

Totoket Times

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For Our Town From Our Town

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Attorney Vincent J. Mase Sr., LLC

999 Foxon Road, Unit #10 North Branford, CT. Tel: 203-484-4403 Fax 203-484-4404 mase attorney@sbcglobal.net



In 1977 Vince Mase, while working as a postal delivery person enrolled in South Central Community college, and spent the next 10 years getting his two-year degree while working full-time. Upon his certification, he went to Southern Connecticut State College and received a BS in Business Economics. Upon completion of that degree, Vince, while still working full-time for the Post Office entered law school, coincidentally at the same time as his daughter, Michelle.

Upon graduation from law school he started

his own practice in New Haven from 2003 to 2008. From 2008 to 2023 his practice was in East Haven and now Vince has come full circle to the town he has served for more than thirty years to open up a practice in North Branford.

Vince has served the North Branford community for many years as both a Town Council member and a Board of Education member. He will now continue to serve members of the community as he specializes in:

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I HAVE A DREAM

Speech reprinted in honor of Doctor King

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.

But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. And so we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.

In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the "unalienable Rights" of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note, insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds."

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so, we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.

We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. And those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. And there will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

Continued on page 4

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Totoket Times. PO Box 313, Northford, Ct. 06472 or Venmo@frank-mentone-1



TOTOKET TIMES

Deadline		Publication Date				
February	2	February	9			
February	16	February	23			
March	1	March	8			
March	15	March	22			
March	29	April	5			
April	12	April	19			
April	26	May	3			



Live

Music

1/26: Grateful Dead Night w/RGB 2/9: Bernie Gagliardi

2/23: Mark Rabuffo 3/2: Dave Lefkin 3/29: Welchs Jam

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2024 SUPER BOWL

Dear Editor:

The countdown to kickoff has begun! Football fans everywhere are coming together to watch one of the most highly anticipated games of the year. And of course, this beloved American tradition isn't complete without a winning lineup of game day snacks and a few cold beers with friends and family. Anheuser-Busch and Dichello Distributors Inc. are honored to be a part of these moments and are committed to helping ensure that communities celebrate safely.

If you're planning to enjoy a beer or two, make sure you also plan for a way to get home safely. Remember, drunk driving is never the right call and when it comes to keeping our roads safe – we're all on the same team.

Over the last 37 years, Anheuser-Busch and its wholesaler partners have invested more than \$1 billion in responsible drinking initiatives and community-based programs to prevent underage drinking, impaired driving and other harmful uses of alcohol. All of us at Dichello Distributors are once again teaming up with Anheuser-Busch, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Uber to encourage everyone to Decide To *Ride* by planning ahead for a safe ride if you are drinking. You can't drive drunk if you leave your keys at home, and by focusing on planning ahead, it makes it easier for you to make smart decisions at the end of the night.

So whether you're an avid football fan or just there for the snacks and commercials, we can all work together to put an end to drunk driving – once and for all. No matter who you're cheering for in the big game, thank you for helping us end the night with a win. Cheers! Tony Lota, Dichello Distributors, Inc. Orange CT.



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State Representative Vincent Candelora



The 2024 legislative session begins Wednesday, Feb. 7, and while dealing with fiscal matters is the chief mission for the three-month period, there is space in the process to tackle other issues.

The state's nonpartisan Office of Legislative Research just issued its annual "Major Issues" report, which summarizes some of the topics that could color committee rooms of the Gen-

eral Assembly.

Election administration and security is a topic identified in the report, and I agree that it's a critical issue that should be addressed as soon as possible. After all, our Secretary of the State, Stephanie Thomas, recently issued a highly unusual warning to Bridgeport residents, urging them to vote in person during a re-do of the Democratic mayoral primary because the absentee ballot process could (again) be compromised. With that said, bolstering the integrity of that process is a priority for me—I intend to again push for the removal of the absentee ballot drop boxes that were at the heart of the Bridgeport ballot stuffing case, while also calling for mandatory jail time for criminal election violations.

While an issue such as ballot fraud, or even juvenile crime, garner headlines and some form of legislative action, less-heralded topics are on the agenda. For example, licensing agreements that can limit a public library's access to eBooks. Or residents' ability to save money by accessing telehealth services—including a policy change I favor, making it easier to access qualified out-of-state providers.

Over the next couple of weeks, I look forward to sharing more details about proposals from my caucus, House Republicans, as well as initiatives I'm submitting on my own.

With that said, I go back to where this column started. Budgetary matters are our chief charge, and I consider preserving the strict fiscal controls that have helped put our state on more solid financial footing to be my most important goal. There's growing pressure from progressive lawmakers to loosen these revenue and spending management caps to free up spending on government programming.

