



# Totoket Times

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Volume 31 No 24, September 5, 2025

## IN OUR LITTLE TOWN!



### Suzanne Ashman

#### Retires as Deputy Clerk

Deputy Town Clerk Suzanne Ashman has announced her intention to retire in September. We had a chance to recognize her 18 years of dedicated service to the Town of North Branford at the August meeting of the Town Council where Mayor Rose Angeloni presented her with a plaque. We will all miss Suzanne and wish her all the best in her retirement!

*Photo: Mayor Angeloni presents Suzanne Ashman with a plaque commemorating her 18 years of service to the town upon her retirement.*



### Laura Burich

#### Recognized for Service

At their August meeting the Town Council recognized Laura Burich, a dedicated volunteer with the Fire Department, for her service on the Board of Fire Commissioners from 2017-2025. Mayor Rose Angeloni presented her with a plaque on behalf of the town in recognition of her service.

*Photo: Mayor Rose Angeloni presents Former Commissioner Laura Burich with a plaque recognizing her service on the Board of Fire Commissioners*



Come on down to 298 Forest Rd. and enjoy the  
**Augur Farm Tractor pull.**  
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## IMPORTANT NOTICE!

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.

September	19
October	3
October	17
October	31
November	21

All three issues in October and the one issue in November will be full mail to all homes and businesses.

### TOTOKET TIMES

Deadline		Publication Date	
August	15	August	22
August	29	September	5
September	12	September	19
September	28	October	3
October	10	October	17
October	24	October	31
November	14	November	21



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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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State Representative Vincent Candelora  
Making Connecticut Roads Safer:  
Progress and the Path Forward



Road safety has been a frequent topic of discussion at the state capitol and throughout Connecticut communities in recent years—and for good reason. We’ve all experienced that heart-stopping moment when another vehicle cuts us off at high speed, weaving between lanes without signaling.

Many blame the COVID-19 pandemic for creating a culture of reckless driving.

With fewer cars on the road during lockdowns, some drivers developed dangerous habits that persist today. The statistics tell a sobering story: Connecticut recorded 310 traffic deaths last year, marking the fifth consecutive year with more than 300 fatalities.

The problems we face are multifaceted. Speed is a problem. Impaired driving remains an issue. And of course, there’s the combination of the two. Wrong-way driving—often byproduct of being impaired behind the wheel—continues to plague us. In 2023, the legislature began addressing that particular crisis by requiring wrong-way detection systems on 120 of our state’s more than 700 highway ramps, alongside a public awareness campaign.

This past legislative session, which concluded in early June, delivered some reforms targeting multiple safety concerns:

**Enhanced penalties for extreme speeding:** Drivers exceeding 100 mph now face stiffer fines under our reckless driving laws, with repeat offenders risking vehicle impoundment.

**Stronger pedestrian protections:** Maximum fines for failing to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks increased from \$500 to \$750.

**Left-lane enforcement:** Police can now ticket drivers who camp in passing lanes without actively overtaking other vehicles.

**Crackdown on street takeovers:** New laws impose enhanced penalties for dangerous «street takeover» events and empower municipalities to destroy seized ATVs, dirt bikes, and minibikes used in these activities.

**Highway worker protection:** Maximum penalties for violating «move over» laws jumped from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

**Cannabis enforcement:** A change I consider important, police can now stop vehicles when they observe drivers actively consuming cannabis and smell burnt marijuana. Previously, officers couldn’t make stops based solely on cannabis violations—a glaring oversight in our marijuana legalization framework (that I opposed).

For complete details on these changes, visit the document posted at [rep-candelora.com](http://rep-candelora.com).

Meanwhile, the Department of Transportation is simultaneously pursuing its own safety improvements on state-controlled roads. While I applaud their commitment, we must ensure their rapid implementation makes sense for local communities. Cookie-cutter solutions—whether confusing intersection signage or rumble strips in residential neighborhoods—can sometimes create unintended consequences.

Overall, recent data offers reason for cautious optimism. Through June 25, traffic-related deaths dropped 31 percent compared to the same period last year—110 fatalities versus 160. The wrong-way detection systems are proving their worth, with more than 150 activations between March and June alone. Each activation likely prevented a serious crash, as wrong-way incidents too often prove fatal.

But road engineers and lawmakers alike recognize that reversing years of escalating roadway dangers requires sustained vigilance and continued innovation. We’ve made meaningful progress, but more work lies ahead.

I welcome your thoughts and ideas about improving roadway safety in Connecticut. Please share them through the contact form at [rep-candelora.com](http://rep-candelora.com).

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

LET’S BE “FRANK”

Well brother, as I mentioned in my last letter SueAnn and I starting to do some traveling. A few bigger vacations are coming up toward the end of the year but right now we are going on a few little trips to prepare me for the big ones. A day trip to Vermont to spend time with family and a long weekend in Maine were getting us ready for the big times.

I need to get ready for more walking so I decided to go see a chiropractor. Although many have prodded me to do this for quite some time, I finally broke down.

At the suggestion of my singing partner, adopted little sister and very close friend I went to Wellness for Warriors in North Haven. Candice Pollick is phenomenal. She needs to perform two more miracles to become a saint. Not only did she help me with my neck and back, she also made my knee feel better. She does it with a laser treatment and massage, She tried to give me a back realignment but I’m to fat to lay on the table. But I am feeling better and the best thing is I can sleep nights because I am pain free for he most part..

With that said, SueAnn and I added some road trips to our afternoons. While on these trips, I have noticed many things so I just want to share some of them with you.

1. We did a ten minute survey of cars on the highway and 85 % of them are SUV’s or vans. With that said, why haven’t they made the parking spaces bigger? When I pull my SUV between two other SUV.’s, I need a sun roof to climb out of the car.

