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Volume 29 No 9, November 25, 2022

Second Consecutive State Championship



Celebrating her 50th year as a coach, Babby Nuhn led the North Branford High School Field Hockey team to their second consecutive State Championship, the sixth overall for the Lady T-Birds. (More on page 7).

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA IS BACK!

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Saturday, December 3, 2022

8:00 AM - 10:00AM

NBIS Cafeteria

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TOTOKET TIMES

<u>Deadline</u>		<u>Publication Date</u>	
December	2	December	9
December	11	December	16
December	31	January	6
January	13	January	20
January	27	February	3
February	10	February	17
February	24	March	3

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Comment was Uncalled For

Dear Editor:

I read along with other members of the Democratic Town Committee, and whomever else looked to the CT Mirror for some election reporting, the piece that was published the day after election day. It reported the fact that Democrats retained large majorities in the General Assembly. We were aghast at one of the quotes from an elected official. To read such an abhorrent comment so thick with toxicity and negativity, for the purpose of further polarizing the two parties is beyond disheartening. No matter what you think of our House Minority Leader, whom I will not personally say anything negative about, what he wrote is at the very least inappropriate, and far beneath the stature of the office he holds.

His comment was, "I think the Democrats tried to scare people to the polls, I would call it a form of election terrorism." Really?! If he had an opinion about how campaigns were run and the materials used to promote candidates positions, it would be far more productive and dare I say honorable. to speak of support for the candidates now about to hold office. What purpose could he possible have to speak in such a way? How is that going to support the newly formed legislative body? How does that do anything but further the horrendous division between the parties?

He wrote in his editorial in the Totoket Times that it's now time for both parties to come together and act in the best interests of the people that sent him and his colleagues to Hartford. That's more

like it, so if that's how he feels why would he say what he did?

He needs to realize that its comments like these that propagate the rhetoric of baseless claims of election fraud that feed doubt in due process, and worse has led to violence. No matter what you believe, you cant doubt that there are factions of people in our country quick to bear and draw arms in the name of their candidate. Language like this is exactly what forms the genuine threat to the very foundation of our government.

When I decided to be a part of the team of election workers and volunteers this year, I was assigned to checking and counting absentee and same day registration ballots in Town Hall. I had a first hand look at the honor and integrity that election officials and volunteers bring to their jobs. We take an oath, one I saw was truly taken to heart. I saw how seriously the job is taken, and the details that are attended to in order to ensure fairness for each and every voter at all costs. The checks and balances operative even in a small group of people sitting around a table in a Town Hall conference room. As I struggled to keep my eyes open as the hour got late, I developed a more visceral sense at the indignation so many across our country must have felt. Aghast when their commitment to a fair and honest election was questioned over and over again in reflexive response to the prospect of losing power.

Many say that on a local level the Republicans and Democrats do a decent job of working together. How is a comment like this in service to



for Men & Women!



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Wednesday - Friday 9AM - 5PM

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INTERNATIONAL REALTY

NORTH BRANFORD MARKET WATCH

Total Homes Sold
October 2022

8

↓ 38.5% (13) Oct, 2021

Median Sold Price
October 2022

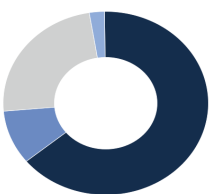
\$482,500

↑ 23.1% Oct, 2021

Average Sold Price
October 2022

\$510,800

↑ 27.5% Oct, 2021



Total Monthly Inventory
All Listing Types, Oct 2022

42 Total Units

27 Single Family
4 Condos/Co-ops
1 Multi-Family
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Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated. Data per ctmls 11.9.22



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that ongoing effort. It is in fact a disservice. It barely warrants a response, yet silence in response to reading harmful words, is a form of complicity I choose not to engage in.
Sincerely,
Debra Lynn Alt



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State Representative Vincent Candelora

A Storm is Coming, Can Government Build an Effective Umbrella



In the early 1990s a confluence of rare weather factors ignited what would eventually be labeled The Perfect Storm, the subject of a book and a major motion picture focused on fishermen operating in unkind seas far from the coast of Massachusetts.

Here in Connecticut, some 30 years later, a different perfect storm is brewing—one that will inflict significant economic hardship on us all,

and it will strike our wallets with full force early next year.

Of course, staggering inflation has already forced prices of goods and services to levels few of could have imagined. The cost of gas hasn't helped. And home heating oil? Woof.

Now, adding to this unwelcome phenomenon are increased electric costs. Before I sat to write this, it was announced Eversource and United Illuminating will hike their standard supply rates to a tune that will increase the average user's monthly bill by \$85 and \$79 respectively. External pressures such as world events, increased global demand, and regional and global prices increases are to blame. However, none of that will matter much to people who have electric heat.

If all that weren't bad enough, the highway use tax on trucks starts in January. Outside of legislators who supported the tax, everyone understands that this new levy on the trucks integral to providing goods and services will lead to us paying more for life's basics.

So, what can be done to provide Connecticut residents a bit of respite from this perfect financial storm? The legislature will hold a special session the week of Nov. 28. The governor and legislative Democrats want to extend the gas tax holiday by another seven months, though they'll add back 5 cents of excise tax each month starting in January until it reaches 25 cents again. They plan to finally add money into the home heating assistance program fund to match the roughly \$130 million spent last year. Continuing free bus service is on their agenda, as is adding money to the faltering "hero pay" program they passed last year to provide bonuses to some essential COVID-era workers.

I think state government can and should do better. Yes, we should extend the gas tax holiday—it expires Dec. 1—but we should ditch the phase-down preferred by Gov. Lamont, because that suggests an economic recovery is on the horizon. I see no evidence of that. We should suspend, or even eliminate, the highway use tax on trucks before it starts. After all, our state's Special Transportation Fund is overflowing due in part to the gross receipts tax on more expensive gasoline prices and the excise tax applied to diesel fuel, which should have been included in the gas tax suspension. Adding more money to the home heating assistance program is good, but I fear it's not enough. Republicans have proposed brining that total to \$190 million while also expanding eligibility requirements so more middle-class families can seek the help they'll surely need.

