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Volume 32 No 24, October 9, 2026

Connecticut Rotary Clubs Join Together to Fight Illiteracy in Kenya

A remote Maasai Conservancy in the Central Highlands of Kenya recently benefitted from two Rotary grants which were used to establish eight satellite libraries in remote village schools. Over 4,500 children will benefit directly as well as adults in the communities.

The eight library spaces are welcoming, clean, light, and secure. These satellite libraries are overseen by the main library (hub) called the Il Ngwesi Community Resource Center located in Chumvi, Kenya. This facility was built by Kenyan Health Care Initiatives, a 501(c)3 Connecticut non-profit, and furnished with equipment, books,

computers, shelving, and a playground.

Literacy is the key to a better life and Rotary is doing its part to help reduce literacy and instill a love of reading in this remote, isolated part of Kenya where test scores are low and it is a struggle to keep children in school.

These initiatives were made possible through a partnership with The Rotary Foundation (Global Grant), District 7980 (District Managed Grant) and donations from local rotary clubs. Participating Rotaries for the main library and satellite facilities projects include: North Branford (lead organization), Nanyuki, Kenya (Host Club), Branford,

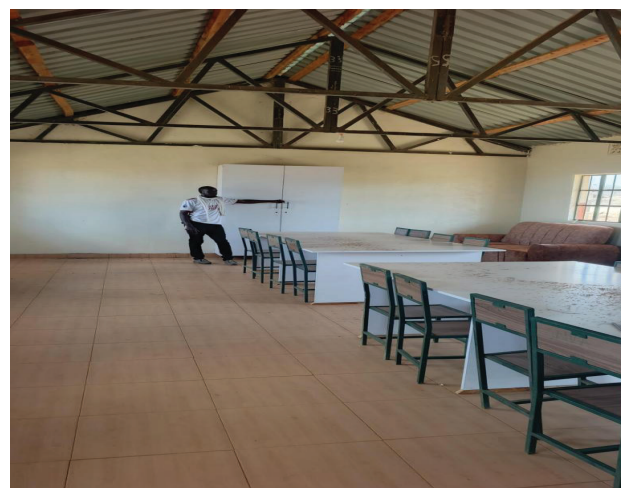
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Contact Hope.Looney@gmail.com at North Branford Rotary if you might be interested in becoming a part of this global, wonderful organization whose mission is to do “good works” to make the world a better place.

Images Before Renovations



Images After Renovations



TOTOKET TIMES

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State Representative Vincent Candelora



Everywhere you turn these days, there's conversation about the ascent of technology and its impact, good and bad, on society. Data centers. Flock cameras. Chatbots and rogue AI models. Speed cameras.

More than ever, people are tuned in to how these advances affect their day-to-day lives.

Now we've got a tech issue that's landed on our doorstep: package delivery by drone. Amazon, through its Prime Air program, wants to launch drones from its North Haven facility to make up to 1,000 deliveries per day within 7.5 miles. In addition to North Haven and our town, that includes Wallingford, New Haven, East Haven and Hamden. It's part of a national push to bring Prime Air to nearly 500 U.S. cities and towns by the end of 2026.

I enjoy speedy service as much as the next guy, but I'm not thrilled about forfeiting the bit of peace and quiet we've got left, the solitude of our own homes, so someone down the road can get an Amazon order in as little as 30 minutes.

Privacy is a major concern, as is the effect on wildlife. Jobs too. Noise, however, is the biggest problem for residents in other communities where Amazon's drones have taken flight. These aren't speculative issues, either. A recent New York Times report, "It's Raining Boxes," provided colorful accounts of near-constant drone traffic over backyards and noise that carries over the television indoors.

After all, these aren't toy drones that emit an insect-like buzz. They're 80-pound machines that folks in Texas described as flying lawnmowers.

I joined several of my House and Senate colleagues in submitting a bipartisan letter to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). The FAA has asked DEEP to review whether Amazon's plan is consistent with Connecticut's federally approved Coastal Management Program, which is set in state statute.

While DEEP can't consider quality-of-life issues such as noise and privacy, its review of the environmental impact is just as important. Drone activity can wreak havoc on shorebird nesting areas, since the birds view drones as predators to be chased away. Only drones don't flee. In our letter, we contended that Prime Air, as designed, can't be in line with the state's Coastal Management Program. We asked DEEP to require Amazon and the FAA to identify and map nesting and foraging areas for several species, including the Bald Eagle and Great Egret, and to establish no-fly buffer zones.

We also asked that Amazon and the FAA demonstrate, with independent verification rather than self-reporting, that flights will reliably operate at or above the represented 225 to 400-foot altitude range, given documented flights as low as 150 feet in other markets. We further requested a commitment to independent noise monitoring and public reporting, with defined thresholds and consequences for exceedance, as well as incident reporting protocols when wildlife is disturbed.

In learning more about this topic, I was reminded of the Tom Cruise movie "Minority Report," where similar technological advances were put to all sorts of interesting, if not troubling, uses. Watching it back then, many of us wondered whether that was where our society would end up. Little did we know the reality would be far more mundane: trading our privacy, peace and environment for the ability to have a pair of pet nail trimmers dropped into our yards in as little as 30 minutes after ordering them.

