

# Branford events

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## First Selectman's Corner

With the holidays approaching, I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. To kick off the holiday season, please plan to attend our annual Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting scheduled for Saturday, November 26, 2016. The parade steps off at 6:00 pm and will follow the traditional route from Branford High School along East Main and Main Streets to the green, where Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive by fire truck to light the tree. Please bring a non-perishable food item or unwrapped toy to the parade with you. The Branford High School football team will be collecting the items along the parade route to benefit Branford families. We hope you, your family and friends plan to attend.

In addition to the parade and tree lighting, plans are underway for this year's "Holiday Stroll" to include a holiday wreath exhibit throughout the shops and boutiques in the Town Center. Wreaths will be on display the week before and after Thanksgiving in participating businesses and will be sold by silent auction on December 3rd to benefit "Feed Branford's Kids." This is a special way for the Branford community to celebrate the holidays, enjoy the town center, patronize our local businesses, and support a very worth cause. Please watch for details as the holiday season draws near.

And as the town moves forward with both the Walsh Intermediate School and the Community House-Senior Center projects, we will also begin the process to replace Company 9's fire house in Indian Neck. With the recent award of a state grant, the town can now plan to replace the existing structure built in 1911 and that serves a large segment of our residential and business populations.



First Selectman  
James B. Cosgrove

As winter sets in, everyone is reminded to heed the request of our Public Works Department to adhere to the town's snow removal policies and to keep your sidewalks and driveways clear of snow and ice.

These and other programs, events and activities are easy to follow by keeping your quarterly issue of "Branford Events" on hand, by checking the Town's website at [www.branford-ct.gov](http://www.branford-ct.gov), or by tuning into BCTV channels 18, 19 and 20.

Happy holidays, and stay safe and healthy this winter.

Sincerely,  
James B. Cosgrove

A photograph of a well-decorated living room. In the center is a light-colored sofa with patterned cushions and a yellow throw pillow. A white coffee table is in front of it. To the left is a floral armchair. In the background, there's a window with patterned curtains and two lamps. To the right, a side table holds a lantern and a vase of flowers. The overall style is warm and inviting.

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# events

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The James Blackstone Memorial Library

Cover photo by Bill O'Brien

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## Beneficial For All!

CrossFit is a strength and conditioning program that gives you the tools and techniques needed to become a better athlete. Athletes are healthier, live longer and are more prepared for anything that life may throw their way. The goal of CrossFit is for you to enjoy the environment, the challenge, the community, and give you the tools to work harder, every day in and out of the gym.

CrossFit is beneficial for people of all ages and walks of life. For example, too often kids are hooked on technology. It is important to teach the benefits of fitness at a young age. The principles will be something they can carry with them their entire lives.

# Annual Canvass of Branford Electors

The Branford Registrar of Voters duties do not stop after any Election and/or Primary. We first would like to take this opportunity to thank the Electors of Branford for exercising their right to vote in the November 8, 2016 Presidential Election. The Town of Branford has 19,335 eligible voters. Branford residents registered for this election by using the State of Connecticut online registration, by registering at the DMV when they changed their address within Branford or in connection with their out of town move within Connecticut. Residents also registered in person either at the Town Clerk's Office or the Registrar of Voters Office, by mailing in a Mail-In Application to register as a new voter in Branford, and/or by notifying us of their change of name, party, or address change in Branford.

After any Election or Primary the State of Connecticut may require a Re-Canvass of the Election or an Audit of the machines. January brings the State's mandated Annual Canvass of Electors to determine any changes to the Electors' residency in Branford. This will be conducted between January 3, 2017 and May 1, 2017 and is to be completed in May. During this period the Registrars choose to use a combination of methods to ensure that the Canvass of Electors is to be as accurate as possible to keep Branford's Electors list current and up to date. The methods used are: 1. The National Change of Address (NCOA) of the U.S. Postal Service; 2. By telephone; and 3. By mail.

This is to determine if an Elector has an address change (with in town), has moved to another town in Connecticut, or has moved out of the State of Connecticut. Branford Electors will be notified of their possible change of address during this period and Electors themselves verify that the change has been made correctly.

This is in preparation for this year's Municipal Election on November 7, 2017.

Our office would like to inform you of a few easy ways for you to register and/or keep your voter record up to date:

1. In Person in the Registrar of Voters Office, at 40 Kirkham Street any Tuesday or Thursday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm or in the Town Clerks Office Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.
2. By requesting a Mail-In Application from the Registrar of Voters Office at 203-483-3998.
3. By visiting The Town of Branford's website (Branford-ct.gov) under the Town Departments Registrar of Voters page.
  - a. Click on Mail In Voter Registration Application to print out the application. Mail it to Branford Town Hall, P.O. Box 150, Branford CT 06405.



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b. Click on the Link “ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION.” It will take you to the Secretary of The State of Connecticut’s website. You can register to vote for the first time, or update your voter information, change your name and/or address.

For either the Mail-In Application, the Online Registration, or if you registered with the DMV, you are not a voter until your application is approved by the Registrars of Voters. You will receive an acceptance letter from the Branford Registrar of Voters Office that also notifies you of your polling location.

For further information you can click on the “STATE VOTER LOOK UP” on either the Branford Registrars of Voters Town site or the CT Secretary of State’s site to check your current voter registration status at any time.

- Are you a United States Citizen?
- Are you Registered to Vote in Branford?
- Have you changed your Name and/or Address?
- Are you 17 years old and will be 18 by Election Day?

IMPORTANT! Keep your voter record up to date.




## Lions Clubs International

Lions Clubs International was founded by Melvin Jones in 1917. Today it is the world’s largest service organization. Many years ago Lions Clubs International (LCI) decided to both honor Mr. Jones and to recognize individuals for their humanitarian good work. Thus, the Melvin Jones Fellowship was created. It is the highest level of recognition awarded by LCI. Five years




ago, it was by a unanimous vote at a Board of Directors meeting to adopt Brian’s Hope for our golf tournament. It was again by a unanimous vote at a Board meeting in late spring that we awarded Jean Kelley of Brian’s Hope a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award. Jean is only the second non-Lion to receive this recognition by our club in its 65 year history. We can’t imagine anyone

more deserving! It’s not only what Jean does, but also how she does it, with unending passion, a positive spirit, commitment to promoting the goals of Brian’s Hope. Her grace and style are equally commendable. It is my honor to be able to confer this award to Jean on behalf of the Branford Lions Club, and Lions Clubs International.

# HONEYSPOT PIZZA

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## The Branford Exchange Club Honors Our Heroes



Left to right: Chairman Jack Mushin, President Branford Exchange Club, Bob Aceto, and President Elect Terry McAvoy with our Heroes.

The Branford Exchange Club honored eight Fire and Police Departments from Branford, East Haven, Guilford and North Branford at The Woodwinds on October 5, 2016.

Honored were: Branford Firefighter Paramedic Dante Ghiroli, Branford Police Officer Matthew Clerkin, East Haven Firefighter Chris Rosa, East Haven Police Sergeant Joseph D. Mullhern, Guilford Firefighter/ Paramedic James Considine, Guilford Police Lieutenant Robert Robinson, North Branford Assistant Fire Chief Mark D. Amatrudo, and North Branford Police Detective/Sgt. Sean Anderson.

Speakers included US Senator Richard Blumenthal, Dr. Henry Lee, State Senator Ted Kennedy, Jr., State Representative Sean Scanlon, State Representative Lonnie Reed and Pam Nuchols (Guilford Department of Youth and Family Services), along with Exchange Club officers.

The Branford Exchange Club believes that the recognition bestowed on our heroes will serve as an inspiration to those in the field to strive to similar ideals, and thereby make a positive contribution.



Left to right: Terry McAvoy, Dr. Henry Lee, Chairman Jack Mushin, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, Lonnie Reed.

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The communities supported the heroes with approximately 250 in attendance. Many thanks to BCTV for broadcasting our Heroes Banquet. See the banquet at <https://vimeopro.com/branfordtv/search/video/186295445>.

