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Volume 31 No 17, May 16, 2025

NORTH BRANFORD

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE - 2025

The Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, **May 26, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** in the North Branford section of town. The Veterans Service Commission and the Town of North Branford extend an invitation to everyone who wishes to march on that day. Groups will form on Commerce Drive which is located off Route 80 at 9:00 a.m. The parade line-up will start at 9:30 a.m. and step off at 10:00 a.m. **sharp**.

The parade line will proceed east onto Route 80 toward the North Branford Congregational Church. All are invited to Company #1 Firehouse, 1531 Foxon Rd, North Branford after the ceremony for refreshments.

Memorial Day is dedicated to honoring and remembering the men & women who have served our country and have since passed way. Anyone who has a family member or acquaintance who is deceased veteran is invited to carry a picture of this person in our Memorial Day parade to honor their memory

Interested groups contact **Gina Cox in the Town Manager's Office**, gcox@northbranfordct.gov or 203-484-6000 or **Kathy Poston at Parks, Recreation and Senior Center**, kposton@northbranfordct.gov or 203-484-6017. This is necessary to be included in the parade lineup. **RSVP no later than Wednesday, May 21, 2025.** We look forward to another successful parade.

Calling all past and present Military to Walk in the Memorial Day Parade

REMEMBER AND HONOR



On Monday, May 26, 2025



The parade will be held in the North Branford section of town. The parade line-up will start at 9:30 a.m. and step off at 10:00 a.m. sharp. The parade will proceed East onto Route 80 toward the North Branford Congregational Church.

**** There will be vehicles for you to ride in**** Kindly inform us by Wednesday, May 21, 2025, if you need transportation in the parade.

Please contact **Gina Cox in the Town Manager's Office** at gcox@northbranfordct.gov or 203-484-6000 or **Kathy Poston at Parks, Recreation and Senior Center**, kposton@northbranfordct.gov 203-484-6017. RSVP no later than Wednesday, May 21, 2025



HONOR THEM WITH A FLAG

The North Branford/Northford Women's Club GFWC is sponsoring "Honor them with a Flag", a salute to our country's military personnel, veterans and first responders. The public is invited to participate by purchasing a U.S. flag dedicated to a member of our military, first responders or anyone else close to your heart. The flags will go on display on the front lawn of the North Branford town Hall from two days before Flag Day (Thursday, June 12), till July 4th. Each flag 12x18, will have a white ribbon attached to it, inscribed with the name and rank of the soldier, first responder or loved one. Flags will be available for collection for one week after July 4th at the North Branford town Hall. Proceeds will benefit local veterans projects.

To order fill out the attached form and mail a check made out to North-Branford/Northford Women's Club GFWC for \$10.00 per flag to:
PO Box 264, Northford, Ct 06472.

Information is also available online at www.northfordwomensclubgfwc.org. There is no limit on purchases but all orders must be in by 6-7-25.

For more information contact: Mary Ellen Cellett at 203-484-9079.

A ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, June 12th at 7:00PM on the North Branford Town Hall Lawn.

Please fill out the following information and make a check payable to the
Northford-North Branford Women's Club, GFWC.

Mail to Northford-North Branford Women's Club, P.O. Box 264, Northford, CT 06472

Deadline: Saturday, June 7, 2025

Name and Rank: _____

(As you would like it to appear on the flag's ribbon—please print)

Service Branch: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Name of Purchaser: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of Flags: ____ x \$10 per flag = Total donation: _____

Photocopies or similar copies of this form are acceptable.



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TOTOKET TIMES

Deadline		Publication Date	
May	30	June	6
June	14	June	20
June	28	July	4
July	10	July	17
July	24	July	31
August	7	August	14
august	21	August	28

Vincent J. Mase, Sr.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

The Law Office of
Vincent J. Mase Sr. LLC
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR
AT LAW

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Tel: 203-484-4403
Fax 203-484-4404
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Mase_attoreny@sbcglobal.net

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Upcoming Totoket Times Publication Dates for May & June.

In keeping with our twice monthly schedule, the Totoket Times will skip the May 30th issue and go to June 6th.
Our issues in June will be June 6th and June 20th.
Wishing all a blessed Memorial Day and Father’s Day.



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State Representative Vincent Candelora Reality Check: Connecticut Can't Afford Democrats' Reckless Budget

Democrats in the state legislature recently advanced two troubling budget bills—one that raises taxes, and another that blows through the state's spending cap. Together, these proposals represent their alternative to Governor Lamont's February budget plan that also backs away from defending Connecticut's hard-won fiscal guardrails.

House Republicans believe Connecticut deserves better. That's why we introduced the *Reality Check Budget*—a responsible alternative that reins in spending, respects fiscal limits, and invests in the core services residents depend on. You can view details at realitycheckct.com.

The Democrats' budget spends far more than Connecticut taxpayers and businesses can afford. It makes our state even more expensive and returns us to the failed policies that raised taxes, not once but three times!

In contrast, our budget honors the fiscal guardrails that helped set the stage for historic tax relief in 2023, paying down debt and rebuilding our reserves. It also provides us with flexibility to deal with changes in federal funding that may come our way. Our plan spends \$1.285 billion less than Democrats' and \$769 million less than the Governor's. It stays \$45.5 million under the spending cap in FY26 and by \$928.5 million in FY27.

But we don't just spend less—we spend smarter.

Our proposal protects state aid to municipalities and school districts, and it increases funding to help towns cover rising special education costs—relieving pressure on property taxes. We increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for financially teetering providers who understandably need more money for the services they provide, which will help protect and enhance healthcare for everyone.