Adding more money into a "hero pay" program that was always doomed to struggle—Democrats didn't put enough into it to cover promised bonus amounts—feels a little like chasing a ghost from the past. We should be looking forward, tackling the problems that lie ahead. I don't think issuing an \$800 bonus check to someone who earns more than \$100,000 annually is the best path. The state would be better served by putting those dollars into heating assistance.

Rising electric rates is a more difficult subject, and there are no easy fixes. Ensuring that there's ample home heating assistance funds is available is good, but we're reached a point where the legislature must conduct a holistic review not just of past policy decisions that impact other parts of our electric bills, but also future energy-related goals and concepts that will influence what we pay. As legislators, we have to make sure the financial pressures faced by ratepayers are treated with the same care as the concerns and ideas from environment-focused bureaucrats.

With all of this said, there's little doubt that the year ahead will be difficult for Connecticut residents and businesses. Starting January, when the regular legislative session begins, my colleagues and I need to do everything we can to shield our constituents from this economic storm.

Sen. Christine Cohen



There are many public benefits in the state budget that was passed last May, but the one I want to highlight in this column is how Connecticut has now eliminated state income taxes on the pension and annuity income that some older state residents may be receiving.

First let me note that as of last year, the median age of a resident in North Branford was 48, with an average household income of just over \$90,000.

About 27% of North Branford's entire population is over age 60 – about 4,000 people. That's a lot of folks who are retired, or who are approaching retirement, and who may have some pension or annuity income coming to them.

Under old state law, Connecticut residents would have been able to deduct 22% of their pension and annuity income in the 2022 tax year, 70% in the 2023 tax year, 84% in the 2024 tax year, and 100% in 2025.

But this past May, myself and those voting in favor of the budget, accelerated that phase-out so now you can deduct ALL of your pension and tax income – 100% of it – beginning with your spring 2023 income tax return.

In order to qualify for the 100% deduction you must be a single filer, married filing separately, or head of household earning \$75,000 or less per year, or \$100,000 for those married, filing jointly. Those income limits actually cover about three-quarters of all the 1.7 million income tax filings submitted every year in Connecticut, so chances are very good that a lot of people will be saving money.

This year's state budget also phases-out the state income tax on certain taxpayers' distributions from IRAs (other than Roth IRAs) over four years beginning with the 2023 tax year. The phase-outs apply to the same income levels as above, and the amount of tax-exempt IRA income is 25% in 2023, 50% in 2024, 75% in 2025 and completely exempt in 2026.

Every year I'm happy to work on, debate, and pass a state budget that balances a wide range of diverse needs in Connecticut. These changes to pension, annuity and IRA income will hopefully make life even more comfortable for seniors who choose to live and retire in Connecticut.

Estate Planning for Everyone

Wills or Trusts: Which is right for you?

By Attorney Marc P. Guertin

One question that comes up a lot in my day-to-day work is "what's the difference between a Will and a Trust?" The major difference is that Wills and Trusts contemplate different things.

A Last Will and Testament usually contemplates one thing: death. It has no power until you die. While you are alive, your Will is just a piece of paper with words on it. The Will gets its power upon your death.

Trusts consider much more than Wills do and there are a variety of different types of Trusts that do different things. Living Trusts, for example, take effect as soon as the documents are signed and take into consideration more than Wills do. There are certainly provisions to handle the distribution of your assets at your death, like in a Will but they also contemplate what happens if you become incapacitated. Trusts focus on both living with incapacity and dying.

Some Trusts are narrowly pointed at specific problems in life. Irrevocable Asset Protection Trusts, for instance, are used to shelter assets from the financial devastation that comes along with a stay in a nursing home. Supplemental Needs Trusts are used when your beneficiaries are incapacitated or disabled. These Trusts are crafted to preserve your beneficiary's eligibility for needs-based government benefit programs like Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Trusts are also your best shot at avoiding or greatly minimizing the time and expense of probating your estate. A Will, on the other hand, is directly handled by the Probate Court. The Probate Court makes sure that the wishes laid out in your Will are honored. This is not a bad thing, it just takes some time and money to work through the system.

continued on page 5

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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.

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

P.O. Box 313, Northford, CT 06472



Let's Be "Frank"

Well brother, we finally had that "three time" postponed mini reunion. The last one we had was about fifteen years ago and you ran it. Which meant you were the big honcho and I was your slave to the details and leg work.

There were a few noted differences between the two events. More than 100 people attended that one a few years back. At this one, there were about a dozen people. Death and illness made it a paltry number compared to the last one.

Another difference was that most of the family elders were gone so there were photos which no one could identify. There were memories that were sketchy and no one could clarify some of the details.

The things that were good were the memories we shared of those who have gone before us. The memories of our childhood, and our days in "the old neighborhood".

It was a lot of fun and perhaps it laid the ground work for a bigger reunion in the summer when we will have a bigger committee and have time to reach out to more of the family. I'm looking forward to it.

One photo I did recognize was this one of you and Mary (perhaps at the last reunion). I have one question. Where the hell was I?

Well you two have a great Thanksgiving with the rest of the family and I'll see you soon. I hope you liked the cemetery blankets.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR GIVING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2022

Giving Tuesday is a global movement to encourage the generosity of people in the support of charitable giving in their communities. Founded in 2012, **Giving Tuesday** inspires people to collective generosity during the holiday season. The collaborative effect of many gifts at once allows good causes to benefit substantially. Great success comes from collaboration!

Giving Tuesday emphasizes opportunities to give back to communities and causes that allow for social connection and kindness.