I've posted the Major Issues report to my web site, and there's also a form I hope you'll use to quickly share with me issues that are important to you. Visit repcandelora.com, and as always, feel free to contact me with questions about any of the topics mentioned above or in the report: vincent. candelora@housegop.ct.gov or 860-240-8700.

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



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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"

A reprint from 2016. Looks like some things change and some things never change.

Well brother, the holiday season is over. A big sigh every year at this time but this one was pretty good. The good news was that with a four day celebration, it was more relaxing. We were able to spread some things out and enjoy it more. The bad news is with four days to celebrate, it was also four days of an eating festival. All that weight I lost is slowly creeping back but I am still in the good column and with the new year "un-resolutions" I will take it all back off and then some. It's the first time I am optimistic about that.

Speaking of New Year's, I was reflecting on the changes since we were kids. For many years we went to a house party at aunt Tess and uncle Rudy's house. As kids it was always fun because bed time curfews were lifted, we got to make all the noise we wanted, play with our cousins and watch some of the older cousins and aunts and uncles (for lack of a better phrase), get drunk.

As we got older, we took our dates to this same party, taught them what family gatherings were all about and had a few (too many) drinks ourselves. We stayed up all night, playing games and bonded until the wee hours of the morning. Sometimes, we even had contests with the cousins to see who could stay up all night. If my date didn't like the event, chances were she was gone by next year. If you don't like my family, you don't like me.

As time went on and the kids were young, the all nighters would end at about 1:00 or 2:00am. The ball would drop, we'd kiss and hug, dance to the Guy Lombardo band, warm up the car and say good night.

Then the kids got a little older. They too would come to the family gathering. They too would bring their dates. They too would drink a little (as we had slowed down). They would usually leave as soon as the ball dropped because they were going to another party. We would make sure there was a sober driver and we would leave as well at about 12:30.

When the extended families started getting bigger and the aunts and uncles were all gone, the party started breaking down, We then started going to small house parties and we would always leave right after Dick Clark's countdown. The parties were always close to the house and we were nestled snug in our beds well before 1:00am.

Then the house parties became a hassle and we decided to stay home. Cook some appetizers, have some nachos and watch Ryan Seacrest (not the same without Dick Clark) countdown. The beds would be turned down and we would be in bed by 12:02, only rustling to take the happy New Year's wishes from our three kids.

This year, I checked with the kids and nobody had plans. My New York kid said he was staying as far away from Times Square as he could an the other two decided not to go anywhere. At 8:00 I turned on Dick Clark's New Year's Eve and after watching for an hour, I realized I did not know one of the entertainers. The music was giving me a headache so I went to bed at 9:00.

As I was laying in bed with further reflections, I thought, "It has happened, I have turned into my parents". Upon further reflection, I realized, "It was worse than that". Our parents, up to their death stayed up until the ball dropped. Dad died 9 days after New Year's and he was awake at the family party for his final New Year's Eve.

I haven't figured out what all this means, but it is obvious that times have changed. I don't know if it is for the good or bad. I had the opportunity to go to a Sons & Daughters of Italy New Years eve party and I did not go. I wasn't upset because I didn't go, I was upset because I chose not to.

Yes brother, times have changed. Again, I'm not sure if it's for the good or bad but after retiring at 9:00 New Year's Eve, I do know that this was the best I have felt on New Years's Day in a long time.

As for resolutions, you know I never make them. I no longer feel that it's a special time. It's just another day. The older we get, the more important each day becomes. No resolutions but I do try to follow that great Jimmy Valvano quote, "If you laugh, you think and you cry, that's a full day. You do that seven days a week, you're going to have something special.

Happy New Year 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

etters 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

King continued

But there is something that I must say to my people, who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice: In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom.

We cannot walk alone.

And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead.

We cannot turn back.

There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. **We cannot be satisfied as long as the negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their self-hood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating: "For Whites Only."** We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until "justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream."1

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. And some of you have come from areas where your quest -- quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive. Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed.

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends. And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of "interposition" and "nullification" -- one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."2

This is our hope, and this is the faith that I go back to the South with.

With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

And this will be the day -- this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning:

My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride, From every mountainside, let freedom ring!



Former Town Manager Named Regional CEO for American Red Cross Connecticut & Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (January 4, 2024) – The American Red Cross Connecticut and Rhode Island Region is pleased to announce that Richard V. Branigan has been named as its new regional Chief Executive Officer. He replaces Mario Bruno, who served as the region's CEO for 12 years before accepting a leadership position with the national American Red Cross this past October.

