pages—making sure that parents and residents can stay informed and connected. These steps reflect not just good governance, but a genuine commitment of excellence to the community they serve.

In these challenging times, our schools need leaders who are thoughtful, experienced, and willing to put in the hard work. With Marjorie Bonadies, Elizabeth Siena, and Carolyn Candelora, we can be confident that the Board of Education will continue to prioritize both educational distinction and responsible stewardship of our resources.

I urge my fellow community members to join me in supporting all the Republican candidates for office in the upcoming election. Vote ROW B.

Respectfully,
Robert Nowak

"I respectfully ask for your vote"

Dear Editor:

My name is Stephanie Byrd and I am honored and proud to be a candidate for the North Branford Board of Education. I'm writing to ask for your support in the upcoming election.

North Branford has been home to me and my family for decades - my parents moved here in the early 70s and I graduated from North Branford High School in 1996. Today, I'm fortunate to be both a proud graduate and the parent of a student currently enrolled in our great school system.

I began my career in education in 2003, and

continued on page 5

Jeffrey MacMillen, Councilors Walter Goad, Tom Zampano, Ron Pelliccia, Bruce Abelson, Marie Diamond, and Craig Miller. I feel like this Council worked well together regardless of our party affiliation and I hope that I have made some new lifelong friends in the process.

I fully support these candidates as well as my replacement on the ballot, Robert Whitworth, in the upcoming election. I ask that the residents get to know your candidates and support them as well, or the candidates of your choosing. Just please get out and vote. Every vote truly counts in a municipal election, so make your voices heard!

Thank you all again for your continued support as well as your comments and concerns in town matters. Always remember that these are all strictly volunteer positions and our elected officials take a lot of time away from their families to help our community continue to thrive.

Goodbye for now,
Nick Palladino Town Councilor-
Republican Town Committee Chairman

continued from page 4

in 2005, returned as an English teacher at North Branford

High School. Over the course of 11 years, I served in a variety of roles including teacher, advisor, department leader, and Dean of Students. For the past 10 years, I've been part of the administrative team at Branford High School, where I currently serve as House Principal.

My experiences - as a graduate, parent, former teacher, and now administrator - provide me with a unique and well-rounded perspective on the needs of our schools. I am especially passionate about supporting teachers by ensuring they have the resources and tools they need to deliver high-quality instruction. When teachers are empowered, students thrive. Every student deserves access to an excellent education - one that recognizes their potential and nurtures their growth.

Outside of my work in education, I volunteer with Hope After Loss, a nonprofit organization that supports families who have experienced pregnancy and infant loss. In my free time, I enjoy being with my son, our Goldendoodles, and our chickens. I'm also building a business as the creator of handmade, hand-knit items - a creative outlet that brings me joy and balance - and one that teaches me how important community support is to a small business.

It would be an honor to represent the North Branford community on the Board of Education. I respectfully ask for your vote in our November election.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Byrd

“Thank you for considering my Candidacy”

Dear residents of North Branford

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to share my intentions as I run for a position on the Town Council. My desire to serve our community results from my deep commitment to the values we hold and my belief in the potential for positive change within our town. For many years, I have called North Branford my home, and it has been a privilege to witness our community's growth, resilience, and spirit. However, like many of you, I have also seen the challenges we face as we strive to build an even better place to live, work, and raise our families. It is these very challenges that have motivated me to step forward and seek a seat on the Town Council. My vision for our town is one where all voices are heard, where community involvement is encouraged, and where we can work collaboratively to create solutions that reflect the needs and values of our residents. I am passionate about fostering an inclusive community that prioritizes transparency, accountability, and sustainable development. During my time serving on the Blueprint Committee and more recently, Planning and Zoning. I have had the opportunity to connect with some of you. I have listened to your concerns, and I have seen firsthand the dedication our residents have towards making North Branford a better place for all. As a member of the Town Council, I pledge to prioritize:

1. I will advocate for transparency in decision-making processes and ensure that every resident's voice is heard and valued.
2. I will work towards balanced development that meets the needs of our community while preserving the unique character of our town.
3. I will strive to create platforms for dialogue and collaboration among residents, local organizations, and businesses to foster a unified approach to our town's challenges.
4. I will prioritize initiatives that enhance the well-being of our community, including accessible parks, safe neighborhoods, and quality education.