2.Why do they have fences around the cemetery. I know people are dying to get in but does anyone ever escape?

3. Do girls at the beach really think they are attractive with the bikini swim suits they wear? Some of them have bigger butts than me and the string between their cheeks cannot be very comfortable. It definitely isn’t flattering.

4. Have all the fathers in the world passed away. Some of these teenage girls make no attempt to cover themselves. There must not be a father in the picture or they wouldn’t be allowed out of the house in that manner.

5. How do the highway patrol people know exactly where the deer is going to cross when they put up those “deer crossing signs”.

6. When I finally found a time to sit and relax from my travels, I just had to wonder, “It’s Labor Day weekend, where the hell is Jerry Lewis.

7. Another thing that bothers me when I am driving (as I have become a much more patient man as I mature), is when you stop to let a person cross the street in front of you, the least they could do is walk a little faster. At least show a bit of gratitude by hurrying.

8. It’s quite rude when you’re in a store and someone has an ear piece in that you can’t see and they are talking on their phone. Last week a lady told me she loved me. Blushingly I informed her that I was married. My faced remained red with anger when I realized she was talking to someone on the phone.

9. What really bothers me is when I see a beautiful flower on the road-side and tell SueAnn that I think it is lovely and she lets me know that it is ragweed.

Well that’s it for now brother. I can go on and on about things that annoy me but that would be negative. I did want to let you know that we have a new leader in charge of the Blessed Michael McGivney parish (Which Saint Anthony is a part of) and Father Dolan is a breath of fresh air. Looks like he wants to build churches instead of closing them down.

I hope your Labor Day weekend was enjoyable. Give the rest of the family a kiss and I’ll see you soon.



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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## For the Health of it...

### Good Things are Happening so Why am I Stressed?



with any season, daily life in general continues to bring its own share of ups and downs.

For me, this particular fall tips the scale in favor of more “ups” than downs. It’s a bit magical as our first grandchild (a girl) is due to join our family and our son is planning a wedding! We will also be celebrating a milestone anniversary, the marriage of two extended family members, and the engagement of yet another. In addition, a personal life-changing event will take place for me. Certainly these are major changes of the most joyous variety and I’m looking forward to navigating all the new beginnings these wonderful events will bring! However, new beginnings means change and even positive change, the kind that you’re feeling blessed and grateful for, can be stressful.

Change can be scary and exciting all at the same time. The anticipation of a momentous event, the preparation, the glitches can all add up to overwhelm and the body can respond to both positive and negative overwhelm in the same way. According to a 2021 Web MD article “both good and bad stress result in your body releasing hormones, such as adrenaline and cortisol, that trigger common signs of stress: butterflies in the stomach, racing heart and sweaty palms. Ultimately, what distinguishes good stress from bad is how you react or feel about the experience.”

Typically when we find ourselves in a state of overwhelm we may be inclined to surrender to the fact that there is nothing we can do about it other than wait for that external stressor to dissipate. Not so. While we may not be able to control the situation, we can control how we respond to it. So whether your stress is due to chronic challenges in your life or acute stressors from positive events, there are things you can do to keep it under control so that your overall health doesn’t suffer. Whether the cause is from a pleasant or not so pleasant source, stress manifests on a physical level. So if you are feeling stressed, look for the physical signs and don’t brush it off as “only stress.” Here are some simple guidelines to help:

- Do a mini mental body scan. Close your eyes and notice where in your body you are feeling stress. (For me it’s usually, neck, shoulders and jaw.) Try it in a quiet room with a guided meditation or soft music playing even if it’s for 1-5 minutes. Recognize that your body is talking to you and asking you to listen!
- Spend a few minutes morning and evening to organize your thoughts and prioritize your “To Do’s.” It will help to declutter the mind and set the tone for a more grounded day.
- Treat your gut kindly. When stressed, the gut and brain send signals back and forth, which can disrupt digestion and cause symptoms like cramping and bloating. Chew food well and limit (or eliminate) foods that can trigger such reactions (like processed and sugary foods, caffeine, and alcohol).
- Get fresh air. Spending time outdoors can lower stress hormones like cortisol and increase feel good hormones like serotonin.
- Hydrate. Staying hydrated when stressed is important as stress can cause dehydration which increases stress by elevating cortisol, and in turn affects mood and focus.
- Pack on-the-go healthy snacks to take with you when you leave the house to avoid blood sugar crashes and reaching for those foods that weigh you down.
- Fear-less. Be open to the change that’s about to come your way.

The stress of new beginnings often stems from fear of the unknown and disruption of routines. Once that stress response is triggered, the brain likes to reel us back to what’s familiar and comfortable. It’s a natural and normal reaction to the uncertainty and challenge of entering a new, unfamiliar phase of life. Positive change can be a wild and crazy adventure. However, choosing to embrace change can help us enjoy the process in a positive

## Italian American Defense League

August 23<sup>rd</sup> is the anniversary of the execution of Nicolo Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti for a murder they didn’t commit in South Braintree, Massachusetts. The trial took place during a time of Italia-phobia and drew worldwide attention during the 1920s. After the Russian Revolution and the first Red Scare, the [anti] Immigration Act of 1924 ended the “Great Arrival” of Italian immigrants. Sacco and Vanzetti were born in Italy and self-proclaimed anarchists which made them easy scapegoats by law enforcement.

The arrests, trial, and executions made newspaper headlines around the world. One paper included a caption “Don’t Kill My Daddy,” which was said by Inez Sacco, Nicolo’s daughter. To remember the August 23, 1927 executions, here are Bartolomeo Vanzetti’s final words before his conviction by the court describing the character of his friend, Sacco.

