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## First Selectman's Corner

This issue of "Branford Events" provides me with my last opportunity to update you on various issues and developments in town. I want to thank the other departments, boards and commissions and other town organizations who have contributed to this effort to keep our residents informed and involved.

First, I want to congratulate the Branford Community House on its upcoming fiftieth celebration. The building has become an icon in town and has served generations of Branford families providing a wholesome place for youth activities such as basketball, karate and skateboarding, as the place to go to for whatever class or program you might need, and it also became home for many of the town's clubs and organizations, such as the Branford Garden Club. And for those of you who have passed the big five-0 mark, you know how challenging it becomes to stay in shape. Yet, somehow the recreation department keeps the Community House and its fields and equipment in top form. Well done, to all, and we look forward to the next fifty years.

I also want to take this opportunity to introduce you to four new department heads in various town operations. José Giner has taken the helm in Planning and Zoning as our new Town Planner, bringing decades of planning experience to the position. Town resident Peter Cimino, formerly with Harbor Health and BH Care, is now director of Social Services for the town, including the Counseling Center. Tom Brennan, also a town resident, recently came on board as the town's new Public Works Director. And Branford native Dan McGowan, is now the supervisor at the town's Transfer Station and for our Solid Waste & Recycling programs. I'm sure everyone joins me in welcoming and wishing them the best of luck in their work with town operations.

It seems to have become a regular event to have Governor Malloy in town. In my previous "Corner" letter to you, I reported on his visit to present us with a \$500,000 grant award to acquire the Stony Creek Post Office building. He recently returned to visit one of our new biotech companies on East Main Street - Durata Therapeutics. His administration has made it a priority to make Connecticut a top choice for new and expanding life science companies and his team worked hard to have Durata select Connecticut and then work with state and local officials to choose Branford. While here he met with Durata's executives and toured their facility, hearing about their cutting edge work in the treatment of infectious diseases. The Governor was accompanied by Commissioner Catherine Smith from the state's Department of Economic and Community Development, a key player in recruiting the company to Connecticut and establishing it in Branford. Also with us were Representatives Lonnie Reed and Pat Widlitz,

Senator Ed Meyer, and EDC Chairman Joe Gordon - all part of the team that promotes Branford development so well.

By the time you receive this issue, the Amtrak Bridge replacement project will have been completed, making those frighteningly narrow lanes and low clearance a fading memory. I have every confidence that the Town will continue to pursue with DOT and others a redesign of the connector to further improve that area for public safety and commercial development benefitting everyone, as well as a welcoming gateway into town.

Infrastructure projects across town continue to move forward. The train station's "kiss & ride" platform on Kirkham Street is taking shape; the intersection of North Branford Road [Rte. 139] at Valley and School Ground Roads is nearing its completion with a new turn lane to better accommodate traffic and allow for safer vehicle movements, and the design work for the School Ground Road's new bridge is just about finished, allowing that project to begin soon. Once that bridge is in, the state bridge on Rte. 139 between Commercial Street and Thompson Road will be replaced. Collectively, all of these projects will result in much improved and safer traffic in the east end of town for residents and businesses alike.

As you know, decisions for a new public work facility and senior center must remain for the next administration. It's unfortunate that distractions by a small group of naysayers were used to prevent these two projects from moving forward. I regret those missed opportunities, but am hopeful that the Town will proceed sensibly to meet these and other important needs facing our community.

Finally, it has been a distinct honor to serve you for twelve years as First Selectman. Through six terms we have worked together to overcome a catastrophic fire in the town center as well as a gas pipeline that threatened our environment, economy and security. We established an emergency preparedness program to combat major storms such as Irene and Sandy and October blizzards, while we also doggedly worked on a long procession of successful projects including major renovations to Town Hall, establishing our Volunteer Service Center and the Animal Shelter, launching the Stony Creek Museum, constructing new Fire headquarters, numerous road and bridge improvements, as well as securing the town's first triple-A bond rating. I am immensely proud of what we accomplished and extend my deepest appreciation to everyone who has helped us in so many ways.

*Sincerely, Unk DaRos*



Happy Fall from all of us at Events Magazines and Essex Printing!



## *Branford Folk Music Society*



Internationally acclaimed performer Toby Walker has been hailed as a roots music finger style guitar virtuoso. He combines the styles of blues, ragtime, country, bluegrass, rock and

old time jazz into his own unique style and he'll be putting it on display Saturday Nov. 9 as the Branford Folk Music Society continues its 40th Anniversary Concert Series. The concert will take place at 8 p.m. in the First Congregational Church of Branford on the Town Green. Admission is \$15 for non-members and \$5 for children 12 and under.