I am excited about the opportunities ahead, and I believe together we can work towards a common goal of creating a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable future for North Branford. I humbly ask for your support as we embark on this journey together. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Warm Regards
Christopher Heon



It was a proud day for North Branford as some of our local Democratic town council candidates joined with state dignitaries to show true leadership and teamwork. We are united for progress and a shared commitment to strengthening our community.

Pictured from left to right: Senator Christine Cohen, Governor Ned Lamont, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Incumbent Candidate Craig Miller, Daniel Seiden, Christopher Heon, Vincent Mase, Attorney General William Tong. Photo Credit: Ashley Reding

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Elizabeth
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Pellicia



Thomas
Zappano

- ★ Proven Effective & Responsible leadership
- ★ Improving our Schools and Town Facilities
- ★ Maintaining a Small-Town Community-Based Feel
- ★ Working together to find Effective Solutions during Tough Fiscal Times



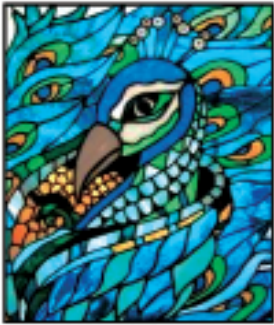
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Jonathan R. Boughton Scholarship Fund announces 3rd Annual FundRaising Event.

On Thursday, Nov 13th The Jonathan R. Boughton Scholarship Fund will hold its 3rd annual fundraising event at Branford Cue-N-Brew, 131 Commercial Parkway Rd. (Behind Walmart) Branford, CT.

Since it's inception, the Jonathan R Boughton Scholarship Corp has raised over \$100,000 and has been providing scholarships for the last four years to gifted High School students, who have excelled in the Automotive and related Technical Trades. This year, with the help of supporters and friends, we hope to meet our goal of raising another \$20,000 For additional information, please visit our site at www.jobs.org To purchase tickets or make a general donation, please visit www.jobs.org/donate See the flyer below for additional event details.

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And earn up to 4.00%^{APY2}
with Spring Savings!

Scan to learn more:



Or to **your business:**

\$1,000³ Offer

*EARN UP TO \$1,000 FOR A NEW BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP

Plus: get up to 4.00%^{APY3}
Business Spring Savings

Scan to learn more:



***Disclosures:**

1. **Up to \$400 Consumer Checking Offer:** Offer available when you open a new Access Checking, Preferred Access Checking or Prime Access Checking account. You must enter promotion code "Ascend400" if opening online or mention the promotion to a banker when opening at any Ascend Bank branch. Account must remain open for 180 days to receive the \$200 statement credit. Get \$100 for making a direct deposit within 30 days of opening your account. Eligible direct deposits are electronic automated clearing house (ACH) deposits. Examples of eligible direct deposits include, but are not limited to: payroll, Social Security, pension and government benefits. Deposits made through a teller, ATM, or the Ascend Bank mobile app are ineligible direct deposits. Get \$100 when you open a Spring Savings account within six months. May be subject to 1099 reporting. Account holder is responsible for all applicable taxes. Offer valid through December 31, 2025, and may be withdrawn at any time. Limit 1 offer per person. New & existing customers are eligible, but funding may not come from a current Ascend Bank account. Rates on all balances subject to change based on future market conditions. Accounts subject to approval. \$50 minimum to open any personal checking account. View full account details at <https://ascend.bank/personal/bank/checking>.

2. **Spring Savings offer:** Earn an interest rate of 3.93% with a 4.00% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) on balances up to \$99,999.99; 2.96% interest rate (4.00%-3.00% APY) on balances between \$100,000.00 to \$299,999.99; 2.72% interest rate (4.00%-2.75% APY) on balances between \$300,000.00 to \$499,999.99; and 2.47% interest rate (4.00%-2.50% APY) on balances above \$500,000.00. Each rate applies only to the portion of the balance within its tier, and your total yield is a blended rate across tiers. \$0.01 minimum to open and \$1.00 daily balance required to earn the disclosed APY. New and existing customers eligible. Funds must not come from an existing Ascend Bank account. Rates subject to change based on market conditions.