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

LET'S BE "FRANK"

I have to tell you brother, it's been a whirlwind of a year. Now that I'm through with the visiting nurses and some of the doctor visits, I've had a chance to reflect.

The year started off pretty good. My only trepidation was that in March I would be reaching a dreaded milestone, the big 70. I didn't have much time to think about as I took that well publicized trip in my dining room that began a series of setbacks. I never had time to think about hitting the big seven O as I was too occupied with getting better. Now that I am back to 100%, it gave me time to think about how I got to this previously dreaded age.

The health issues started at thirty nine years of age. With a new job, three kids and mom slowly dying in the hospital, I thought I was just tired. Then came a pounding in my chest, the rapid heart beats and the sweating more than a leaky pipe. I drove myself to the hospital and after a series of tests, it was determined I had an arrhythmia, and diabetes. With some medications and the good news that I did not have a heart attack, the released me in two days so I was able to be home and celebrate Christmas with my family at home and my parish family at Saint Anthony Church. Unfortunately, I was also able to deal with the death of our mother, the day after Christmas.

Fast speed ahead and dealing with your death and later Mary's, I was doing pretty well. Once again. With Mary ailing, I thought I was just getting tired from trying to take care of her and help her to get better. The tiredness turned into dizziness, and after two visits to the hospital, I wound up checking out for few minutes but was fortunate that I was in the hospital and they quickly brought me back only to inform me that I needed a pacemaker.

So here I am now at 70 years of age. My medical chart reads: Morbidly obese, hypertensive, diabetic with a pacemaker. How did I get from that kid running all over the place. Working three jobs, running many non profit organizations, coaching several sports on many different levels and never needing a rest, to the present. Now I don't run all over the place, I waddle from place to place to place. I finally retired from my part time job and now instead of three jobs there are none. I have finally hung up my fungo cane and coaching is a thing of the past. I now need a nap on most days and I often need a rest after getting dressed.

As I visit you, mom and dad and Mary every week at the cemetery, I wonder why I am still here and you guys are not. I often say I was left behind because you guys would never visit me at the cemetery and there would be no one around to tidy up your spots at All Saints and put out the grave blankets and Palm Crosses.

Mom always use to say "the man upstairs has his reasons" I'm thinking it was to continue to help my family and help out with my three grandsons. After my reflections I realize, I am forever blessed, and I will continue to enjoy the good life. How did I go from a youngster with no hot water, sleeping in a crib in mom and dad's room because there was no room for a bed, to someone with a green lawn, tile and hard wood floors and three bathrooms all with hot running water. also enjoying a great family. Even though I don't see Frank III as often as I would like, I now have a place to visit in Florida.

Well, I thank God every day and since Mary's death I have taken on your mantra to say a rosary very day. All in all, it's been a helluva a ride. Take care and I'll see you soon.



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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

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For the Health of it...

Finding Calm When Life Feels Like A Lot



Have you ever reached the point where some days it seems like your brain has 47 tabs open, and somehow, 12 of them are demanding your attention simultaneously? There’s the news, the emails, the group texts, the work deadlines, the family concerns, the endless to-do list, and that one thing you’ve been meaning to deal with for three weeks. Even when the stress isn’t technically *ours*, it has a funny way of finding its way into our lives. It just seeps in like a memory you thought you’d

forgotten. Our bodies, however, notice it all. When we’re under stress, the body releases cortisol, one of the hormones involved in the stress response. As mentioned in last month’s article, cortisol is not the villain it sometimes gets made out to be. In fact, it plays an important role in helping us respond to challenges. The problem is what can happen when our systems are repeatedly exposed to stress and never seem to get the memo that it’s safe to ease up. That constant feeling of being “on” can make it harder to relax, sleep, concentrate, or simply feel like ourselves. Which brings us to an important question: How do we find a little calm when the outside world refuses to cooperate?

The answer probably isn’t to move to a remote cabin and throw our phones into a lake. Although, some days that can sound pretty good. Instead, we can start small by giving our nervous system little reminders that we are safe in this particular moment. A few slow breaths. A walk around the block. Sitting quietly with a cup of coffee. Listening to music. Stretching. Spending time outside. Laughing with someone we love.

These things may seem almost too simple to matter, but small moments of recovery are valuable, especially when our days are packed with stimulation. We also *get to decide* what deserves our attention. That’s right. It’s something we truly have more control over than it may seem and that can be very empowering.

We don’t have to read every headline. We don’t have to respond to every notification immediately. We don’t have to know what everyone is arguing about on the internet before we’ve even had breakfast. Being informed is one thing. Being perpetually plugged in is another.

Sometimes protecting our peace means putting the phone down and reminding ourselves, “Nothing requires my attention right this second.” Say it out loud and that sentence can feel surprisingly powerful.

And when stress has already seeped in, *we don’t need to judge ourselves* for feeling overwhelmed. We can simply notice it. Maybe our shoulders are tense. Maybe we’re clenching our jaws, or fists, or both! There was a time when the latter was my constant state and I wasn’t aware until someone pointed it out to me. These body signals can happen so frequently that they become our new normal. It’s second nature so we don’t hear the message. Maybe we’re unusually impatient or exhausted. Maybe we’ve been staring at the same email for ten minutes without actually reading it. These signs and signals are very deserving of our attention.