Walker has toured across America, England, Wales, France, Germany, Belgium and Holland and he's been the subject of profiles in *The New York Times*, *The London Sunday Times*, on the London BBC and on Sirius-XM radio. He's a recipient of the prestigious International Blues Challenge Award from the Blues Foundation in Memphis, Tennessee.

Renowned singer-songwriter David Massengill succinctly summed up Toby Walker: "[He] is that rare performer that takes your breath away. In my book he's in a class by himself. Standards and originals are played with flawless blues guitar technique and sung with gutsy panache. A showstopper and ringtail roarer."

Other upcoming concerts in the folk society's monthly series include the Virginia-based roots duo Honey Dewdrops on Dec. 14 and Mestizo Manta, a Peruvian groups that plays the ancient music of the Andes, on Jan. 11.



## *Branford Animal Shelter*

"Photos with Santa" is an annual event that happens the second Sunday in December every year.

This year the date is Sunday, December 8th from 1 - 3 p.m.

The donation is \$10.00 and you will receive your picture at the event.

We encourage children and all types of animals to participate! Both residents and surrounding communities are invited as well!

For more information please call 203-315-4125 and ask for Wendy Joyce or Laura Burban.

*Laura Burban, Director*



## *Economic Development Award*

Pictured (L to R) are First Selectman Unk DaRos and EDC chairman Joe Gordon presenting the award to First Student's Location Manager Melinda [Ward] Torelli and Location Assistant Manager Barbara [Ward] Neagle. The photograph displayed is of the first wagon used by the Ward business in its early days.

*Photo courtesy of Bill O'Brien.*



## The James Blackstone Memorial Library

Branford residents can now access a new collection of ebooks, using their Blackstone Library or Willoughby Wallace Library cards. The new service is called Axis 360. The library also offers access to a new collection of online magazines through Zinio. Magazines can be downloaded onto a variety of devices including tablets and smartphones. Indieflix provides access to streaming movies from major festivals all over the world, including Sundance, Cannes, Tribeca, and more! All you need is a library card and access to our website at [www.blackstonelibrary.org](http://www.blackstonelibrary.org).

A variety of regular and special programs are planned for the 2013/2014 winter:

**Tech Tuesdays @ 10:00 am**

November 5, 12, 19, 26 / December 3, 10, 17, 31 / January 7, 14, 21, 28

Need to set up an email account? Trying to figure out how to download an ebook? Want some tips on searching databases? We can help! Tech Tuesdays: one-on-one sessions with a librarian where you can get help with a technology-related question. Schedule an appointment today! 203-488-1441, ext 318 or [reference@blackstonelibrary.org](mailto:reference@blackstonelibrary.org).

**Knitting Group - Wednesdays @ 6:00 pm**

November 6, 13, 20 / December 4, 11, 18 / January 8, 15, 22, 29

This informal gathering is for knitters, crocheters, and other fiber craftspeople of all ages, from the beginner to the expert. First-time knitters welcome - coaches available.

**Tilde Café - Saturdays @ 3 PM**

November 2 / November 23 / January 11

Science cafés are live events that involve a face-to-face conversation with a scientist about current science topics. The November 2 program features Professor Nicholas Ouellette from the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science, Yale University. This discussion supports a nationwide education outreach campaign for PBS' Making Stuff. For information about future topics, visit [www.tildecafe.org](http://www.tildecafe.org) and join the mailing list.

**Mystery Book Club - First Wednesdays @ 3:00 pm**

November 6 / December 4

November's book is *Buried in a Bog* by Sheila Connolly. For information call Maryann Hall at 203-488-1536. Copies of the book are available at the library.

**App/Tablet Tips'n Tricks - Wednesday, November 6 @ 6:00 pm**

If you have questions about your iPad or tablet, or want to share your favorite app, or learn the best ones to download, stop by our Tips 'n Tricks Open Forum! We'll have iPads and other devices on hand for you to try out, or you can bring your own. Register today! 203-488-1441 ext 318 or [reference@blackstonelibrary.org](mailto:reference@blackstonelibrary.org).

**VNA Blood Pressure Clinic - Thursday, November 7 @ 12-1 pm**

Free, walk-in blood pressure clinics provided by VNA Community Healthcare. A nurse will be available to check your blood pressure and answer your health questions. Contact VNA Community Healthcare at 203.458.4200 or [ConnecticutHomecare.org](http://ConnecticutHomecare.org) for more information.