Branigan joined the Red Cross in 2012, most recently serving as Chief Operating Officer for the Connecticut and Rhode Island Region. Throughout his tenure, he has served in interim roles in nearly every aspect of the regional functions, including interim regional CEO for the past several months and on more than one occasion.

"I am honored to become the CEO and excited to lead an outstanding team of paid and volunteer staff in upholding the Red Cross mission and supporting communities in Connecticut and Rhode Island," said Branigan. "I look forward to achieving many shared accomplishments as we take on new opportunities and strive to expand our services in innovative, impactful, and equitable ways."

Since joining the Red Cross, Branigan has supported over a dozen local and national disaster responses, including Superstorm Sandy, the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, Tropical Storm Isaias, Tropical Storm Henri, and most recently, the Lewiston, Maine shooting. He is seen as one of the most experienced Red Cross responders to mass casualty incidents with a special focus on external relations.

Branigan is a former town manager and municipal department head with over 30 years of combined local government experience in New York and Connecticut. A graduate of Providence College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science, he holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of New Haven.

In his spare time and for the past two decades, Branigan has served as the President of Kids for Kids, Dancing for Life, Inc., an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for children in medical or financial need.

Branigan and his wife, Brenda, live in North Haven, Connecticut. They are proud of their three daughters, Caity, Emily, and Chelsea, and their son-in-law, Mark, and their grandchildren, Oliver Patrick and Finley Elizabeth.

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York.

Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania.

Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado.

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California.

But not only that:

Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia.

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee.

Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi.

From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

Free at last! Free at last!

Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!



Celebrating Investment in Education, Career Advancement in North Branford

From left to right: Training Manager Angela Dupree, House Republican Leader Vincent Candelora, Janet Stanley of Team McDonald's/North Branford, State Sen. Paul Cicarella, and Supervisor Pauline Graziano at the McDonald's/North Branford Jan. 3 celebration of Janet's hard work to earn her associate degree in management from Colorado Technical University through the McDonald's Archways to Opportunity program.

Archways is available to all McDonald's employees after just 90 days of employment and pays up to \$3,000 per year, every year, for any accredited higher education or training program. Janet's education path was free to her with a partnership that McDonald's has with Colorado Technical University for degree programs with their institution.

Rep. Candelora and Sen. Cicarella said, "Congratulations to Janet for this tremendous accomplishment. Also, thank you to McDonald's/North Branford for their investment in local workers, which enables them to gain the education and training needed to advance their careers."













Super Bowl Stuffed Breads

The North Branford Education Foundation in conjunction with Venice Bakery will be holding a Super Bowl Stuffed Breads Sale. Breads must be ordered by Monday February 5 and picked up on Friday 2-9, in the Auditorium parking lot at 3:30.If you can't pick them up we can deliver them. Send order and payment to NBEF, PO Box 504, Northford, Ct. 06472 For more information call Frank Mentone at 203-410-4254.

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KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Totoket Times January 26, 2024

Scott Schoonmaker, Superintendent of North Branford Public Schools, announces that Kindergarten registration for North Branford residents with children eligible to enter school in the fall of 2024 will be as follows:

All school registrations must be completed solely online. Registration will be open from February 5 – February 9, 2024.

PLEASE NOTE: Registrations will not be considered complete until all information on the registration form is verified and all required documents are provided and verified including proof of residency, birth certificate, immunization records and health assessment records (HAR-3). You may be required to bring in your child's original birth certificate as well as your proof of residency documents.

On February 5th please visit our website https://jerome.northbranford- schools.org/ and click on the "New Registrations" button. Here you will see detailed directions on the registration process.

In order for a child to be registered in Kindergarten, the following requirements must be met:

- The child must be five (5) years of age on or before September 1, 2024.
- Beginning in the 2024-25 school year, the date for Kindergarten entry has changed.
- Any child who is not five years old on or before September 1, 2024 will generally be admitted to kindergarten under the following conditions:
- Parents/ guardians must submit a written request to the building principal, Beth Parker
- Email: eparker@northbranfordschools.org
- Mailing address: 335 Foxon Rd, North Branford, CT 06471
- Parents/ guardians will make their child available to participate in an assessment to ensure that "admitting such a child is developmentally appropriate".
- The original birth certificate, with seal, has been uploaded and examined by the principal or designee.
- Your child must have a current physical exam; one that was completed after September 1st, 2023. The physician and the parent must complete the State of CT Health Assessment Record. The form must be **on file** with the school nurse **prior** to the first day of Kindergarten unless alternative arrangements have been made with the building principal.
- The child must physically reside in North Branford/Northford.
- Proofs of residence have been uploaded, examined and approved by principal or designee such as: deed to home or dated rental agreement, escrow papers or signed mortgage commitment, current utility or telephone bill, and/or notarized letter from landlord or owner acknowledging parent/guardian's and student's residence.