The Branford Exchange Club makes communities a better place to live through its programs of service, such as Americanism, youth programs, community service as well as its national project, the Prevention of Child Abuse.

The Branford Exchange Club donates funds to the Branford Girls Swim Team, Branford's Model Congress, Branford Girls Field

Hockey Team, and for four high school scholarships. We also donate funds to Bristol Hospital for their Child Abuse Center and high school scholarships.

Like us on Facebook for our latest updates. Branford Exchange Club (community organization).

For further information about the Branford Exchange Club and its programs please contact: [art.promotions1@gmail.com](mailto:art.promotions1@gmail.com) or by phone at 203.901.7982.

We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

## Property Taxes Due

All Branford taxpayers are reminded that the second installment of real estate and personal property bills are due on January 1, 2017 and payable by February 1, 2017 without interest. We do not mail bills for the second installment as the bill you received in June consists of coupons for both the July and January payments. If you would like to pay before January 1st, you may pay in advance at any time before then.

Supplemental motor vehicle bills will be mailed at the end of December. You will receive a bill if you registered a car in Branford after October 1, 2015 and before September 30, 2016. That bill will be pro-rated from the time the car was registered up to September 30, 2016.

Payments may be made online at [www.branford-ct.gov](http://www.branford-ct.gov) (there is a fee for this service); by mail to Tax Collector,

PO Box 136, Branford CT 06405; or in person at the Tax Office. Please note we do not accept credit or debit cards in the office. As always, if you have any questions regarding your bill, please contact the Tax Office at 203-315-0672. We will be happy to assist you.

Joanne Cleary  
Tax Collector  
[jcleary@branford-ct.gov](mailto:jcleary@branford-ct.gov)

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# Branford Families



Branford's newest resource: supporting all families with news, information, expert insights, and advocacy for community, family, parenting, education, and development issues.

We are a voice for parents, families, guardians, and anyone involved in the raising and education of our children. This effort is founded on great hope to usher in a better future for the next

generation in our town. All kinds of families are welcome!

Monthly Parent Cafes are typically on second Thursdays from 6:30-8:00 pm. Childcare provided as needed. The venues will vary through the year to cover all areas of Branford. Join us for fellowship and unity amongst Branford Families. Follow us on Facebook for updates! Or contact us anytime [BranfordFamilies@gmail.com](mailto:BranfordFamilies@gmail.com). Everyone is welcome. Free.

**NOVEMBER 10 - Math & Parenting:** Real strategies for helping children of all ages (and adults) soothe anxiety, and foster mathematical thinking. Topics include brain management, time management, genes vs work, and resources. This is bound to be a fun night with Ruth Sullo, enjoying both sides of your brain, discussion and Q&A. Branford Community House.

**DECEMBER 8 - Mindfulness & The Holiday Seasons:** Mindfulness helps children of all ages to pay attention, regulate their emotions, manage stress, and

develop healthy friendships. How to be in the moment and find peace. The workshop will focus on children but bring the whole family! Led by TIAN'S Jen Zehler, MBSR of the Center for Children's Spirituality.

**JANUARY 10 - New Schools & Transitions:** Helping our children find themselves in a new place. Different issues to consider for different age groups. What to consider and how far ahead to start preparations. Hosted by expert school psychologist. Includes discussion and Q&A.

**FEBRUARY 9 - Parent Power:** Positive communication & building bonds between families, schools, and community. Tangible skills for working together; whether it's one on one meetings with your child's school, or larger group of community-minded parents working together. Important skills to build community. Presented by Marilyn Calderón, MED, Connecticut Parent Power Executive director.

[BranfordFamilies@gmail.com](mailto:BranfordFamilies@gmail.com)  
@BranfordFamilies on Facebook

## DO I HAVE TO BE IN-SHAPE ALREADY TO START CROSSFIT?

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## GET FIT.

- On Ramp "intro to CF"
- CrossFit Daily Classes
- Youth and Development Class
- Middle School Class
- Competitors Program
- Individual Programming or Training
- Speed Class
- Team Training or Programming (youth sports - college)
- Individualized Nutrition Programs



## WHY BRANFORD CROSSFIT?

We are not only the premiere CrossFit gym on the shoreline... We offer many different types of programs for ALL ages, and ALL abilities from professional athletes to grandmas and pre-schoolers. With our unique approach, dedicated and genuine staff, remarkable community, you will not regret walking in to our premium athletic facility.

Bus from Branford Middle School to Branford Crossfit on Tuesday and Thursday. Program is 3:30-4:30 pm.

Foundation movements help keep child active. Learn to compete-have fun and make new friends!

**965 West Main Street, Branford, CT 06405**  
**[info@branfordcrossfit.com](mailto:info@branfordcrossfit.com)**  
**203-208-1825**

# Outer Island

Some of you may still not know that you are part owner of one of the Thimble Islands off the shore of Stony Creek?

Well, you are as a citizen of the United States. This is because Elizabeth Hird with her husband, Basil Rauch, Professor of History at Columbia University, purchased the island in 1964 as a summer retreat. And later in 1995, Elizabeth donated the island in her deceased husband's memory to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge) to ensure that the island's natural resources would be protected and that access for education and research would be continued.

Since the island's dedication as a wildlife preserve in 1995, the US Fish & Wildlife Service along with the Connecticut State University System, and the Friends of Outer Island have conducted research and education programs for the public. Guided tours of the island are especially valuable for educators who wish to connect their teaching to the wonders of the natural world, and

the uniqueness of Long Island Sound. Thus, this beautiful special island is an ecological preserve and refuge for migratory birds off the coast of Branford. And anyone can visit it from Memorial Day to just after Labor Day.

You can see and learn about it now and until you go on to Outer Island next summer by going to two websites. The first is [outerisland.org](http://outerisland.org). At that site you can begin to see and learn about your island which will show an overview of the whole island. Then you can go on to our website which is <http://www.friendsofouterisland.org/>. You will learn and see who we are and what our mission is.


Next, you can take our tour of your island and see what events we have. You will also find a link to our Facebook Page where you will see many pictures of us in action. If you enjoy meeting and talking with people do join us and consider becoming a Docent and sharing your island with our visitors.


## What is 2-1-1?

It is Connecticut's free information and referral service. By dialing 2-1-1, a toll-free number throughout CT, callers can reach knowledgeable, multilingual staff and get information, referrals or seek help in a crisis. 2-1-1 operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year. TDD access is available.

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# BRANFORD

Community Foundation



Thanks to the generous support of our donor/investors and careful financial management, the Branford Community Foundation (BCF) maintains over \$2 million in endowed funds and will invest over \$100,000 into the community in 2016 through grants, scholarships and leadership initiatives.

Our mission is to connect people who care with the causes that matter to them. As a permanent local charitable endowment, the Branford Community Foundation helps to build a healthy and successful community by supporting everything from basic needs and health services, to local environmental issues and education, to the arts and other programs.

BCF holds 40 named legacy funds that have been established by those who care about Branford and want to ensure that resources exist forever to address the community's needs. These individual funds are pooled and invested wisely with professional guidance, and proceeds from the investments are used to support local needs. Recent grants include \$10,000 to the Community Dining Room to support hot meals for those in need, \$7,500 to Branford Early Learning Center for a new toddler room, and \$5,000 to the Canoe Brook Senior Center for an "Aging Mastery Program."

While BCF is proud to support these important efforts, our work is more than about grant making. For example, BCF has partnered with the Guilford Foundation and the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce to create the Shoreline Nonprofit Workshop Series to provide high quality professional development training to organizations serving Branford. These workshops have been a wonderful success, averaging over 40 attendees from more than 20 organizations.

In addition, BCF was thrilled to partner with the Branford Historical Society to help them purchase the Harrison House. We provided a \$35,000 Challenge Grant over two years to incite local contributions, and they raised the funds within twelve months.

