

Branford Events



www.eventsmagazines.com

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Thomas Watson Jr.

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First Selectman's Corner

It's my pleasure to present "Branford Events" inaugural issue and I look forward to it becoming part of our community. This new quarterly publication will provide every household with updates, details and contact information on the many developments, programs and events around town.

Although spring is here, everyone should know that some remnants remain from last October's "Super Storm Sandy". While not as extensive as "Irene" in 2011, considerable damage was felt by our shoreline community. And as in the aftermath of Irene, town officials continue to review and refine our emergency response and public safety procedures so we are as well prepared as possible to maintain operations town-wide. Also, our finance office doggedly pursued all related expenditures in order to qualify for all available FEMA funds.

At the same time, the Town continued to advance various capital projects and infrastructure initiatives. With the dedication last fall of our new fire headquarters, we now have a sound, energy efficient facility to house emergency responders and vehicles and to serve as a training center for our firefighters. As a LEEDS certified building, it is both green and economical using both solar and geothermal energy, and will

serve the community at-large in hosting Board of Finance, RTM, and Board of Selectmen meetings.

Another important project that continues to move along is our plan for a new public works facility. After more than a year devoted to a review of every viable property suggested, our volunteer DPW building committee submitted its report and recommended that the project be sited at the town's Tabor property. As with most town projects, the success of this effort is due largely to our town residents who donate their time and energy towards what's best for Branford.

The Amtrak Bridge project remains on track with our town engineer and police working closely with DOT and their contractors to ensure that safety prevails, disruption is minimal, and deadlines are met. The steel beams and concrete abutments from the original 1928 structure have been removed, giving motorists a real sense of just how improved the new underpass will be upon its completion.



Continued on page 3



Welcome Home... Jared Schulefand welcomes you Home, a new restaurant on the Branford Green. Come Home and try some of Chef Mike DiVincenzo's extreme comfort food.



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There's No
Place Like It*



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First Selectman's Corner ... continued from page 1

At the same time, the town is working with DOT on plans to replace the Rte. 139 and School Ground Road bridges, as well as their intersection at the North Branford town line. Those projects will improve traffic flow and safety and facilitate growth and development in the east end of town.

I encourage you to keep abreast of these and other town issues, easily done through our website - www.branford-ct.gov, and now with the quarterly issues of "Branford Events." Your suggestions are always welcome and my door is always open.

*Unk DaRos
First Selectman*

Welcome to Branford!

Essex Printing and Events Magazines welcome Branford to our prestigious list of towns that generate Events Magazines. The addition of Branford brings the number of towns partnering with us to thirteen.

Over 198,500 residents now receive and enjoy getting their local news delivered by us.

Over the past 17 years Events Magazines have become a trusted source of information for town residents along the shoreline and CT River Valley. It has established itself as the one source for all town news including a note from each town's First Selectman,

upcoming social events, and important happenings that affect everyone in the community.

Each Events Magazine brings tremendous value to every town resident, as well as our advertisers. There is no other vehicle that reaches everyone in town and provides the local information that we do.

We are excited and happy to be adding Branford to our Events Magazines family.

*Sincerely,
William McMinn, Owner & Publisher
Essex Printing and Events Magazines*



BRANFORDCARES
community taking care of its own

Community Taking Care of Its Own

Branford Cares is a grass roots response to the growing number of people in our town who struggle to afford one or more of life's basic needs. Branford Cares creates the opportunity for neighbors to help each other.

The mission of Branford Cares is to strengthen community awareness and compassion for those who struggle to afford the basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, medical care, transportation and utilities; to encourage and support the people of Branford in creative acts of generosity; and to promote intra-community dialogue for the benefit of all.

Our vision for Branford is a more aware, compassionate, and integrated community in which our citizens embrace a collective responsibility to one another, particularly those who are less fortunate. We imagine a town in which it is deemed a privilege to make sacrifices for the good of others.

The summer of 2012 was filled with fund (and fun) raising events created by individuals who were moved by the plight of others: block parties, lemonade stands, bake sales, dinner parties, birthday parties, large events and small, raised over \$58,000. The funds were distributed to the Branford

Counseling Center's Basic Needs Fund, The Branford Food Pantry, The Community Dining Room, The Clothing Bank, Orchard House Senior Day Care and Canoe Brook Senior Center's Fuel Assistance Fund,

Activities include:

- Original Branford Cares Summit brought together Branford's safety net organization along with the Board of Education, Branford Police Department and the political leadership of the town to discuss the basic needs crisis.
- Summer Fund Raising Campaign
- Fall Summit to recap the summer campaign and look ahead
- Branford Cares Dental Care Initiative
- An upcoming 2013 Service Providers Roundtable is currently being organized.