Among initiatives we've proposed:

1. More funding for CT Foodshare
2. Increased support for domestic violence survivors
3. Funding to reduce student absenteeism
4. Full expansion of CRISIS mental health interventions
5. Removing a portion of the "public benefits" charge from electric bills

We achieve these goals by making strategic choices focused on what's most important to our citizenry. For example, we end free state healthcare for illegal immigrants—saving an estimated \$116 million over two years. Despite Democrat objections, emergency care and access to school-based and federally qualified health centers remain available.

We also save taxpayers approximately \$481 million over two years by budgeting only for state employee positions we can reasonably expect to fill, instead of funding every vacant position on paper. We eliminate deputy commissioner positions and require a 5 percent spending reduction at each agency—the latter saving another \$67 million over the biennium.

We reject the Democrats' proposed 1.75 percent capital gains tax hike, which would extract \$500 million from residents over two years. Our plan reduces health insurance costs by removing an administrative fee that's passed on to consumers. The "Passport to Parks" fee, set to increase this summer, would be removed from motor vehicle registrations.

Not surprisingly, Democrats immediately labeled our proposal "dead on arrival." That's the arrogance of one-party rule—a system that's made Connecticut one of the most unaffordable states in the nation.

For over a year, Democrat leaders have argued that our state's fiscal guardrails are a barrier to funding core services. That argument grew louder following President Trump's push for federal fiscal restraint—giving them a convenient excuse to abandon financial discipline here at home.

continued on page 4

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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.

Let's Be "Frank"

Well brother, with our continuing sense of entitlement for our kids and the "everyone gets a trophy mentality", I felt it was important to put a few of my Mother's Day columns together and reprint an edited version. The month of May was always a special month for our mom. Not only did we celebrate Mother's Day but also her birthday.

My mother was a terrible person who in today's society would have been sent to jail. When I did something wrong, she wasn't afraid to hit first and ask questions later. If for some reason it was later found out that I was innocent of the crime, her sense of fairness was to let me know that she would be more lenient on the next offense.

In my home, low grades in school were not accepted. It wasn't enough to just try. Work without results was just a waste of time. If you studied for four hours and did not get an "A", then you should have studied for six.

When I told her about the things all the other kids had that I did not, she was not sympathetic. She pointed out the things I had that others did not.

When I complained about working full time while going to high school and college, she didn't help me lighten my load, she taught me to manage my time better.

When I used foul language, she never rationalized that it was "the language of the times". She washed my mouth out with soap and that was the lesser of the penalties for bad language.

When I misbehaved in school or disrespected my elders, she didn't tell me how stupid those people were or make a scene at the school because her "baby boy" was being abused. She told me that in life you had to figure out how to overcome hurdles and deal with all types of people.

We could only stay home from school when we were sick. There was no allowance made for mental health days. If you stayed home from school, you stayed home from everything. That included friends coming over after school(except to bring you your homework assignments) and even talking on the phone. If you were too sick for school, you were too sick for anything else.

When it was time for the talk on sex education there were no diagrams or books to read. She simply told me to keep my hands to myself and if she found out I was "doing something wrong", she would cut off a part of my body that I loved.

There were no large screen TV's or gym memberships. If you wanted exercise, run around the block, take out the trash or wash the kitchen floor. Speaking about the trash, we didn't take it out when we were ready, we took it out when she was.

Yes, my mother was terrible. She would never cut me slack and never let me get away with anything. She taught me to fend for myself knowing that she was always there to set me on the straight path should I stray. She taught me that good values and morals could not be compromised. She taught me that tough love was a very difficult task (which often hurt her more than me) but in the long run the results would be better.

So as I continue to watch my wife with her adult children and grandchildren and my daughter with her two kids, I marvel at the unconditional love and patience they demonstrate every day and it makes me smile and remember mom.

I was lucky to have a mother who "got it" and guided me to this point in my life when many of the other kids in our neighborhood went the way of drugs, jail, suicides and more.

I'll see you soon. Tell mom after 25 years I still think of her everyday. I love her and miss her. Happy Mother's Day to All!



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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



Totoket Historical Society Hosts Tilcon Quarry Tour June 25

The Totoket Historical Society is sponsoring a bus tour of the Tilcon Quarry in North Branford on Wednesday, **June 25th** at 6:00 pm. Stone from this quarry has played a vital role in building infrastructure throughout Connecticut. The 90-minute tour will give participants a chance to ask questions of the Tilcon guides and walk the quarry floor, weather permitting.

The cost of the tour is \$30. Checks made payable to the Totoket Historical Society, Inc. should be mailed to 909 Foxon Road, North Branford, CT 06471 ATTN: TILCON. **Please include a phone number with your check.** Reservations are confirmed only on receipt of payment. We recommend no children under the age of 10. For information and reservations, please call or text Lynn at 203-214-9172 or Jessica at 203-895-6655.

Tour participants should arrive at the North Branford Town Hall, 909 Foxon Road (Rt 80) by 5:45 pm to check in. The tour will start promptly at 6:00 p.m.

Proceeds from the tour go towards the upkeep of the historic buildings in the care of the Totoket Historical Society Inc. in North Branford.

The mission of the group is Teaching, Preserving, and Building Community. We hope you will join us to learn more about this quarry that plays a vital role in our community.