This year, **Giving Tuesday** is November 29.

Support your local community with a generous donation to **the North Branford Land Conservation Trust (NBLCT)**. This year, funds raised during **Giving Tuesday** will be used for the acquisition and ongoing maintenance of 37 acres of Regional Water Authority (RWA) property at the intersection of Beech St and Poms Ln in North Branford.

NBLCT provides value to the community through acquisition and open space for passive recreation. We create and maintain trails for the benefit of our community. When you support NBLCT, you give to your own community.

North Branford Land Conservation Trust

Go to nblandtrust.org

Click on the **DONATE** button

Give generously for our community!

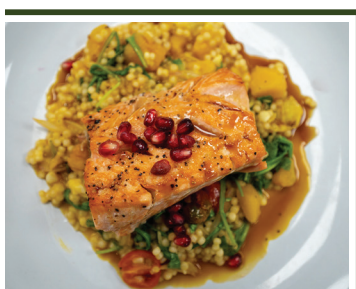
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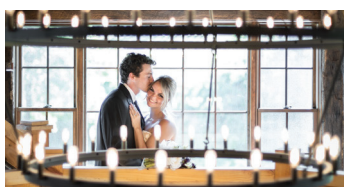
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Camera Club Welcomes Shiv Verma



North Haven Camera Club will welcome guest speaker Shiv Verma on Tuesday, Dec. 6th. at 7pm. Shiv will be presenting an online program on Time-lapse photography.

Time lapse photography is a technique that makes time appear to speed

up. Time-lapse involves taking multiple images and combining them into a short video. This method lets you compress hours or days worth of footage into just a few seconds or minutes of dramatic video of a subject or scene that happens over time. A good example of time lapse photography is watching daytime change to night or watching a seedling sprout into a flower within a short two minute video. It's a great way to be creative with your photography.

Shiv will cover the basics needed to do time lapse photography including equipment, camera settings, intervalometer settings and how to do a time-lapse in Lightroom.

Shiv is a published author, photographer and educator. Shiv has published a book on time-lapse photography in 2014. He has been a photographer for over 50 years and has evolved his photography to express his intense devotion to wildlife and nature. Over the years he has earned numerous awards both nationally and internationally. Guests are welcome to attend this presentation. Just send the club an email at northhavencameraclub.com.

For more information about joining the North Haven Camera Club visit our webpage at www.northhavencameraclub.com

CT House Republicans Choose Candelora for Second Term as House Minority Leader

HARTFORD—Republicans elected to serve in Connecticut’s House of Representatives have selected **state Rep. Vincent Candelora** to serve a second term as House Minority Leader.

Candelora, who last week won re-election to a ninth term serving the 86th House District, was the unanimous choice of more than 50 Republicans who attended a Nov. 10 leadership caucus held at the State Capitol.

“I remain humbled by the faith my caucus colleagues have placed in me to lead them in our shared effort to make the state a better place to live for all Connecticut residents,” Candelora said. “From rehabilitating our state’s economy to addressing the affordability crisis that’s hurting so many people, there’s little doubt that all of us serving in the General Assembly will face critical tasks when our new terms begin.”

When his new term starts in early January, Candelora, 52, will serve residents of **North Branford, Durham, East Haven and Guilford**.

During his first term as House Minority Leader, Candelora led the Republican effort to introduce proposals aimed at reducing the cost of living for Connecticut residents, including a middle-class tax cut, elimination of the highway use tax on trucks, and a reduction of the state’s sales tax. Over the last two years, the North Branford resident was also a leading voice in addressing Connecticut’s juvenile crime crisis while also working to fix the so-called “police accountability” legislation that’s made the job of law enforcement officers more difficult.

Candelora, a graduate of the Dickinson School of Law at Penn State University, lives in North Branford. He has three children. Outside of the legislature, Candelora helps run two family-owned businesses.



NBHS Celebrates Veterans

The onsite Veterans Day Celebration has returned to NBHS held on Veterans Day, November 11. Mr. Chris Reynolds and the NBHS Wounded Warrior Organization sponsored the event. Veterans were on hand to speak to students during flex time by grade. Student members of the Wounded Warrior Organization greeted our visitors and during their morning arrival with a continental breakfast. The NBHS Music Department provided patriot music during the onset of the event and a luncheon for the Veterans was provided towards the close of the school day. Included in the photo:

Paul Ludington	Navy	1980-1986	Cold War
Craig Yerkes	Navy	1958-1971	Vietnam & 6 day DR war
George Pfeiffer	Navy	1960-1964	Vietnam War
Chuck Larking	Airforce	1967-1971	Vietnam War Operation Urgent Fury Panama (1981) Operation Just Cause (1983) Desert Shield and Storm Iraq (1991)
Hugh Meehan	Army	1980-2020	Iraqi Freedom
Anthony Mastrino	Marine Corp.	1952-1954	Korean War
Bill Savastano	Army	1964-1966	Vietnam War
Stephen Shonn	Army	1987-1993	
Gary Tercyak	Navy	1966-1970	Vietnam War- 3 combat tours
Eric Bickelhaupt	Army	1995-1999	
Timothy Corcoran	CT National Guard	1979-2004	Iraqi War, Gulf War, Cold War
Sean Connolly	Airforce	1989-1993	Gulf War

Photo by Gary Tercyak, 1965 NBHS Graduate

HOLIDAY POINSETTIA SALE CLASS OF 2023 PROJECT GRADUATION

All proceeds will go to PROJECT GRADUATION 2023, an all-night substance free party for our graduating seniors!