Your questions, thoughts, ideas, feedback, are all welcome! Please visit us at www.branfordcares.org, email us at branfordcares@gmail.com and find us on facebook.

BRANFORD TOWN HALL DIRECTORY

www.branford-ct.gov

Department	Name / Title	Phone (203)	Email
Animal Shelter	Laura Burban - Director	315-4125	lburban@branford-ct.gov
Assessor's Office	Barbara Neal - Assessor	488-2039	bneal@branford-ct.gov
Building Department	Anthony Cinicola - Building Official	315-0674	acinicola@branford-ct.gov
Canoe Brook Senior Ctr.	Dagmar Ridgway - Director	481-3429	dridgway@branford-ct.gov
Counseling Center	Pat Andriole - Director	481-4248	pandriole@branford-ct.gov
Economic Development	Terence Elton - Special Projects Manager	315-0637	telton@branford-ct.gov
Engineering	Janice Plaziak - Town Engineer	315-0606	jplaziak@branford-ct.gov
Finance	James Finch - Finance Director	315-0626	jfinch@branford-ct.gov
Fire Headquarters	Jack Ahern - Fire Chief	488-7266	jahern@branford-ct.gov
Gen. Gov't Buildings	Otto Berger – Lead Tradesman	315-3365	oberger@branford-ct.gov
Harbor Master	Bob Lillquist – Harbor Master	315-0634	harbormaster@branford-ct.gov
Human Resources	Joyce Forte – H.R. Director	315-0613	jforte@branford-ct.gov
Information Technology	Debi Caron - IT Director	315-0617	dcaron@branford-ct.gov
Inland Wetlands	Diana Ross - Enforcement Officer	315-0675	dross@branford-ct.gov
Planning and Zoning	Shirley Rasmussen – Town Planner	488-1255	srasmussen@branford-ct.gov
Police	Kevin Halloran-Chief	481-4241	khalloran@branford-ct.gov
Probate	Frank Forgione – Probate Judge	488-0318	fforgione@branford-ct.gov
Public Works		488-4156	
Recreation Center	Alex Palluzzi – Director	488-8304	apalluzzi@branford-ct.gov
Registrar of Voters	Marion Burkard – Registrar [R]	483-3998	mburkard@branford-ct.gov
Registrar of Voters	Dan Halley – Registrar [D]	483-3998	dhalley@branford-ct.gov
Selectman's Office	Anthony DaRos – First Selectman	488-8394	adaros@branford-ct.gov
Social Services	Pat Andriole - Director	481-4248	pandriole@branford-ct.gov
Solid Waste/Recycling		315-0622	
Tax Office	Joanne Cleary – Tax Collector	315-0672	jcleary@branford-ct.gov
Town Clerk	Marianne Kelly - Town Clerk	315-0678	mkelly@branford-ct.gov
Willoughby Wallace	Susan Donovan - Librarian	488-8702	sdonovan@branford-ct.gov
Water Treatment	Dan Gregory - Supervisor	488-3125	dgregory@branford-ct.gov
Blackstone Library	Karen Jensen - Library Director	488-1441	kjensen@blackstonelibrary.org
East Shore Health	Michael Pascucilla - Director	481-4233	mpascucilla@esdhd.org
Board of Education	Hamlet Hernandez - Superintendent	488-7276	hernandez@branfordschools.org

Branford Social Services and Counseling Center

The Branford Counseling Center is a Municipal Mental Health Agency, and also the Social Service's Department for the Town. Residents may be seen at the Center regardless of ability to pay. All insurances are accepted. Social Services administers emergency assistance for those who qualify for:

- Food
- Emergency Housing
- Rents
- Utilities
- Prescriptions

The Counseling Center collaborates with The Branford Schools, Branford Police Department, and other Town Departments, and Branford Service Clubs to present programs and initiatives. A grant from The Department of Mental Health

and Addiction Services funds The Coalition To Prevent Underage Drinking.

The Sixteenth Annual "TAKE A STEP DAY" will be held on April 9 at the Recreation Department. It is a Town-wide Day that promotes activities that encourage children to "TAKE A STEP" toward a healthier life style.

The Center is working with Walsh Intermediate School, Soundview Family YMCA, Branford Recreation Department, The WIS PTA, and The Rotary Club of Branford in organizing a Pasta Dinner on April 11 for incoming fifth graders. The Center worked with a local dentist organizing a free dental day for children who have no insurance.

For information on any of the Center's programs, call 203-481-4248.

*Pat Andriole
Director*

Winter Weather: Frostbite

Frostbite is an injury to the body that is caused by freezing.