*Sacco too is a worker from his boyhood, a skilled worker, lover of work, with a good job and pay, a good and lovely wife, two beautiful children and a neat little home at the verge of a wood, near a brook. Sacco is a heart, a faith, a character, a man; a man lover of nature and of mankind. A man who gave all, who sacrifice all to the cause of Liberty and to his love of mankind; money, rest, mundane ambitions, his own wife, his children, himself and his own life. Sacco has never dreamt to steal, never to assassinate. He and I never brought a morsel of bread to our mouths, from our childhood to today – which has not been gained by the sweat of our brows. Never.*

Furthermore, Vanzetti compares his execution to what his life could have been.

*I might have live out my life talking at street corners to scorning men. I might have die, unmarked, unknown, a failure. Now we are not a failure. This is our career and our triumph. Never in our full life could we hope to do such work for tolerance, for justice, for man’s understanding of man as now we do by accident. Our words – our lives – our pains – nothing! The taking of our lives – lives of a good shoemaker and a poor fish-peddler – all! The last moment belongs to us – the agony is our triumph.*

As Americans we cannot forget the journey of all immigrant groups throughout history and their quests for justice. Let us remember the sacrifice of two Italian immigrants by never taking our precious gifts of justice and liberty for granted. Five years ago, Mayor Michael Passero of New London, CT ordered the removal of the city’s Columbus monument which was dedicated in 1928. The Italian anarchists of New London who endured and witnessed Sacco and Vanzetti’s injustice erected the statue following the executions. Unlike Passero and the City Council, we will remember Sacco and Vanzetti’s sacrifice. Learn more about Sacco and Vanzetti by reading this [History Channel](#) article.

**Taken for the Italian American Defense League Newsletter.  
Matthew Guarnieri - President**



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IT'S ITALIAN - IT'S ALL GOOD

7<sup>th</sup> Annual Richard M DeCrosta Memorial Golf Tournament



The North Haven Sons & Daughters of Italy, Lodge 2805 is holding its annual Richard M DeCrosta Memorial Golf Tournament, benefitting their scholarship program and the Epilepsy Foundation, on Sunday, September 21, 2025 at Hunter Memorial Golf Course in Meriden.

The registration fee is \$165 per player and includes lunch, dinner and refreshments on the course. The tournament will utilize a scramble format. Registration starts at 11:30 am, followed by lunch and a 1:00 pm shotgun start, with dinner taking place at 5:30 pm.

In addition to team score prizes, there will be prizes for closest to the pin, hole in one, and men’s and women’s longest drives. In addition to players, the Lodge has a number of options available for those who wish to sponsor the event.

If you have any questions about this event, please contact the Lodge at 203-239-2999 or visit the golf tournament page on our website: [northhavenlodge2805.club/golf-tournament](http://northhavenlodge2805.club/golf-tournament)



On August 7th, The North Haven Sons and Daughters of Italy, Lodge 2805 delivered a truckload of toys to the Yale New Haven Toy Closet Program. These toys were collected via our monthly Lodge meeting, collection boxes in community businesses and a collection drive on the North Haven Green. The Yale New Haven Toy Closet Program distributes toys to every child that is discharged from one of their hospitals. The North Haven Sons and Daughters of Italy collects toys twice a year for this program, in December and July. We would like to thank everyone that donated toys to make this “Christmas in July” drive a success. We would also like to thank Arnold’s Jewelers, Nick’s CharPit and Terrace of Beauty for housing our collection boxes. For more information about Lodge 2805, please visit our website at [www.northhavenlodge.club](http://www.northhavenlodge.club).

*Members of North Haven Sons and Daughters of Italy, Lodge 2805 delivering toys from their “Christmas in July” collection drive to the Yale New Haven Toy Closet program. Pictured from left to right: Lodge members Ralph Casciello, Donna Casciello, YNHH Auxiliary member Billy Bradley, and Lodge members Denise Krause and Regina Najarian.*

Fried Dough Pizza Night

Friday, October 17, 2025, 6:00PM



**Featuring Mark Hehl**  
Talking about growing up as an Italian American  
**also Featuring Al Clemente**  
with a musical presentation  
Enjoy a fun evening.  
2 Fried Dough pizzas, Salad, Beverages, Coffee and Dessert.  
**6:00 PM**  
Hope Christian Church  
211 Montowese Avenue, North Haven  
**Only \$15 per person.**  
**For Entertainment and Supper**  
For tickets call SueAnn at 203-710-4186



On August 15th, The North Haven Sons and Daughters of Italy, Lodge 2805 delivered a carload of gently used clothes and school supplies to the ‘rkids Family Center in New Haven CT. These items were collected via our generous Lodge members and collected at our monthly Lodge meetings. Programs at ‘rkids Family Center (<https://rkidsct.org>) provide services to vulnerable children & their families, promoting permanency, safety & stability for children through services to their biological, foster or adoptive families. We would like to thank everyone that donated for this drive, and for the support our members give for the ongoing endeavors of the Lodge’s Community Outreach Committee. The North Haven Sons and Daughters of Italy, Lodge 2805 meets on the first Tuesday of every month and welcomes new members. For more information about Lodge 2805, please visit our website at [www.northhavenlodge.club](http://www.northhavenlodge.club).