**Community Discussion - Sunday @ 2 pm**

November 3 / December 1 / January 5

Listen to an expert pro and con debate a provocative topic each month, then participate in an audience discussion. Moderator: Marc Schwartz.

**Yoga - Mondays @ 5:00 pm**

November 4, 18, 25 / December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 / January 6, 13, 20, 27

Cost is \$10 per class; please bring your own yoga mat. Questions? Contact Nolie Doak at [yogidoakie@earthlink.net](mailto:yogidoakie@earthlink.net).



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*James Blackstone Library... continued from page 5*

**Second Tuesday Book Club** - Tuesdays @ 6:45 pm  
November 12 / December 10 / January 14  
New members welcome; books available for loan in advance of the discussion. November's selection is *What Alice Forgot* by Liane Moriarty.

**The Women in Wyeth's World**  
Tuesday, November 12 @ 7 pm  
Time Magazine wrote about Andrew Wyeth, "A man of studied reclusiveness, Wyeth once described himself as "a secretive bastard." Psychobiographer Fred Biamonte will reveal some of his secrets by exploring his art through the relationships with significant women in his life. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

**Menunkatuck Audubon Society**  
Under South African Skies  
Wednesday, November 13 @ 7:00 pm  
The southern tip of Africa is one of the greatest biodiversity hotspots in the world and attracts birders, botanists and mammal enthusiasts from around the globe. Harboring a multitude of endemic birds, the classic African mammals, and a rich and unique botanical heritage, the multi-ethnic nation of South Africa stands out as a wonderful destination for nature enthusiasts. Gina Nichol, a past Menunkatuck Audubon board member, is a long-time birder and operator of her own bird study and ecotravel company, Sunrise Birding. Program is free and open to the public. Refreshments served. Information: 203-457-1699 or program@menunkatuck.org.

**Menunkatuck Audubon Society**  
Pre-Contact Archaeology Along the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut  
Wednesday, December 11 @ 7-9 pm  
The Appalachian Trail extends 2,175 miles from Georgia to Maine, and contains a great deal of archaeological sites. The National Park Service contracted the Connecticut State Archaeology department to survey the 52 miles of trail in north-western Connecticut for Native American sites. This lecture provides a description of the pre-contact Native American sites that were found and excavated on Connecticut's Appalachian Trail. Presented by Nicholas F. Bellantoni, state archaeologist with the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Archaeology Center at the University of Connecticut. Program is free and open to the public. Refreshments served. Information: 203-457-1699 or program@menunkatuck.org.

**Our Town-Community Reading**  
Saturday, November 16 @ 1-3 pm  
Join us for a community reading of *Our Town*, 1938's Pulitzer Prize winner, directed by Keely Knudsen of Branford's Legacy Theater. This classic play follows the small town of Grover's Corners through three acts: "The Daily Life", "Love and Marriage," and "Death and Eternity."

**MS Support Group** - Wednesdays @ 5:30 pm  
November 20 / December 18 / January 15  
New members welcome.  
Contact Cheryl Horner at 203-535-3053.

**Ask A Lawyer** - Thursdays @ 6 pm  
November 21 / December 19 / January 15  
Free fifteen-minute consultation with an attorney from the New Haven County Bar Association. Sign up in Reference 30 minutes before the scheduled time.

**Rave On!** - Sunday, November 24 @ 2-3:15  
Back by popular demand, *Rave On!* is a band that plays 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. The Rave On! band is made up of: Chris Roselle: Guitar and Lead Vocals, Pete Farley: Bass Guitar and background vocals, and Dan Guinta: Drums and back ground vocals. They perform at theaters, dinner shows, libraries, clubs, and special events throughout New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

**Opera Appreciation:** - Mondays @ 7 pm  
November 25 / December 30 / January 27  
Charlotte D'Aniello hosts Opera Appreciation, a lively look at the world of opera featuring a lecture and video. Each month features a different topic. Program is \$5, open to the public.