Seek medical care if you think you have frostbite.

Frostbite

Frostbite is an injury to the body that is caused by freezing. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and color in affected areas. It most often affects the nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers, or toes. Frostbite can permanently damage the body, and severe cases can lead to amputation. The risk of frostbite is increased in people with reduced blood circulation and among people who are not dressed properly for extremely cold temperatures.

Recognizing Frostbite

At the first signs of redness or pain in any skin area, get out of the cold or protect any exposed skin—frostbite may be beginning. Any of the following signs may indicate frostbite:

- a white or grayish-yellow skin area
- skin that feels unusually firm or waxy
- numbness

A victim is often unaware of frostbite until someone else points it out because the frozen tissues are numb.

What to Do

If you detect symptoms of frostbite, seek medical care. Because frostbite and hypothermia both result from exposure, first determine whether the victim also shows signs of hypothermia, as described previously. Hypothermia is a more serious medical condition and requires emergency medical assistance.

If (1) there is frostbite but no sign of hypothermia and (2) immediate medical care is not available, proceed as follows:

- Get into a warm room as soon as possible.
- Unless absolutely necessary, do not walk on frostbitten feet or toes—this increases the damage.
- Immerse the affected area in warm—not hot—water (the temperature should be comfortable to the touch for unaffected parts of the body).

www.ct.gov

Parks & Recreation Department

In continuing to support its philosophy of "RecreationWhere the Benefits are endless", the Branford Recreation Department dedicates itself to running programs that promote a positive and healthy lifestyle for all.

The Department provides movement, rhythm classes and music classes for Toddlers ages birth to five years of age. Branford Recreation also offers after-school and weekend youth activities, ranging from Tae Kwon Do, basketball, music lessons, gymnastics, arts and crafts, and swim lessons at the Walsh Intermediate School Pool.

For adults we offer many exercise classes ranging from Tae Kwon Do, swim lessons, Zumba and yoga.

There are many opportunities for the young and the old to learn a sport; Tennis, Field Hockey, basketball, swimming, etc. In the Spring students in grades three thru eight or ninth through adulthood status that think they can spell well can join one of our longest standing programs: The Old Fashion Spelling Bee.

We offer training for those interested in becoming a lifeguard or Water Safety Instructor with classes conducted at the Walsh Intermediate School Pool. In the spring

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Events

MAGAZINES



Branford Events

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www.eventsmagazines.com

**198,500 READERS
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Branford Police and Emergency Notification

The Branford Police Department is staffed by a team of Connecticut certified, law enforcement professionals. In addition to law enforcement and public safety services, the department also provides a youth division, school resource officer, crime prevention services, probation liaison, marine section, bicycle officers and domestic violence counseling.

The Department strongly encourages all Branford residents and businesses to become part of the Town's Community Notification System. Subscribing to "B-Informed" via the town website [www.branford-ct.gov] allows you to receive alerts about emergencies and other important community news.

This emergency notification system enables the Town to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons, and evacuation of buildings or neighborhoods. You will receive time-sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home, cell, or business phone, email, text messages, hearing impaired receiving devices, and more. You pick where, you pick how.

Use this link to subscribe: https://ww2.everbridge.net/citizen/EverbridgeGateway.action?body=home&gis_alias_id=640771

Kevin Halloran

Branford Chief of Police

**The Next
Deadline for
Branford Events
is May 10**

Branford Community Gardens



Branford Community Gardens, Inc. is an all-volunteer organization, dedicated to the promotion of locally grown, organic produce. The community garden consists of

twenty-two individual plots - fifteen 20' x 20' plots and seven 10' x 20' plots. The experience level of our gardeners ranges from novice to expert. All produce from our 20' x 40' "Seed, Weed and Feed" plot is donated to the Branford Community Dining Room and the Branford Food Pantry.

Participation in Branford Community Gardens, Inc. is open to Branford residents. You must be 18 years old to rent a plot. The plot rental fee is \$35 for a large plot and \$20 for a small plot. The organization is non-profit, non-partisan and non-discriminatory. Please visit our website at www.branfordctgardens.org, email us at BranfordCTGardens@sbcglobal.net, or call us at 203.481.3295

Connie Drysdale
Secretary-Treasurer
Branford Community Gardens

Branford Economic Development Commission

Branford's Economic Development Commission (EDC) charge is to develop recommendations for the improvement of Branford's economic condition and development, and to coordinate the activities promoting such economic development opportunities.

Major events include organizing and hosting a half day workshop for local businesses and entrepreneurs to meet with various state agencies and funding sources. The event provided start-up and expanding businesses an opportunity to have an initial face-to-face meeting with various state entities positioned to provide assistance.