The North Haven Sons & Daughters of Italy

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# Italian American Superstitions, Traditions, and Quirks

by Mark Hehl

Connecticut has the highest per capita population of Italian Americans in the USA. Our pizza is award winning and considered the best in the country. Here are some childhood recollections of a local Italian American who grew up in a very Italian enclave during the 1950’s. Each culture has its set of quirks and superstitions some are shared among other cultures and others are unique. Here are some of the Italian things that I remember, as a child:

- Newborn babies were brought home from the hospital, and it was considered bad luck to bring them outside until they were baptized. This was strictly adhered to.
- There were many protective gestures to ward off *malocchio* (evil eye) such as: placing a yellow bow in a new car.
- There was a need to visit the graves of loved ones as special times such as birthdays.
- My grandmother would always celebrate my *Onomastico* (Saints Day), which for me was April 25. It was just as important as my birthday.
- If one did not like someone they would spit on the ground when speaking about them.
- We were not allowed to venture outside with wet hair as it was thought to result in one getting sick.
- My grandparents’ generation did not trust/believe in Medical Doctors. There was one family health situation that became much worse because of a medical issue which did not receive timely medical attention. An amputation was performed due to the lack of timely medical treatment.
- Wasting food was not tolerated. Children were urged to eat all the food served to them. I believe that this added to my struggle with managing my weight.
- The police were not trusted. Investigations were difficult for them due to the lack of cooperation by the Italians and Italian Americans in my neighborhood. *I know nothing* was a common response.
- St. Joseph day was always celebrated in a big way.
- Children were to be named after their grandparents. The paternal ones were first. My great-grandmother was named Laura. Being that there were already so many Laura’s in the family, my mother was named Lorraine.
- Children were expected to live with their parents until they were married. This was the case with me and my siblings. I attended local universities and spent those years living at my parent’s home and not a college dorm.
- When someone was sick or died, the relatives went to church to light a candle.
- I do not remember having ketchup or peanut butter in my early childhood home and to this day I do not eat either. I do not even like the way that they smell.
- It was thought to be a crime if one went to a restaurant for Italian food. That food was always prepared and eaten at home.

Mark Hehl is an Italian American engineer, author and public speaker. He is the author of the books *An Immigrant’s Dilemma* and *Ameri Sicula: Sicilian Culture in America*. He will be receiving the Italian American Ambassador Award from Italian Charities of America in October 2025.

# Connecting our Town

For Immediate Release:  
*Common Ground – Connecting Our Town Invites Residents to Build a more connected North Branford Upcoming “Community Day of Connection” Offers Chance to Meet, Share, and Celebrate Together North Branford,*

CT —August 16, 2025 — Common Ground – Connecting Our Town is calling on residents, local organizations, and community leaders to come together and help shape the future of our town. Common Ground is a growing network of local organizations and residents with diverse backgrounds, stories, and perspectives. Our mission is simple but powerful:

1. Support each other.
  2. Work together to identify and address our common wants and needs.
  3. Ensure every resident has a voice in how our town grows and develops.
- Throughout the year, Common Ground hosts community conversations, town-wide events, educational sessions, and other opportunities for neighbors to gather.

Now, we’re inviting everyone to join us at our next big event — the Community Day of Connection hosted and sponsored by BHcare\*— to experience the spirit of Common Ground firsthand. The Community Day of Connection will take place on Saturday, September 13, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at BHcare, 28 Branford Road, North Branford.

The free, family-friendly event will feature music, crafts, games, and the chance to meet local organizations, nonprofits, and service providers. Participants can learn about available services, share their ideas, and enjoy time with neighbors in a fun and welcoming setting. Whether you’ve lived in North Branford for generations or just moved here, Common Ground invites you to be part of this growing movement for connection, collaboration, and community pride.

\*BHcare provides comprehensive behavioral health, prevention, and domestic violence services that improve the lives and health of individuals, and families throughout the community. Learn more: [www.BHcare.org](http://www.BHcare.org)

Event Details: • What: Community Day of Connection • When: Saturday, September 13, 2025 – 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM • Where: BHcare, 28 Branford Road, North Branford • Cost: Free and open to all For more information about Common Ground or to get involved, contact Kara Papa at 2038591512 or [klcpapa@gmail.com](mailto:klcpapa@gmail.com)

## OVER 100 RUNNERS PARTICIPATE IN 5K FUNDRAISER ‘PATH TO THE PARADE’ FOR THE GREATER NEW ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE

New Haven, CT – Over 100 runners and walkers participated in the “Path to the Parade” 5K Run/Walk on the Farmington Canal. Now in its 11<sup>TH</sup> year, the fundraiser presented by Groundworks is spearheaded by North Branford resident and marathon guru, John Tolbert. Tolbert created the event to benefit the Greater New Haven St. Patrick’s Day Parade. “We created the ‘Path to the Parade’ to build community spirit and promote health and wellness in a fun, family-friendly way;” it’s become a wonderful tradition where participants can get some exercise and enjoy the camaraderie. It’s the perfect kickoff to ‘parade season’.”

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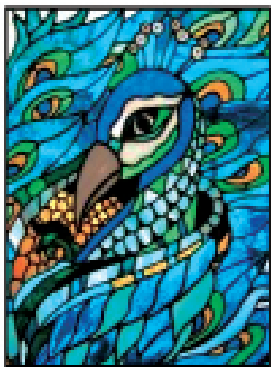
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THEY MAKE US PROUD

Katelyn Bailey was named to the Dean’s List at Western New England University in Springfield, MA  
Stephanie Sadusky and Greg Fowler graduated from the University of Rhode Island in Kingston.

Glass Dance Studio  
Stained Glass Artisans



- Stained Glass Classes
- Restorations
- Repairs
- Custom Work
- Gallery Gift Shop

1999 Foxon Road, North Branford  
glassdancestudio.com  
860-614-4816



Calling all grads:  
NBHS Class of  
2000!