If you have any questions, concerns or problems during the registration process, please call 203.484.1235.

In addition, if you have specific concerns about your **preschool** child's development, please call 203.484.1235 for information.

The North Branford Board of Education policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability (including pregnancy), or gender identity or expression, or against homeless children and youth.

The Northford-North Branford Women's Club, GFWC Is Accepting Scholarship Applications

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

The Dorothy E. Schoelzel memorial scholarship has a maximum award of \$2,000. Candidates must have completed three or more years of undergraduate work in an accredited institution with a 3.0 average or higher in the field of Education.

The Phipps scholarship has a maximum award of \$1,000. Candidates must have completed two or more years on undergraduate work in an accredited institution with a 3.0 average or higher toward a Bachelor's or post graduate degree.

Completed applications, including general and personal information, a financial statement, instructor/employer references, official transcript of at least the most recent two years of undergraduate or graduate work must be received by February 10, 2024.

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

Open Registration for Student Contest

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. – Energize ConnecticutSM Sponsors, Eversource and Avangrid, Inc. subsidiaries United Illuminating, Southern Connecticut Gas and Connecticut Natural Gas, announced today that registration is open for the 19th annual *eesmarts*TM Student Contest.

For nearly two decades, the contest has invited Connecticut students in grades K-12 to answer grade-level-specific prompts on how they would promote energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable solutions.

This year, students in Grades K-8 are asked to submit their entries in the form of a poster (Grades K-2), limericks (Grade 3), outdoor billboard (Grade 4), fictional story with an energy-saving character (Grade 5), persuasive letter (Grade 6), comic strip (Grade 7), or social media post (Grade 8).

Students in Grades 9-12 will produce a persuasive image in words or pictures, such as a short poem (125 words or less) or cartoon strip (12 cells or less) that advocates for an energy topic. Entries will be evaluated based on scientific validity and concise and convincing imagery.

"The *eesmarts* Student Contest has asked students throughout Connecticut to use their imagination to address critical energy issues by developing their own solutions that will help bring us closer to a clean energy future," said Tilak Subrahmanian, Vice President of Energy Efficiency and Electric Mobility for Eversource. "Every year, the creativity and desire to make a difference displayed in these submissions – from comic strips and posters to group projects and social media posts – is truly incredible. I look forward to seeing what our young minds bring to the table this year."

"To see the creativity and critical thinking displayed by Connecticut students who participate in this annual contest is always inspiring to me," said Frank Reynolds, President & CEO of United Illuminating, Southern Connecticut Gas and Connecticut Natural Gas. "I look forward to reviewing this year's submissions and seeing these students' commitment to helping us reduce our emissions and further the clean energy transition. Our students are our future, and the products of contests like this one make me confident we're in good hands."

Contest registration is open until March 22. Project submissions are due on March 29. All work must be completed by the individual submitting the entry. No group projects are being accepted this year.

Finalists in all categories and grade levels will be honored at a special awards ceremony to be held in May 2024. Winners will receive a certificate and an Amazon gift card.

For more information about the contest, please visit EnergizeCT.com/ student-contest.

THEY MAKE US PROUD

Christina Riggione was named to the Dean's List at Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY.

Allie Appicelli was named to the Dean's List at the University of New Haven.

Nico Falcioni was named to the Dean's List at Bentley University in Watham, MA.

Emily Neubig was named to the Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI.

Clayton Bobko was named to the Dean's List at Stonehill Cokkge in Easton, MA.

Jazzmine Gargano, Fatima Cotas & Marissa Montesanto were named to the Dean's List at the University of Bridgeport.

Jamison O'Brien, Nathan Tranquilli, Ariana Fiondella, Megan Muzyka, Jaiden Sorrell, Emily McCormack and Emma Yacono were named to the Dean's List at Eastern Connecticut State University.





Nuhn Racking up the Accolades NBHS Press Release: North Branford High School Head Field Hock-

NBHS Press Release: North Branford High School Head Field Hockey Coach Babby Nuhn has been inducted into the National Field Hockey Coaches Association's Hall of Fame. The event took place last week in Florida and family, friends and several former players attended this fabulous celebration!