BCF is thrilled to celebrate 35 years of growth and impact in Branford, and we look forward to continuing to respond to the community's needs for the next 35 years and beyond. For more information, including ways to apply for a grant or how to give, go to [www.branfordcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.branfordcommunityfoundation.org).

Liza Janssen Petra, Executive Director  
[lpetra@branfordcommunityfoundation.org](mailto:lpetra@branfordcommunityfoundation.org)



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# Town of Branford Snow Removal Policy

## Help us, Help you

With winter upon us, the Town of Branford Public Works Department is asking for your cooperation in assisting to provide maximum service to all our residents in helping us keep our roads safe.

**Parking:** During snow storms there is “No Parking” on the even numbered side of the road by Town Ordinance (sec. 223-1 & sec. 223-2). Vehicles parked on the even side of the road will be asked to move so snow plows can get down the roads. Failure to move a vehicle could result in having it towed at the owner’s expense.

**Parking Ban:** During a substantial snowfall, a parking ban may be enacted which would require no parking on both sides of the road. Parking ban announcements will be made through the local media.

**Sidewalks:** Town ordinance states that property owners are responsible for cleaning all snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property within eight

hours of the end of the snowfall or precipitation (sec. 216-42). The Public Works Department suggests that residents wait until Town plows have pushed back snow to curb line before clearing sidewalk areas. This generally happens after snow has stopped.

**Road Hazards:** Residents and private contractors should take note that Town Ordinance prohibits snow to be placed on any public highway in such a manner as to impede or inconvenience travel on any roadway (sec. 216-42b).

**Contractors:** Residents are also responsible for their contractor’s actions. Residents or private contractors will also be held responsible for any curb damage done as a result of plowing snow across roadways.

**Driveways:** Residents should also keep in mind that snow plows are designed to remove snow from the roadway to the edge of the road. It is likely that the plow will leave behind a windrow of snow in front

of the driveways. Residents are responsible for removing the snow.

**Mailboxes:** The Public Works Department suggests residents make certain their mailboxes are at least 42 inches above the roadway and set back slightly from the edge of the road so that postal carriers can reach them, behind either the face of the curb or the edge of the road. Our department does not replace mailboxes that are displaced by snow or slush from plows. If contact with a plow can be shown, then it would be replaced.

**Storm Drains:** The department strongly urges each homeowner to keep the storm drain in front of or close to their home free and clear of any leaves or debris causing the drain to become clogged and not drain properly.

Thank you for assisting us. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Public Works Department at 203-488-4156.

## Branford Folk Music Society



### Renowned Fiddler At Branford Folk Dec. 10

Branford will be host to one of the world’s foremost folk fiddlers on Dec. 10 when Bruce Molsky pays a return visit to

the Branford Folk Music Society for a concert in the auditorium of the First Congregational Church of Branford, 1009 Main St., on the town’s green. The concert will begin at 8 pm. Admission is \$25 for non-members, \$20 for members and \$5 for children age 12 and under. For more information, call 203-488-7715 or access the society’s Web page at [www.branfordfolk.org/](http://www.branfordfolk.org/)

It’s been six years since Molsky’s last standing-room-only Branford Folk appearance. He’s one of the most revered “multi-hyphenated career” ambassadors for America’s old-time mountain music. Musicologists consider Molsky one of the most influential American folk fiddlers of this generation. Not only renowned throughout the world as a master fiddler, he also is a remarkable guitarist, banjo player and vocalist.

His high-spirited music melds the archaic mountain sounds of Appalachia, the power of blues and the rhythmic intricacies of

traditional African music. A Minneapolis Star-Tribune music critic called him “old-time music’s answer to Ry Cooder - a commanding musician with a voracious appetite for traditional music styles.”

He’s a self-described “street kid” from the Bronx who bailed on college and big city life for a cold-water cabin in Virginia in the 1970s. His mission? To soak up the passion that was dramatically upending his parent’s life plan for him – authentic Appalachian mountain music – at the feet of its legendary pioneers, old masters who are now long gone. For decades, he’s been a globe-trotting performer, ethnomusicologist and educator, a recording artist with an expansive discography including seven solo albums, well over a dozen collaborations and two Grammy nominations. He’s also the classic “musician’s musician” – a man who’s received high praise from diverse fans and collaborators like Linda Ronstadt, Mark Knopfler, Celtic giants Donal Lunny and Andy Irvine, jazz artist Bill Frisell and Dobro master Jerry Douglas. In short he’s a true country gentleman aptly dubbed “the Rembrandt of Appalachian fiddlers” by virtuoso violinist and sometimes bandmate Darol Anger.

Article prepared by Steve Winters, secretary of the Branford Folk Music Society and host for 43 years of “Profiles in Folk” on WSHU Public Radio (91.1 and 89.9 FM) in Fairfield.

# Get Outside With The Branford Land Trust



Photo courtesy of the Branford Land Trust

With hundreds of acres of open space and miles of trails, autumn is a great time of year to explore Branford. Visit [www.branfordlandtrust.org](http://www.branfordlandtrust.org) to:

- Learn about Red Hill Woods and efforts to protect this spectacular property
- Discover trail maps for more than a dozen trails throughout town

- Read up on Property Use Guidelines for all BLT Trails
- Mark your calendar for upcoming walks and lectures

Speaking of upcoming events, don't miss the Annual Pre-Thanksgiving Walk.

Join the Land Trust on Sunday, November 20 at 1:00 pm for this traditional pre-Thanksgiving walk at Van Wie Woods. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and refreshing fall weather with friends and family.

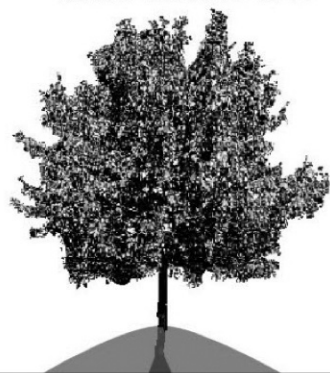
We'll meet at the trailhead at 87 Red Hill Road. Directions: From Exit 56 on I-95, go south on Leetes Island Rd. for 0.1 mile, and turn left (east) onto Red Hill Rd. Proceed to #87, which is on the right, and park on the right side of the road.

For all BLT walks, please wear appropriate dress and comfortable, supportive walking shoes. Bring water. Walking sticks welcome.

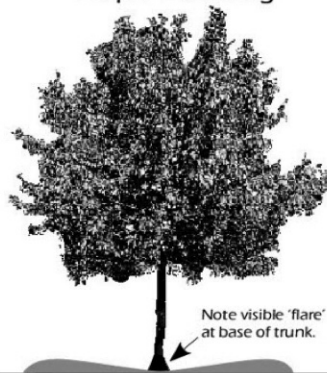
All events are free and open to the public. For more information email [info@branfordlandtrust.org](mailto:info@branfordlandtrust.org).

## Community Forest Commission

Mulch Volcano - BAD



Proper Mulching



Many of the trees in Branford are INCORRECTLY mulched by landscapers: "volcano" mulching - the mulch is piled against the tree trunk instead of having NO contact with the bark. This encourages diseases in the bark, rodent infestation and impedes water getting to the tree roots.

Native trees support our insects, birds and mammals whereas non-native plants may not support any wildlife. Many studies have shown how the presence of trees improves human health. Additionally, trees help clean our streams and rivers, conserve energy in the winter, cool buildings and sidewalks in the summer, combat global warming, decrease noise pollution, increase property value and have many other benefits.

Current members of the CFC are: Joann Minicozzi, Louise LaMontagne, Nancy Mancini, Shirley McCarthy, Chris Woerner and ex officio: Tom Brennan and Diana Ross.

The CFC has a memorial tree program which can be found on the Town's website under Inland Wetland and Natural Resources. This site is also a resource for references and lists of native trees, shrubs and flowers beneficial to our pollinators, birds, and other wildlife.