Candelora continued

While Connecticut’s financial outlook has improved somewhat in recent years, now is not the time to abandon fiscal sanity. A recent U.S. News & World Report analysis ranked Connecticut 48th in the country for long-term fiscal stability, due in part to our massive unfunded pension liabilities. The state also received poor marks for short-term financial strength. These rankings are a sobering reminder that we still face serious fiscal challenges.

Even some moderate Democrats—the two or three that remain on the state capitol campus—made that point about present-day challenges when voting against their party’s tax package.

Connecticut doesn’t need to spend more—it needs to spend smarter. Our *Reality Check Budget* proves we can invest in essential services, protect taxpayers, and preserve the financial stability that all residents deserve.

Rep. Vincent Candelora
House Republican Leader
86th District
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Godspeed Mr. Stoeffler

In a recent letter, Todd Stoeffler, Principal at North Branford High School Announced his retirement.

As the conclusion of the school year approaches, we look forward to the many celebratory events held during each spring time culminating with graduation. The end of the school year is a time for our seniors and their families to be celebrated as the focal point of our collective efforts at North Branford High School to close out the school year.

At this time, I take this opportunity to share some information regarding a change at NBHS following the close of the school year. After nearly forty years in the field of education including the past twenty five years at NBHS as a school administrator, the time for me to graduate from NBHS has arrived. I look forward to seeking other professional opportunities and to pursuing some personal interests which have been on hold for several years. I wish to thank the former Superintendent of Schools, and a grandparent of a graduating senior at NBHS, Mr. Don McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy provided me with an opportunity to advance in my career, to work in the town of North Branford and at NBHS. I will forever be very grateful. Following his retirement, he contacted me periodically to provide encouragement and support. I am also very appreciative of the unwavering support provided by Superintendent Scott Schoonmaker when transitioning from the role of assistant principal to principal and throughout my tenure. Due to his leadership and vision, the educational programming at NBHS has continued to grow creating more and more opportunities for all learners. Congratulations and a thank you to our dedicated classroom teachers. In the area of programming and instruction, due to their professionalism and commitment to school improvement, they have embraced new programming opportunities for students and have continued to grow and adapt as practitioners in the classrooms due to the ever changing landscape of education, especially during the past decade. It has been very rewarding collaborating with our Guidance Department, Mental Health staff and our School Nurses who have continued to meet the dynamic needs of our teenage population and their families. Thank you to two long time town employees who are known throughout the community, Town of North Branford Head of Public Works, Mr. Fran Mero-la and North Branford Public Schools Head of Maintenance, Mr. John Florio. Their efforts to support NBHS is greatly appreciated and their flexibility when doing so is unique. I have been extremely fortunate to work with three outstanding assistant principals. Dr. Carter Welch, currently the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for North Branford Public Schools, Mr. Greg Gwudz, currently Principal of Montville Middle School and Mrs. Megan Lee, current Assistant Principal at NBHS. All three are consummate professionals who advocate for students and who are able to consistently understand and respect the perspectives of all stakeholders during all types of situations. I am grateful for their support, collaboration

and for their efforts; each has led initiatives which have resulted in improvement in the areas of programming and instruction, school climate and school culture. It has been a pleasure working with and for the North Branford Parent Community. The established mutual trust and respect is appreciated and has been a highlight of my experience while working in the North Branford School District. It has been most rewarding to witness former students become parents of graduates and current students at NBHS

.And finally, a thank you to Mrs. Nikki Golembieski. As many of you know, Mrs. Golembieski has worked at NBHS for several years as the principal's administrative assistant. She continues to excel when meeting the varied needs of all stakeholders. I am thankful for her very conscientious approach and for her trustworthy support for over a decade.

As youngsters enter Kindergarten, a common objective among parents and staff is to instill a lifelong approach that it is always best to 'leave things in a better place' when departing. I am, due to the efforts and support of many, confident and assured that NBHS, on many levels, is in a better place and will continue to thrive. For now, farewell, best wishes and thank you..
Sincerely, Todd Stoeffler, NBHS Principal

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DISCOVER

North Branford Rotary announces 2025 Service Above Self Community Award Recipients

The North Branford Rotary is proud to announce the recipients of this year's **Service Above Self Community Service Award**, recognizing individuals who exemplify dedication, compassion, and a strong commitment to serving others.

Earlier this year, we invited members of the community to submit nominations, and the response was overwhelming. The number of heartfelt submissions made the selection process incredibly difficult—a testament to the many individuals in North Branford who go above and beyond to make a difference.

After careful consideration, we are thrilled to honor **Daniel Armin, Randall Chittenden, and William DellaCamera** as the 2025 recipients of the Service Above Self Award. These three outstanding volunteers represent the very best of our community through their tireless efforts, leadership, and selfless contributions.

Please join us in congratulating Dan, Randy, and Will on this well-deserved recognition. Their service inspires us all.

Our annual recognition Dinner honoring our award recipients will be on Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 6:00PM at Woodwinds in Branford. More information on this event is available via our website (NorthBranfordRotary.org) & Facebook (facebook.com/northbranfordrotaryclub).



Daniel Armin – A True Community Champion

Daniel Armin is a dedicated and selfless leader whose unwavering commitment to volunteerism and civic engagement has made a profound and lasting impact on the Town of North Branford. For nearly a decade, Dan has served as the Board Chair of the Community Dining Room, a vital organization that provides nutritious meals and essential support services to individuals and families across the region, including those in North Branford.

Under Dan's leadership, the Community Dining Room has significantly expanded its homebound meal delivery program, ensuring that North Branford residents who are unable to leave their homes still receive hot, nutritious meals. He has played a pivotal role in strengthening and maintaining all meal programs, advancing the organization's mission of combating food insecurity with dignity, compassion, and effectiveness.