Join us for a 25<sup>th</sup> reunion celebration  
Saturday, November 29, 2025

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

BACK TO SCHOOL!  
(It’s not just for kids)  
FREE CLASSES:

- ✓ English for Speakers of Other Languages
- ✓ High School Diploma/GED®
- ✓ Citizenship Prep
- ✓ ESOL Family Literacy
- ✓ ServSafe® Certification

Scan the QR Code  
to Register!



Shoreline  
ADULT EDUCATION  
A Community of Lifelong Learners



shorelineadulted.org (203) 488-5693

Support North Branford  
Field Hockey!



280 Branford Road, North Branford, 06471  
203-488-7711



Date: Wednesday, Sept. 17

Time: 5pm - 9pm



20% of all proceeds will go  
to the North Branford Field  
Hockey team



Proceeds will help with team  
expenses as well as any future  
fundraisers for the team

Connecticut Sportsplex®

FIELDHOUSE FAMILY FUN CENTER

LASER TAG BIRTHDAY PARTIES  
LASER TAG GROUP OUTINGS

WALK-IN LASER TAG OFFERED  
FRIDAY 5PM—9PM  
SATURDAY 11AM—7PM  
SUNDAY 11AM—4PM



203-484-4383  
www.ctsportsplex.com





## CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Branford Bible Chapel.** 212 Branford Rd., corner of Twin Lakes Rd. 203-488-3586. Sunday morning : 10:00 - 10:30 Worship & Lord's Supper, 10:30 11:00 Announcements and Music Minity, 11:00 -11:45 Ministering of God's Word & Sunday School. . Nursery provided. Vacation Bible School, missions & outreach programs. [www.branfordbiblechapel.org](http://www.branfordbiblechapel.org)

**Hope Christian Church** (we are an Assemblies of God affiliated church) 211 Montowese Ave., North Haven CT [www.hopeag.com](http://www.hopeag.com). Sunday Service 10:00 AM, Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM. Follow us on Facebook. "realpeople realhope reallife" (203) 234-7328

**Northford Community Church.** 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](mailto:northfordcc@gmail.com). Office Hours: Tuesday 9am-1pm; Other days by appointment. John Vigneri, Pastor. Catherine Klouda, worship leader. 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.northfordcommunity.church](http://www.northfordcommunity.church).

**St. Ambrose Parish – Roman Catholic Parish** with two church buildings, St. Augustine, located at 30 Caputo Rd. North Branford and St. Monica, located at 1321 Middletown Ave. Northford.

The pastor is Rev. Robert L. Turner. All are welcome and invited to join us for Mass! Summer Mass times include: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 9:00 AM at St. Augustine. Weekend Masses are celebrated on Saturday at 4:30 PM at St. Augustine (English Ordinary no incense used), Sunday at 9:00 AM at St. Monica (English Ordinary, no incense used) and on Sunday at 11:00 AM at St. Augustine (Latin Ordinary with use of incense). The sacrament of Reconciliation is offered a half hour before all Masses, excepting Sunday, and on Monday evenings from 5-6 PM during Adoration. The parish office is located at St. Augustine Church and is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-1. You can access the bulletin and staff emails at [NBcatholics.org](mailto:NBcatholics.org). If you are new to the area and looking for a wonderful parish or homeschool co-op to join, please visit us or give us a call!

**Community Baptist Church.** 53 Hopson Avenue, Branford, CT. Pastor Jon Bickel. Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 a.m. and Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Nursery is provided. Adult bible study and prayer meeting, and children's clubs on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. For more info.: 203-488-8581; [info@cbcbranford.org](mailto:info@cbcbranford.org); [www.cbcbranford.org](http://www.cbcbranford.org)

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**, the White Church on the Hill in the Heart of Northford, has been an integral part of Northford since 1763! Worship services are held Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Refreshments and fellowship always follow. Please join us - we'd love to get to know you! All are always welcome!! The church is also open to all in the community for individual prayer, Tuesdays from noon to 2 p.m. St. Andrew's supports many community programs, and contributes regularly to the North Branford Scholarship Program; North Branford Social Services (NBSS) Thanksgiving Basket Share and Christmas gift and food basket share programs; NBSS Back-To-School Backpacks; clothing donations (donation shed located at the back of the church parking lot); and more. A number of fundraising events are held throughout the year to help us help our neighbors, such as an Annual Rhubarb Fest, summertime Ice Cream Socials, and the annual Harvest Supper. Please join us for the events, and help us help our neighbors! Additionally, the church's Parish Hall is available for rent for birthday parties, showers, receptions, etc. The Rev. Bryan Spinks is St. Andrew's priest; Nan Monde is Sr. Warden. For more information please contact Nan at 203-710-7005

**Shoreline Community Church** located at 9 Business Park Dr., Units 1-4, Branford, CT. Call us at 203.481.8919. Sunday Services at 8:30 and 10:00 AM (Children and Jr. High activities meet during our 10 AM service). For more information, check out our website [www.sccbranford.org](http://www.sccbranford.org). SCC is a diverse community that is dedicated to Making the Invisible God Visible.

**The North Branford Congregational Church**, NACCC, 1680 Foxon Road, North Branford CT. Join us for meaningful worship and Bible based teaching every Sunday at 10 am. Sunday School for children during service. Communion on the first Sunday of the month. We offer Bible study, choir, lunch bunch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday brunch, charity work, book club, praise team, men's fellowship and more. Our pastor is the Rev. Wendy Tarry. 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](mailto:nobdcong@sbcglobal.net), website: [www.northbranfordcongregational.org](http://www.northbranfordcongregational.org) Come grow in faith with us!