The primary mission of the Community Forest Commission (CFC) is to protect and increase the number of native trees in Branford via a planting program, developing a tree management plan, and educating our citizens on the value of trees and how to care for them. For the fall, watering of newly planted trees is critical: 25 gallons once a week for 3 years. Evergreens need watering in the winter.

# Branford Compassion Club Upcoming Events



photo by K. Hanniford

Branford Compassion Club, a non-profit feline rescue organization, has several events planned over the next few months.

Avant Garde Holistic Center at 328 East Main Street in Branford is hosting "An Evening with Spirit-Medium Althea DePascale" on Saturday, November 26th from 7-9 pm. Suggested donation is \$10. For reservations, please contact Ron Smith at 203-481-8443 or avantgardect13@yahoo.com.

The annual Holiday Cookie Walk and Open House is scheduled for Saturday, December 10th at the BCC Feline Rescue and Adoption Center from 11 am to 3 pm. Choose from a vast array of homemade cookies and treats baked by our volunteers just in time for your holiday parties.

January is Gift Card month. Donate your unwanted/unused gift cards from the holidays to benefit BCC's fundraising efforts. Cards will be used either to purchase needed supplies for our shelter or as raffle and silent auction items at various events held during the year. In

February, watch for our Winter Food & Supply Drive. On Saturday, Feb. 25th, BCC will celebrate the sixth anniversary of the opening of its Feline Rescue & Adoption Center. An open house with refreshments is planned from 11 am to 3 pm.

The Branford Compassion Club Feline Rescue and Adoption Center is located at 2037 Foxon Road in North Branford. Our mission is to care for feral cats along the shoreline community and find homes for rescued adoptable cats and kittens. Donations are always needed and new volunteers are always welcome. We are open to the public every Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm for visitors and adoptions.

For more information, please visit BCC's website at [www.branfordcompassionclub.org](http://www.branfordcompassionclub.org) or call 203-483-MEOW.

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# Branford Garden Club



On December 1, amid the beautiful Christmas decorations at the Pine Orchard Country Club the Branford Garden Club will install their new Officers for the 2017-18 term.

President: Paula Inglese  
 Vice-President: Pat Sanders  
 Recording Secretary: Carole Soehnlein  
 Treasurer: Laurie Van Wilgen  
 Assistant Treasurer: Janet Dahl

On November 28, the members will gather at the Recreation Department to make handmade Christmas wreaths to decorate the James Blackstone Memorial library and the Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library.

To help Branford residents get into the Christmas spirit, members will fill the baskets on the Branford Town Green with Christmas bows and Holiday greens. Members will generously donate Christmas gifts to people at the Branford Counseling Center.

Before the ground freezes, the Branford Garden Club Members will prepare the Town's garden for the winter and will be planting numerous Daffodil bulbs around Branford.

If you are interested in joining this busy club, please contact Nancy Iannotti at [iannotti9@comcast.net](mailto:iannotti9@comcast.net) or Margaret Murphy at [rmargaret18@snet.net](mailto:rmargaret18@snet.net).



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# Rotary Club of Branford



Santa (aka retired Branford police chief Robert Gill) greets senior guests.

The Club of over 70 members strong enthusiastically ushers in the holiday season for the enjoyment and betterment of the community with a range of events. Visit club website: [www.branfordrotary.org](http://www.branfordrotary.org).

**Wednesday, November 9:** Veterans' Day Luncheon for Branford Veterans, Italian American Social Club, 40 Hamre Lane, 12 noon - 1:30.

For the ninth year in a row the Branford Rotary Club will observe Veterans' Day by hosting a luncheon for veterans being serviced by the Eastern Blind Rehabilitation Center (part of the VA Ct. Healthcare System, West Haven); members of the American Legion Sundquist-Corcoran Post 83; and Branford Veterans of Foreign Wars. The catered meal will recognize those women and men who served in all branches of the US military, many of whom were deployed in a variety of campaigns including Operation Desert Storm, the Korean conflict, European & Pacific theaters of WW II, Iran, and Afghanistan.

Rotarian Nelson Bernabucci, assisted by Josh Balter, coordinates this event. Nelson himself served with the US Navy as a Seabee in New Guinea during World War II. He can be contacted at 203/488-5450 for event information.

**Thursday, November 24:** Thanksgiving Day Rotary Y-Run & Walk, Francis Walsh Intermediate School, 185 Damascus Road, 8:00 am. Registration fees range.

Join the annual BRANFORD ROTARY/YMCA RUN & WALK on Thanksgiving morning on a 5K-race/walk certified course, which travels through Branford's beautiful Pine Orchard section.

T-shirts will be given to all registered participants and first 100 race day entrants. Awards go to top three race finishers in each division. Age Groups: Men & Women, 12 & under, 13-19,

20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80+ and Wheelchair. First male and female Branford residents also receive awards.

Registration forms are available at [jbsports@snet.net](mailto:jbsports@snet.net) or call 203/481-5933 for further information.

Proceeds from this event help support the Branford Rotary Foundation, which funds educational and community projects, and the initiatives of the Soundview Family YMCA.

**Saturday, Dec. 3:** BRANFORD ROTARY CHIMES FOR CHARITY, Assorted locations, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

The Branford Rotary Club is conducting its annual ringing of the bells and supervision of traditional red collection kettles of the Salvation Army at strategically placed locations near Branford merchants. The stations throughout Branford are as follows: Stop & Shop, Leete's Island Rd., Branford Book & Card, Main St., Wal-Mart on Commercial Pkwy, and Starbuck's, North Main Street.

The Rotary Club of Branford volunteers will sound the hand bells on a TBA Saturday in December from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Rotarians will each work 2-hour shifts to raise money, which, in turn, is forwarded to Social Services at the Andriole Counseling Center. All donations collected will service only Branfordites.

Jack Srebnik, serving as Rotary committee chairperson, states: "For the past 25 years during the Christmas holidays, Branford Rotarians have helped the Salvation Army ring bells and raise money for citizens in the Branford community who need special help. Branford Rotary has been successful in raising over \$6000. Despite these lean economic times, we hope to increase our previous efforts and aid the less fortunate."

For further information about this program, contact Jack at 203/481-7331.

**Thursday, December 8:** ROTARY HOLIDAY DINNER FOR SENIORS, First Congregational Church, 1009 Main Street (brick church on Green). 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

Celebrate the season with a home-cooked meal at the modest charge of \$2.00. This is a holiday tradition of over 26 years for the Branford Rotary.

Branford Rotarians prepare the entire supper using fresh ingredients in the kitchen of the church. This is a sit-down meal served by club members. Included are crudités, beverage, hot fresh vegetables, roasts, and dessert. This special holiday treat is limited to the first 175 members who sign up. Registration may include individual and one guest.

Look forward to being musically entertained and experiencing a visit from Santa! Arrive wearing the colors of the season.

Contact Nancy at Canoe Brook Senior Center for registration

**Continued on page 16**



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ROTARY CLUB OF BRANFORD...continued from page 15

and transportation, 203/315-0684. Bill Van Wilgen coordinates this annual Rotary event.

**December TBA: SECRET SANTA PROJECT**

Annually the individual members of the Club purchase and donate gifts anonymously to underprivileged children. Needy families are identified by the Counseling Center, and their children prepare wish lists of necessary items for Santa. The concept of "Secret Santa" is based on the tradition of Sinterklaas brought to the New World by Dutch settlers. Rotarian Tricia Bohan has directed this successful project for many years.

**Canoe Brook Center**



Ugly Sweater fun!