Dan's commitment to service extends far be-

yond this role. He contributes his time and expertise to numerous other local organizations, including his service on the Totoket TV Board, the Economic Development Commission, and a wide array of other town boards and committees. His leadership has driven meaningful progress in these groups, fostering innovation, growth, and a deeper sense of community engagement.

Whether he's attending local events, offering his skills behind the scenes, or simply lending a helping hand, Dan is a constant and reassuring presence in the life of North Branford. His generosity of spirit and willingness to serve exemplify the values of the *Service Above Self Award*, reflecting a deep and enduring commitment to humanitarian service and the enrichment of community life.

Daniel Armin's example inspires us all. Through his actions, he builds unity, promotes kindness, and encourages others to step forward in service to others. North Branford is stronger, more compassionate, and more connected thanks to his leadership.



Randy Chittenden – A True Example of North Branford Community Pride

For over a decade, Randy Chittenden has been the driving force behind the "North Branford Community Pride" Facebook page—a trusted source of real-time updates and essential town information. With over 8,000 followers, the page has become a lifeline for residents, and it's Randy's tireless dedication that keeps it running smoothly and respectfully. From car accidents and road closures to town meetings, bulk pickups, and live sports updates—especially during playoffs—Randy ensures that the community stays informed.

He also works diligently behind the scenes to keep the page civil and respectful, often de-escalating conflicts with good humor and grace. He's brought people together, kept them informed, and continuously reminded us what true community pride looks like.

And that's just one of the many ways Randy serves our town.

In addition to managing the page, Randy is a firefighter in the neighboring town of Branford, a role that speaks volumes about his selflessness and commitment to public service. Despite the demands of both roles, Randy never hesitates to step up when help is needed. Whether he's videotaping sports

games, hauling out his sound system to DJ or MC events, or jumping in wherever he's needed, Randy is always there—often putting his own plans or family time on hold to support others.

He doesn't do it for recognition. He does it because he cares.

Randy Chittenden truly exemplifies the best of North Branford. Through his countless volunteer hours, unwavering community presence, and deep love for his town and its people, he has become an irreplaceable part of what makes North Branford so special. Honoring him for his dedication and



selflessness isn't just well deserved—it's long overdue.

William "Will" DellaCamera – A True Pillar of North Branford

In recognition of his extraordinary dedication and unwavering commitment to the agricultural community,

William "Will" DellaCamera exemplifies the very essence of *Service Above Self*.

Will has been a fixture at Cecarelli Farms since childhood—always eager to listen, learn, and participate in the daily workings of farm life. After college, he returned to the farm to work alongside Nelson Cecarelli, embracing progressive farming techniques and helping to modernize operations. Today, Will continues to honor that legacy while expanding the farm's reach and impact.

He is an active leader in agriculture, serving on both local and state committees, and he engages deeply with the community. Will participates in events such as Farm Days, Plowing Days, and Eco Fairs. He is a consistent presence at programs hosted by the Totoket Historical Society, the North Branford Conservation Land Trust, North Branford Recreation, North Branford Rotary, and North Branford Public Schools. Notably, he helped organize the first Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration at the farm in October 2024, overlooking the Totoket Mountains.

Will has made a steadfast commitment to food access by managing a successful CSA program and providing produce boxes to local food banks. He continued this work even after federal funding for the USDA's COVID-era food distribution program ended, ensuring families in need still had access to fresh produce.

In August 2024, a devastating 13-minute hail-storm destroyed Will's entire crop. Yet instead of focusing on personal loss, Will rose to the moment and became a powerful advocate for small farmers across the state and nation. He reviewed the gaps in the existing crop insurance system, listened to other farmers' frustrations, and began speaking at town meetings and state forums.

Then, in a bold and symbolic act of advocacy, Will drove his tractor from Connecticut to Washington, D.C.—stopping at farms along the way to raise awareness about the growing challenges faced by small farmers due to extreme weather. His efforts captured national attention and helped secure a \$220 million federal grant for farmers affected by weather-related losses during the 2023–2024 growing seasons.

Will's advocacy didn't end in Washington. He continues to be a tireless voice for those too often unheard—listening, learning, and fighting for policy change. His passion for farming, dedication to public service, and commitment to lifting others make him a shining example of what *Service Above Self* truly means.

William DellaCamera is not only a steward of the land—he is a steward of his community.