Orders are due no later than **Monday November 28th**. Pick up will be on **Monday December 5th** from 2:30-7:30 at North Branford High School

Order your choice of locally grown large nursery poinsettias in festive red, white or pink in the following sizes:

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\$22	7½" pot (2 plants)
\$30	8½" pot (3 plants)
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\$20	16" undecorated wreath

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Questions? Contact: Liz Hoskins at enhoskins@sbcglobal.net

		#red	#white	#pink	\$ Total
6½" pot (1 plant)	\$15	x _____	_____	_____	_____
7½" pot (2 plants)	\$22	x _____	_____	_____	_____
8½" pot (3 plants)	\$30	x _____	_____	_____	_____
Log Box	\$23	Quantity: _____	_____	_____	_____
Pillow	\$26	Quantity: _____	_____	_____	_____
12" wreath	\$15	Quantity: _____	_____	_____	_____
16" wreath	\$23	Quantity: _____	_____	_____	_____

Name: _____ Total \$ _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____



Guertin continued

If you’re not sure whether a Will or Trust is right for you, let’s talk about it. Call or email me and schedule a complementary estate planning consultation. I will help you put together a plan that fits you and your family.

Marc Guertin is the principal at Marc Guertin, Attorney at Law, LLC. Located at 222 Rimmon Road, North Haven, Connecticut. Visit Attorneymarc.com Call: 203-500-0201 or email Marc@attorneymarc.com to schedule a complementary consultation.

Band Championships

East Haven High School Co-op Marching band won the New England State and the National Championships for group 1A this season. The band features 3 members from North Branford High School: Seniors Alex Shadman (drum major, saxophone soloist, pit member) and Nathan Higgins (tuba player, drumline member) and Sophomore Aaliyah Rizzuti (color guard soloist).



Where are they now?

Christopher Stankiewicz, Jr.

Class of 2015 Notre Dame High School

Chris earned his Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Quinnipiac University in 2022 after receiving his B.S. in Athletic Training from Quinnipiac in 2019. Chris has clinical experience treating patients across the lifespan but has a particular interest in Sports Medicine and Performance. Chris has treated patients at the high school, collegiate, and professional settings, including an internship with the New Orleans Saints! Outside of work, Chris enjoys being outdoors, golfing, exercising, and cheering on his favorite sports teams, the New York Yankees and New England Patriots.

Please help me Congratulate Dr. Christopher Stankiewicz on his accomplishments and wish him much success in his career.



Save a Life Tour

On November 4, students at NBHS participated in the Save a Life Tour event. The Save a Life Tour organization is scheduled to visit 70 high schools in CT and their primary focus is to raise awareness regarding the dangers of distracted driving. The Connecticut Department of Transportation sponsors the organization. Students in grades 10-12 viewed informative videos during an assembly at the start of the school day, signed a pledge and then used the distracted driving simulators. NBHS SADD Faculty Advisor Makayla Ricci organized the event at NBHS.

Photos courtesy T Stoeffler

Northford-North Branford Women's Club, Accepting Scholarships

The Connecticut Federation of Women's Clubs has announced two scholarships that are available to Connecticut women pursuing advanced courses of study at Institutions of higher learning. Awards are granted on the basis of future promise, scholastic ability and financial need.

The Dorothy E. Schoelzel Memorial Scholarship has a maximum award of \$2,000.00. Candidates must have completed three or more years of undergraduate work in an accredited institution with a 3.0 average or higher in the field of Education.

The Phipps Scholarship has a maximum award of \$1,000.00. Candidates must have completed two or more years of undergraduate work in an accredited institution with a 3.0 average or higher toward a Bachelor's or post graduate degree.

Completed applications, including general and personal information, a financial statement, instructor/employer references, official transcript or at least the most recent two years of undergraduate or graduate work must be received by February 10, 2023.

The application may be obtained by visiting the Northford-North Branford Women's Club website at www.northfordwomensclub.org. For further information contact Rose Lynch at (203) 483-8395.

Language Department Visits Ellis Island

The NBHS World Language Department organized a field trip for students enrolled in Spanish and Italian courses at NBHS this semester. On November 3, 41 students and 4 staff members traveled to New York to tour Ellis Island, Little Italy and view the statue of Liberty. Students also visited the Tenement Museum, a museum dedicated to celebrating immigration and historical immigration stories dating back to 1860 thru

the 1980s. Department Chair Mrs. Jen Tzetzio organized the trip with colleagues from her department. The trip departed the NBHS campus at 5:45am and returned by 9pm. Students and staff enjoyed the educational trip and were fortunate to experience spring like temperatures while visiting NYC. Pictured below are the students who opted to participate in the field trip.

Photo courtesy of Jen Tzetzio



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Hutchinson Named to All- Shoreline Team

Aiden Hutchinson, a junior on the Boys Soccer team was named All Shoreline Honorable Mention. Aiden is pictured here with his coach, Dewey Boatman. This is Aiden’s second year playing soccer and first year as a goalie so big honor! At the season ending banquet, Aiden was named team MVP and selected as a captain for the 2023 season.

Revenge is Sweet

The North Branford High School Field Hockey team went into the State Championship game with one loss coming at the hands of their championship opponent. In this game on this day the Lady T-Birds re-grouped and won their second consecutive state championship with a 4 - 0 pounding to Stonington.

Coming out on fire and adding fuel to that fire in the second half, the ladies took 14 shots against just one for their opponent.

Keanna Criscuolo led the attack with 2 goals and 2 assists as Sophia Toto and Allvia Schmidt chipped in with one each.

Connecticut Sportsplex®

FIELDHOUSE FAMILY FUN CENTER

LASER TAG BIRTHDAY PARTIES

LASER TAG GROUP OUTINGS

WALK-IN LASER TAG OFFERED

FRIDAY 5PM—9PM

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 11AM—7PM



203-484-4383
www.ctsportsplex.com



Still in the Hunt

A 55 - 14 trouncing of the Husky’s from Morgan, put the North Branford High School football team in contention for a State Tournament berth. A Thanksgiving victory over Coginchaug and a little help from some friends, could put the T-Birds in the playoffs.