**Holiday Happenings at Canoe Brook**

November and December are filled with celebrations and fun at Canoe Brook! We have an abundance of opportunities for people to join us, celebrate, and

connect throughout the holiday season. Open to Branford residents, age 60+. Pre-registration is required for all activities. For more information contact Blair at 203-315-0687. A full listing of all activities and classes can be found online by going to [www.branford-ct.gov/canoebrook](http://www.branford-ct.gov/canoebrook). An activity calendar is posted online daily and can be found on our Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Here are some of our holiday happenings:

- 11/15: Newcomer's Breakfast, (contact Nancy at 203.315.0684 to sign up)
- 11/29: Trip: Radio City Christmas Spectacular
- 12/1: Chanukah Dinner
- 12/1: Mini-trip: Milford Commons
- 12/6: Canoe Brook Tree Trimming & Ugly Sweater Contest w/ Music by the Jammers
- 12/8: 36th Annual Rotary Dinner for Branford Seniors
- 12/12: Holiday Shoppe (boutique quality items at reasonable prices)
- 12/12: Trip: Fantasy of Lights at Lighthouse Park
- 12/14: Canoe Brook Christmas Party & Luncheon at Chowder Pot
- 12/18: Trip: Christmas with the Celtic Tenors
- 12/19: Readers Theater Group performs at Murphy School
- 12/28: Midnight at Noon: A daytime New Year's party

# The Branford Food Pantry, Inc.

## How to Help Branford This Holiday Season

*"There really will be a Thanksgiving this year."*

This is just one of the many heartwarming and grateful reactions that Branford Food Pantry volunteers receive each year from neighbors who receive complete holiday meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Right now, the Pantry is in the middle of its annual drive to raise funds to purchase food from the CT Food Bank (at very low cost) and to supplement this food with retail purchasing. "Last year, we spent \$47,000 on supplemental purchase," explains Vice President, Jay Webb. "These funds also help us provide the fixings - groceries and turkeys - for a complete dinner to Branford families who need help during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. An important element of these meals is donated turkeys. We need at least 500 12-16 pound turkeys!"

If you or your business would like to help with our fall fund drive or our holiday dinners:

- Send a check made out to the Branford Food Pantry to 30 Harrison Ave., Branford, CT 06405.
- Drop off turkeys at our site during open hours (see below); if you have a

lot to donate call Jay Webb at 203-215-3533 to make special arrangements. The Food Pantry accepts turkeys after October 1, from 8:00 am to 11:00 am on Tuesdays and Fridays, right up to December 18. Please help! During two recent years, we ran out and had to give out chickens because turkeys in volume are not available at the last minute.

Branford families facing difficult times during the holidays can obtain a turkey and basket of fixings by calling the Branford Food Pantry at 203-315-8251 after November 1 but before:

- November 18 for Thanksgiving (delivered on November 22)
- December 17 for Christmas (delivered on December 22)

Note that you must be home to accept the delivery.

## Who We Are

The Branford Food Pantry is a 100% volunteer organization, started in 1978, that provides groceries to Branford families in need. In addition to family groceries, children are provided a snack package that can be used for school days. A new program, Feed Branford Kids, provides weekend food when subsidized school meals are not available. These meals are distributed anonymously by the schools. Over 230,000 pounds of food

are distributed by the Branford Food Pantry annually.

Check our website: [www.branfordfoodpantry.org](http://www.branfordfoodpantry.org).

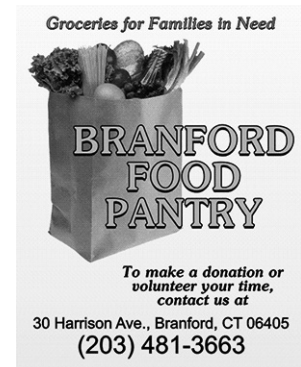
## To Obtain Family Assistance

The Food Pantry provides groceries to Branford individuals and families who qualify for assistance using U.S. government guidelines. To qualify for support, simply call the Town of Branford Social Services Department at 203.488.5404.

Hours: Families in need can pick up groceries once a week on:

- Tuesday or Friday morning between 9:00 - 11:00 am.
- Tuesday evening between 4:30 - 6:30 pm.

To pick up groceries, go to 30 Harrison Ave, lower level on the right side of the building.



## Shoreline Greenway Trail



Our most exciting news is that the Tabor Trail is one step closer to reality. On Wednesday evening, October 19, the Town of Branford hosted a public informational meeting led by Stantec Engineering to go over their design for the trail that will connect Tabor Drive and Pine Orchard Road along beautiful

Chet's Pond. The design met with universal approval. The Town expects that construction can begin in spring, 2017.

In order to give Branford's families the opportunity to become familiar with this proposed trail, the Branford Team of the Shoreline Greenway Trail will once again hold its annual Winter Vacation Walk at the Tabor property to encourage our children

to get outside during the period between Christmas and the New Year. As usual, the walk will begin at 10:00 at the parking lot of the Tabor Lutheran Church on Tabor Drive. Weather permitting (this walk has taken place in both an open landscape and in deep snow!), we will climb to the adjoining Ecology Park. At this time of year, the views are especially spectacular; with leaves off the trees we have 360 degree views of Long Island Sound, Short Beach, Branford's church spires, the dome of the Blackstone Library, and more!

Come join the team! Branford needs volunteers to help us as we develop and maintain our trails. Are you excited about safe, off road biking and walking for yourself and others? Contact Judith Miller at [j.miller@snet.net](mailto:j.miller@snet.net) (203-589-8335) to see how you can help!

# Branford Economic Development Commission



Pictured at the award presentation are [l to r] First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove, EDC chairman Perry Maresca, Robert A. Criscuolo, P.E., and James M. Pretti, Jr., P.E., of Criscuolo Engineering.

At its September meeting the Branford Economic Development Commission presented Criscuolo Engineering with its “Business Recognition Award.” The EDC periodically presents the award to a Branford business that is a leader in its field and that contributes to making Branford a better place to live and work.

Founded in 1988 by Branford native and resident Bob Criscuolo, Criscuolo Engineering has developed a highly regarded reputation for its engineering and design expertise. For more than twenty-five years the firm has applied its engineering skills and regulatory acumen to scores of commercial development projects in town,

including the Stony Creek Brewery in Indian Neck, American Polyfilm’s new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility on Baldwin Drive, and the SoundView YMCA nearby on East Main Street.

And after more than thirty-two years of service, Neal Crowley retired from the commission when his current term expired. At the July EDC meeting, the First Selectman presented him with Branford’s “distinguished service” award in recognition of his service to the Town with the commission, its predecessor, the Industrial Development Commission, and nearly ten years as a volunteer constable. Following Neal’s retirement, Cathy Lezon was appointed to fill the vacancy and officially began her term in October. A Branford resident, Ms. Lezon has decades of experience in the electric power industry and works closely with the region’s economic development and community relations offices in her position at Eversource Energy.

The EDC is also pleased to welcome CT Modern, a mid-century furniture design and restoration business located in the Town Center on Main Street across from Branford Building Supplies, and in Indian Neck The Stand, a new BBQ restaurant and market, and Guacamole, an authentic Mexican restaurant located next to Bud’s Fish Market. These new enterprises join our diverse collection of restaurants, shops and boutiques, enhancing Branford’s appeal as a destination for both residents and visitors to live, shop and play.

## Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library

### EVENTS

Sunday Hours begin on November 6 from 1:00 to 4:00.

Stop by for a party with music provided by local group Bop Tweed at 2:00. Refreshments provided by the Friends.

November Art Show in the Keyes Gallery: Fred Rosenthal and Nan Tussing - Photography and painting

November 3: Bead for Life a presentation by Karen Pease Marino. Bead for Life: Eradicating Poverty One Bead at a Time. Ms. Marion will talk about her personal experience helping women in Uganda become entrepreneurs. Thursday, at 7:00 pm.

November 4: Friday Night Film - Café Society, a Woody Allen film. Rated PG-13. 7:00 pm.

November 10: The Barkers of Branford: Life in America through a Local Lens. Guilford resident Ted Braun will present a talk based on the diaries

of Llewellyn Barker of Branford (1850 -1937). Copies of the book will be available to purchase.

November 18: Friday Poetry Night featuring Stony Creek writer Alison D. Moncrief Bromage, recipient of the T.S. Eliot Prize for Poetry for her recent book “Daughter, Daedalus” at 7:30. Open Mic at 7:00 for local poets. (Registration begins at 6:45) Coffee bar refreshments. Copies of Daughter, Daedalus will be on sale for \$18.00.