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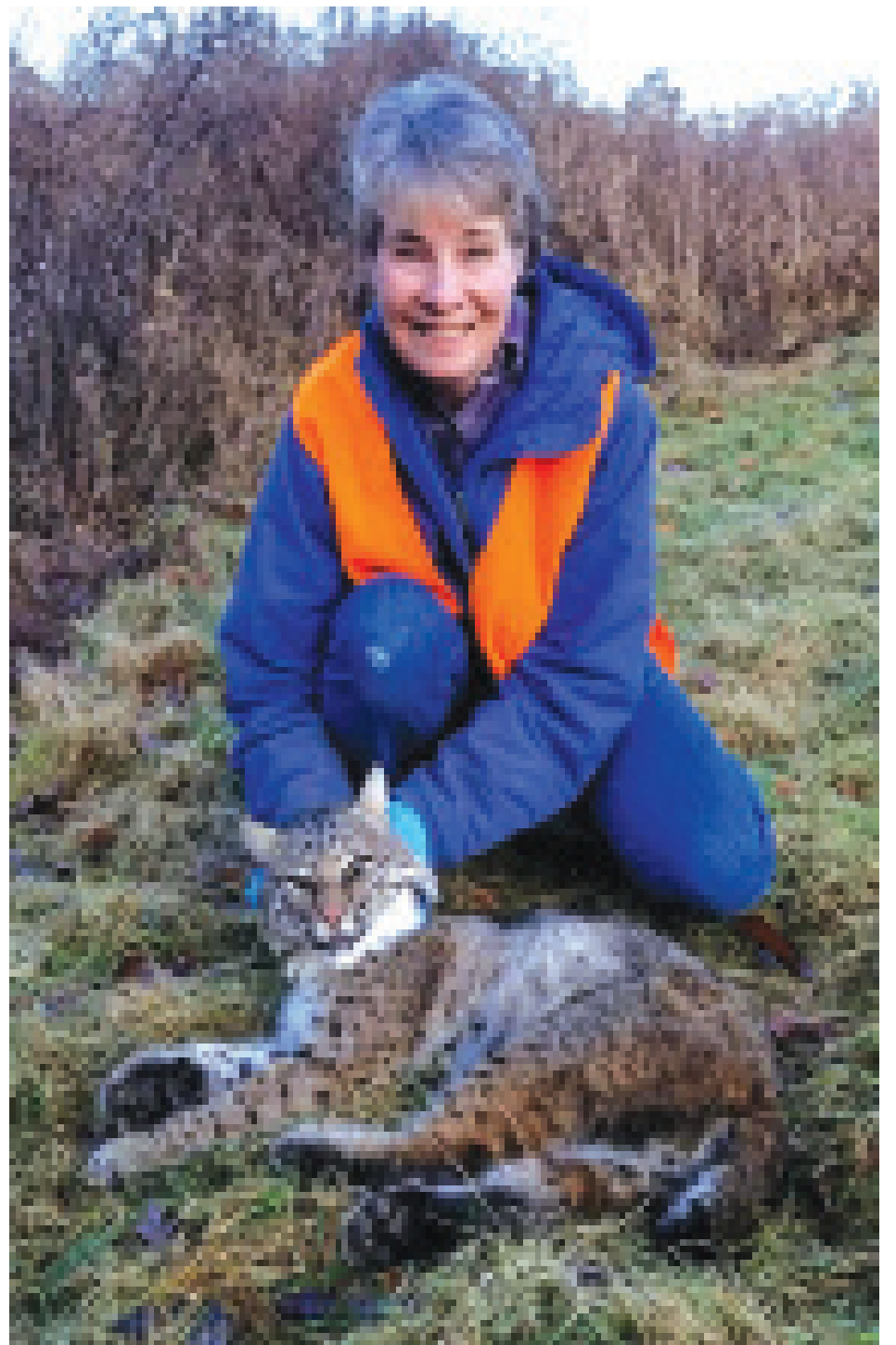
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NorthBranfordRotary@gmail.com

Please contact Jamie Abelson
at 203-530-7616 with any questions



North Branford Land Conservation Trust, Inc. Annual Meeting

Please join the NBLCT at our annual meeting on June 4, 2025, for a presentation on 'Bobcats, Connecticut's Secretive Cat'. Gail Cameron, a Master Wildlife Conservationist volunteer with CT DEEP, will discuss the biology of the bobcat, how it almost disappeared from our state, and how it is now recovering.

Meeting will take place in the North Branford Police Station Community Room at 6:00pm. There will be a short business meeting prior to the presentation.

Light refreshments will be provided. Hope to see you there!

The mission of the NBLCT is to acquire and maintain open space and to promote the conservation and enjoyment of land and natural resources within the Town of North Branford.

For additional information, visit the NBLCT website at <http://nblandtrust.org> or our Facebook page.



Classic Car & Motorcycle Show



Saturday, June 7, 2025
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BACK TO SCHOOL EVENTS
& MORE!

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FLAVORS FOR ALL AGES!



North
Branford
High School
Class of 1975
50th Class
Reunion

Save the date: August 22, 2025, 6 to 10pm
Amarante's, New Haven, CT
For more information and updates: Facebook group NBHS Class of 1975
Please send your contact information (name, address and email address) NOBranfordhclassof1975@gmail.com Please share this information with other classmates.

SENIOR MOMENTS

NBHS Girls Softball Team recently took the time to recognize their outgoing seniors. Pictured left to right are: Emilyn Nay, Gabby Bigio, Adriana Hills, Lexi Falcioni, Lily Ardito and Christina Aneiro.
Photo courtesy of Dina Falcioni

Scholar Athletes

Ryan DeLucia and Lexi Falcioni recently received the CIAC Scholar Athlete Award representing North Branford High school
Photo courtesy of Dina Falcioni

Connecticut Sportsplex®

NOW HIRING

- Must be 16 years-old (18 years or older preferred)
- Must be able to work weekends
- Some weeknights available
- Please call 203-484-4383 or Stop by and fill out an application

Call 484-4383 or visit www.ctsportsplex.com
FOR MORE INFORMATION

North Branford
School System

All Classes
Teacher/Staff/Student
Get Together

FRIDAY
MAY 30
2025
(THE FRIDAY AFTER
MEMORIAL DAY)
Anytime after 5:30pm

upstairs in the Forge Room
of
Millpond Gathering
1565 Middletown Ave
Northford, Ct
Friendships
Reminiscing, Laughs
and
Memories Await!

Meet for food and drinks if you'd like





Scan to learn more
and open online:
Or visit us at: click.gsb.bank/switch



Choose the local bank that stays.