Rather than wondering, *What is wrong with me?*, give yourself the grace to recognize, *Ah. I’m carrying a lot right now.* That little shift from criticism to compassion can change the conversation we have with ourselves.

We know we can’t eliminate stress from our lives. There will always be unexpected emails, difficult news, busy seasons, family obligations, and people who somehow save their most pressing requests for the final two minutes of the workday. But we can create pockets of calm within all of it.

We can take the long way home. Put on a favorite song. Step outside between meetings. Make dinner without checking our phones. Go to bed instead of scrolling. Sit in the sunshine for five minutes. Say no when our calendar is already full.

None of these things magically fix the world. They simply give us a chance to come back to ourselves. And maybe that’s what calm really is, not a life without stress, but a life that includes enough moments of pause, connection, laughter, rest, and breathing room to remind our bodies and minds that we are more than whatever is demanding our attention today.

The world can be loud, our inbox can be full, our cortisol can be having a moment and we can still take a breath. We can still find a little space. We can still choose, whenever possible, to come back to calm.

So what do you say? Will you give it a go? What moments of pause will you give yourself this week? I’d love to know. With practice and consistency, we can become more aware of the body’s whispers *before* they get too loud to ignore.

If you would like more tips on creating calm in the overwhelm, reach out at joann@wellnessfusion.net. This monthly article is here for you, For the Health of it.

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Recycling News

Important Dates for the Fall

Leaf Drop-Off opens – Saturday October 17th.

Scrap Metal Pickup – week of October 26th.

North Branford Recycles Day at Public Works – Saturday November 7th.

Bulky Waste Pickup – week of November 9th.

Join us for North Branford’s Great Pumpkin Smash!
November 14th, 10am-12pm at the STW Community Center.
Register by 11/9 – nbrecreation.com
BYOP (bring your own pumpkin) - Only naked pumpkins please.
Paint, glitter, etc. can harm the animals that the smashed pumpkins
will be going to.

The last Saturday for Hazwaste Central will be October 17th

Safe & Free Disposal of Residential Household Hazardous Waste
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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 blue trash information card.

Please visit <https://www.rwater.com/about-us/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.

North Branford Fall Leaf Collection opens on October 17th.

North Branford residents can bring their leaves to the leaf drop off center located to the left of the old police station, around Wall Field on Route 22 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Just follow the signs. No brush or grass clippings. The leaf drop off will be open on Saturdays October 17th, 24th, 31st and November 7th, 14th and 21st. Please place leaves in biodegradable leaf bags (no tape please) or empty them loose onto the ground.

There will be a curbside pickup of leaves in untaped biodegradable paper bags the weeks of November 30th - December 11th.

Scrap Metal Pickup will be the week of October 26 on your normal trash pick-up day.

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

Can I recycle it?

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

They also have an app.

Recycling Committee is looking for people with fresh ideas to join us. You are invited to attend one of our meetings to see if you may be interested. Our meeting schedule is on the Community Calendar on the Town Website.

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

NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

37th ANNUAL COMMUNITY ROUND UP

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

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

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

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

In addition, on October 24, 2026, starting at 8:30 am, we will hold the traditional community food round up. Teams of students collect canned goods, pasta, and personal hygiene items from all segments of the community. Please remember to check expiration dates of food items prior to donating them.

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

October 24th

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

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

We appreciate and are very proud of the North Branford community who have made this event such a great success for the past 36 years!

Thank you for your generous support!

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Billy Mitchell to be Inducted into the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club Hall of Fame

Billy Mitchell is a cornerstone in the North Branford community. For 30 years he has assisted in the development of several generations of the town’s young men through the game of baseball.

After moving to North Branford from his native North Haven, Mitchell helped start the intermediate school baseball team in 1997, coaching there for three years. He coached the 1999 North Branford



Little League 11/12-year-old all-star team that won the state championship and advanced to the Eastern Regional tournament in Bristol.

After five years as an assistant at North Branford High School on the staff of Frank Bombace, Mitchell was promoted to varsity head coach in 2008. Since then, his teams have won more than 220 games, qualified for 16 CIAC state tournaments, and produced 21 all-state players. The Thunderbirds won the 2024 and 2025 Shoreline Conference championships.

Mitchell and NBHS have received many accolades during his tenure. He has been honored with multiple Shoreline Conference Coach of the Year awards. He received the inaugural Coach of the Year honor from the Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association in 2024. The SCDC named Mitchell its Sam Burrell Coach of the Year in 2011 and its Tom Fahy Coach of the Year in 2025, and his 2024 squad was chosen as the SCDC George Klivak Team of the Year.

Mitchell also guided the Branford American League prep team to a league championship in 2020. This past spring, he coached his district’s senior all-star team.

Mitchell got his start in coaching by helping his father lead various Babe Ruth and Senior Babe Ruth teams in North Haven. He is thankful to his father for teaching him and coaching him in the game of baseball as a youth, and to all of his longtime assistant coaches and current and former players. He continues to hold his players to high standards as they develop both on and off the field.