 $\underline{https://nfhca.org/awards/coach-awards/nfhca-hall-of-fame/}$

A bio courtesy of NFHCA,

Babby Nuhn, the current varsity head coach at North Branford High School in North Branford, Connecticut, boasts an impressive record spanning from 1972 to 2022, amassing a 557-209-103-7 record, which equates to a remarkable .720 win percentage. During her tenure at North Branford, her teams have achieved outstanding success, securing six state championships, making appearances in eight state championship finals, and clinching 14 conference championships.

Nuhn's exceptional coaching prowess has garnered her numerous prestigious accolades. She had been honored as the Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA) Coach of the Year in Class S for both 2010 and 2017. In recognition of her remarkable career, she was inducted into the CHSCA Hall of Fame in 1998 and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2019.

"What started out as a teaching and coaching job right out of college in the 70's became an extremely rewarding career as an educator and coach at North Branford High School in Connecticut," Nuhn remarked. "And now to be recognized by the NFHCA is the quintessential award of my career! To be included with other Hall of Famers is such a humbling experience. I have been surrounded with strong and positive coaches, parents, players, colleagues, my friends and family, and the entire North Branford community for these five decades. Each of them are the reasons I have stayed with coaching for so long!"



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State Senator Paul Cicarella Announces Candidacy for Re-election to the State Senate - 34th District



NORTH HAVEN – Deputy State Senate Republican Leader Paul Cicarella (R-North Haven) has announced that he will seek a third term serving the 34th State Senate District, and looks forward to continuing to be the voice of families in the district.

Paul was first elected in 2020 to represent the 34th District, which includes the communities of Durham, East Haven, North Haven, Wallingford and now Northford. Paul serves as the leading Republican on the legislature's General Law and Public Safety and Security Committees. He also served on the legislature's Regulation

Review and Veterans' Affairs Committees.

Entering the second year of his second term, Paul led bipartisan legislative efforts that most notably resulted in historic tax relief for Connecticut residents. He also has been a consistent and prominent voice for public safety, having worked to pass bipartisan legislation that curb the rise in violent street takeovers and catalytic converter thefts. Paul has also led other legislative efforts that benefit the lives of Veterans, seniors and children in the state.

A fierce proponent for job-creation and career development, Paul advanced legislative concepts that provide opportunities for Connecticut residents to get training and access to well-paying careers. He supported the expansion of the Career Accelerator program for jobs in healthcare, trades and advanced manufacturing while also providing high school students with financial literacy education.

Paul continues to focus on safety for families in the 34th District and ways to get young people and Veterans on a pathway to well-paying jobs.

"I'm looking forward to continuing the important work for families in the 34th District. We made positive steps forward during my second term, and the work is not done. Families continue to feel unsafe in our community, and are struggling with the state's high cost of living. Parents want opportunities for their children to learn and get practical experience for well-paying jobs. I've been focused on finding solutions to these concerns and will continue to be their voice at the Capitol," he said.

Paul is active in the community as a coach and sponsor of youth athletics. He is a member of the North-Haven Republican Town Committee and serves as a founding member and advocate for the Joe Abate Charitable Foundation. He is a member of the East Haven and Greater New Haven Chambers of Commerce.

Paul grew up in East Haven and currently lives in North Haven with his wife Christy, their two children Giada and Paul, who attend North Haven public schools, and their two bulldogs.

In addition to his duties as State Senator, Paul is a small business owner in Connecticut, and understands the challenges they face.

Free Radon Test Kits available for Residents

January is National Radon Action Month. The East Shore District Health Department (ESDHD) is offering FREE Radon Air Test Kits to residents of Branford, East Haven, and North Branford during the month of January. Free radon test kits are limited and available on a first come, first serve basis. Did you know?

- The CDC estimates that about 20,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the U.S. can be attributed to radon.
- Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking.
- Radon is a radioactive gas that can be found all over the U.S. It can seep into any type of building brick or frame, new or old, basement or no basement, crawl space or slab on grade.
- Southern Connecticut is one of the high-radon areas of the U.S. designated by the EPA.

Many people ignore the warnings about radon gas. Maybe because radon has no color, taste, or odor people don't think about it.

Free Radon Test Kits will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis from the health district office at 688 East Main St., Branford 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

The kits were provided by the Connecticut Department of Public Health Radon Program. Supplies are limited. One kit per household, please.

For more information, please call ESDHD at (203) 481-4233 if you have any questions.



COMMUNITY

WELCOME TO KAT-SU!