**Classical Music in Classic Cartoons**  
Tuesday, December 3 @ 7 pm  
Nicole Biamonte, Assistant Professor of Music Theory at McGill University in Montreal, will explore music, visual elements, and meaning in vintage cartoons with famous classical soundtracks. Dr. Biamonte holds a Ph.D. in Music Theory from Yale University, and a B.F.A. in Piano from SUNY Purchase. She recently published an edited collection of essays entitled *Pop Culture Tools for the Classroom*, and has also published articles on rock, jazz, and Beethoven. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

#### HOLIDAY CONCERTS @ BLACKSTONE

##### **Branford Town Band Holiday Concert**

Wednesday December 4 @ 7-8 pm

##### **Salon of New Music**

Saturday, December 7 @ 1-3 pm

##### **Music Makers**

Sunday, December 8 @ 2-4 pm

Join the Branford High School Music Makers for a special holiday performance. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

##### **Affordable Healthcare Act**

Tuesday December 7, @ 6-7 PM

Randi Oster is a leading speaker on Health Care Reform, and she'll be here to explain to you how it all works and what you need to do. Register today! 203-488-1441 ext 318 or reference@blackstonelibrary.org

*Continued on bottom, page 7*

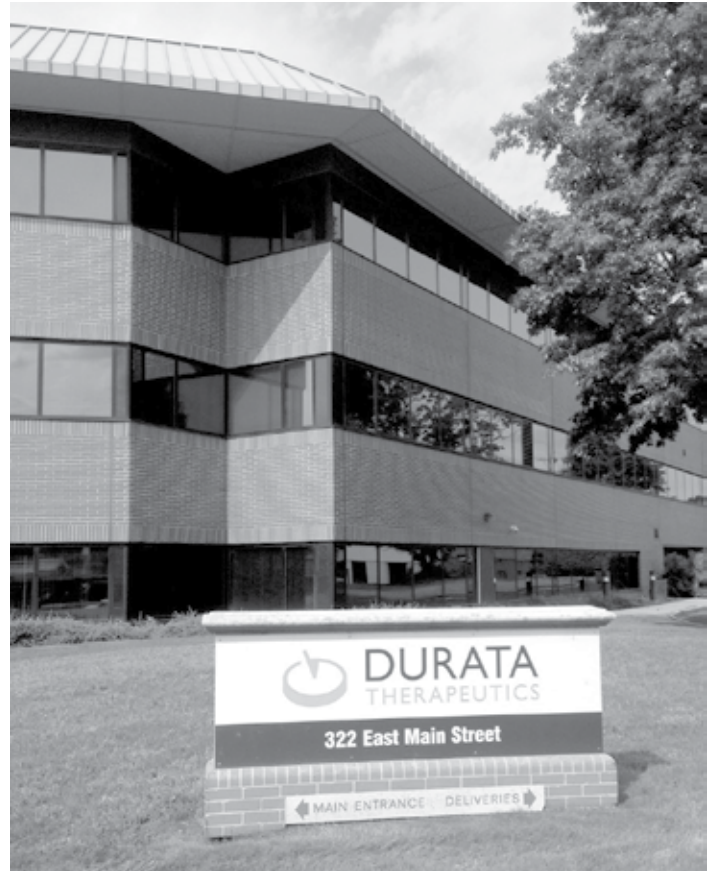


## *Branford Economic Development Commission*

Branford is now home to Durata Therapeutics, a new biotech company developing treatments for infectious diseases. With its headquarters in Chicago, the new company has located its technical operations at 322 East Main St., on Rte. 1 near Exit 55.

A recent visit by Governor Malloy included a tour of the facility and a discussion with company executives about their work and growth plans. The state provided funding, requested by Representative Lonnie Reed with assistance from Representative Pat Widlitz, to help enable the company to open in Branford. The funding program, through the state's Department of Economic and Community Development, supports R&D companies to start up and expand in Connecticut. In addition to the state's support, Durata was attracted to the Branford site because of the town's available workforce, infrastructure, municipal services, and low taxes. Accompanying the Governor on his visit were DECD Commissioner Catherine Smith, Representatives Reed and Widlitz, First Selectman Unk DaRos, EDC Chair Joe Gordon, and Senator Ed Meyer.

At its September meeting the Branford Economic Development Commission presented First Student with its "Business Recognition Award". The EDC periodically presents its 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. First Selectman Unk DaRos and EDC chairman Joe Gordon presented the award to First Student's Location Manager Melinda [Ward] Torelli and Location Assistant Manager Barbara [Ward] Neagle. Ms. Neagle and Ms. Torelli are the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of the Wards to work in the business started by their family in the 1800s with a horse and wagon transporting people to Guilford and back. Today, First Student transports six million students each day from its facilities across the country. The Branford Economic Development Commission is pleased to welcome the following new members of Branford's



business community: Connex Credit Union, F. E. Hall & Co., Husqvarna Construction Products, New England Orthotic and Prosthetic Systems, Old Quarry Olive Oil, Prism Office Equipment, and Envy Boutique on Main Street across from the green.