Mitchell is a 1976 graduate of North Haven High School. He lives in North Branford and retired after a 42-year career with Metro-North Railroad. He has one daughter, Kailey

The dinner is on October 22, at Woodwinds in Branford. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to www.southernctdiamondclub.org

NBHS T-BIRD FOOTBALL EXTENDS RECORD TO 4-0

North Branford football extended their winning record to 4-0 with a 57-6 victory over Haddam-Killingworth, followed by a victory over the Weaver Beavers.



Jack Sigel scores one of his three touchdowns against H-K.

In a blowout against H-K, junior Jack Siegal ran for three touchdowns for a total 158 yards on just 7 carries. Junior quarterback Matteo Andreson added 40 yards and completed four passes for another 147 yards. Junior Cole Blotney returned a punt for 55 yards and added another 52 in receptions.

On the defensive side of the ball, seniors Landon Burns and Blotney had 8 tackles each and fellow seniors Craig Miller Jr. and Nicolas Salvati added 7 each.. Sophomres Gianni Dibenedetto and Billy Criscuolo had six each. and Salvati also added an interception.

They came back with a victory over the Weaver Beavers to keep their winning record intact.



The H-K game was also alumni weekend with a host of former players attending the game.

Photos courtesy of Bill Obrien

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

The newly formed St. Pier Giorgio Frassati Parish officially brings together the parish communities of St. Ambrose, North Branford and St. Elizabeth of the Trinity, North Haven into one united Catholic community. Rooted in the spirit and example of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, the parish begins this new chapter of faith, service and community. Parish leaders say the merger is an opportunity to strengthen ministries, foster deeper connections among parishioners and continue the mission of the Church with renewed energy and hope. The parish now includes the worship locations of St. Augustine Church, 30 Caputo Rd, North Branford; St. Monica Church, 1321 Middletown Ave., Northford; St. Barnabas, 44 Washington Ave. North Haven and St. Therese Church, 555 Middletown Ave., North Haven.

All are warmly invited to join us for Mass and becoming part of our growing parish family. Weekend and daily Masses are offered throughout our parish community, providing many opportunities for worship, prayer, fellowship and service. Whether you are a long-time parishioner, returning to the Church or searching for a parish home, we welcome you to pray with us and experience the joy of our Catholic community!

MASS TIMES: SATURDAY VIGIL MASS 4 PM St. Barnabas, 4:30 PM St. Augustine

SUNDAY MASS: 8 AM St. Barnabas | 9 AM St. Monica
10 AM St. Therese | 11 AM St. Augustine | 5 PM St. Therese DAILY MASS
Monday-Thursday | 8 AM St. Barnabas

Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. | 9 AM St. Augustine

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Adoration - 5-6 PM Mon. St. Augustine | 5-6 PM Wed. St. Barnabas

Please reach out to the parish office with any questions 203-484-0403 or 203-239-5378

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

The North Branford Congregational Church, NACCC, 1680 Foxon Road, North Branford CT. Join us for meaningful worship and Bible based teaching every Sunday at 10 am. Sunday School for children during service. Communion on the first Sunday of the month. We offer Bible study, choir, lunch bunch, 2nd Sunday brunch, charity work, book club, praise team, men's fellowship and more. 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 Come grow in faith with us!

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. Catherine Klouda, worship leader. Worship service 10am. Join us for coffee hour following worship. Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Like us on Facebook. Our website is www.northfordcommunity.church.

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

North Branford Congregational Church
is happy to welcome our new Interim Minister, Pastor Steve Chamberlain.
Please join us for Sunday Service at 10:00 AM and meet Pastor Chamberlain.



Pastor Steve Chamberlain is a Massachusetts native and graduate of Dartmouth College. He and his wife of 49 years, Lois, have 6 children, 13 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. They've lived in Branford for 45 years and Steve was on staff at a church there for 29 years with 25 years as the senior pastor. He retired in 2022 but has continued to preach often in local churches. He is grateful for the opportunity to come out of retirement to work with the members of the North Branford Congregational church as their interim minister. Before he became a minister, Steve was a banker specializing in commercial lending. He is an avid Red Sox, Patriots and Bruins fan and during the summer you can often find him sailing on Long Island Sound, spending time with grandkids or working on a home renovation project. He is looking forward to engaging more with the people of North Branford and assisting them in this time of transition.



Another Knights of Columbus Success Story



Under the Direction of Bonnie Young, the Knights of Columbus 6801 held one of their most successful events ever. Ten actors put on a Murder Mystery Night for a packed house of 170 people. The old Western evening featured pulled pork, and chicken with some old Western style pickins'.

With a very successful raffle and program/ad book (thanks to all donors), not only was it a social success but a financial one as well. Parts of the proceeds went to the Parish, holiday family dinners and family help centers.

Anyone interested in joining this special group of men is asked to call Grand Knight Wayne Humphrey at 203-410-3885.

Women's Fellowship Annual Harvest Fair November 7, 2026

Come to the Harvest Fair at the North Haven Congregational Church, 28 Church Street, North Haven, CT, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 7th. Have your morning "Coffee &" in Grandma's Café from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Fill a container on the Cookie Walk and browse Handcrafted Items, Needlework, Raffle Baskets, and more! Stop by Grandma's Kitchen & Bakery and take home some delicious treats! Shop at the Jewelry Table for great buys. Bring the kids for Face Painting, the Pocket Lady, and games and activities in the Children's Room! Looking for bargains? Stop by the Nearly New Room and the Christmas Room! More treasures can be found in Grandma's Attic; don't miss the collectibles and antique items waiting for you there!