Your bank might be leaving town, but **GSB is all-in for North Branford**. We're the local community-first bank that delivers the personal service you're used to. We're trusted for our 150-year commitment to the people and businesses here, plus we have rewarding offers to get you and your business started.

Our latest banking offers for you:

- 1

UP TO \$300 FOR NEW PERSONAL CHECKING*
Open and use a new qualifying personal checking account and you can earn up to \$300!
- 2

UP TO \$900 FOR NEW BUSINESS CHECKING*
Get up to \$900 when you open and use a new business checking account.
- 3

UP TO 4.00% APY* SPRING SAVINGS OFFER
Enjoy a higher Annual Percentage Yield and a great way to earn more on your surplus funds. Available for Personal and Business clients!
- 4

4.99% APR* ALL-ACCESS HELOC OFFER
Get a fantastic low introductory Annual Percentage Rate for your home equity line of credit with GSB.

Stop in to one of our Open Houses:

- Wednesday, April 23 | 9-11am

• Monday, May 5 | 2-4pm

• Saturday, May 17 | 9-11am
- Thursday, May 29 | 4-6:30pm

• Thursday, June 5 | 11am-1pm

We'll have experts from personal, business and commercial banking, as well as our Partners from Grey Ledge Advisors, there to answer any questions.

CONTACT US:



CHRIS HENRY
Branch Manager, Northford
203-458-4511



NANCY GERSON
VP, Business Banking Relationship Officer
203-710-1329

DISCLOSURES

***Up to \$300 Consumer Checking Offer:** Offer available when you open a new Access Checking, Preferred Access Checking or Prime Access Checking account. You must enter promotion code "North300" if opening online or mention the promotion to a banker when opening at any GSB branch. Get \$100 when minimum Requirements to avoid Monthly Service Fee must be continually met for the account; account must remain open for 180 days to receive the \$100 statement credit. Get \$100 for making a direct deposit within 30 days of opening your account. Eligible direct deposits are electronic automated clearing house (ACH) deposits. Examples of eligible direct deposits include, but are not limited to: payroll, Social Security, pension and government benefits. Deposits made through a teller, ATM, or the GSB mobile app are ineligible direct deposits. Get \$100 when you make 5 debit card purchases in each of the first three months. May be subject to 1099 reporting. Account holder is responsible for all applicable taxes. Offer valid through May 31, 2025, and may be withdrawn at any time. Limit 1 offer per person. New & existing customers are eligible, but funding may not come from a current GSB account. Rates on all balances subject to change based on future market conditions. Accounts subject to approval. \$50 minimum to open any personal checking account. View full account details at <https://mygsb.bank/personal/bank/checking>.

***Up to \$900 Business Banking Relationship Offer:** 1. Get \$200 statement credit when you open a new Business Checking, Business Select Checking, or Business Select Plus Checking Account and meet account terms and conditions of account for 180 days. 2. Get \$200 statement credit for making 5 debit transactions in each of the first three months. 3. Get 2-months waived Cash Management fees (up to \$400 in waived fees) when you enroll in cash management services. 4. Get a \$100 statement credit from Payroc when you sign up for a new Merchant Services as a GSB client. You must enter promotion code "North900" if opening online or mention the promotion to a banker when opening at any GSB branch. Accounts subject to approval. Current GSB business checking customers are ineligible for \$900 offer and funds must come from non-GSB account. Minimum requirements to avoid monthly service fee must be continually met for the account and the account must remain open for 180 days to receive the statement credit. Limit 1 per business owner. May be subject to 1099 reporting. Account holder is responsible for all applicable taxes. Offer valid through May 31, 2025, and may be withdrawn at any time.

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

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

***All Access Home Equity Line of Credit:** New All Access HELOC customers only. Subject to credit approval. No Points. Credit line limits between \$25,000 and \$500,000. Maximum Combined Loan To Value (CLTV) is 80%. Other terms and conditions apply. The introductory APR of 4.99% ("Introductory APR") is a promotional rate that is fixed for the first 12 monthly billing cycles ("Introductory Period") as long as you maintain a minimum balance of at least \$25,000 on your line. If that minimum balance is not maintained throughout the entire Introductory Period, the Introductory APR may end early and your Account will begin to accrue interest based on a variable rate formula. In any event, once the Introductory Rate ends, your interest rate can change monthly and will be based on a variable rate formula. With that formula, as long as you maintain Automatic Payment Feature, your rate will be equal to the Prime Rate (as published in the Wall Street Journal): 7.50% (as of 03/31/2025). Our Automatic Payment Feature is a convenient way for you to make your monthly payments directly from an Access deposit account maintained at Guilford Savings Bank. The maximum APR is 17% and the minimum APR is 3%. An annual membership fee of \$95.00 is required. An Early Termination Fee will be required if the Account is terminated within the first 2 years. Homeowner's insurance required. For credit limits in excess of \$250,000, you must pay for a full appraisal (appraisal costs can range from \$510 to \$1,200). If property held in trust, trust review fee (\$600) and attorney closing fees (Estimated \$650-\$850) will apply. Homes for sale or intended for sale within the next six months are not eligible for this promotional product. Other terms and conditions apply. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. For more information, see a bank representative.

**The church is located at 28 Church Street, across from the Green,
and is handicapped accessible with ample parking.**

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 zionepiscopalchurch.org. Zion is an open and affirming congregation for those seeking a safe place to worship and grow in Christ. 203-488-7395

Recycling News

Memorial Day is a trash holiday. Pickups will be delayed by one day.