The EDC and staff also helped to secure EPA remediation funds and worked with the owners of the former Atlantic Wire property to cleanup and to restore the site to active use. With the initial phase completed, additional funds have been identified to help with further cleanup of the remainder of the five-acre complex.

The Commission extends a warm welcome to the following companies and businesses that have recently opened their

doors in Branford: Durata Therapeutics, Husqvarna Construction Products, PhytoCeuticals, Win Wholesale, LQ Mechatronics, Century Business Archives and New Haven Moving Equipment, our new Kia and Mitsubishi dealerships, along with The Meat House, Ballou's, G-Zen, Home and Waterhouse Oyster Bar. And congratulations to these Branford companies for their growth and expansions this past year: Accurate Wire, Core Data Management, Sweitzer Enterprises, Dress Barn, the Brushy Hill Plaza, and Coastal Wine & Spirit.

The EDC has recognized several town businesses over the past several months with its Business Recognition Award program including Massey Glass Company, Webster Bank, ACE Trailer Leasing, Harco Labs, Blakeslee Arpaia & Chapman, and Parthenon Restaurant. The award cites these businesses for being leaders in their respective fields and for contributing to the betterment of the Branford community.

Terence Elton
Branford Special Projects Manager and EDC

Parks and Recreation Department ... continued from page 5

our department provides a new start to the outdoor season with many recreational opportunities. Annual bus trips come alive with trips to Broadway and American's past time- Yankee or Red Sox baseball games. The annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored in conjunction with the American Legion is held at Foote Park complete with the Easter Bunny himself.

So whether you want to be active in our class or active in one of our many parks around town with playscapes, walking trails, recreational facilities, basketball & tennis courts, etc., the Benefits are always Endless with us! To join us or for more information, call Branford's Recreation Department and Community House at 203.488.8304, or visit our website at <http://branfordrecreation.org/> for details and online registration!

Floodplain Management

New Flood Insurance Rate Maps are coming!

FEMA has notified the Town of Branford that new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) have been developed for coastal areas of Branford and will be effective as of July 8.

These new maps have changed the limits of both AE zones and VE zones primarily by extending these zones further inland as well as changing the Base Flood Elevations of many of these zones. We estimate that several hundred properties may be added to the flood zone as a result of these changes.

People who do not currently have flood insurance, because they were close to, but not previously determined to be in a flood zone, are encouraged to consult the maps to see if they will be in the flood zone with the new maps. Buying flood insurance prior to the new maps becoming effective could mean lower rates for you, whereas if you are required to buy flood insurance after the new maps become effective you may not be eligible for reduced rates.

The FIRM maps are to become effective on July 8 and are available on the Town of Branford website for you to view [www.branford-ct.gov]. The maps are also available in the engineering department located on the second floor in Town Hall. Please contact your insurance agent regarding flood insurance and rates. The Town Engineer, who is also the Floodplain Manager, does not make flood

zone determinations for insurance purposes, but has resources available to assist you with understanding the FIRM maps.

Changes have also occurred to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and may substantially affect your flood insurance rates. The Bigger-Waters National Flood Insurance Reform act of 2012 provides long-term changes to the NFIP. For example, rates for certain secondary homes in high-risk areas will increase 25 percent per year over the next 4 years starting in 2013. Policy rates for all properties could increase based on one or all of the following circumstances: change of ownership, lapse of coverage, change in risk, and substantial damage or improvement to a building.

To ask questions and get information about flood insurance, call the NFIP Help Center at 1-800-427-4661 or visit www.FloodSmart.gov. The best way to lower your rates and your risk is to raise your building above the Base Flood Elevation and meet current building code and floodplain management requirements.

The Branford Town Engineer and Building Official can help you with information about local codes and permit requirements.

*Janice Plaziak
PE, Town Engineer*

Spring Connections with the Branford Chamber

With the warm weather just around the corner the Branford Chamber is "springing" into action with a variety of programs to support businesses and their employees.

On March 11 at 4:30 pm at the Blackstone Library become familiar with the new Affordable Health Care Plan by attending "Health Care Reform Basics for Business".

On March 23 from 12-3 pm the place to be is the Branford Green at the Chamber's first Chili Cook Off for a Cause! Over fifteen chefs at fifteen different locations will be vying for the right to say they make the BEST CHILI IN BRANFORD. Better yet, each of our Chefs is representing a nonprofit or charity of their choice with the winner having a donation made in their name. So stroll, taste chili and shop! Without question, March 23rd in Branford will be the hottest spot in Connecticut!

On March 26th expect some great networking opportunities at our annual Business After Hours [BAH] at Guilford Savings Bank! As always, expect great food and beverages, and the many giveaway door prizes will enliven the evening as you meet new business contacts.