Plenty of free parking and handicapped accessible (elevator).

Call the church office 203-239-5691 for information.

ST. PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI PARISH

CHRISTMAS

Fair!

SHOP • EAT • ENJOY • CELEBRATE

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 6
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 7
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

CRAFT VENDORS

FOOD

BAKED GOODS TABLE

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

PICTURES WITH SANTA

RAFFLE BASKETS

♥ Bring your family and friends ♥
AND KICK OFF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH US!

ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH
30 CAPUTO ROAD
NORTH BRANFORD, CT

Support
Our Parish
& Local
Vendors!

NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARIES EVENTS

Quilters Club

NORTH BRANFORD: Those who enjoy quilting are invited to meet at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays, Oct. 9 and 16. Newcomers welcome; bring your own materials. To register, go to northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-315-6020.

Tots and Tunes

NORTHFORD: Young children ages 18 months and up and their siblings can enjoy 30 minutes of songs, stories and movement at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road, from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Fridays, Oct. 9 and 16. Parent or guardian must attend. Registration not required.

Saturday Story Time

NORTHFORD: Join Children's Librarian Miss Mary at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road, for 30 minutes of stories, music, and movement on Saturday, Oct. 10, 10:30 to 11 a.m. All ages. Registration not required.

Holiday Closing

Atwater Library in North Branford and Smith Library in Northford both will be closed on Monday, Oct. 12, in observance of Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples Day. Both libraries will reopen at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 13.

Little Makers

NORTHFORD: Join us for a simple craft activity that we do together, 10:30 to 11 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road. Today we will make a birthday cupcake craft. Recommended for ages 2-6. Registration required; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Drop-In Tech Help

NORTH BRANFORD: Personal tech help is available from noon to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13 and 20, at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. First come, first serve. Limited to 30 minutes each. Bring a device that you need help with. No registration required.

Read to a Therapy Dog

NORTH BRANFORD: Children in grades 3-5 are invited to take turns reading to Libby, a trained therapy dog, on Tuesday, Oct. 13, from 5 to 6 p.m. at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. Reading to a therapy dog can boost reading skills in children, develop emotional and social skills, and encourage a love of reading. Bring a favorite book or pick one from the library before the event. Registration required. To register, email Carlye Veenema at cveenema@nbranfordlibraries.org

Amazing Generation Book Club

NORTHFORD: Children in grades 3 and up and their families are invited to a discussion of delaying screen usage, from 6 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road. We'll discuss the #1 New York Times bestseller "The Amazing Generation" by Johnathan Haidt and Catherine Price, based on "The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt. Copies of the book can be picked up at Smith Library. Pizza and drinks provided. Activities for kids and siblings. Registration recommended; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Needle Arts

NORTH BRANFORD: Those who like to knit, crochet, embroider, quilt, etc. are invited to Atwater Library from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Oct. 14 and 21, (and every Wednesday). For more information, go to northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-315-6020.

Choosing a Financial Planner

NORTH BRANFORD: How can you be sure your money is working for you? Join us from 1 to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. See if you need money management help from a financial planner, and how to choose one. Learn how to check a planner's licensing status and disciplinary history, and how to protect yourself from investment scams and fraud. Presented by the Connecticut Department of Banking.

Chess Club

NORTHFORD: Join us for Chess Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 14 and 21, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road. Chess Club is for tweens and teens looking to play chess or join a group of players. Some previous knowledge is required, but beginners are welcome. Registration not required. Tweens under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

3D Printer Drop-In Event

NORTH BRANFORD: Drop in anytime from 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays, Oct. 14 and 21, at the Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road, to see our 3D printer in action. Ask about the process and get more information on how you can use 3D printing software from home. Registration not required.

Drop-In Tech Help

NORTHFORD: Personal tech help is available from 10 to 1 p.m. on Thursdays, Oct. 15 and 22, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road. First come, first serve. Limited to 30 minutes each. Bring a device that you need help with. No registration required.

Bowties And Books

NORTH BRANFORD: Put on your most elegant bowties and fanciest tutus (or whatever you find comfortable), and join us on Thursdays, Oct. 15 and 22, from 10:30 to 11 a.m., for songs, stories, and silliness at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. Recommended for ages 6 months to 4 years with a parent or caregiver. Registration not required.

All About Artists: Alma Thomas

NORTHFORD: Children ages 6 to 12 can join us on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road, for our All About Artists series, where we learn about different artists and create our own artwork in their style. This month we will learn about the painter Alma Thomas. Registration required; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Saturday Dance Mode

NORTH BRANFORD: Get ready to dance, sing, and play instruments on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10:30 to 11 a.m., in this family-oriented program at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. Recommended for ages 18 months and up. Siblings are welcome. Registration not required.

Monday Night Mah-Jongg

NORTHFORD: Those interested in playing Mah-Jongg are invited to the Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road, from 6 to 8 p.m., Monday, Oct. 19. Participants should bring their Mah-Jongg sets. To register, go to northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Dance Mode

NORTH BRANFORD: Get ready to dance, sing, and play instruments on Monday, Oct. 19, from 10:30 to 11 a.m., in this family-oriented program at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. Recommended for ages 18 months and up. Siblings are welcome. Registration not required.