3. **Up to \$1,000 Business Banking Relationship Offer:** 1. Get \$200 statement credit when you open a new Business Checking, Business Select Checking or Business Select Plus Checking Account and meet account terms and conditions of account for 180 days. 2. Get \$200 statement credit for making 5 debit transactions in each of the first three months (15 total). 3. Get 2-months waived Cash Management fees (up to \$400 in waived fees) when you enroll in cash management services. 4. Get a \$100 statement credit from Payroc when you sign up for a new Merchant Services as an Ascend Bank client. 5. Get a \$100 statement credit when you open and advance a new Business Express Loan. You must enter promotion code "BIZ1000" if opening online or mention the promotion to a banker when opening at any Ascend Bank branch. Accounts subject to approval. Current Ascend Bank business checking customers are ineligible for \$1,000 offer - as funds must come from a non-Acend Bank account. Minimum requirements to avoid monthly service fee must be continually met for the account and the account must remain open for 180 days to receive the statement credit. Limit 1 per business owner. May be subject to 1099 reporting. Account holder is responsible for all applicable taxes. Offer valid through 12/31/2025, and may be withdrawn at any time. Promotional offers will be paid out within 30 days of completing the 180 day terms period.

4. **Business Spring Savings Offer:** Earn an interest rate of 3.93% with a 4.00% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for balances between \$0.01 and \$99,999.99, an interest rate of 2.96% with an APY of 3.00% on balances between \$200,000.00 and \$299,999.99, an interest rate of 2.72% with an APY of 2.75% on balances between \$300,000.00 and \$499,999.99, and an interest rate of 2.47% with an APY of 2.50% on balances above \$500,000.00. \$0.01 minimum to open, and \$1.00 minimum daily balance required to obtain the disclosed annual percentage yield. New & existing customers are eligible, but funding may not come from a current Ascend Bank account. Rates on all balances are subject to change based on future market conditions.



NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

36th ANNUAL COMMUNITY ROUND UP

Each year, the North Branford community celebrates **Make a Difference Day** by holding a food drive. For the last thirty-five years students and parents from NBPS have traveled through the community collecting nonperishable food items and monetary donations which were then gathered, sorted, and sent to our town's food bank.

The food bank distributes the items to our neighbors in need of a little help maintaining nutritious meals for their families. Over the years, thanks to the support of our students, their families, and the staff of North Branford Public Schools, the food pantry shelves have been well-stocked and able to support the needs of our town members.

Always there for us, we try to support the food pantry as best we can. For the entire month of October, we are asking for donations of gift cards to supermarkets such as Stop & Shop, Big Y, ShopRite, Aldi's or T&J Market or cash gift cards for the food pantry to purchase needed items. Donation boxes will be located in the main lobby of our schools for you and your child to drop off the cards.

When making a donation, please ensure the monetary amount is listed clearly. Donations will be accepted throughout the month. At the end of the month, all donations will be given to our food pantry for their use in supporting those in the town who need them.

In addition, on October 25, 2025, starting at 8:30 am, we will hold the traditional community food round up. Teams of students collect canned goods, pasta, and personal hygiene items from all segments of the community. **Please remember to check expiration dates of food items prior to donating them.**

You can assist by placing items by your mailbox on the morning of October 25th

When teams have completed their route, each team will return to the N.B.I.S. cafeteria and present their items for the official tallying. The three teams with the most donations will receive prizes.

The drive is spearheaded by North Branford teachers, administrators and students. In addition, the North Branford Public Works Department has volunteered their services to help deliver the food to the local food pantry.

We appreciate and are very proud of the North Branford community who have made this event such a great success for the past 35 years!

Thank you for your generous support!

Calling all grads:
NBHS Class of
2000!