Sophomore sensation Tommy Hansen carried the ball 20 times for an astounding 153 yards. Senior quarterback Mason Provencher with 73 yards and classmate Elias DeFaranos was not far behind with 70 yards.

With such a great running game and a 34-0 first half lead, the T-Birds only threw the ball 8 times and Provencher completed 6 of them for another 75 yards. Provencher found 5 targets as he had completions to seniors Jack Meehan, Ian Kamienski Elias DeFaranos, junior Braden Burns and Tommy Hansen had the longest reception of the game for 27 yards. Hansen had 3 touchdowns, with Provencher and Kamienski adding two each and DeFaranos having one.

The defense was once again a team effort as there were 16 solo tackles and 56 assists. Senior Tyler Serensen had ten assists as junior Lucien DePino added 9. Seniors Dradon Brandisi and Charlie Johnson had 6 assists each as did junior Luke Blomster. Brandisi and Blomster added a sack each.

Ian Kamienski had 2 interceptions and freshman AJ Sigel had one as well.

Madison Hoop Dreams Holiday Camps

We are excited to invite your basketball player(s) to join us for any or all of the 4 upcoming basketball day camps. Fortunately, we have reserved the Country School for our Black Friday camp, November 25th, and the first day of our Christmas holiday camps, Dec 27th. In addition, we have reserved the Robert H Brown School for December 28th and 29th. Four days for your son or daughter to have fun while developing their basketball skills in game situations and motivating their love of basketball with exciting competition from 9 AM to 3 PM each day.

We will limit enrollment to 20 players in grades 3 - 5 and 20 on grades 6 - 8. Players can attend any days that fit their schedule. We hope that many players can join us for all 4 days.

The cost is \$50 for each of the first two days; \$45 for each day when attending 3 or 4 days. Please go to <http://www.Madisonhoopdreams.com> for more information and to register. Thank you for your support of our programs.

With Christmas and Hanukkah approaching, I hope you will consider giving our day camps as part of your gift giving --- just a thought !

Students at North Branford High School recognized veterans at a Veterans Day ceremony at the shool.



Photos by Frank Garitta

Recycling News

Curbside Pickup of Leaves

There will be a curbside pickup of leaves in untapped biodegradable paper bags the weeks of November 28th – December 9th

Please Don’t Feed the Storm Drain

Now that most of the leaves have fallen, please take a look at your storm drains and clear them of leaves so they can work properly.
Remember: Only Rain in the Drain!

Plastic Film Recycling

Plastic bags DO NOT go into your recycling bin.

To recycle them, please drop off clean and dry bags at our town’s collection bins or any grocery store. All of our collection sites have received free Trex benches because of the amount of plastic film they have collected. The following locations are collecting plastic film for our town: Country Paint and Hardware, TJ’s Launderette, Town Hall, Atwater and Smith Libraries, STW Community Center, Northford Store and The Food Pantry of North Branford.

Please remember to empty your plastic bags of food and liquids before placing them in the collection bin. The easiest way to do this is to turn the bag inside out.

Did you know that the plastic shipping envelopes that you receive in the mail are considered plastic film? These are the ones that are plastic on the inside and outside. The ones with paper on the outside need to go into the trash.

Plastic film includes: grocery bags, newspaper sleeves, wood pellet bags, salt bags, and zipper bags for recycling. They also accept plastic wraps from water bottle cases, diapers, bathroom tissue, and paper towels, as well as bubble wrap and shipping pillows.
Plastic bags with recycling symbols #2 or #4 **ARE** accepted. Plastic bags with recycling symbols #5 or #7 (i.e. salad and grape bags), crinkly snack bags (potato chips, popcorn, and candy wrappers), pet food bags, frozen food bags, and any bags with food residue are **NOT** accepted.

Please remember to put your cardboard into the recycle bin but the Styrofoam goes into the trash. Styrofoam does have a recycle symbol on it but we don’t have the equipment to recycle Styrofoam yet.

Can I recycle it?

Connecticut has a website to help with recycling questions: www.recyclect.com.
They also have an app.

Are you interested in getting involved on a town committee?
Does it upset you when you see littering?
Do you wonder where the trash goes and how recycling works?
Next year is full of possibilities and we could use some new ideas.
The Solid/Hazardous Waste and Recycling Committee is looking for new members.

Please call the Town Manager if you are interested.
For more information about recycling in North Branford you can check out North Branford’s Recycling Committee’s website: townofnorthbranfordct.com/government/boards-commissions/hazardous-wasterecycling-committee.aspx
or our Facebook page: North Branford CT Hazardous Waste & Recycling Committee

Thank You for Your Participation

Tops - Support Group for Weight Loss

Are you having trouble with trying to lose weight? Have you tried other weight loss programs? Looking for social support and conversation focused on weight loss? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, then you need to try TOPS (take off pounds sensibly). It provides members with information and support to meet individual weight loss goals.

TOPS is a non-profit organization with locations throughout the country. The North Branford Chapter meets every Wednesday night from 6:00 - 7:15PM at the Community Center room at Hillside Terrace on 167 Branford Road, North Branford, CT.
Contact Dee at 203-481-9504 for additional information

Carbon Monoxide, What you need to know:

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that interferes with the delivery of oxygen in the blood to the rest of the body. It is produced by incomplete combustion of fuels that include coal, wood, charcoal, natural gas, propane, and fuel oil. Problems can arise as a result of improper installation, maintenance, or inadequate venation. The symptoms are sometimes confused with the flu or food poisoning. Infants, elderly, pregnant women, and people with heart or respiratory illness are particularly at high risk from the effects of carbon monoxide poisoning. Nationally an estimated 300 people a year die as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning and thousands of others end up in the emergency room.