The Town of North Branford is pleased to welcome Kat-Su Restaurant to the community. Kat-Su (formerly Wasabi) is located in Central Plaza. They offer the same great sushi of Wasabi in addition to delicious Mexican food. They have also added a full bar with a great cocktail menu and happy hour specials from 3-6 PM. They also offer half price sushi rolls on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Please join them for their grand opening Saturday, January 20th. Pictured are the owners, Oscar & Fredi along with Oscar's wife Flor and their children Kamyla & Alysson, as well as Representative Vincent Candelora, Mayor Rose Angeloni, and Town Manager Michael P. Downes.

Follow them on social media: Kat-Su Restaurant

https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094136280091

https://www.instagram.com/kat_su_restaurant/

ARPA Funds for Local Non-Profits Made Available by the NB Town Council

NORTH BRANFORD –Last year the North Branford Town Council set aside a \$50,000 fund from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be made available to local non-profits adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. During their last regular meeting in December the Council approved eligibility standards, an application form, and process to allow these nonprofits to apply for and receive funding.

"Many local nonprofits which have critical missions had their ability to raise funds or perform their functions hampered or halted by the COVID-19 pandemic," said Town Manager Michael Downes. "The Town Council wants to offer support to those non-profits that have been impacted by COVID-19 and assist them in their missions."

Eligible non-profits should operate within the Town of North Branford, have a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) designation, be established prior to March 1, 2020, and they should have experienced negative economic impacts due to COVID-19.

Application forms are available online at the Town website, northbranfordct. gov. Applications should be submitted to the office of the Town Manager by mail at Town Hall, 909 Foxon Rd., North Branford, or scanned and email to gcox@ northbranfordet.gov for review by the Town Manager, and approval of the Town Council.

Sponsorship and Committee Request

Dateline: [Shoreline, CT, January 2024] — Lede: The Community Dining Room is looking for sponsors and for community members to join our Fundraising Committee for our 2024 season. Founded in 1985, the Community Dining Room (CDR) is a private, not-for-profit organization providing food, support, and companionship to our shoreline neighbors. We serve the south-central Connecticut shoreline, including East Haven, Branford, North Branford, and Guilford.

The Community Dining Room is committed to providing meals to the community and supporting basic human needs. Our vision is to see a well-nourished community. We strive to promote public awareness of the impact of hunger and isolation in our society. We are dedicated to helping our guests with their practical needs through referrals and fellowship.

Body: Would you like to make an impact in your community? Do you want to make a difference? We are looking for sponsors and Fundraising Committee members for our 2024 season of events. We are planning several large-scale events with some smaller events as well. Each one will be supporting the cause of the Community Dining Room and feeding our neighbors in need in the shoreline community. We have a variety of sponsorship packages to choose from for every budgetary need. Our marquee events last year drew over 500 attendees! We are looking to highlight the very best of the shoreline has to offer.

Call or text Patrick Hackett, Fundraising Coordinator at 203-747-6230 or email fundraising@communitydiningroom.org

Recycling News

You should have received an Orange 2024 Recycling/Trash Card in your last issue of the Totoket Times. Please keep this card handy all year. It has important dates and information that you will need concerning your trash pickups and what can be recycled. If the card was missing or you misplace yours, there will be copies at both libraries, public works, STW Community Center and Town Hall. You can also download a copy from the town website.

Did you know that there is a 10-cent deposit on:

All glass, metal and plastic drink containers that contain 150ml to 3 liters of a carbonated beverage and 150ml to 2.5 liters of a non-carbonated beverage.

Malt-based hard seltzers were added to the list of covered beverage containers in 2023. The law excludes other spirit or wine-based beverages that are not malt-based.

Please remember:

PLASTIC BAGS SHOULD NOT GO INTO THE BLUE RECYCLE BIN.

If you bag your recyclables to bring them to the blue bin, please dump them out of the bag into the blue bin and then bring the plastic bag to a plastic film drop off location. The plastic bag gets tangled into the machinery and stops the workflow.

Here are some statistics on North Branford's plastic film collection. December 2023 = 417 lbs.

All of 2023 = 5244 lbs. This is the largest ever collected over the last 7 years!

That's over 15 tons of plastic film taken out of the waste stream!! Thanks to all that participate!!

As a reminder, the town collects plastic film at the following locations: Country Paint and Hardware, T.J's Launderette, Town Hall, Atwater and Smith Libraries, STW Community Center, Northford Store and The Food Pantry of North Branford.

Reduce – Reuse - Recycle

For the New Year it is a good time to re-evaluate your waste footprint.

Donating = **Reuse**

For items that still have some life in them, consider posting them on the Facebook page: North Branford & Northford Free Items.