Join us for a 25th reunion celebration
Saturday, November 29, 2025

Email: NBHSclassof2k@gmail.com for an invitation and to be added to the alumni

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LASER TAG GROUP OUTINGS

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ST. AMBROSE PARISH
Craft Fair

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025
9 AM TO 3PM
ST. MONICA CHURCH HALL

**FEATURING HANDMADE CRAFTS FROM
 LOCAL ARTISANS, BAKED GOODS,
 BEAUTIFUL RAFFLE BASKETS, GIFTS
 CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AND
 A VISIT FROM , AND PICTURES WITH, SANTA!**

**BREAKFAST AND LUNCH
 WILL BE AVAILABLE.**

**TO CHECK FOR TABLE AVAILABILITY,
 CALL THE PARISH OFFICE 203-484-0403**



Saint Andrews, Episcopal Church, the white church on the hill in the heart of Northford 1382 Middletown Ave. will hold its Annual Harvest Supper on Saturday, November 1st. Dinners are available for dining in or take-out. Dinner choices include baked ham, roast, turkey, roast beef and a smorgasbord of side dishes, as well as dessert choices of pumpkin, apple, and lemon meringue pie.

Take out dinners are \$25 per person and maybe pick up between four and 5 o'clock. Dining in dinners are \$25 a person or \$8.00 for children 12 and under and are also available from 5:30 to 7:30.

Additionally there will be many raffle prizes. Raffle tickets are one dollar each. This event is so much more than a fabulous dinner and many amazing raffle prizes. It is Saint Andrew's major fundraiser of the year and helps support and fund many of our community outreach programs. Saint Andrews Church regularly supports the North Branford scholarship program the North Branford social services, back to school backpacks, the NBSS Thanksgiving and Christmas food and gift baskets programs, the North Branford food pantry and more.

Please help us to help our neighbors by supporting our Harvest Supper. Reservations are required and will be taken to October 25. Dine-in is limited to 75 people. Make your reservations today by calling Nan Monde at 203-710-7005.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish will be having their Christmas Bazaar on Friday, November 7th from 5-8pm and Saturday, November 8th from 9am-3pm at St. Therese Church Hall, 555 Middletown Ave., North Haven. We are currently looking for vendors for our Bazaar selling giftable Christmas merchandise. If interested in being a vendor call Sharon at 203-239-5378 M-F 9am- 4pm or 203-234-0215 evenings for a vendor application or for more information.

Women's Fellowship

Annual Harvest Fair—November 1st

Come to the Harvest Fair at the North Haven Congregational Church, 28 Church Street, North Haven, CT, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 1st. Have your morning Coffee & in Grandma's Café from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., followed by a Soup and Sandwich lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Take the Cookie Walk, and browse handcrafted items, needlework, and more. Stop by Grandma's Kitchen & Bakery and take home some delicious treats. Shop at the Jewelry Table for great buys. Check out Face Painting and other activities for children. Looking for bargains? Stop by the Nearly New Room and the Christmas Room. More treasures can be found in Grandma's Attic; don't miss the collectibles and antique items waiting for you there. Plenty of free parking and handicap accessible (elevator). Call the church office—203-239-5691—for information.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
HALLOWEEN FALL DANCE

Saturday, October 25, 2025
7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
 Saint Monica Church Hall
 1331 Middletown Avenue, Northford, CT 06472

Raffle Baskets & 50/50 Raffle Music by DJ – Anthony Esposito
 BYOB & Snacks
 Setup, Pizza & light desserts are provided by: Knights of Columbus

- COSTUMES ENCOURAGED -

Tickets \$20/per person
 For questions or tickets, please contact Wayne at:
 203-410-3885 or knightout6801@gmail.com

**PROCEEDS WILL HELP WITH THE PURCHASE OF THANKSGIVING AND
 CHRISTMAS DINNERS FOR MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY**


 COUNCIL 6801



St. Pio Ladies Guild
Christmas Fair

Saturday Nov. 15th - 9am-3pm
Sunday Nov. 16th - 8:30am-1pm
Our Lady of Pompeii Church
355 Foxon Rd. East Haven

FEATURING:

- Homemade: Candies, Baked Goods**
- *Breakfast/Luncheon Menu***
- Raffles**
- Costume Jewelry**
- Handmade Christmas Crafts**
- Face Painting & Kids Games**