Little Makers

NORTHFORD: Join us for a simple craft activity that we do together, 10:30 to 11 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 20, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road. Today we will make a shooting star craft. Recommended for ages 2-6. Registration required; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Monthly Writers Group

NORTH BRANFORD: Is writing a passion, hobby, or a general interest? Our Monthly Writers Group might be for you. Join us on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 10:30 a.m. at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road, for a friendly discussion with likeminded writers of all levels. You can share your work, and offer constructive criticism on the writing of others. The discussion will be facilitated by Rona, a writer with 40+ years of literature and writing teaching experience. Registration required; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-315-6020.

Can You Dig It?

NORTH BRANFORD: Learn about ancient civilizations with our real-life archaeologist, Becca, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. We will make crafts inspired by what we learn each month. Recommended for children in grades 2-6. This month, we will learn about mummies. Registration required; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-315-6020.

Afternoon Dance Mode

NORTH BRANFORD: Get ready to dance, sing, and play instruments on Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 4:30 to 5 p.m., in this family-oriented program at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. Recommended for ages 18 months and up. Siblings are welcome. Registration not required.

Amazing Generation Book Club

NORTH BRANFORD: Children in grades 3 and up and their families are invited to a discussion of delaying screen usage, from 6 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 21, at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. We'll discuss the #1 New York Times bestseller "The Amazing Generation" by Johnathan Haidt and Catherine Price, based on "The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt. Copies of the book can be picked up at Smith Library. Pizza and drinks provided. Activities for kids and siblings. Registration recommended; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-315-6020.

Protect Yourself from Financial Exploitation

NORTHFORD: Join us from 1 to 2 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 22, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road, and learn to protect yourself or your loved ones from financial exploitation. Representatives from the Connecticut Department of Banking will explain why seniors are targets and the difference between financial fraud and exploitation, and how to avoid both. Registration required; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Movie Matinee - "Project Hail Mary"

NORTHFORD: Join us for our monthly movie matinee at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road, on Friday, Oct. 23, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. This month's movie is "Project Hail Mary," the 2026 sci-fi adventure. "A science teacher wakes up alone on a spaceship. As his memory returns, he uncovers a mission to stop a mysterious substance killing Earth's sun, and realizes that an unexpected friendship may be the key" - IMDB. Starring Ryan Gosling, Sandra Hüller and James Ortiz. To register, visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Town of North Branford

Office of Social Service 203-484-6006

Generation Power Generation Power and Energy Assistance are two different programs with different requirements and Income limits. You may apply for both. WHEN TO APPLY (GenerationPower) CPCT has (3) emergency energy assistance cycles and only accepts applications during the established application cycle window, as listed below. Cycle 1: September 1-15, 2026 [All decision letters emailed no later than November13, 2026.] Cycle 2: December1-15, 2026 [All decision letters emailed no later than February 12, 2027.] Cycle 3: March 1-15, 2027 [All decision letters emailed no later than May 14, 2027.] INCOME LIMITS Earn up to 75% of Federal Poverty Level, for example a household ofl can earn up to \$59705, household of 2 earn up to \$780.76 per year based on household size (all members over 21 years of age) and gross income. Informational flyers listing requirements are available in the Lobby of the Office of Social Services, both public libraries and on the towns webpage. Please pick up a flyer prior to applying. You may apply with this office of online at www.gpct.org.

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD
OFFICE OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DECEMBER HOLIDAY BASKET SHARE

The December Holiday Basket Share will take place on, Thursday December 17, 2026 For those that need some assistance with their Holiday dinner and/or gifts for children, you only need to contact the Office of Social Services and request to be a recipient in the December Holiday Basket Share. The requirements are that you are in need and a resident of North Branford or Northford. Your information is protected, and your name will not be disclosed. You must be able to pick up your basket or arrange for someone to pick it up for you. We are unable to deliver or bring it to your car. For those wishing to donate a basket, you only need to call or email the Office of Social Service and express your desire to donate a Holiday Dinner Basket or a grocery store gift card, with or without children’s gifts. You may choose the family size you would like to adopt. You may choose to do this alone, or as a group, with neighbors or co-workers. For those wishing to include children’s gifts, this Office will provide you with the children’s wish list. Although names are not disclosed, a number will be given to both the recipient and the donor. This is used to identify which family is the recipient. All commitments by the donors and recipients will receive written confirmation. Last Day to be part of the Program as a recipient: Friday, November 13, 2026. Should you have an interest in being a recipient please contact Office of Social Service by email at ksperry@northbranfordct.gov or by phone at 203.484.6006 by 11/13/2026. There is no end date for donors to participate. Donor drop off will be on 12/18 between 9:30 and 11 am; recipient pick up will be between 11:30 and 1 pm

ENERGY ASSISTANCE 2026-2027 HEATING SEASON
TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD OFFICE OF SOCIAL SERVICE
1332 Middletown Avenue, Northford, CT 06472