Help someone else out, unclutter your house and help the environment at the same time.

For a larger audience check out Freecycle.org in East Haven or New Haven.

You can also look up your item in the New Haven Downsizing Donation Guide. It lists multiple organizations that want your stuff! Just search for 'New Haven Downsizing Donation Guide".

Can I recycle it?

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

recyclect.com.

They also have an app.

Are you interested in getting involved on a town committee? Does it upset you when you see littering? Do you wonder where the trash goes and how recycling works?

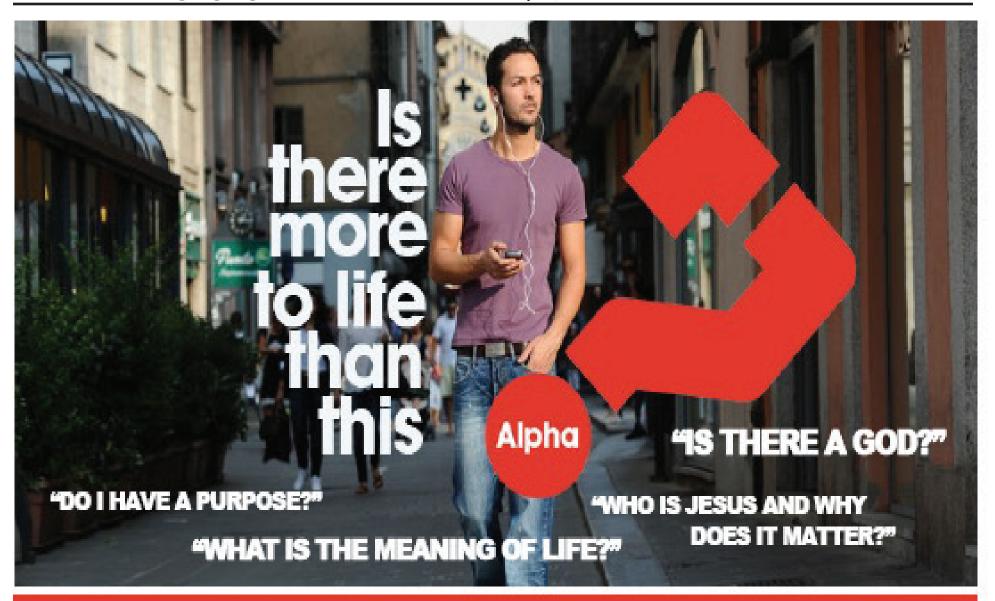
The Solid/Hazardous Waste and Recycling Committee is looking for new members.

The new year is full of possibilities and we could use some fresh ideas. Please call the Town Manager if you are interested.

For more information about recycling in North Branford you can check out North Branford's Recycling Committee's website: townofnorthbranfordct.com/government/boards-commissions/hazardouswasterecycling-committee.aspx

or our Facebook page: North Branford CT Hazardous Waste & Recycling Committee

Thank You for Your Participation



ST. AMBROSE PARISH INVITES YOU TO ALPHA!

Come for dinner, a short film, explore the Christian Faith, ask questions and share your thoughts in a comfortable, non-judgmental environment. Begins Wednesday Evenings, Jan 31. Contact 203-484-0403 ext 305 for more information or email cyndie.baker@nbcatholics.org

TYPICALLY, ALPHA INCLUDES









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A SHORT TALK ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

THERE'S NO







Totoket Times January 26, 2024

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

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

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

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

Northford 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 Office Hours: Tuesday 9am - 1pm; other days by appointment. John Vigneri, Pastor . Jane K. Leschuk Minister of Music. Worship Service 10am. Join us for coffee hour following worship. Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Like us on Facebook. Our website is www.northfordcongregational.church

St. Ambrose Parish – 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. 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!

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

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. SCC is a diverse community that is dedicated to Making the Invisible God Visible.

United Methodist Church, Branford 811 East Main St, Branford (Route 1, across from Bill Miller's Castle). www.umcbranford.org or (203) 488-0549. Sunday service 9:30am - both in-person and live on our website. "The Church on the Rock," led by Pastor Kent Jackson. We invite you to discover the power of faith in Jesus Christ bringing God's love to the world. Join us to worship, experience God's word, and stay connected. 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.org/check.org www.saintjohnsguilford.org

Zion Episcopal Church, 326 Notch Hill Road, North Branford. Our vicar is the Rev. Lucy LaRocca. 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

Send Church Notices to Totokettimes@comcast.net



North Branford Congregational Church

"Superbowl Sunday" on Sunday, February 11 at 10:00 am, North Branford Congregational Church. Bring soup for the foodbank, wear team colors or jerseys and hear a message relating to sports and faith.