Oh Holy Night


Visit With Santa

2025 DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

FOR NORTH BRANFORD

THE NORTH BRANFORD COMMUNITY IS AT A CROSSROADS, AND IT'S TIME FOR NEW LEADERSHIP. THAT'S WHY OUR CANDIDATES HAVE TEAMED UP TO FORM A UNITED FRONT. WE SHARE A VISION FOR LONG-TERM PLANNING WITH TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY. YOUR VOTE FOR OUR TEAM IS A VOTE FOR A MORE INTEGRATED FUTURE FOR OUR TOWN. VOTE ROW A TO MOVE OUR COMMUNITY FORWARD IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATES

(IN THE ORDER THEY WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT)



MARIE DIAMOND
TOWN COUNCIL



VINCENT MASE
TOWN COUNCIL



CRAIG MILLER
TOWN COUNCIL



CHRIS HEON
TOWN COUNCIL



DANIEL SEIDEN
TOWN COUNCIL



BRUCE ABELSON
TOWN COUNCIL

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

(IN THE ORDER THEY WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT)



MARCEY ONOFRIO
BOARD OF ED



STEPHANIE BYRD
BOARD OF ED



WWW.NORTHBRANFORDDEMOCRATS.COM

VISIT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UP-TO-DATE CANDIDATE INFORMATION



Paid for by NBDTC: Judy Bannon, Chairperson & Elisabeth Caplan, Treasurer

Recycling News

Important Dates for the Fall

Leaf Drop-Off opens – Saturday October 18th.

Scrap Metal Pickup – week of October 20th.

Electronics collection at Public Works – Saturday November 1st.

Bulky Waste Pickup – week of November 3rd.

=====

North Branford Fall Leaf Collection opens this Saturday!

North Branford residents can bring their leaves to the leaf drop off center located to the left of the old police station, around Wall Field on Route 22 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Just follow the signs. No brush or grass clippings. The leaf drop off will be open on Saturdays, October 18th, 25th and November 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd. Please place leaves in biodegradable leaf bags (no tape please) or empty them loose onto the ground. There will be a curbside pickup of leaves in untapped biodegradable paper bags the weeks of December 1st – December 12th.

=====

Scrap Metal Pickup is next week on your normal trash pick-up day.

Items taken: A/C units, metal lawn furniture, large appliances, hot water tanks, tools, metal fencing, filing cabinets, outdoor grills, small machines, non-riding lawn movers and similar metal items.

=====

Electronics Drop Off will be on Saturday November 1st.

The event will be held at Public Works from 9am to noon. Take2 Recycling will be collecting electronics such as TVs, computers, small appliances and almost anything that has a plug. They cannot accept smoke detectors, A/C's or dehumidifiers.

We will also be taking MATTRESSES (clean and dry), BATTERIES and USED OIL for FREE.

There might be a small fee for recycling PROPANE TANKS (in reusable condition) and TIRES.

When you bring us your mattress, you are creating jobs for those who take them apart to recycle the components.

=====

You can find a home for your used furniture and other items before Bulky Waste!!

Help someone else out, unclutter your house and save the cost of sending items to the landfill.

You can post on the Facebook page: [North Branford & Northford Free Items.](#)

Or, post on the New Haven, East Haven or Milford Freecycle.org site.

Or, you can look up furniture in the **New Haven Downsizing Donation Guide**. It lists multiple organizations that want your stuff! Just Google 'New Haven Downsizing Donation Guide'. Some places even pick-up large items.

=====

Hazwaste Central will be closing for the season after October 25th

Safe & Free Disposal of Residential Household Hazardous Waste

HazWaste Central helps area residents in member towns protect water quality by safely disposing of household wastes. Located at RWA at 90 Sargent Drive in New Haven, HazWaste Central is open from **9 a.m. until noon on Saturdays only**. Household hazardous waste comes from everyday products used in the home, garage, yard or garden.

A visit to HazWaste Central is quick and easy. Participants never have to leave their cars, and the waste is off-loaded by professionals. Some of the household wastes that can be dropped off include aerosol cleaners and sprays, antifreeze, oil-based paint and pool chemicals. We also list some of the accepted items on your yellow trash information card.