*James Blackstone Library... continued from page 6*

### **National Letter Writing Week Workshop**

Monday January 6 @ 7-8 pm

Join Carol Christmas, artist and letter carrier, for an informative talk about creative handwritten letters.

### **Watercolor Demonstration**

Tuesday, January 14 @ 7-8 pm

Branford artist Maureen Wilkinson will draw and paint a watercolor. You will see the evolution of the painting, going from the blank paper, to the sketch, and finally to a colorful image. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

### **The Battle at Gettysburg - 150 Years Later**

Thursday, January 30 @ 7-8 pm

Lecture with Dr. Richard Young

### **Winter Holiday Closings**

November 10 & 11 for Veterans Day

November 27-close at 5 pm

November 28 closed for Thanksgiving

December 24-close at 5 pm

December 25 closed for Christmas

December 31-close at 5 pm

January 1-closed for New Year's Day

January 19 & 20 closed - Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

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# Events

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**Publisher**

William E. McMinn

**Director of Advertising/Operations**

Suzanne Spires 860-391-5534

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Kathy Alsop 860-391-4372

**Accounting**

Donna Evarts

**Cover Editor**

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**Sales Representatives**

Ward Feirer

[wfeirer@gmail.com](mailto:wfeirer@gmail.com) 914-806-5500

Betty Martelle

[betty@eventsmagazines.com](mailto:betty@eventsmagazines.com) 860-333-7117

Erin Colwell

[erin@eventsmagazines.com](mailto:erin@eventsmagazines.com) 860-581-0577

**Magazine Layout**

Amy Bransfield & Patricia Stenbeck

**COVER PHOTO:**

**Branford Community House by T. Elton**

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## Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library Stony Creek

### UPCOMING EVENTS

The Cultural Context of "Downton Abbey" continues with Professor Mark Schenker leading a discussion of "The Edwardians" by Vita Sackville-West on November 19 and "The Remains of the Day" by Kazuo Ishiguro on December 17. Both programs begin at 7:00 p.m.

On November 14, the Friends of WWML are sponsoring a workshop by Colleen McDonald - "Bliss: Creating the Holiday You Deserve Managing Conflict and Finding Peace". This program begins at 7:00 p.m. Colleen McDonald will return in February to offer a four part series: Jump Start Your Writing: Tell Your Own Story with a Memoir or Journal.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 30 for the Gingerbread Workshop. 10:00 a.m. Registration required.

Check our website, <http://www.wwml.org/> for weekly children's storytimes and activities and our monthly teen programs. Magazines, Films, downloadable ebooks and audiobooks are all available online from the Library.

Check out our new Zinio digital magazine service and Indieflix for independent films; all available with your library card. Library located at 146 Thimble Islands Road, Stony Creek - phone: 203-488-8702.

*Alice Pentz, Library Director  
Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library*



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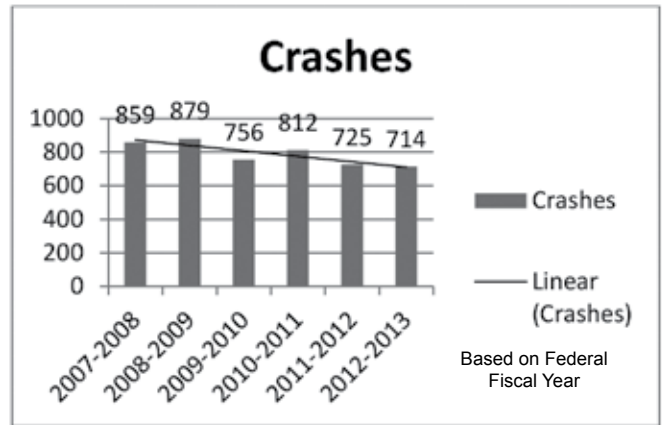
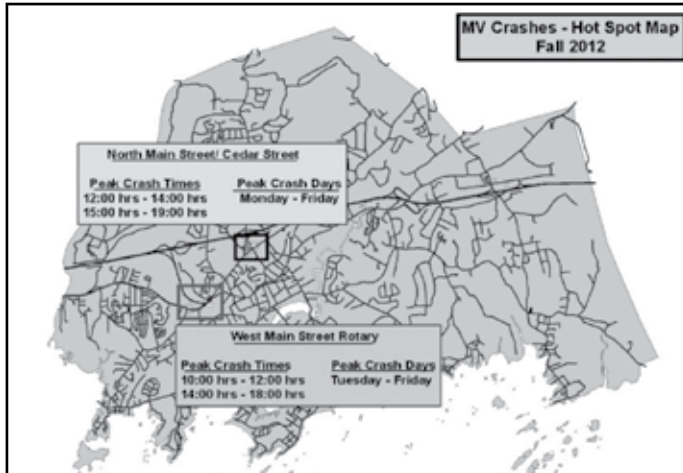
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## Branford Police Department