"Ash on Your Dash" Wednesday, February 14 (Ash Wednesday) from 7 am to 8 am. Start the Lenten journey by receiving ashes in your car as you drive through the North Branford Congregational Church parking lot.

In Honor of Pat Muro Knights of Columbus # 3300

Valentine's Dance

Saturday, February 3, 2024
7:00PM to 11:00PM
Our Lady of P0mpei Church Hall
\$10.00 per person
DJ, Setups and Coffee Supplied
B.Y.O.B and Snacks

For Tickets Call Joe Monico at 203-887-2137 Bring a Dessert to Share!



Happy Valentine's Day
Join your friends at a
Valentine Porchetta Dinner.
Saturday, February 10, 2024
St. Frances Cabrini Church Hall
6:00 PM
Porchetta, Pasta, Vegetables, Salad

Porchetta, Pasta, Vegetables, Salad, Desserts & Coffee or Tea.

Entertainment - Paula Pettinella \$20 for Members, \$25 for Non-Members For Tickets call Frank at 203-410- 4254 or fmentonejr@comcast.net

Sons & Daughters of Italy Doing Their Part in the Community

The Social Outreach committee of the Sons & Daughters of Italy #2805 recently delivered toys to Yale New Haven Hospital for the Toy Closet Program. Thanks to all that donated and made our toy drive a success!





NORTH BRANFORD

PARKS, RECREATION, AND SENSOR CENTER

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The Valentine DoodleBug

FOR ALL NORTH BRANFORD BOYS AND GIRLS IN KINDERGARTEN THRU FIFTH GRADE.

Roses are red, violets are blue.
The Boodle Day has something special for you!
He's doodled everywhere—from coast to coast,
but our town is the one he laves the most!
The Boodle Day will soon be coming your way
with a craft for you this Valentine's Day!
Keep it for yourself or give it to someone dear.
Help the Boodle Day spread love and cheen!



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SAFT BOATING

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2 NIGHTS IN ATLANTIC CITY!

JULY 14-16, 2024 \$450

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SENIOR CENTER



M-COM MOVIE MONDAYS

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Feb 14, 2024 12:00pm \$5

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Proposer by 2/12/244

ELECTRICIAN

TJC Electrical Services. No job too big or too small. Service upgrades and generator specials. Call Tom Cassella at 203-619-2823. Licensed and insured.

PLUMBING

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

STONEWORKS

EARTHART STONEWORKS LLC. Specializing in stonewall restoration. Offering hardscape design, custom and made to order stone creations, benches, water features, patios, mailbox posts and more. Licensed and insured. 203 868-9958. www.earthartstoneworks.com

HELP WANTED

Van Driver for Parks and Recreation/Senior Center – North Branford, CT. The Town of North Branford is accepting applications for a part-time van driver. This position safely operates a passenger bus to provide curb-to-curb transportation services for residents. Applicants must be 21 years of age, hold a valid CT CDL with P & F endorsements. 8-10 hours per week. Starting wage is \$20 per hour, no benefits. Position open until filled. Full job description is available on the Town of North Branford website www.northbranfordct.cgov/jobs. Please submit application and other materials via website, email (rburke@northbranfordct.gov) or by mail to Town Manager/909 Foxon Road/North Branford, CT 06471. EEO/AA

Front Desk Team Members (PART-TIME YEAR-ROUND) for Parks, Recreation and Senior Center – Town of North Branford, CT. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and are responsible for greeting the public, registrations, processing memberships, answering phone calls, opening and closing facility when applicable, and monitoring facility. Prior experience working as receptionist is highly preferred. 5-19 hours per week; early morning, evening and weekend hours are available and starting wage is \$15.69 per hour, no benefits. Position open until filled. Full job description is available on the Town of North Branford website www.northbranfordct.cgov/jobs. Please submit application and other materials via website, email (rburke@northbranfordct.gov) or by mail to Town Manager/909 Foxon Road/North Branford, CT 06471. EEO/AA

FOR SALE

2006 Cadillac Escalade SUV. 120,000 miles. Black with leather interior and Bosse speakers. Excellent condition in and out, brand new back brakes, good tires. \$4,000 Firm. Call Larry at 203-821-7142

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Funeral Director & Managing Partner
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Funeral Director
sarah.rivera@keenanfuneralhome.com

330 Notch Hill Road, North Branford (203) 481-3217

238 ELM STREET, WEST HAVEN (203) 933-1217

KEENAN FUNERAL HOME

www.keenanfuneralhome.com