What you need to do: Ensure that all fuel burning appliances are properly adjusted and maintained. Have annual inspections of heating systems, chimney, and flues. Never leave a car running in the garage. Install a carbon monoxide detector near your sleeping area.

If your CO detector goes off, or if everyone in the house is experiencing flu-like symptoms that improve when you are not home, call 911 and get out of the house.

Fireplace and Home Fire Safety:

With the high price of fuel oil and natural gas, many homeowners are using alternate heating sources. Last year, North Branford Fire Department responded to numerous chimney fires, and furnace malfunctions.

More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves, and other fuel-fired appliances to heat their homes. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks associated with wood and other fuels.

North Branford Fire Department encourages you to practice the following fire safety steps:

1. Have your chimney or wood stove cleaned and inspected annually
2. Keep the area around your fireplace or stove clear of flammable decorations or materials
3. Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces, and keep your glass doors open
4. Never use flammable liquids to start a fire
5. Use only seasoned hardwood
6. Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke
7. Never burn cardboard, trash or other debris in your fireplace or wood stove
8. **Never leave a fire unattended** and extinguish before going to bed or leaving the house
9. Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a **metal container outside and away** from your house
10. Cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester
11. **Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors** on every level of your home
12. **Have your oil or gas furnace serviced** at least once a year
13. Provide proper venting for all heating appliances

Do not Forget Your Appliances

Dryers: The leading cause of dryer fires is a lack of maintenance. Whether you have electric or gas these simple rules can prevent a tragedy.

- Do not operate dryer without a lint filter. **Clean filter before and after each use.**
- Clean out the exhaust duct at least once a month.
- Once a year, remove the back cover and vacuum out the area around the heating element.
- Use only metal flexible pipe and the shortest distance possible to the outside.
- Make sure that the dryer is plugged into an outlet suitable for its needs.

Do not use extension cords.

Ovens: Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and injuries.

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of kitchen fires.

- Keep cooking area clean and clear of combustibles.
- Do not wear loose fitting cloths that can dangle onto stove burners and catch fire.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions on self-cleaning ovens. Clean heavy accumulations of grease before starting cleaning cycle.
- If a fire starts in the oven, turn off electric power or gas supply, do not open door.
- If a small fire starts in a pan on the stove, turn off electric power or gas supply and cover with a lid. Do not remove lid even if the fire appears to be out. **Do not use water to extinguish a grease or oil fire.**
- If you have a Microwave Oven fire, keep the door closed and turn off the power.

Dishwashers: Yes, even dishwashers cause fires. The heating elements and timing devices can short out and cause a fire.

Remember: *Never leave home without turning off all appliances*

NBFD has a limited supply of new battery-operated Smoke detectors. If you do not have a working alarm, call or email us @ 203-484-6016 or deputyfiremarshal@townofnorthbranfordct.com

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Branford Bible Chapel. 212 Branford Rd., corner of Twin Lakes Rd. 203-488-3586. Sunday morning : 9:15 - 10:30 Worship & Lord’s Supper, 11:00 -12:15 Ministering of God’s Word & Sunday School. . Nursery provided. Awana for kids, vacation Bible School, missions & outreach programs. www.branfordbiblechapel.org

Hope Christian Church “A Place to Belong”. 211 Montowese Ave., North Haven, CT. www.hopeag.com Sunday services 10AM. Coffee served every Sunday 9:00 am. Church open for prayer Tuesdays noon to One. Thursday Bible study 7:00 PM. Like us on facebook.

North Branford Congregational Church, UCC, 1680 Foxon Road, North Branford, CT Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM. On the first Sunday of each month please attend and share communion with us.

Nursery Care is available.To contact our church: Office hours are Wednesday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Phone: 203.488.8456, email: nobdcong@sbcglobal.net, website: www.northbranfordcongregational.org Remember, all are welcome no matter who you are, no matter where you are on life’s journey; you will always be welcome here.

Northford Congregational Church. United Church of Christ. Church is located on Old Post Rd., (corner of Rte 17 and Rte 22), PO Box 191 Northford. Phone 203-484-0795, Fax 203-484-9916.. email; northfordcc@gmail.com Office Hours: Tuesday 9am - 1pm; other days by appointment. John Vigneri, Pastor . Jane K. Leschuk Minister of Music. Worship Service 10am. Join us for coffee hour following worship. Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Like us on Facebook. Our website is www.northfordcongregational.church

St. Ambrose Parish is a Roman Catholic Parish in the Archdiocese of Hartford comprised of two churches. St. Augustine Church is located at 30 Caputo Rd in North Branford and St. Monica Church is located at 1321 Middletown Avenue in Northford. The Pastor is Rev. Robert L. Turner. Weekday Masses are celebrated on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday at 9:00 AM at St. Augustine. Friday Mass is celebrated at 9:00 AM at St. Monica. Weekend Masses are celebrated on Saturday evening at St. Augustine at 4:00 PM (English Ordinary, no incense) and Sunday at St. Monica at 9:00 AM and St. Augustine at 11:00 AM (Latin Ordinary, with incense). The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered 30 minutes prior to all Masses excepting Sunday and by appointment by calling the office. The Parish Office is located at 30 Caputo Road and is open M-F from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (Wednesdays until 6:00 PM). You can access the parish bulletin and staff emails at our website NBcatholics.org. If you are new to the area and looking for a parish to join or a homeschool co-op, please visit us!