April Brings us to a special Women in Business program on April 3rd at 12:00 noon featuring Leslie Singer who will discuss "Branding" of your business and yourself.

In April we will also celebrate the Italian American Society's 70th birthday on April 23rd. A not to be missed event beginning at 5:30 pm.

As we move into May, the Chamber's featured event is our Second Annual Shoreline Fashion Show. This will highlight stores from along the shoreline and as part of our "Off the Rack" segment, items will be available for sale.

Look for all our upcoming events and information by visiting www.branfordct.com and registering on line! When you explore our web site please note the wide variety of options available to our members. Specifically visit our membership directory and examine the "traffic catcher sites", unique to the Branford Chamber, built by our members to further enhance their internet presence.

*Edward F. Lazarus
President*

The James Blackstone Memorial Library

Today the Blackstone Library is ... more than books. As changes in technology have catapulted the average person's ability to access information, the library continues to have an impact on our patron's lives by providing free access to information via computers, books, ebooks and other media, and a wide variety of cultural programs in a building recognized as a historic icon in Branford.

Karen Jensen was hired as the new Library Director in January, and she is committed to exploring ways that the Blackstone library can enhance the services it offers to the community. The library recently adopted a new strategic plan, created following five months of intensive analysis of the community, staff, and library board. Over 600 members of the community provided input, identifying key themes including the rapid evolution of technology, the shifting view of physical space, and the power of human interaction. The vision for the library in the next three years focuses on the library as a gathering place for learning, enrichment and for the exchange of ideas, offering a vast array of resources in both physical and digital form, and offering a range of programs focused on educating our community to achieve their greatest potential and inspiring intellectual and cultural curiosity.

Upcoming Program Highlights:

Landscaping with Native Plants: Healing Our Home Turf, March 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Featuring Karen Bussolini; sponsored by the Menunkatuck Audubon Society.

Book Talk with Bob Steele, March 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Former Connecticut Congressman Bob Steele will discuss and

sign his new novel, *The Curse: Big-Time Gambling's Seduction of a Small New England Town*.

A Brief History of Jazz- Part I, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. (Part II on April 12)

The Laid Back Jazz Quartet uses discussion and musical performances to illustrate the evolution of Jazz. Take a musical journey with them charting the major moments in American jazz development, through the music of Ragtime, Blues, Dixieland, Swing, Bebop, Bossa Nova and Funk.

Branford Land Trust Presents: Horseshoe Crabs, April 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Every year from May through July, horseshoe crabs appear on local beaches to spawn. Professor Mark Beekey of Sacred Heart University explains why your health depends on their survival, their ecological and economic importance, and where horseshoe crabs go when they are not on the beach laying eggs.

Rave On! May 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Rave On! features the music of Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison and other legends of early rock and roll. They will play hits like "That Will Be the Day", "Peggy Sue", "Not Fade Away", "Pretty Woman", "Crying", and "Only the Lonely", along with other classic, early rock and roll songs.

Visit the library website at www.blackstonelibrary.org for more information about these and other programs including storytimes, book discussion groups, knitting club and lectures.

Three Cheers for Events Magazines!

Town specific, each Events does something good for the town it serves; it's local on a closer level. With every issue, we hear from our Selectman/woman, and read articles about town officials and town offices. Also, we read about those other organizations in town which are not always on the forefront; it's nice to see them in the spotlight.

The colorful cover gets your attention. The magazine is well-formatted and easy to read.

*Deb Umba,
Haddam Resident and Chairwoman,
Higginnum Village Farmers' Market*

Want to Advertise?

Call John Vento at 203-907-8689

Branford Land Trust

Protect • Learn • Explore

The Branford Land Trust is a non-profit organization founded in 1967. Its mission is to preserve open space in Branford and to promote our community's appreciation of Branford's diverse natural features.

For more than 40 years, the Branford Land Trust - your land trust - has acquired and protected more than 950 acres of priceless open space in Branford. The Land Trust also holds conservation easements on another 340 acres. In addition, we've worked with all of Branford to help acquire several publicly owned tracts including the Stony Creek Quarry Preserve, Beacon Hill, Saltonstall Mountain and the Queach Preserve.

We protect diverse natural environments - tidal salt marshes at the shore, wetlands along the Branford River and its tributaries, upland forests and meadows, and even a few tiny islands in Long Island Sound. The many areas that are not too fragile for pedestrian access are available for walking, bird watching, cross country skiing or just enjoying a few quiet moments.