November 26: Gingerbread House Workshop, Saturday at 11:00. Registration is required. Please have each child bring a donation of a food item for the Branford Food Pantry.

December Art Show in the Keyes Gallery: Lisa Hess Hesselgrave and Sven Martson - Painting and photography

December 1: Garland Workshop with Donna Rapino of Diva Fiore. 6:30-8:00 pm. Space is limited. Registration required.

December 2: Friday Night Film - Captain Fantastic, starring Viggo Mortensen and Frank Langella. Rated R.

December 7: Afternoon film: Finding Dory at 2:00. Rated PG.

December 15: Holiday Craft Workshop for children. 4:30-5:30 - Sponsored by the Food Allergy Education Network.

December 28: Winter Cartoon Fun at 2:00. Registration recommended. Ages 7 and up. Come learn how to draw cool and crazy things.

January Art Show in the Keyes Gallery: Ellen Hoverkamp and Barbara Hawes - Photography and painting

Save the Date! Cool Yule 2 Concert - a fundraiser to benefit the Friends of Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library December 9, 2016.

Featuring The Thimble Islands Saxophone Quartet.

Tickets on sale November 1. [wwml.org](http://wwml.org), 203-488-8702

[www.eventsmagazines.com](http://www.eventsmagazines.com)

## Playing Hard & Breathing Easy You Are In a Branford Park

BRANFORD PARKS ARE NOW SMOKE FREE: A Win-Win for Everyone!!!

For the health of the Branford Community and in keeping with the Branford Parks and Recreation Department's philosophy of providing "... positive leisure time and promoting physical and emotional enrichment" we are pleased to announce that the Branford Recreation Board has adopted a no smoking policy for all parks governed by the Branford Parks & Recreation Department.

Exposure to secondhand smoke is unhealthy, even in outdoor spaces. Studies have found that levels of second-hand smoke in outdoor areas can be equal to amounts found inside where smoking is allowed. The U.S. Surgeon General's report in 2010 concluded there is no risk-free level of exposure to second-hand smoke. Exposure to concentrated amounts of second-hand smoke outdoors can cause respiratory irritation and may trigger asthma attacks.

This no smoking policy will help to provide a healthier and safer environment for the residents of Branford.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), second hand smoke is a serious health hazard – there is no safe level of exposure to second hand smoke. As a result, it is recognized that many businesses, cities and towns are moving to more expansive smoke free zones. This no smoking policy will help to provide a healthier and safer environment for the residents of Branford.

The policy now in effect is as follows: "Smoking is prohibited at all properties under the control of the Branford Recreational Department at all times, including but not limited to; buildings, grounds, entrances, sidewalks, parking lots and beaches. Smoking is defined as the use of; cigarettes, pipes, cigars and other devises that produce smoke including electronic cigarettes and water pipes."

What are the benefits of smoke and tobacco-free parks?

- Creates healthy and safe environments for Branford residents and visitors, especially children and youth.
- Protects parks and natural areas from potential risk of fires.
- Protects parks and natural areas from environmental degradation caused by littering of cigarette butts and other tobacco-related waste.
- Supports individuals who are trying to quit smoking or tobacco use or have already quit.
- Reduces exposure of children and youth to smoking and tobacco use, protecting their health and discouraging them from starting a habit that is difficult to quit.
- Parks are established to promote healthy activities.

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# Peace of Mind Pet Care

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A Professional will look after your pets and your home as if they were theirs. And make sure your home has that lived-in appearance while you travel to deter criminal activity, by bringing in packages, mail and newspapers. Turning on and off different lights and doing a perimeter check for signs of tampering makes sure your home is still the safe and comfortable haven you left for your furkids.

Why a Professional? Friends, family and neighbors can be very helpful in a pinch, but a professional knows how to handle emergency situations, has all your emergency contacts and insurance to protect your pets.

At the meet & greet look for significant signs from the sitter and your pets.

They should not immediately start to interact with your pets but allow your pets to check them out first.

Are they really listening to your needs and your pets' needs, taking notes, and answer questions intelligently? And read your contract carefully before signing to be sure it covers all your concerns and the information is accurate.

Professional Pet Care is not just about walking a dog. It's about investing in a relationship with an individual or a company that makes you and all your pets a priority and puts your pets' needs above their own. A pet care professional must be dedicated, compassionate, consistent and flexible. Above all, the professional must have integrity - because with integrity comes trust. And with trust come years of happiness for generations of your pets.

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# James Blackstone Memorial Library



Your library card is the key to using the many digital resources the library offers you, including audiobooks, magazines, and language learning. There is something for everyone in your family!

With your library card, you can borrow audiobooks, ebooks, and digital magazines, right from the comfort of your home. Visit us at [blackstonelibrary.org](http://blackstonelibrary.org) to discover all of our online resources, which include language learning with Mango Languages, and full-text articles from journals, newspapers, and magazines for research (including Consumer Reports). All you need is your library card!

## Featured Winter Programs

Stay & Play | Every Friday @ 11 am

A morning of imaginative play where babies to children age 5 can come together to play with age appropriate toys and games. This is a great way for children of all ages to interact as well as for parents to come together.

Saturday Storytime | Every Saturday @ 10:30 am

Families with children ages 3 to 5 can come together to share in stories, music

and movement activities. A craft and/or activity that goes along with the story is always included.

Benson's Race: A Picture Book Reading and Q & A with Marilyn Clements\*\* | Wednesday, December 7 @ 3 pm

Author Marilyn Clements will read from her book *Benson's Race*, about a Siberian husky, training hard for the Iditarod. But not everyone racing is as honest as Benson's trainer. While crossing a dangerous stretch, Benson will find Rosie, a red-furred husky dog-napped by Zelda, the evil musher. Can Benson save her? And will rescuing her cost him the race? Addressing family, work ethics, responsibility, and tolerance of others, this touching, yet action-packed story teaches valuable lessons we all must learn. A door prize will be given to one lucky listener.

Music Together\*\* | Friday, December 9 @ 10:30 am

Music Together uses a combination of live music, rhymes and recorded hits to enhance movement, learning and enjoyment. Kids can work together, play instruments and learn new rhymes and songs. For babies through age 5.

Fresh Start: Intro to Tea\*\* | Saturday, January 7 @ 1 pm

Phil Parda of Savvy Tea will describe the pleasures and benefits of tea. The "Fresh Start" tea program is all about taking steps to make the New Year a healthier and more enjoyable one by enhancing your life with tea. It is a great program for those new to tea, but also for those that have been drinking tea for years, and want to know more and go further into the benefits this amazing plant can offer their lives. It is much more fascinating and beneficial than you ever dreamed.

Scents & Sensibility\*\* | Saturday, January 14 @ 2 pm

Sniff through our stinky past and make your own herbal reed diffusers! Today's history comes deodorized. Join us for a

whiff of the past with historical tidbits, learn about the medicinal benefits of various herbs and essential oils and create your own 8-oz Herbal Reed Diffuser of your choice. Choose one of four blends: Sleeping Beauty (bedroom scent for insomnia, stress, anxiety); Dear John (bathroom scent for sanitizing, odors); Doggone It! (pet odors); or All in the Family (family room & family area scents for refreshing, uplifting). Presented by Velya & Ehris Urban.

Argyle Sax Concert | Sunday, January 22 @ 2 pm

The Argyle Sax Quartet performs in a wide range of musical genres. This versatile ensemble entertains audiences with selections in classical styles, jazz styles, pop and novelty themes. Concert goers can expect to enjoy works by Rimsky Korsakov, Glen Miller, The Beatles and more; an eclectic mix with something for everyone!

RAVE ON! Concert | Sunday, February 12 @ 2 pm

RAVE ON! is a band that features the music of Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison, and other legends of early rock-n-roll. This is the music that paved the way for rock-n-roll and influenced The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen and countless other artists. With Chris Roselle (Guitar & Lead Vocals), Pete Farley (Bass Guitar & Background Vocals), and Don Guinta (Drums & Background Vocals).