Hazwaste Central will open on Saturday May 17th
Safe & Free Disposal of Residential Household Hazardous Waste

They take household batteries

The Regional Water Authorities’ HazWaste Central will be open on Saturdays starting on May 17th through mid-October. They are closed on the weekends of Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day.

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.

Plastic Wrap Reminder

Most bird seed, pet food and mulch bags are not made of the right plastic to be considered plastic film. And even if they are labeled as recyclable, they would need to be clean to go into the plastic film bin. Please put these items into the trash unless it has a recycle symbol on it and has been turned inside out and clean.

Black plastic plant pots and takeout containers are not recyclable. The machinery can’t detect the black plastic. Either try to return the plant pots to the place where you bought your plants or try to reuse them. I find the takeout containers have many uses around the house.

Please Don’t Feed the Storm Drain

Is your storm drain covered with leaves or grass clippings? Please take a few minutes to rake them off so the water can flow into it.

Storm drains are designed to only carry rainfall runoff from our streets into our local waterways. Anything but water can contribute to water pollution and drainage issues. Pesticides from treated lawns and gardens can also end up in your drinking water, threatening water quality.

Please clean the street of grass clippings. Blowing grass clippings onto the road is dangerous to drivers, motorcycles, bicyclists, harms local storm sewers and aquatic life.

Remember: Only Rain in the Drain!

Can I recycle it?

Connecticut has a website to help with recycling questions: www.recyclect.com.

They also have an app.

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



Memorial Day (originally known as **Decoration Day**) is one of the federal holidays in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer in the United States

It is a day for visiting cemeteries and memorials to mourn the military personnel who died in the line of duty. Volunteers will place American flags on the graves of those military personnel in national cemeteries. Others such as family and friends will also come to lay flowers and grieve on the graves of those who died in the US military.

The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as *Decoration Day* and observed on May 30, the holiday was proclaimed by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the Union soldiers who had died in the American Civil War. This national observance followed many local observances which were inaugurated between the end of the Civil War and Logan’s declaration. Many cities and people have claimed to be the first to observe it. However, the National Cemetery Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, credits Mary Ann Williams with originating the «idea of strewing the graves of Civil War soldiers—Union and Confederate» with flowers.

Official recognition as a holiday spread among the states, beginning with New York in 1873. By 1890, every Union state had adopted it. The world wars turned it into a day of remembrance for all members of the U.S. military who fought and died in service. In 1968, Congress changed its observance to the last Monday in May, and in 1971 standardized its name as «Memorial Day».

Two other days celebrate those who have served or are serving in the U.S. military: Armed Forces Day, which is earlier in May, an unofficial U.S. holiday for honoring those currently serving in the armed forces, and Veterans Day on November 11, which honors all those who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans’ organizations. Some of the largest parades take place in [Chicago](#), [New York](#) and [Washington, D.C.](#)

Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. Some people wear a red poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war—a tradition that [began with a World War I poem](#). On a less somber note, many people take weekend trips or throw parties and barbecues on the holiday, perhaps because Memorial Day weekend—the long weekend comprising the Saturday and Sunday before Memorial Day and Memorial Day itself—unofficially marks the beginning of summer.



HONOR MEMORIAL DAY



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REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

A new name, the same incredible summer – get ready for the best one yet!

SAFE BOATING Personal Watercraft Class

May 31st & June 7th
9:00am - 1:00pm • STW Gym/Cafe • \$20res / \$25non-res

A complete, basic, safe boating certification course taught in two Saturday classes. With successful completion of this basic safe boating class students will be able to obtain a Connecticut Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation, enabling them to operate recreational vessels up to 65 feet in length, including Jet Skis. This class can be taken by anyone 12 years or older. Anyone under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

All students must bring their Conservation Identification number to the class. Student who have a fishing or hunting license will find the Conservation ID number on their license. Students who do not have a fishing or hunting license can create a free Conservation ID number at ct.aspirafocus.com/internetsales



Founded in 1990, the Sibling Support Project is the first national program dedicated to recognizing, promoting and addressing the life-long and ever-changing concerns of millions of siblings of people with developmental, health, and mental health concerns. We are best known for helping local communities start Sibshops—lively peer support groups for school-age brothers and sisters of kids with disabilities and health concerns.

Sibshops are lively, pedal-to-the-metal events where participants will:

- Meet other sibs (usually for the first time);
- Have fun;
- Talk about the good and not-so-good parts of having a sib with support needs with others who "get it";
- Play some great games;
- Explore how other siblings handle sticky situations sometimes faced by sibs;
- Laugh;
- Learn about the services their brothers and sister receive; and
- Have some more fun!

Please save the date for **Saturday, May 31st from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm** for our second Sibshop in partnership with **Beyond the Horizon**.

YIN YOGA

Yin yoga is a slow paced practice holding poses for 3-5 minutes. You will gain circulation in joints and improve flexibility that will aid you in everyday activities. Instructed by Toni McGovern

STW Yoga Room

Wednesdays, May 21 - June 18 6:45-7:30pm Ages 16+
Cost \$50 res/ \$50 nr

YOGA PILATES FUSION

Strengthen your mind and body on the mat with a combination of mat yoga and mat Pilates. Mind and body exercise that requires core stability, strength and flexibility. Gain muscle control, good posture and proper breathing. Instructed by Toni McGovern.

STW Yoga Room

Mondays, May 19 - June 23 5:30-6:30pm Ages 16+
Cost \$55 res/ \$55 nr *no class 5/26*

Wednesdays, May 21 - June 18 5:30-6:30pm Ages 16+
Cost \$55 res/ \$55 nr

— SENIOR CENTER —

In the Kitchen with Kathy

Let's get together to create simple, yummy snacks.