Maintaining the diversity of habitat for Branford's natural areas is at the heart of what we do. Our active osprey program monitors and maintains osprey platforms, we mow meadows to maintain increasingly rare grassland habitat, we've erected bluebird boxes and wood duck boxes, and helped establish the fishway over the Supply Pond dam, restoring access to breeding areas for anadromous fish.

As we preserve what we can of Branford's last remaining open space, we build on our capacity to care for the natural areas that we protect for future generations. Our stewardship efforts include regular monitoring and maintenance of properties and trails as well as enhancing and maintaining infrastructure, such as boardwalks and dams.

The Land Trust is an active and important part of the Branford community. Over 1,000 households and businesses

in Branford and beyond support the Land Trust mission through their membership. Many more enjoy our trails, join us for guided walks, attend lectures and children's programs and visit our website and displays at the Branford Festival. You can, too!

For more information, please visit our website, www.branfordlandtrust.org.



- 1 Own, protect and maintain more than 950 acres of open space in Branford.
- 2 Actively maintain more than 10 hiking trails throughout town, many of which can be found in The Walks of Branford trail guide.
- 3 Host a number of free, guided nature walks throughout the year, including the popular Pre-Thanksgiving Hike at Van Wie Woods and an annual CT Trail Day Hike at different locations around town.
- 4 Promote an understanding of Branford's natural resources through educational programs in Branford schools and the Nature Explorer program.
- 5 Fund Environmental Education Enhancement Grants in Branford Public Schools to support a variety of science programs.
- 6 Educate the community through an annual lecture series and special events like the Branford Festival and the Environmental Day Camp.
- 7 Support Branford's two libraries by supplementing their collections with environmentally-focused books.
- 8 Advocate about open space and environmentally sensitive issues on behalf of the community.
- 9 Act as a guardian for Branford's natural resources, including our costal marshes and the Branford River.
- 10 Monitor many aspects of Branford's diverse ecosystem including osprey and horseshoe crabs.



Continued on page 11

Branford Land Trust ... continued from page 10

Upcoming Events

WINTER/SPRING LECTURE SERIES

March 13 - Landscaping with Native Plants: Healing Our Home Turf with Karen Bussolini

Co-sponsored with the Menunkatuck Audubon Society, this talk is about thinking ecologically just as much as it is about plants. Landscape professionals can play a huge part in restoring the fragmented ecosystems of residential landscapes. The speaker will show inspiring, beautifully-designed home landscapes based on natural systems and using native plants, especially shrubs and trees. Readily available native plants that thrive in New England will be highlighted. Karen Bussolini is a lifelong organic gardener and lover of nature. She has had a long career as a garden photographer, speaker and writer. All lectures take place at the Blackstone Memorial Library at 7:00 PM and are free to the public.

April 24 - Horseshoe Crabs with Professor Mark Beekey

Every year from May through July, horseshoe crabs appear on local beaches to spawn. Learn why your health depends on their survival, their ecological and economic importance, and where horseshoe crabs go when they are not on the beach laying eggs. Many aspects of the life of this "living fossil" are still a mystery. Mark Beekey, associate professor of biology at Sacred Heart University, will present an overview of Project Limulus, a Citizen Science research program. Come learn how you can become a member of Project Limulus, how you can help contribute to a Long Island Sound-wide research program that supports the conservation and management of horseshoe crabs, and what the Branford Land Trust is doing to help. All lectures take place at the Blackstone Memorial Library at 7:00 PM and are free to the public.

NATURE EXPLORER PROGRAM

May 11 - Spring Bird Walk with Chris Woerner

See the spring migrants in the marshes along the Trolley

Trail and in BLT's Vedder woods. Meet at the Stony Creek ball field, West Point Road, 8:30 am (Rain Date Mothers day May 12th).

ANNUAL MEETING

May 22 - Join us for the Branford Land Trust's Annual Meeting and Lecture. Watch for details.

CONNECTICUT TRAILS DAY

June 1 - Beacon Hill Hike - 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Join us for a walk on Beacon Hill, the southern most part of the Metacomet Ridge, a traprock ridge that stretches from Connecticut through Massachusetts. Beacon Hill consists of 70 acres including tidal wetlands and a steep forested traprock ridge that rises 80 feet above the Farm River Estuary. Dramatic vertical rock cliffs and the remains of a small quarry operation mark the southern tip. From the top one has breathtaking panoramic views of Long Island Sound, the New Haven skyline, and the Farm River Estuary. Meet at the parking lot at the intersection of Pent Road and Rose Hill Road (south of Route 1 near the Branford/East Haven town line). Low-to-moderate difficulty with two short steep stretches.