Opera Preview & Performance: Rusalka | Tuesday, February 21 @ 6:30 pm

Join us for a Metropolitan Opera Preview of Dvorak's *Rusalka*, with Marc Verzatt, recently retired from the faculty of the Yale School of Music. Followed by three live musicians – a pianist plus a female and male vocalist. Sponsored by Shoreline Village Connecticut.

\*\* Registration is required. To register, please call 203.488.1441 or visit our calendar at [blackstonelibrary.org](http://blackstonelibrary.org) to register online.

# 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	Peter Cimino - Director	481-4248	pcimino@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	Tom Mahoney / Fire Chief	488-7266	tmahoney@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	Harry Smith - Town Planner	488-1255	hsmith@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	Tom Brennan – Director	488-4156	tbrennan@branford-ct.gov
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	James B. Cosgrove – First Selectman	488-8394	jcosgrove@branford-ct.gov
Social Services	Peter Cimino - Director	481-4248	pcimino@branford-ct.gov
Solid Waste/Recycling	Dan McGowan - Supervisor	315-0622	dmcgowan@branford-ct.gov
Tax Office	Joanne Cleary – Tax Collector	315-0672	jcleary@branford-ct.gov
Town Clerk	Lisa Arpin -Town Clerk	315-0678	larpin@branford-ct.gov
Willoughby Wallace Library	Alice Pentz - Library Director	488-8702	apentz@branford-ct.gov
Water Treatment	Dan Gregory - Superintendent	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 Solid Waste & Recycling Department

## Leaf Collection & Holiday Schedule

Curbside leaf collection will continue through the week of December 15th. For the leaves to be collected, they must be in a brown paper leaf bag, or loose in a garbage can.

Do not use plastic bags. The Town will not pick up leaves in plastic bags. Leaves should not be raked into the streets, piled at the curb, placed in wetlands, streams, storm drains, or on Branford Land Trust Property.

Your leaves will be picked up on the same day as your regular recycling collection, though by a separate truck. Residents are reminded not to include branches and also to keep the leaves free of litter and other materials which will not decompose. These materials contaminate the compost which your leaves are turned into at the Transfer Station and which is available to Branford residents for free!

Brown paper leaf bags can usually be found at the following Branford stores:

Big Y, Branford Building Supplies, Caron's Corner, Richlin's, Stop & Shop, Walgreen's and Wal-Mart.

## Holiday Closings

The Transfer Station will be closed on Friday November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day. There will be no delay in curbside collection and the Transfer Station will be open on Saturday.

And also on Thanksgiving Day November 24th - those with a normal Thursday collection will be collected on Friday, all other collections will be on their normal day.

For more information regarding leaves, pick-up schedules, or composting, please visit our website at [www.branford.ct.gov](http://www.branford.ct.gov) or phone (203) 315-0622.

## Holiday Wrapping Paper Program

The Solid Waste and Recycling Department is excited to continue the very successful Holiday Wrapping Paper Recycling Program for this upcoming holiday season. The program annually results in an additional 18 tons of materials being recycled that otherwise would be burned as trash! Many thanks are due to Etta Hanlon, a Branford High School student, for her continued hard work in bringing her concept to fruition.

Specially marked bags will be available at various locations throughout town, including Town Hall, the Senior Center, our Libraries, Community House and the Transfer Station for collecting your recyclable holiday paper. Simply fill your bag as you open your gifts (please see below for a list of acceptable materials). And then place your filled bag(s) out with your normal recyclables for collection, or bring them directly to the

Transfer Station. If you do not have one of the specially marked bags, your holiday paper can still be recycled by placing it in the same bag/ bundle as your newspapers and magazines.

We must stress that only paper products can be placed in these bags. Wrapping paper made of foil or plastic (Mylar) are not acceptable. Neither are ribbons or bows that are not made of paper. A good rule of thumb is, "If it rips, it fits."

### Acceptable Materials:

PAPER wrapping paper

Paperboard/ gift boxes

Tissue paper

Holiday cards and envelopes

### Unacceptable Materials:

Any non-paper products

Plastic, Foil or Mylar wrapping paper

Bows or ribbons

Styrofoam or Plastic Packaging

\*Corrugated cardboard

\*Please recycle your corrugated cardboard along with your other recyclables - just not in this bag\*

Remember that recycling not only saves our environment, but also our tax dollars too! For every ton of trash that is recycled, the Town saves over \$100. Please recycle.



## Branford Launches New Campaign to Recycle More Plastic Bags, Wraps

The Solid Waste & Recycling Department is happy to announce that we now accept clean and dry plastic film for recycling at the Transfer Station. This bin is in addition to the many plastic film recycling bins located at a number of local grocery stores and retail chain stores.

Plastic film is thin polyethylene plastic used for wraps, packaging or commercial/retail use bags. It's sometimes called stretch film. Polyethylene (PE) film may carry a #2 HDPE or #4 LDPE mark. Also, any bag or wrap with the How2Recycle label can be put in the bin. Generally, if plastic film stretches when you pull it with your fingers, it's okay to recycle it.

Continued on page 24

Please remember that plastic bags and film are still **not acceptable** in your curbside recycling bins as collecting them with bottles and containers generally leaves them too dirty and wet to be recycled. Additionally, bags and films can jam sorting machinery, creating problems for the businesses that sort recyclables.

Can I recycle it if...?

The plastic is colored? YES. Colored material is not a problem for recycling.

It tears like paper? NO. This type of plastic is currently not accepted in bag recycling bins.

It crinkles loudly (like candy wrappers, flower bouquet wrap or chip bags) when I mash it in my hand? NO. Please do not include, as it is not currently acceptable for recycling.

It has labels or tape? YES, but labels, tape, and adhesive strips SHOULD BE REMOVED prior to putting it in the recycling bin. The integrity of the bag isn't important - the recycler just wants the clean plastic.

It is thicker, stiff plastic like pet food bags or bedding bags (including anything with a zipper)? NO. These are not the same type of plastic as what recyclers want, so DO NOT include.

It is silvery or metallic (like some snack packaging or printer ink cartridge packages)? NO. This is not acceptable. If it says it's degradable or compostable AND recyclable? NO. Currently, these bags cannot be placed in drop-off bins. The recyclers reprocessing bags don't want the products they are making to degrade over time so these bags are not acceptable.

It is dirty, has crumbs, or is wet? NO. Recyclers need the bags and film to be CLEAN and DRY. Please don't include dirty or wet bags, or any material that has food or other residues. If in doubt, throw it out!

Over 89 billion plastic bags, sacks, and wraps are used every year. Plastic bags can be recycled into many products. Most plastic bags are recycled into composite lumber but can also be reprocessed into small pellets, or post-consumer resin, which can become feed stock for a variety of products...such as new bags, pallets, containers, crates and pipe.

Again, plastic bags cannot be recycled with your curbside recycling. Please see the Solid Waste & Recycling Department web page at [www.branford-ct.gov](http://www.branford-ct.gov) for additional information.

Dan McGowan, Solid Waste Supervisor  
[dmcgowan@branford-ct.gov](mailto:dmcgowan@branford-ct.gov)



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# Musical Art Society of Branford Winter 2016-17



The Musical Art Society of Branford is a cultural arts group that was founded in 1920 by Alice Collins and a group of local music teachers. (In 1919, Alice married Jeremiah J. Collins who was an owner of the Collins & Freeman Hardware Store in Branford, where Alice resided until her death in 1972). The original group met monthly in members' homes for their own musical entertainment. In past years, auditions were required for membership, but in recent years the group has expanded to include not only musicians but all music lovers, and auditions are no longer held. New members are always welcome! Dues are \$20 per year for an individual or \$30 for a household, and new members can join at any concert or by contacting a member.