This Office of Social Service energy assistance season will begin on October 1 for Northford and North Branford residents. It is preferred that those that heat with a deliverable fuel such as oil, propane, or pellets are seen initially followed by utility heating customers. Utility heating customers should participate in a program offered by the utility company, there are several programs to choose from. The programs offered are medical protection, matching program, balance forgiveness and the like. Information regarding programs offered by the utility companies is available in the Office of Social Service lobby. Although applications appointments begin October 1 the program begins on November 2. There are two ways to apply, you may apply online , following this link: <https://portal.ct.gov/dss/economic-security/winter-heating-assistance/energy-assistance---winter-heating/how-to-apply> or in this Office, by appointment beginning October 1. You must bring to your appointment copies of all your required documents. This office cannot make copies for you. Please bring all required documents. Applications can not be completed without the required documents, incomplete documents will result in a delay or denial. If you are interested in applying for Energy Assistance, you may call North Branford Social Service at 203.484.6006 or 475-655-0412 to make an appointment. A list of required documents needed to complete your application is available in both public libraries, online at <https://www.northbranfordct.gov/252/Social-Services>. and the Stanley T. Williams Community Center, Social Service Lobby. There are significant changes to the program. This program is based on income and not assets. This is not an entitlement program. The program is designed to assist persons offset the cost of heating during the winter months, weatherize the home as well as assist with a replace or repair of a non operating furnace or boiler. The program no longer offers a clean, tune and test of the furnace.

Charter Revision Commission -
Apply Now!

The Town Council unanimously voted to establish the Charter Revision Commission at the Sept. 22 meeting. You must submit an application to be considered for this Commission. Applications will be accepted until Friday, Oct. 23. You can go to the town’s website at www.northbranfordct.gov to download the form or call Gina Cox at 203.484.6000 to have an application sent to you. All people who applied earlier this year have been contacted and do not have to submit additional documentation unless requested.

Here is a brief outline of the timeline and procedures:

- The 7 member commission will be appointed at the Council meeting on 11/17. No more than 2 members can currently serve on another board or commission in North Branford. No more than 4 members can be from the same political party.
- All approved changes to the charter will be on the ballot for the Nov. 2027 election. Election day is Nov. 2, 2027.
- The Commission will select a Chairperson and the dates for the required public hearings. There is a minimum of 2 public hearings. The Commission will also schedule all meeting dates/ time/place. The meetings are open to the public.
- The final report to the Council will be due mid-June 2027 to be eligible for the Nov. 2027 ballot. Exact dates for all deadlines will be determined by the Commission at the beginning of the process.
- The Town Attorney will be an advisor to the Commission.

This is a great opportunity to become involved in your local government process. The work of this Commission will only last about 7 months but will have years of lasting effect. We look forward to seeing your application.

THANKSGIVING BASKET SHARE

Thanksgiving Basket Share Program will take place on Monday, November 23th, 2026 For those that need some assistance with their Thanksgiving Dinner, you only need to call the Office of Social Service and request to be a recipient in the Thanksgiving Basket Share. The only requirement is that you are in need, and that you reside in Northford or North Branford. Your information is protected, and your name will not be disclosed. You must be able to pick up your basket or arrange for someone to pick it up for you. We are unable to deliver or bring it to your car. For those wishing to donate a basket or grocery store gift card, call or email the Office of Social Service and express your desire to donate a Thanksgiving Dinner Basket or a grocery store gift card. You may choose the family size you would like to adopt. You may choose to do this alone, or as a group, with neighbors or co-workers. Although names are not disclosed, a number will be given to both the recipient and the donor. This is used to identify which family is the recipient. All commitments by the donor and recipients will receive written confirmation. The Thanksgiving Basket Share is scheduled for Monday, November 23th, 2026. Should you have an interest in being a recipient or a donor please contact the Office of Social Service by email, Ibreen@northbranfordct.aov or ksperry@northbranfordct.gov or by phone at 203.484.6006 or 475-655-0412 by 10/30/2026 for recipients, there is no end date for donors.

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD
OFFICE OF SOCIAL SERVICE-LUISA BREEN

KILL A — Kill — A- WATT Watt meters available to all North Branford and Northford residents. Measuring your electricity, where is your money going? A — Kill — Watt meters are now available in both Smith and Atwater Library. Meters identify which items in your home are using the most amount of electricity as well as how much power is used per day, per month, or per year. Once you know the amount of power an item uses you can then determine how much that item costs you in dollars, per day, month, or year. Each meter checked out of the library will also come with the directions. The meter is simple to use. Plug the meter into a wall outlet, plug the appliance into the meter, press the purple button to display kilowatts. At the end of the day you will see a number on the display of the meter, multiply that number by your electric rate. You can find your electric rate on your electric bill.

NORTH BRANFORD
PARKS AND
RECREATION
& SENIOR CENTER

NORTH BRANFORD
PARKS, RECREATION, AND SENIOR CENTER

STW COMMUNITY CENTER • 1332 MIDDLETOWN AVE NORTHFORD

WWW.NBRECREATION.COM • CALL (203) 484-6017

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK! @NBPARKSANDRECREATION AND INSTAGRAM! @NBPARK.REC.SENIOR

TRUNK or treat
Saturday October 17th
2:00 - 3:30pm Rain or Shine
STW Community Center Parking Lot

TRUNK DECORATORS WANTED!
VISIT NBRECREATION.COM TO REGISTER!
A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR GROUPS AND CLUBS!