WORK PARTIES

The work parties offer a chance to get to know some of the BLT properties and to spend a little time with some great people. If you have school age kids, this is a chance for them to pick up some community service credits. Work parties are scheduled for the third Saturday of the month and start at 9:00 AM, unless otherwise noted. If you

would like more information, or would like to be sent reminder emails, contact Bill Horne at billhorne48@yahoo.com or 203-488-6146.

March 16 - Hammer Woodlands

We will be removing vegetation from the field, particularly along the fence near the road. Meet at 9:00; park along the side of Cherry Hill Road across from Montoya condominiums. Bring loppers, clippers and work gloves. Call Bill Horne (203-488-6146) for more information.

Continued on page 12

Long Term Care Services and Supports

Most people will need assistance with activities of daily living at some point in their lives, whether due to aging, injury, illness or disability. Knowing what kind of help is needed and available and how to obtain it is not an easy task. Whether you need help now or are exploring future options for yourself or a loved one, this web site can assist you; www.ct.gov/longtermcare. The goal is to provide you easy access to comprehensive information on private and

public long-term services and supports (LTSS) in Connecticut, including: Home Care, Community Care, Housing, and Residential or Nursing Home Care. Helpful information is also available for those who provide care and for people interested in the options for planning for their own future needs.

www.ct.gov

Branford Land Trust ... continued from page 11

April 13 - Gambardella Pines

We will return to Gambardella Pines to continue removing invasive plants in and near the wetlands. Meet at 9:00 am at the cul-de-sac of Fir Tree Drive (from the center of town on Stony Creek Road, go past the Tilcon tracks by the Wightwood/Pine Creek School and up the hill, then turn left onto Pine Tree Drive and left again onto Fir Tree Drive). Bring loppers, small handsaws, sturdy hand clippers, and work gloves. Footwear that can get a little wet or muddy could be a good idea. Call Bill Horne (203-488-6146) for more information.

May 18 - Beacon Hill and Vicinity

We will clear the trails in preparation for the Land Trust's Connecticut Trails Day walk on June 1. Meet at 9:00 at the parking area at the south end of Pent Road. (Pent Road runs from Rt. 1 on the west side of Branford Hill past the west end of Burban Drive to the Beacon Hill parking area.) Bring work gloves, small handsaws, clippers and loppers. Call Bill Horne (488-6146) for more information.



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Driving in Ice and Snow

Winter driving is a tricky and dangerous business. Better roads, better cars and better tires won't take the place of careful driving practices. To keep your experience with winter driving from becoming a crash-course, here are a few driving tips from the Connecticut Department of Transportation:

- **Time:** Give yourself plenty of extra time for getting to your destination. Speed limits are for perfect, dry conditions. On winter's icy roadways, half the speed limit may be suicide.
- **Vision:** Take the time to clear all windows of snow, ice or fog before starting out. Also clear any snow off the hood - it comes loose when driving.
- **Lights:** Even though you can see, drive with low-beam headlights in snow, fog or just winter murk. Keep all lenses free of dirt by wiping them periodically. Dirty headlights can cut visibility by 50 percent or more. Don't forget the directional lights, taillights and rotating lights.
- **Tires:** Be sure your tires have adequate tread for traction in snow and to reduce the risk of hydroplaning in rain or puddles on the road. You may hear that putting extra weight in the trunk or truck bed gives better traction. Traction might be helped a little but at the expense of steering control and longer stopping distance. Likewise, you may hear that reducing tire pressure is another way of increasing traction. Reducing air pressure will not give you more traction and your tires could become seriously underinflated, affecting steering. Keep in mind that every time the outside temperature drops 10 degrees, the tire air pressure goes down about one pound per square inch. Remember too that underinflated tires are the major cause of tire failure.
- **Ice/Freezing Rain:** At 30 degrees ice is twice as slippery as it is at 0 degrees. It also forms first and lasts longer on bridges and in the shade. If you hit an unexpected patch, don't try to brake, accelerate or downshift. Let up on your accelerator and let your vehicle "roll" through the slippery area. When freezing rain is occurring resulting in icing conditions, please pull over to the side of the road until the road has been treated with sand and salt.
- **Skidding:** If you go into a skid, act quickly by taking your foot off the accelerator. Keep your foot off the brake and steer in the direction the rear of the vehicle is skidding. In other words, if you want your vehicle to go right, turn right. If you want it to go left, turn left. Hold the steering wheel firmly, but don't make large turns. Use a light touch to correct the swerve.
- **Braking:** Your owner's manual will usually recommend the braking technique most effective for your car. For front and rear wheel drive vehicles with disc or drum brakes the National Safety council recommends the following procedure: Squeeze your brakes with a slow, steady pressure until just before they lock. When you feel them start to lock, ease off until your wheels are rolling; then squeeze again.
- **Following Distance:** Maintain at least three times the normal following distance on snow or ice. If you are being followed too closely, maintain an extra distance behind the vehicle ahead so that you can slow down or brake gradually. Be prepared to adjust speed and/or stop to avoid colliding with the vehicle in front of you. Plan ahead when approaching intersections so that braking can be done smoothly.
- **Stay on the Beaten Path:** Stay in line when traveling to or from a snow zone. Don't blaze your own trail, especially going downhill - you'll only manage to create a worse situation. You'll even clog the only open space emergency snow vehicles can travel.
- **Safety Belts and Child Safety Seats:** In addition to keeping you in the vehicle during a collision, they will also keep you and your child from being thrown around inside your vehicle should you go into a skid or hit an object. Use safety belts/seat at all times - it's the law.
- **Deer:** Bad weather can cause deer to be on the move. Be particularly alert when traveling in known areas of deer migration. When you see deer or other animals ahead, slow down and be prepared to stop until you are safely past them. A good defensive driving technique is to try to avoid animals if possible, however, do not swerve into the on-coming lane and risk a head-on collision, or run off the road and risk hitting another object.
- **Dead Batteries:** When jumping batteries connect one cable to the (+) terminal of each battery. Then connect one end of the second cable to the (-) terminal of the booster battery and the other end to a nut or bolt on the engine. Do not connect it to the (-) of the discharge battery. Start the engine of the helper vehicle and let it run a few minutes, then start the disabled vehicle engine. Remove cables in the exact REVERSE order.
- **Walking on Ice or Snow:** After being in a warm vehicle, the soles of shoes or boots are warm enough to melt snow or ice, creating a film of water between the sole and the snow or ice surface. Be especially cautious for the first five minutes after leaving the vehicle. When walking on snow or ice, use short steps and keep your hands out of your pockets. These factors will help you maintain your balance. If you do fall, tuck your arms close to your body and roll with the fall.
- **Stay Clear of Plows and Sanders:** Watch out for these vehicles as you round corners, curbs, etc. They do not travel at a high speed; therefore, you'll tend to come up on them quickly. Slow down. Plows and sanders will pull over periodically to let traffic pass. It's risky to pass on the left of a snowplow because of blowing snow. Never pass on the right. Flying rock can damage your car if you pass a sander. The best advice is to stay three car lengths behind plows and sanders.

www.ct.gov

Branford Fire Department



In September Branford dedicated its new fire headquarters at 49 North Main Street. The state-of-the-art, 34,000 square foot building replaces the town's aging firehouse and includes a 58-ton geothermal heating and cooling system, a solar panel system to generate and supply clean electricity and is Branford's first LEED Silver-certified building. The structure was built using sustainable building materials for durability and longevity, and qualified for more than a \$130,000 in grants and rebates toward its construction.

The new facility will provide space for the town's public safety officers and fire apparatus and ambulances. The building incorporates training facilities for firefighters as well as separate male/female quarters. Additionally, the building will also be used for public meetings and has state-of-the-art technology throughout.

*Chief Jack Ahern
Branford Fire Department*

Forte's Gourmet Market Chicken Cacciatore

INGREDIENTS

2-3 lbs. boneless/skinless Chicken Breast (Bell&Evans) or boneless thighs
28 oz. San Marzano Whole Tomatoes
1 Cup All Purpose Flour
12 oz. Can Quartered Artichokes in water
Olive Oil – enough to coat bottom of pan
Large Red Pepper
Large Green Pepper
Medium Onion

4 Cloves Garlic Minced
1 Cup Dry White Wine
6-8 Leaves Basil
1/4 cup Italian Parsley
1 - Tbl. Capers
Salt and Pepper
Green or Black Olives to taste
Grated Parmesan or Romano Cheese
Egg Noodles or Rice

Cut chicken into small medallions or strips (Ask your butcher to do it for you). Dredge chicken in flour seasoned with salt and pepper. Using large frying pan with oil, cook chicken for 3-4 min. Should be half done and slightly brown on both sides. Remove chicken from pan and use this pan over medium heat. Deglaze pan with wine, scrape any brown bits from bottom of pan for maximum flavor. (Add more oil if needed) Sauté peppers, onion, garlic, approximately 10 minutes. Add tomatoes

(crushed by hand) simmer for approx. 5 min. (Add as much juice of tomatoes as needed.) Season with pepper, salt, basil, parsley. Add artichokes, capers, olives to taste. Add chicken - cover pan with foil or lid. Cook over medium heat 15 minutes until done. Can be served over egg noodles or rice - garnish with cheese. Serves 4-6 people.

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