Please visit <https://www.rwater.com/in-the-community/hazwaste-central> for a complete list of what is accepted along with the online registration form. You can also call 203-401-2712 or email ask.hazwaste@rwater.com.

=====

Happy Halloween!

Please remember that most of those candy bar wrappers and bags go into the trash. They are not plastic film and they are not recyclable.

When your pumpkin has lost its decorating use, you can throw it into the woods or backyard to feed the wildlife. Make a squirrel very happy. Be sure to remove any non-organic features.

Dead potted plants are compostable. You can put them into your backyard compost pile.

=====

For more information about recycling in North Branford you can check out North Branford's Recycling Committee's website: <https://www.northbranfordct.gov/245/SolidHazardous-Waste-Recycling-Committee> or our Facebook page: North Branford CT Hazardous Waste & Recycling Committee

Thank You for Your Participation

Voter Registration Sessions for North Branford

The North Branford Registrars of Voters will conduct the following Voter Registration Sessions for new electors to register to vote in the Municipal Election to be held Tuesday, November 4, 2025:

The session will be held at the North Branford Town Hall

Friday October 17, 2025 9 am to 8 pm

- Deadline for voter registration **by mail** to be post-marked
- Deadline for voter registration **at the DMV** by close of business day
- Deadline for voter registration **online** by 11:59 pm
- Deadline for voter registration **in person** by 8:00 pm

In Addition: Same Day Registration will take place during the Early Voting Sessions on the following dates.

*Monday October 20, 2025 10am to 6 pm

*Tuesday October 21, 2025 10 am to 6 pm

*Wednesday October 22, 2025 10 am to 6 pm

* Thursday October 23, 2025 10 am to 6 pm

* Friday October 24, 2025 10 am to 6 pm

* Saturday October 25, 2025 10am to 6 pm

* Sunday October 26, 2025 10am to 6 pm

* Monday October 27, 2025 10 am to 6 pm

* Tuesday October 28, 2025 8 am to 8 pm

* Wednesday October 29, 2025 10 am to 6 pm

* Thursday October 30, 2025 8 am to 8 pm

* Friday October 31, 2025 10 am to 6 pm

* Saturday November 1, 2025 10 am to 6 pm

* Sunday November 2, 2025 10 am to 6 pm

*Please note that Monday November 3, 2025 is the last day to register to be eligible to vote in the November election. Electors must appear in person with proper identification.

**This is a special session for those whose rights mature: They have reached the age of 18; people who have become citizens and/or have moved into town. Electors may also register with the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Identification and proof of residency is required. Should you have any questions, please call the Town Clerk's Office at 203-484-6015.

Northford-North Branford Women's Club, GFWC

Military Whist Card Party

The Northford-North Branford Women's Club, GFWC is sponsoring a Military Whist Card Party on **Friday, October 24th** at Totoket Valley Elementary School, 1388 Middletown Avenue, Northford. CT. Doors open at 5:45PM and games start at 6:30 PM. Entry is \$12 per person and the proceeds benefit various charitable organizations in the local area.

For advanced tickets and to save your spot, reach out to Elisa Orio @ elissa.08@comcast.net or by phone at 203-793-7180 or Venmo@NorthfordWomens-Club. Tickets will also be available at the door.

We will be collecting donations for the North Branford food pantry. They need cereal, canned goods, non-perishables, cake mixes and icing. Anyone who brings a donation will receive one **FREE** ticket for the raffle. There will be door prizes, and the club will be raffling off gift baskets and other donated prizes.

Refreshments, including appetizers and desserts, will be served.

The Northford-North Branford Women's Club is a civic organization dedicated to promoting deeper friendships among the women of our town and surrounding areas. Participating in community service and cooperating with the club work of the Connecticut State Federation of Women's Clubs. Check us out on Facebook: Northford North Branford Women's Club, GFWCL

Laura Castiglione Parisi Distinguished Italian Woman

American Italian Women of Greater New Haven is pleased to announce that Laura Castiglione Parisi has been selected to receive the Distinguished American Italian Woman Award at our Annual Awards Luncheon. This will take place on October 26, 2025 at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven CT. Laura grew up in North Branford and graduated from North Branford High School. Following this she graduated from Briarwood College. Laura is the 21st Century President of the Italian American Historical Society which is located in the Ethnic Center on the campus of SCSU. She leads the archive activities as well as presenting cultural programs: IA authors, performing puppet shows.,The Italian Film Festivals and has regularly scheduled Italian Language classes taught by a professional educator.