Please join us for worship at **St. John's Episcopal Church** at 129 Ledge Hill Road in Guilford, CT 06437. Our services are at 10 am each Sunday with Youth Spiritual Foundation for ages 5 and up every first and third Sunday. Coffee hour after our service in our parish hall. See our Facebook page St. John's Episcopal Church, Guilford CT. 203-457-1094. check our website at [www.saintjohnsguilford.org](http://www.saintjohnsguilford.org)

**United Methodist Church, Branford** 811 East Main St, Branford (Route 1, across from Bill Miller's Castle). [www.umcbranford.org](http://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 . 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. While we are in transition, we continue to hold services of Morning Prayer following Rite 2 in the Book of Common Prayer, and do have services of Holy Eucharist when we are fortunate to get a supply priest. At this time, we have a single service at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday morning. Refreshments and fellowship to follow service in the parish hall. Please visit our Facebook page or our website [zionaepiscopalchurch.org](http://zionaepiscopalchurch.org). Zion is an open and affirming congregation for those seeking a safe place to worship and grow in Christ. 203-488-7395

### NORTHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

4 Old Post Road, Northford, CT 06472

# community

FOOD TRUCKS  
FLOWERS & PUMPKINS  
VARIOUS VENDORS  
LIVE MUSIC

## FALL FESTIVAL

Sept. 12th 12pm - 7pm  
Sept. 13th 10am - 7pm  
Sept. 14th 12pm - 6pm

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [northfordcommunity.church](http://northfordcommunity.church)

@NCCNSMove  
Northford Community Church

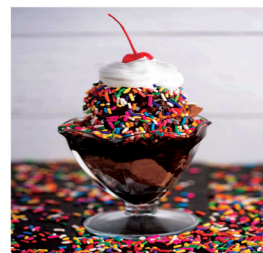
### ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*The White Church on the Hill in the Heart of Northford*

## \* ICE CREAM SOCIAL \*

**TUES., SEPT 9th 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**DON'T MISS THE LAST ICE CREAM SOCIAL OF THE SUMMER !!**



**\*\*LOTS OF FLAVORS  
& TOPPINGS\*\***  
Still only \$4 per dish !!

**Bring friends  
& family !!**

**ALL WELCOME !**

**St. Andrew's Church Hall  
1382 Middletown Avenue, Northford**

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MISTRY MURDER DINNER

INSIDERS ANNOUNCEMENT

September 20, 2025

7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.



**COUNCIL 6801**

Saint Monica's Church

1331 Middletown Avenue



**COUNCIL 6801**

Northford, CT 06472

Raffle Baskets & 50/50 Raffle

\$40.00 per person

For questions or tickets - email:

[knightout6801@gmail.com](mailto:knightout6801@gmail.com)

or Call 203-410-3885

PROCEEDS WILL HELP

MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY



DEATH NOTICE



With family by his side, Fred Liedke, 82, of Northford, CT, passed away peacefully on August 17, 2025. Born on January 20, 1943, he was the son of the late Gertrude (Lendhart) and Frederick John Liedke, Sr. He is survived by his wife of 62 years Louise (Harley) Liedke, and two children, Catheryn (Joseph) Franco of Hope Valley, RI, and Jack Liedke of Delray Beach, FL. He is the brother of Charles (Francis) Liedke and leaves behind numerous cousins and extended family. Fred was immensely proud of his four grandchildren, Jillian and Joseph Franco, and Jacob and Matthew Liedke. A graduate of Hamden High School, he earned a bachelor’s degree from High Point University in North Carolina, where he was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. His career as a mechanical engineer began at the family business, L. R. Brown Manufacturing, and continued at Camco Fittings and Ideal Forging. He was a Third Degree Mason and former member of the Shriners Pyramid Temple Motor Patrol, delighting parade-goers throughout New England in his tiny red T-Bird. Fred also served with the Northford Volunteer Fire Department, where he supported the Junior Firefighters Program. A licensed ham radio operator with the Meriden Amateur Radio Club, he had a lifelong enthusiasm for electronics. Fred especially enjoyed the Connecticut shoreline, camping at Hammonasset Beach and Riverdale Campground, and boating with family and friends as a member of the Indian Neck Yacht Club in Branford. Those who know him will remember Fred’s remarkable musical talent, entertaining family and friends with the accordion, piano, and guitar. He will be missed, but his legacy of music, humor, generosity, and larger-than-life personality lives on.

Family and friends gathered on Sunday, August 24th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a brief service to follow at The Havens Family North Haven Funeral Home, 36 Washington Ave, North Haven, CT. Burial will be private at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, online, or at: JDRF, PO Box 37920, Boone, IA, 50037-0920.

Annual Lake Gaillard Walk Returns!

The Northford-North Branford Women’s Club GFWC, in conjunction with the Regional Water Authority, is sponsoring its 25th Annual Lake Gaillard Walk in North Branford on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm, rain or shine.

Lake Gaillard is normally closed to the public and is not included in the Regional Water Authority’s pass, so this is a once-a-year opportunity to enjoy a walk around this beautiful property. The distance around the lake is 7 miles, walkers can choose to do the full loop or a partial section. **Participants must start on the trail by 11 am** to allow enough time, all walkers must exit the property no later than 1pm.

Buses will be available to transport participants to the Lake Gaillard property from **ATWATER LIBRARY** beginning at 8:30 am. Access to the Beech Street entrance will be by bus or on foot only. Parking on Beech Street and Poms Lane will be prohibited where posted. Sturdy strollers and wagons are welcome. Bicycles, roller blades and pets cannot be allowed on the trail.