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 1382 Middletown Avenue - The White Church On The Hill In The Heart Of Northford (at the intersection of Rtes. 17 & 22). Sunday worship at 10:00 a.m. Coffee and fellowship always follows. The Rev. Bryan Spinks is Priest-In-Charge. St.Andrew’s is a member of the Middlesex Area Cluster Ministry Network (MACM Network), along with St. James (Higginum) and Emmanuel (Killingworth). Please join us - we’d love to get to know you! All are welcome! St. Andrew’s is the proud home of the Food Pantry of North Branford - a vital community resource serving families in need in Northford and North Branford. St. Andrew’s also partners with St. Pauly Textile in a broad outreach program to help people in need here in the U.S. and around the world. Donations of usable clothing, shoes, boots, belts, purses, sheets, blankets, curtains and stuffed animals may be made at the donation shed in the church parking lot, available 24x7. Visit our website at <https://www.saintandrewsnorthford.org> Like us on Facebook - St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church of Northford, CT. For more information contact us at 203-484-0895; Nan Monde, Sr. Warden, 203-710-7005; Rev. Spinks, 860-304-5266; or MACM office, 860-345-0058.

United Methodist Church, Branford 811 East Main St, Branford (Route 1, across from Bill Miller’s Castle). www.umcbranford.org or (203) 488-0549. Sunday service 9:30am - both in-person and live on our website. “The Church on the Rock,” led by Pastor Kent Jackson. We invite you to discover the power of faith in Jesus Christ bringing God’s love to the world. Join us to worship, experience God’s word, and stay connected. **Zion Episcopal Church** 326 Notch Hill Road, North Branford. 203-488-7395. Rev. Lucy LaRocca, Vicar.Sunday Worship at 9:15, coffee and fellowship follow. Masks are required in worship while North Branford is in the ‘red’ zone for COVID positivity. Worship is also accessible through Facebook Live. ALL are invited. Zion is an open and affirming congregation for those seeking a safe place to worship and grow in Christ. www.zionepiscopal.org

Christmas Holiday Jewelry Sale

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish will be having a Holiday Sale featuring our Gently used costume jewelry with some new pieces of jewelry along with some Yesterday’s Treasures, Books, DVD’s & Records for Sale on Saturday, December 3, 2022 from 9am to 3pm at St. Frances Cabrini Church Hall (handicap accessible), 57 Pond Hill Rd., North Haven.

Lunch will be available from our Kitchen as well. Come and shop for your Christmas gifts from our selections. There will be bargains for all! For more info call 203-239-5378.

Dignity of Life Seminar-North Haven

Join us on Thursday, December 8th , 2022 at 2:00pm for an educational seminar on Advanced and Estate Planning. Seminar will run about 1 hour and 30 minutes.This Seminar will be presented by a Cemetery Professional and an Elder Care Attorney. Professionals will provide resource information and answer questions to help you with the decision making process. We want to help you celebrate a life lived!

All interested, please call Barbara at 203 780-8418 or email her at bgode@ccacem.org. You may also register online via our website at www.cca-cem.org.

Please post as soon as possible until the event. Please confirm, if possible. Thank you



Northford-North Branford Women’s Club

On Tuesday, October 25, members of the Trees of Hope committee put together this fabulous wreath. Several gift cards will accompany the wreath when it is delivered to the Maritime Center on November 27.

The 33nd Annual Trees of Hope is open to the public from December 3-11, 10 am to 5 pm. The address is 555 Long Wharf Drive, New Haven. The organization raised more than \$121,000 thanks to the many organizations that donated gifts, trees and other items for the raffle.

North Branford Congregational Church
1680 Foxon Road, North Branford

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Are you hurting this holiday season? Are you missing a loved one who used to be at the holiday table, struggling with a family estrangement or just facing a tough time? God offers comfort and hope to those who find the holidays hard. Join us for a Blue Christmas service on Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Nothing says Christmas quite like a traditional Christmas pageant! Join the little angels and shepherds at North Branford Congregational Church on Sunday, December 18 at 10:00 am, as we retell the story of Christ’s birth. All are welcome.

ST. AMBROSE PARISH
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
Saturday, December 3, 2022
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
St. Monica Church Hall
1321 Middletown Ave. Northford
Featuring handcrafted items by local artisans, baked goods and beautiful raffle baskets. Breakfast and lunch will be available. Come and enjoy great food, interesting crafters, raffles and more!
TABLES AVAILABLE, CALL LUCILLE 203-484-9737



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PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

DECEMBER 16, 2022

STW COMMUNITY CENTER

4:30pm to 8:30pm

Leave the kids with us (at STW) and take this opportunity to finish up holiday shopping, gift wrapping or just enjoy a night out! The evening will include a holiday activity from Cool-ology and a cheese pizza dinner. Please register by 12/14 at nbrecreation.com

\$20_{res} \$25_{nr}

Mary's Culinary Classes

Join Mary Amter in this unique, hands on culinary experience that will engage children in preparing delicious creations. They will explore, create, and learn basic cooking techniques!

Ages 5-14 at STW Community Center

Tuesday 5:30 - 7:30pm

Cost \$40 res/ \$45 non-res per class

NOVEMBER 29, 2022

PUMPKIN FETTUCCINE ALFREDO & TURKEY OREO BALLS



Winter Break

DAY CAMP

Winter Break just got a little bit COOLER! Come join us for 3 days of fun! Each day will offer a different theme with corresponding games, activities and crafts! Full details to come on our website!

December 27- 29, 2022

8:30am - 4:30pm

STW Community Center

\$30 per day or \$75 for all 3 days Grades: K-6

Lunch available for an additional \$3/per day

Kristin Cafferty Kid Art

Local artist and educator Kristin Cafferty brings beautiful, fun, one-lesson projects to ages 7 to 11.

STW Community Center Cost \$20 res/ \$20 non-res

December 15, 2022 4:30-5:45pm

Birch Trees and Cardinals

Learn about movement in art while creating this stunning watercolor and printing piece.



SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday Dec 6, 2022

STW Community Center 5:00 - 7:00pm

Training for Suicide Prevention QPR
(Question, Persuade & Refer)

**Question.
Persuade.
Refer.**

Three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide.



- Learn how to Question, Persuade and Refer someone who may be suicidal.
- How to get help for yourself or learn more about preventing suicide.
- The common causes of suicidal behavior.
- The warning signs of suicide.
- How to get help for someone in crisis.