PUMPKIN PATCH PARTY
A sensory friendly event for individuals in our special needs community.
Saturday October 24th
11:30am – 1:30pm
STW Community Center 1332 Middletown Ave. Northford
FREE event

Come pick a pumpkin from our accessible "pumpkin patch" and decorate it with friends!
Due to allergies/special dietary needs please bring your own treat or goodie bag
Kindly register at nbrecreation.com by 10/19

YOU ARE INVITED TO PAINT-A-PLOW!
Residents will make hand-print snowflakes for one of Public Works' snow plows that will be plowing this winter season.

Senior residents
Thursday, October 15th from 1:00-2:00pm

Children & Families
Monday, November 2nd from 2:30-4:30 pm
Registration is required.

NOTE: We will be using acrylic paint. Please ensure that participants are dressed appropriately as this paint will stain clothing.

NORTH BRANFORD'S GREAT PUMPKIN SMASH

November 14, 2026
STW Community Center
10:00am - 12:00pm
Register by 11/9 - nbrecreation.com

— SENIOR CENTER —

SENIOR CENTER "SEEING POSSIBILITIES"
Wednesday Oct 14 10:30 - 12:00 - STW SR Room

Maureen Carr leads this group for those dealing with decreasing vision and those who support them.

Maureen has been legally blind since birth, having the opportunity to learn strategies which have allowed her to maximize resources. These skills have allowed her to flourish in a world that is visually oriented and develop alternative solutions for ordinary daily tasks. Maureen has developed many overlapping techniques for everyday life for everyone!

SENIOR CENTER ARTS & CRAFTS

Puzzle Piece Pumpkins



October 14, 2026 - 12:45 - 2:00pm

STW Art Room - FREE

please register by 10/9

MATTER OF BALANCE

Oct 20 - Dec 15 10:00am—12:00pm - SR Room

Join East Shore Health District staff for an award-winning, evidence-based fall prevention program designed to reduce the fear of falling, manage fall risks, and increase physical activity levels among older adults. This eight-week program uses group discussions, practical coping strategies, and gentle exercises to help participants take control of their mobility and safety. This series is free and snacks will be provided!

BREAKFAST AT STW

\$3 Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria. Please pre-register for meals at least one day prior, by 9am

PUMPKIN PANCAKES
OCT 21
9:00AM - 10:00AM

STW COMMUNITY CENTER

HALLOWEEN PARTY
October 30th 1:00-2:00pm - FREE

Join us for a special Halloween edition of the Left, Center, Right game, some Halloween games, and make a special Halloween cupcake treat with Kathy!

Please register by October 25th
Costumes are encouraged!

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

CLEANING

D & D Cleaning is back. Small house cleaning for Northford & North Branford.Call Don at 203-804-0753 and leave a message.

ELECTRICIAN

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

HEATING & COOLING

Avallone Heating & Cooling - Heating & air conditoning repair, maintenance or installation. Call 203-530-9329

PLUMBING

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

CAREGIVER

Caregiver Available. I am kind, reliable help with daily activities and companionship, cooking and light housework. Call 475-201-8219.

Public Stargazing at Young’s Park



The Astronomical Society of New Haven is hosting a free stargazing event
on Saturday October 17th around 7pm at Young’s Park, 60 Blackstone Ave.in Branford. Admission and parking are free. All are welcome, including children and grandparents. We will have our scopes out for you to look through. The crescent moon will be sitting in the Milky Way and Saturn will be rising in the East. We will be able to see Saturn’s rings and maybe a few moons. We can show you the great Hercules star cluster andthe Andromeda Galaxy threw the telescopes. Learn where to find some constellations.

Directions and cancellation due to weather (including clouds) will be posted to our website, www.asnh.org or call 866-808-ASNH.

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

Celebrate Life!

Keenan Funeral Home

KEENAN FUNERAL HOME, INC.

238 Elm Street
West Haven, CT 06516

330 Notch Hill Rd
North Branford, CT 06471

Every life is unique.
Every goodbye, special.

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

★★★★★

"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!!

Marine Navigation Seminar

New Haven Sail & Power Squadron, part of America’s Boating Club, will hold a two-hour seminar for boaters who need information about marine navigation. Class will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Sat., Nov. 14, at Branford Fire Headquarters, 45 North Main St., Branford.

This seminar offers practical instruction from experienced boaters who share our commitment to having a safe, enjoyable time on the water. It will cover real-world navigation techniques you can use right away, whether you captain a cruiser, sailboat, or small powerboat.

All students must sign up by Sat., Nov. 7. People can sign up online and charge it to a credit card. The class costs \$10 per person. To register and pay online, use the Zeffy link that follows.<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/marine-navigation-seminar>

There is no processing fee. Or, contact Squadron Education Officer Marshall Quin at 203-314-5395 and leave a message, or email him at wmarshallq@gmail.com.

New Haven Sail & Power Squadron (NHSPS), is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization dedicated to making boating safer and more enjoyable by teaching classes in boat handling, navigation, and related subjects. For information on NHSPS, go to: www.nhsps.org.

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



203-288-1000
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Did you know?
In1663, German Scientist Otto van Guericke
created the first electric generator.