Registration fee is \$10.00 for ages 11 and up, \$5 for children ages 3- 10, and under 3 are free. **Pre-registration is strongly encouraged!** Participants may also register on-site the day of the walk for \$15. Payment can be sent through Venmo @NorthfordWomens-Club or by check made out to the Northford-North Branford Women’s Club and mailed to Lake Gaillard Walk, P.O. Box 264, Northford, CT 06472. Please include your full name and a contact phone number with either payment method. Cash is recommended for onsite payment.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE  
2025-2026 HEATING SEASON  
TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD  
OFFICE OF SOCIAL SERVICE  
1332 Middletown Avenue, Northford, CT

This Office of Social Service will begin taking applications for the Energy Assistance Program for those who heat with a deliverable fuel. It is preferred that those that heat with a utility will make appointments after January 2026. Although applications are taken now the program will not begin until November 1, 2025. The program helps people pay for heat and weatherize the home. Eligibility is based on income; assets are no longer reviewed. This is not an entitlement program.

If you are interested in applying for Energy Assistance, you may call North Branford Social Service at 203-484-6006 or 475-655-0412 to make an appointment. A flyer with required documents is available in both public libraries, the Office of Social Service lobby at STW Community Center and online at <https://www.northbranfordct.gov/192/Energy-Assistance-Program>

Required Documentation

***\*\*Please provide all that applies for all household members:\*\****

- Social security/numbers and Dates of Birth (all household members)
- DSS Benefit Verification Letter, including benefit amount and current dates
- Documentation of four weeks of income within 30 days prior to application date for all household members aged 18 and over
- Gas bill (if you heat with natural gas) OR Oil/propane/kerosene vendor name (if you heat with deliverable fuel). Call your vendor and inquire if they participate
- Electric bill (all households must provide electric bill)
- Rent receipt, lease or Section 8 letter and landlord contact information if you rent.
  - If heat or electricity is included in rent, must be noted on lease/receipt
  - Proof of Mortgage payment (mortgage does not need to be paid)
- Social Security, SSDI and/or SSI direct deposit on bank statement)
- Pension income current stub or 1099
- Unemployment (payment history printout from Dept. of Labor up to date of appointment)
- Child support/Alimony (court document/decreed)
- Rental income from your rental units/properties (lease, rent receipt)
- Self-employment Income ( worksheet showing 6 or 12 months income and expenses) and last income tax return filed.
- Contributions by friends/relatives (signed and dated letter from friend/relative w/ their address & contact information, stating amount and frequency of financial assistance)
  - Worker’s compensation (check stubs or attorney’s letter/statement)

Self Employment Form, Friends and Family Form and the Required Checklist are available online as well as the Office of Social Service Lobby. You may complete prior to your appointment to expediate your application.

You must bring copies of your required documents if you need your originals returned. This office **cannot** make copies for you. **Please bring all the required documents. Applications cannot be completed without the required documents.**

You may also apply online at <https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Economic-Security/Winter-Heating-Assistance/Energy-Assistance---Winter-Heating/How-To-Apply>.

**MILITARY Whist Card Party**  
**North Branford Congregational Church**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
**1680 Foxon Road, North Branford**  
**Friday, September 19, 2025**  
**Doors open 6:15**  
**for light refreshments & raffles!**  
**Game starts at 7:00 pm**  
**Tickets \$12 each**  
**MUST be purchased in advance**  
**By contacting Jan at 203-671-8223**

**A Journey Through the Life of Saint Carlo Acutis & Eucharistic Miracles**

On Sunday, September 7, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at St. Monica Church Hall, we invite you to a **once-in-a-lifetime** exhibition, held on the very day Carlo Acutis is canonized as a saint.


This special occasion is a wonderful opportunity to:

- Discover Carlo’s inspiring life and his love for the Eucharist
- Explore Eucharistic miracles from around the world
- See the relics of over 50 saints
- Visit the vocation promotion booth
- Watch video presentations on Carlo’s life and Eucharistic miracles
- Enjoy snacks and refreshments

We encourage everyone to take a little time out of your day to visit and be inspired by the faith and dedication of this modern saint. Bring your friends and family along to share in this **faith-filled celebration!**

Those wishing to volunteer are invited to sign up at the parish office.

Don’t miss this extraordinary opportunity to step into the life of a modern saint!



**SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 7  
10 AM—4 PM  
St. Monica Hall**



Recycling News

Important Dates for the Fall

- Scrap Metal Pickup – week of October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Electronics collection at Public Works – Saturday 11-1
- Bulky Waste Pickup – week of November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Leaf Drop-Off opens – Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Hazwaste Central is open for the season until October Safe & Free Disposal of Residential Household Hazardous Waste

The Regional Water Authorities’ HazWaste Central will be open on Saturdays through mid-October.

Now is the time to drop off your hazardous waste. There are no lines and it takes about 5 minutes in-and-out. If you wait until October, the lines will be longer.

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](mailto:ask.hazwaste@rwater.com).

Plastic Film Reminder

Please remember to empty your plastic bags of food and liquids before placing in the collection bin. The best way to do this is to turn the bags inside out. It may just be water to you, but mixed with other things it becomes a sticky mess. Also, if you are putting the bags in another bag, please pack them loosely. Tightly packed bags tend to get smelly.

As a reminder, the town’s drop off locations are:  
The new collection bin at Public Works, Northford Store,  
The Food Pantry of NB, Country Paint and Hardware, T.J.’s  
Launderette

Helpful Hints for Plastic Recycling

- You can keep the caps on the bottles when putting them into the blue bin.
- Black plastic, as in plant pots and take-out containers, are not recyclable.
- The sorting machines don’t work on the black plastic. All other colors work fine.
- That empty bucket of driveway sealer does not go into the recycle bin.
- Styrofoam does not go into the recycle bin.