Alliance
for Prevention & Wellness
A program of BHcare

Annual Tree Lighting

Friday, December 2nd

Town-owned Augur Property 290 Forest Road, Northford
6:30 - 8:00pm *Snow or Shine!*

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NORTH BRANFORD ROTARY CLUB

Ice Sculpting
Marshmallow
Toasting

Hay Rides
Musical
Entertainment

Hot Chocolate
& Cookies
Petting Zoo

And Santa!



Marshmallow toasting
Sticks provided by:
SMORSTIX
The Perfect Marshmallow Roasting STIX

Food Trucks
to be announced!

LETTERS TO THE NORTH POLE
Mail a letter to Santa, Mrs. Claus, or your favorite elf or reindeer!
Find the template On our website nbrecreation.com



Light Up North Branford

HOLIDAY LIGHT DECORATING CONTEST

Tuesday, December 20th

6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

FREE

Get into the holiday spirit with a fun and festive competition!
REGISTER TO GET YOUR HOUSE ON THE MAP!

A map of display locations will be available on our website on December 20th.

Registration required by 12/16 www.nbrecreation.com

— SENIOR CENTER —

Senior Center Gifting Tree



Remove an ornament tag from a tree and purchase a gift card to either Big Y, Rite Aid, or Dollar General. Return the tag with the gift card taped to it to one of our Gifting Tree Locations by 12/12/22.

Find our Gifting Trees at:

STW Community Center -1332 Middletown Ave. Northford
Atwater Memorial Library -1720 Foxon Rd. North Branford
Edward Smith Library - 3 Old Post Rd. Northford

DRIVING IMPROVEMENT COURSE

Dec 6, 2022

11:00am - 3:00pm FREE STW Senior Room

Please bring a lunch or pre-order lunch (\$3) from our kitchen by 11/30. Adelle Zocher from AAA will teach preventative measures to use when driving. You will also learn how aging affects reaction time, hear tips to sharpen driving skills, review the new state laws and regulations, refine existing skills, and develop safe defensive driving techniques that save lives. Pre-registration is required. You will be eligible for insurance discount after completion.

Please note that there will be a lunch break at 12 p.m.



December 7, 2022

\$60res \$65nr

Departs 10:30am Returns 5:00pm

Join us for lunch at the Ivoryton Tavern at 11:30am and then enjoy the Winter Wonderettes at the Ivoryton Playhouse!

Meal Options: \$20.00 per person +tax & tip and includes coffee, tea, soft drink

- Stuffed portobello mushroom-stuffed with sauteed roasted red pepper, spinach, onion with blue crumble and a side salad all drizzled with balsamic glaze
- Tuna melt on white bread with French fries
- Chicken salad blt on a brioche roll with sweet potato fries
- Soup & grilled cheese-Chicken vegetable soup with grilled American cheese on white with ham.

The Wonderettes are back! This seasonal celebration finds the girls entertaining at the annual Essex Hardware Holiday Party. When Santa turns up missing, the girls use their talent and creative ingenuity to save the holiday party! Featuring great '60s versions of holiday classics such as "Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town," "Jingle Bell Rock," "Run, Rudolph, Run," and "Winter Wonderland," the result is, of course, marvelous! This energetic and glittering holiday production is guaranteed to delight audiences of all ages. Register by November 30th. Proof of vaccination & ID or mask must be worn.

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

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Southern CT Restoration. Insurance restoration and general contracting services. New construction, remodeling, kitchens, baths, roofing, siding, windows, doors, decks and painting. Call 203-239-9600.

PLUMBING

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

TREE SERVICES



Tree Service - A Better Cut, Tree Service - Local, full service tree company - we provide tree removal and trimming, chipping, and grinding. Please call 203-945-1808 for a free estimate.

JUNK REMOVAL

Lowest Prices Around. Furniture, mattresses, appliances, shed removal, brush removal, pools, decks, playscapes, construction debris etc. No job too small. Call 203-804-6373

FOR SALE

Water Tender Rowboat. 9 ' with oars. Asking \$100. Call 802-558-4408.

HELP WANTED

Holiday Help Wanted. Drivers must have own car. Apply at Petals 2 Go 280 Branford Road in North Branford or call Dave At 203-484-7800.
Part-Time ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER – The Town of North Branford is accepting applications for a part-time Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO). The ZEO serves the Town of North Branford under the direction of the Town Manager and designee of the Town Manager. Works up to 19 hours/week, no benefits. Salary range \$37.50-\$39.00 per hour DOQ. CAZEO certification required, or ability to obtain such certification within six (6) months of hire. Must possess a valid CT driver’s license.
Full description and application are available on the Town’s website www.townofnorthbranfordct.com and at the Town Manager’s Office, 909 Foxon Road, North Branford, CT 06471 during regular business hours. Please submit cover letter, resume and application and other materials in person, by mail or email to: executivesecretary@townofnorthbranfordct.com (no faxes or emails). This position will remain open until filled. (No faxes). EEO/AA

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Totokettimes@comcast.net or
mail to PO Box 313, Northford, CT

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Funeral Director

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(203) 933-1217

Keenan Funeral Home

www.keenanfuneralhome.com wecare@keenanfuneralhome.com



HOLIDAY COOKIE SALE & GIFT FAIR

Saturday, December 10, 2022 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

To be held at:
American Legion Hall,
243 North Main St.
Branford CT



- **Homemade Christmas Cookies - \$5.00 per dozen**
- **Nice selection of gifts and holiday items**
- **Vendors**
- **Raffles**
- **Spin the roulette wheel to win a prize**



Benefits
Branford Compassion Club's Feline Rescue & Adoption Center
2037 Foxon Road, North Branford CT 06471

<https://branfordcompassionclub.org>