Sharing her specialty in geneology Laura has spoken on this at many seminars locally and regionally. She has led teams of 20 -30 people to set up cultural exhibit and displays at large Italian festivals in CT. Senior living communities and schools have enjoyed Laura's puppet presentations . These are only a few of the interesting and exciting things Laura has done to bring the beautiful Italian history and culture to a wider audience. Her six visits to Italy enhance all she does to bring things Italian and Italian American to the wider public.

When not occupied with the IAHS Laura works in finance for engineering and construction industries. She is married to Robert Parisi. If anyone would like to attend the Awards Luncheon, which is also a charitable fundraiser for Americas Veterans/Dogs, feel free to contact Fran at # 203-315-3719.



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TRUNK or treat

Saturday October 18th
2:00 - 3:30pm Rain or Shine
STW Community Center Parking Lot

FLU CLINIC

Stanley T. Williams Community Center
1332 Middletown Avenue – Northford
Thursday – October 16, 2025
11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

PUMPKIN PATCH PARTY

A sensory friendly event for individuals in our special needs community.
Saturday October 25th
11:00am – 1:00pm
STW Community Center 1332 Middletown Ave. Northford
Ages 12 and under – FREE event
Pumpkin Patch sponsored by DeFrancesco Farm
Come pick a pumpkin from our accessible "pumpkin patch" and decorate it with friends!
Due to allergies/special dietary needs please bring your own treat or goodie bag
Kindly register at nbcreation.com by 10/20

NORTH BRANFORD FALL SIBSHOP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH • 11:00AM - 1:00PM
STW COMMUNITY CENTER
SIBSHOPS ARE A PLACE FOR CHILDREN AGE 8-13 WHO HAVE A SIBLING WITH A DISABILITY AND/OR HEALTH CONCERN
JOIN US FOR A FUN FALL CRAFT, ACTIVITIES, SNACKS AND THE CHANCE TO CONNECT WITH OTHER SIBS!

SOUND HEALING

Wednesday November 12, 2025
6:30-7:30 pm - Ages 16+
STW Yoga Room - \$30
Experience this incredible workshop with Toni McGovern. Balance your mind, body and spirit with sound healing instruments to heal, reset & promote deep rest.
**Blankets & mats are available, however you may choose to bring your own pillows.*
Registration Required by 11/7

— SENIOR CENTER —

In the Kitchen with Kathy

Pumpkin Crisp

Join Kathy in the Kitchen to learn how to make a deliciously simple Pumpkin Crisp
Tuesday, October 21st
1:00-2:00pm - FREE
STW Gym/Cafe Please register by 10/17

CHRISTMAS CARD CREATIONS

For reference only - not the class project
Oct 27th - \$10res/\$12nr
Nov 10th - \$10res/\$12nr
12:30-1:30pm - STW Art Room
Join us for a creative class where you will assemble beautifully detailed Anna Griffin Christmas cards! Using Anna Griffin's high quality embellishments and layered element, you will create elegant, ready-to-send holiday cards that will wow your family and friends. Your instructor is Donna Woolcott, Master Painter and avid crafter. All supplies are included, no prior experience needed. Multiple sessions to choose from!

PUMPKINTOWN

October 29, 2025
10:00am—2:00pm \$30 res / \$35 nr
Enjoy an Autumn visit to Pumpkintown USA in East Hampton where we will take a ride through Pumpkintown Forest while enjoying some delicious apple cider donuts, stroll the Village, and visit the Harvest Store and garden center! Register by 10/8

SENIOR CENTER HOEDOWN

Come to our Hoedown! A great time with fabulous food, friends, & music!
OCTOBER 23rd
12:00pm - 2:00pm
STW Community Center
\$6res/\$8nr per person 55+
Pulled chicken sliders, mac & cheese, coleslaw, corn bread & dessert
Pre-registration required by October 15th