Have your Trash Bins become a dirty, smelly mess?

You can look for local companies that offer a service to clean your bins.

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

North Branford’s Totoket Historical Society

House Tour 2025

Saturday, October 4, 2025 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Join us for the first historic house tour in over 50 years! Take a step back in time and visit 5 historic private homes in North Branford and Northford plus the Totoket Historical Society’s Reynolds-Beers house.

Ticket Information

- Advanced sales tickets are \$40.00 through the Historical Society’s website: [www.thetotokethistoricalsociety.org](http://www.thetotokethistoricalsociety.org). Advanced sales open until Oct. 1.
- Day of Tour tickets will be \$45.00 – CASH only.
- Tickets are non-refundable – thank you for understanding.

Any questions, contact Lynn Walczak 203-214-9172 or Nancy Gierwielanec 203-500-0267

Join All The King’s Horses Equine Rescue on September 14th from 5:15pm-7:30pm for a cruise on the Blackhawk. 11 Main St. Niantic, CT. Watch the sunset, seals and lighthouses while enjoying the open water. \$50 for adults \$40 for 12 and under. More info and to sign up using the link



Sunset Cruise and Seal Watch  
zeffy.com





# NORTH BRANFORD PARKS, RECREATION, AND SENIOR CENTER

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## Embrace

An Adaptive Dance Program

*Join us for an adaptive, sensory friendly dance class for individuals of differing abilities!*

Session 1: Sept. 23 - Oct. 25, 2025 - No class 10/7

Session 2: Nov. 4 - Dec. 9, 2025 - No class 11/11

**Ages 16 and under**

6:15pm- 7:00pm - \$65 or Drop-in for \$15/class  
STW Community Center



## BACK TO SCHOOL FAMILY DAY!

**Sunday September, 28th**  
**1:00 - 3:00pm**

**STW Community Center**  
**Join us for this FREE**  
**community inclusive event!**

**Please register by 9/24**

**Mini Golf**  
**Contests & Prizes**  
**Food & Fun!**

**Indoor calming space available**  
**inside STW Community Center**



**THE POTATO AND CORN FESTIVAL  
COMMITTEE, WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A HUGE  
THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS!**

Without the generosity of our sponsors we would never be able to do what we do!! We are beyond grateful for the support they give not just to PoCo but to our community as a whole!! From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for continuing to be there for us!! We are blessed to have you as part of the PoCo family, and as members of our community, and our neighboring communities.

### Diamond Sponsors

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SERVICES**



### Platinum Sponsors



### Gold Sponsors



### Silver Sponsors



### Bronze Sponsors



**Just Buttons**



## — SENIOR CENTER — AQUA TURF



**Jukebox45 Show**  
**Band: DooWop Show**

*At Aqua Turf Club*

**September 9, 2025- \$58res/\$63nr**

This group plays some of the most memorable songs from the great era of DooWop. Paul Anka, The Duprees, Fred Parrish & The 5 Satins, Larry Chance & The Earls, just to name a few. Celebrating decades of legendary music, you won't want to miss this!!

Departs 10:15 am Returns: appx. 5:00 pm

Register by: 8/22 Payment is due at time of registration

## 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!

Grades 3-5 at STW Community Center

**\*\*EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS\*\***

1:00 - 3:00pm Cost \$40 res/ \$45 non-res per class

**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2025**

**PASTA ALLA SORRENTINA & DECORATE YOUR OWN  
CUPCAKE**

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15, 2025**

**CHEESY HALLOWEEN PIZZA SKULLS &  
HALLOWEEN OREO CAKE BARS**



## SWEET TREAT TRIP

**Bishop's Orchards - Guilford**

**September 25, 2025**

**Departs STW at 12:00pm Returns 2:00pm**

Hop on the senior bus and join us to get some delicious ice cream at Bishop's and time will be allowed for some shopping in the store! Please register by 9/19. *The cost is on your own.*

## CHRISTMAS CARD CREATIONS

**Sept 29th - \$10res/\$12nr**

**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. Three sessions to choose from!



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


ELECTRICIAN

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

LANDSCAPING

Mone Landscaping LLC, is now accepting new accounts for lawnmowing, trimming, mulching, planting, etc. *We are licensed and fully insured. Call Joe at 475-201-7041 for a free estimate.*

PLUMBING

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

“Security Systems are best when installed by a Professional not the Internet”



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355 Sacket Point Rd.  
North Haven, Ct 06473

*Did you know:*

Each dog has a specific nose print.  
This is similar to our finger prints.

PRIVATE READING TUTOR

Boost your child's reading skills this summer!

WHAT I PROVIDE

- Individualized lessons
- Phonics-based reading and spelling instruction
- Certified reading specialist
- In-person sessions at North Branford or Wallingford libraries

CONTACT ERICA BOZZUTO  
203-494-5784  
Bozzutoe@gmail.com

Celebrate Life!



KEENAN FUNERAL HOME, INC.

238 Elm Street  
West Haven, CT 06516

330 Notch Hill Rd  
North Branford, CT 06471

Every life is unique.  
Every goodbye, special.

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PREPLAN AND SAVE!! CALL NOW: (203) 933-1217  
EMAIL US: WeCare@KeenanFuneralHome.com

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"Keenan Funeral Home was truly amazing and very attentive to all of our needs. Thank you Keenan, for being there in our most painful time."

"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!!



CRAFT FAIR

CRAFTERS CARE

An Event That Stocks The Food  
Pantry of North Branford

Saturday, Oct 11, 2025  
(RAIN DATE – SATURDAY OCT 18, 2025)

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Handcrafted vendors, raffles, live music and more!

DOODY'S INN  
465 Foxon Rd. North Branford