Memorial Day Ice Cream

Wednesday, May 21st

12:30-2:00pm - FREE

STW Gym/Cafe Please register by 5/19

NEW ENGLAND AIR MUSEUM TOUR AND SKOOTERS RESTAURANT

Wednesday May 28, 2025

9:15-3:00pm - \$22 res / \$25 nr

Departing STW at 9:15 am, enjoy a one hour guided exploration of the New England Air Museum. After the tour, we will eat lunch (on your own) at Skooter's Restaurant, a retro-style diner.

Register by 5/21

BERRY SWEET SOCIAL

May 29th STW Cafe

12:30—1:30pm - \$3

For a sweet treat of strawberries, shortcake and lots of whipped cream!

Please register for this event by 5/23!



SLIPAWAY TOURS PONTOON BOAT ON CT RIVER & WETHERSFIELD HISTORIC SOCIETY TOUR

JUNE 11, 2025 - \$20RES/\$25NR

Departing STW at 9:15 am, enjoy a pontoon boat ride narrated by Captain Bill of Slipaway Tours & then a quick tour with the Wethersfield Historic Society. Enjoy lunch on your own in one of the many restaurants in Old Wethersfield. Register by 5/30

ESSEX LUNCH TRAIN AND RIVERBOAT

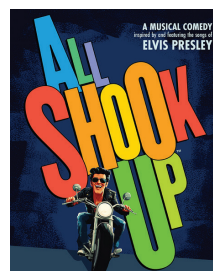
June 27, 2025

\$84 res / \$89 nr

Departs STW at 10:00am Returns 4:00pm

Register by June 7th

Departing STW at 10:00 am, we will have lunch on the Steam Train on our way to board the Riverboat, which will take us out on the Connecticut River. Your meal, train and steamboat ride are included. Adult beverages may be purchased on your own.



ALL SHOOK UP

At the Goodspeed Opera House

July 16, 2025- \$120res/\$130nr

Enjoy lunch at the Gelston House before the show!

Departs 11:00 am Returns: appx. 5:00 pm

Payment is due at time of registration

Please register by June 11th to reserve your ticket to lunch and this fantastic show!

The legendary songs of Elvis Presley ignite a rockin' romp set in the Fabulous '50s. When a guitar-playing stranger on a motorcycle roars into a sleepy town, nothing will be the same. Boy meets girl and soon everybody can't help falling in love. Mistaken identity, mismatched lovers and the magic of romance come together in a free-wheeling rock and roll comedy. Celebrate the 20th anniversary production of a show that began at Goodspeed with non-stop classics, from "Heartbreak Hotel" and "Hound Dog," to "Love Me Tender" and "Don't Be Cruel."

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

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

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

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

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.

TAG SALE

Neighborhood Tag Sale - Sunday, May 18th 8:00AM - 3:00PM (no early birds). 27 Laura Lane, North Haven. Size 10 woman's clothes, shoes, pocketbooks, formal wear, wedding centerpieces, decorations, household items, furniture, new electric wheel chair, adult tricycle, red hat society hats, luggage, 1998 Hallmark Christmas ornaments, authentic Gucci pocketbook bought in Paris in the 70's and much more.

Public Stargazing
at Young's Park Returns

The Astronomical Society of New Haven is hosting a free stargazing event on Saturday May 24th after 7pm at Young's Park, 60 Blackstone Ave. in Branford. Admission and parking are free. All are welcome, including children and grandparents. The telescopes will be pointed at a thin crescent moon, Jupiter and Mars. The constellations Leo, Hercules and many others can be seen. Learn how to find these objects when you get home.
The other 2025 dates are June 7th, October 18th and November 8th. Directions and cancellation due to weather (including clouds) will be posted to our website, www.asnh.org or call 866-808-ASN.H.
The Astronomical Society of New Haven, Inc. is a non-profit, scientific and educational organization which fosters new and continuing interest in amateur astronomy.

Celebrate Life!

Keenan Funeral Home



KEENAN FUNERAL HOME, INC.

238 Elm Street
West Haven, CT 06516

330 Notch Hill Rd
North Branford, CT 06471

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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!!



North Branford Education Foundation
Looking for Interested Board Members

The mission of the Corporation is to enhance educational opportunities available to the North Branford community by funding programs that are beyond the conventional resources of a public school system.

The primary purposes of this Corporation are as follows:

- Provide financial resources to supplement traditional education programs in the North Branford public schools;
- Enrich educational opportunities for the North Branford community by offering extra-curricular educational and artistic programs.
 - * To create and fund a scholarship known as the Edward Slubowski Memorial Scholarship to be given to a senior(s) graduating from the North Branford community. The recipients(s), if any, and the amount, shall be determined by the Foundation on an annual basis.
 - ** Provide financial resources to/for student(s) from the North Branford community for the purpose of financing, whether in whole or in part, extra-curricular enrichment programs.
 - *** Provide financial resources to/for student(s) from the North Branford community for the purpose of financing, whether in whole or part, extra-curricular educational programs.

We are currently looking for people to fill seats on our Board of Directors. We currently meet about eight times a year and we run two functions all though we are trying to expand. In our more than twenty year history, we have donated close to \$100,000 for teachers and students in our school system.

Anyone interested in finding out mor about the organization or the function of Board members is asked to call Frank Mentone at 203-410-4254 or fmentonejr@comcast.net.