The mission of the group is to promote and support excellence in music in the community. They occasionally meet in private homes for concerts and musicales, but most often present diverse artists in public spaces such as the Blackstone Library and various churches and concert halls in town.

The group gives a music scholarship each year to a graduating high school senior planning to study music at the college level. The scholarship is funded by members' dues, donations, and an annual scholarship fundraiser concert. In addition to the scholarship, MAS sponsors several free concerts each year which are open to the public, presenting music of many genres. Past years have included jazz, classical, bluegrass, choral, folk, Celtic, et al.

MAS website: <https://sites.google.com/site/musicalartsocietyofbranford/>

Upcoming concerts include: 2nd Company Connecticut Governor's Foot Guard Dance Band, Friday, November 18, 2016 at 7:30 pm, First Congregational Church of Branford (Pilgrim Hall), 1009 Main Street, Branford, CT, Info: Arlene Steinlauf (203) 488-6837.

The Second Company Governor's Food Guard Band is the musical arm of one of the oldest continually active military units in the United States. It was chartered in 1775, and the first

Commandant was Revolutionary War General Benedict Arnold. The present Commandant of the Second Company is Major Richard K. Greenalch Jr. The band has relocated to Branford and rehearses weekly at the Branford Armory. Cpt. Joseph Nuzzo leads the 2nd Co GFG Dance Band. For more information contact: Joseph Nuzzo at (203) 469-6986.

Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 2:00 pm, Showcase of High School Performance Groups and Scholarship Auditions, Blackstone Library, 758 Main Street, Branford, CT, Info: Martha Medford (203) 481-6952

Friday, February 24, 2017 at 7:30 pm, Jim & Liz Beloff Ukulele Concert for MAS Scholarship Fundraiser, Blackstone Library, 758 Main Street, Branford, CT, Info: Chris Cohen (203) 453-0287. Tickets \$15: Carol Titcomb (203) 488-3088

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## Are you the parent of a child living with epilepsy?

The Epilepsy Foundation of CT invites you to join their newly added support group in Branford CT. This will be a gathering of parents to talk about the challenges, fears, and coping tactics in caring for a child with epilepsy. The support group will be held the fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 pm. Location will be at St. Therese Church Parish Center, 105 Leetes Island Rd, Branford, CT.

For more information please call the Epilepsy Foundation of CT at 860-346-1924.

# events online

For the latest issue plus archives  
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Find your town • Click on the masthead for this quarter's issue • Scroll down for archived issues

# Saint Mary School

Saint Mary School (SMS) of Branford, Connecticut is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and provides challenging academic, extracurricular, and faith programs centered on the teachings of Jesus to our preK-3 through 8th grade students.

What is special about SMS? "We educate the whole child in a nurturing, academic, and caring environment," says Principal Sr. Annette D'Antonio. Teachers and families work together to inspire individual growth, creativity, self-discipline, confidence, respect, Christian service, and critical thinking - educating them for the rest of their lives. Being part of a smaller school community, SMS students get more one on one attention, and a sense of family. Everyone is concerned about each other, the little ones look up to the older students and the older students look out for the younger students.

Not everyone who is enrolled at SMS is Catholic. Approximately 15 % who attend Saint Mary School are non-Catholic. Many attend SMS for the academic quality and value driven education provided.

One parent shared why her daughter enrolled at St. Mary School in the middle of 3rd grade - "there was a fundamental incongruence of our family values and those of the public school's. A once excellent student (#1 in her class for math in 2nd grade), was now struggling with math. She longed to go back to Shoreline School of Montessori where she discovered her love of learning and going to school." Sr. Annette invited her daughter to attend a day at SMS, and she felt right at home. Since attending SMS "she is an A student again in all subjects. Her confidence is back, and wakes up joyful at the prospect of going to school... she joined the Fife and Drum Corps (can now read music), and also participates in the St. Mary Church Children's Choir."

*We are proud that both parents and students consider our school a great place to learn and partner together. We invite you to be part of our school community - bring your child to our Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 11, 2016 or visit our Open House on Jan. 29, 2017. For more details visit our website at [SMSbranford.org](http://SMSbranford.org).*

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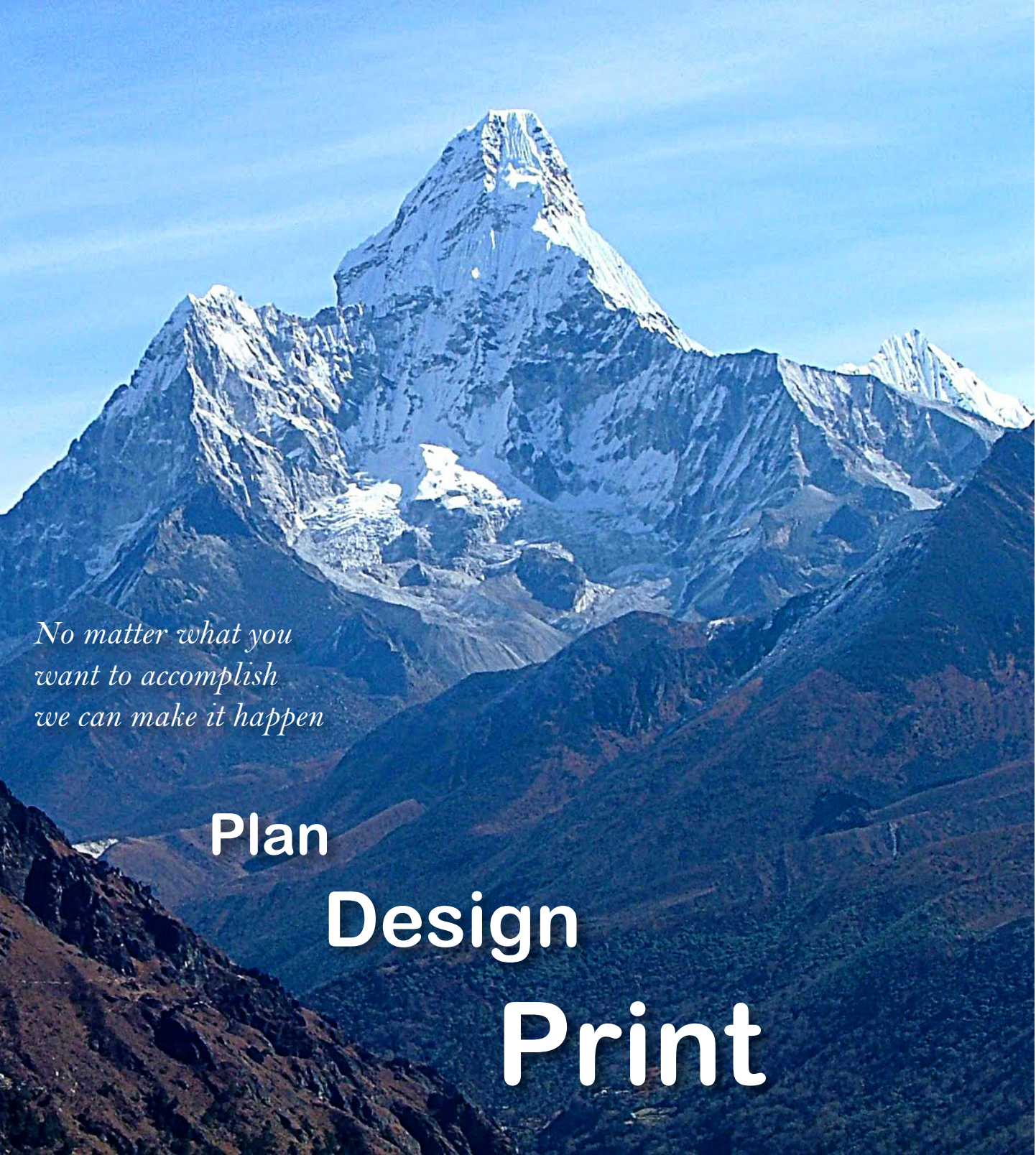


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