METEORS WITH MARK

Northford resident and astrophotographer Mark shares with us his amazing photos of the skies over Totoket Mountain in Northford and explain how he captures all the wondrous images and videos.
October 28 - 1:00-2:00pm
STW Senior Room - FREE
please register by 10/24

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

Personal, For Sale, Help Wanted, Tag Sale, and all non-business classified
1 issue \$9.00 2 issues \$12.00 3 issues \$15.00
20 words or less, not including phone #. \$.05 per word, per run, after 20 words
Lost and Found FREE
Business Classified Ads & Real Estate
3 issues \$35.00, 6 issues \$60.00, 12 issues \$100.00
\$.10 per word, per run, after 20 words
Payment MUST accompany all ads. The advertiser must notify this newspaper of any errors.

Send ad along with your check to:
Totoket Times P.O. Box 313 Northford, CT 06472
For more information call 203-410-4254

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TJC Electrical Services - No Job too small or big. Service upgrade & Generator Specials. Call Tom Cassella at 203-619-2823. Licensed & Insured.

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John DiMaggio Plumbing - Residential/Commercial repairs/remodeling. Big or small. Water Heater Specials! Licensed & Insured. Call 203 - 627 - 6826. References available.



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PREPAY FOR 3 MONTHS GET 4th MONTH FREE

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- Minutes from major highways I-91, I-95 and Merritt Pkwy
- 24 hour access, safe, well lighted, 24 hour video surveillance
- Month to Month contracts



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Northford, CT
203-484-4753

Rental office hours: 9-5 weekdays or by appointment

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West Haven, CT 06516

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North Branford, CT 06471

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EMAIL US: WeCare@KeenanFuneralHome.com

★★★★★

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"I truly cannot say enough how grateful my family and I are to Keenan for their exceptional service. From the moment we met to make arrangements to the actual service, they were great. There was no financial pressures, our limits were respected, and everything was said outright."

"Beautiful and peaceful space, staff was very kind and sympathetic... Their kindness will not be forgotten."

Scan below to visit our website!!

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD
OFFICE OF SOCIAL SERVICE
THANKSGIVING BASKET SHARE

The Thanksgiving Basket Share Program will take place on Monday, November 24th, 2025

For those that need some assistance with their Thanksgiving Dinner, you only need to call the Office of Social Service and request to be a recipient in the Thanksgiving Basket Share. The only requirement is that you are in need, and that you reside in Northford or North Branford. Your information is protected, and your name will not be disclosed. You must be able to pick up your basket or arrange for someone to pick it up for you. We are unable to deliver or bring it to your car.

For those wishing to donate a basket or grocery store gift card, call or email the Office of Social Service and express your desire to donate a Thanksgiving Dinner Basket or a grocery store gift card. You may choose the family size you would like to adopt. You may choose to do this alone, or as a group, with neighbors or co-workers.

Although names are not disclosed, a number will be given to both the recipient and the donor. This is used to identify which family is the recipient. All commitments by the donor and recipients will receive written confirmation.

The Thanksgiving Basket Share is scheduled for Monday, November 24th, 2025. Should you have an interest in being a recipient or a donor please contact the Office of Social Service by email, lbreen@northbranfordct.gov or ksperry@northbranfordct.gov or by phone at 203.484.6006 or 475-655-0412 by 10/31/2025 for recipients, there is no end date for donors.

Public Stargazing at Young's Park

The Astronomical Society of New Haven is hosting a free stargazing event on Saturday October 18ht around 7pm at Young's Park, 60 Blackstone Ave. in Branford. Admission and parking are free. All are welcome, including children and grandparents. It will be a dark night so we will be able to see some deep sky objects. The telescopes will be pointed at Saturn, the Andromeda Galaxy, and the Hercules star cluster along with other deep sky star clusters and nebulae. Learn where to find some constellations. Directions and cancellation due to weather (including clouds) will be posted to our website, www.asnh.org or call 866-808-ASNH.

\The Astronomical Society of New Haven, Inc. is a non-profit, scientific and educational organization which fosters new and continuing interest in amateur astronomy.