Since 2008, the Branford Police Department adopted new strategies in policing, changing our agency's mission and implemented CompStat. CompStat is a "strategic control system" designed for the collection and feedback of information on crime and related quality of life issues.

The CompStat process can be summarized in one simple statement: "Collect, analyze, and map crime data and other essential police performance measures on a regular basis, and hold police managers accountable for their performance as measured by this data."

Our department's mission was also changed and one of the elements of the new mission is to "reduce traffic crashes". Utilizing CompStat we have been able to predict when and where crashes are most likely to occur, with about 66% accuracy, and direct our officers to enforce aggressive driving and distracted driving violations to change the behaviors of the driving community.

Our enforcement efforts have proven to be effective and have resulted in a decline of traffic crashes. We have successfully reduced traffic crashes town wide by 20% and by greater percentages in isolated hot spot areas since the inception of

the management change, therefore reducing the probability of being involved in a traffic crash.

Nationally, police have been scrutinized for their conduct during motor vehicle stops. In Connecticut, effective October 1, 2013, laws have been passed to prevent police officers from stopping motorists based on race, ethnicity/ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion or in a protected class. Officers are now required to provide instructions to motorists they stop on how to file complaints against officers who they believe stopped them for the above reasons. We also encourage citizens to compliment officers when they think they did a good job.

Our officers are proud to showcase their work and maintain transparency with the community. Our officers are either equipped with body worn video cameras or a video camera mounted in the patrol vehicle and record interactions with the community during motor vehicle stops.



Body Worn Video Camera

*Please drive safely,  
Chief Kevin Halloran*

## November is Adopt A Senior Pet Month

We all know how easy it is to be a pet owner of a young kitten or new born puppy. Over the years as I cared for my pets and worked with the pets of other people I was surprised to find that I was becoming attached to the older senior pets. Puppies and kittens are known to offer a lifetime of happiness and joy to their owners.

But did you ever consider the Benefits of adopting a senior pet? They too, make their owners happy and give them tons of joy. The list from petfinder.com is a tribute to the enjoyment of adopting a senior pet:

- Adopted senior pets seem to understand and are thankful for it
- Senior pets' personalities are already established, an easy match for an adoptive family
- Senior pets are easier

to train than a distracted young pet

- Senior pets may have already mastered basic commands
- Senior pets are already housetrained
- Senior pets are fully grown, no guessing how big!
- Senior pets are content to be by your side
- Senior pets make great napping buddies
- Senior pets know what not to chew or scratch
- Senior pets are difficult to place, so when you adopt one you are truly saving a life!

If you are now thinking of adopting a pet, please consider the advantages of adopting a senior pet and start enjoying the happiness they provide.

Carol Parmelee,  
Hooves, Hounds, & Whiskers Pet Sitting

## Flu Shots

Do You Plan to Get Vaccinated from the Flu This Year?

These are the top 5 reasons that you should get your flu shot this year:

- #1. The flu is serious. Symptoms include fever, body aches, headache, cough, and sore throat. It can lead to a bacterial infection, such as an ear infection or pneumonia. In severe cases, the flu can cause death.
- #2. Influenza is a virus that changes from year to year, so last year's vaccination won't protect you this year.
- #3. By getting vaccinated, you protect yourself and you avoid spreading the flu to those around you.
- #4. Getting a flu shot each year is the best way to protect yourself. It is convenient and inexpensive.
- #5. The flu shot is safe, and it can't give you the flu.

The East Shore District Health Department will host a Community Flu Clinic on Saturday, November 16 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am at the Health Department office at 14 Business Park Rd, Branford.

Flu vaccinations will also be available every Thursday as a drop in during November or by appointment at other times at the Health Department during November, December and January. Call 203-481-4233 to schedule your vaccination or if you have any questions

Cost of Shots: Insurance we accept includes: Anthem BC/BS, Connecticut, Medi-Blue, Medicare Part B and Cigna. The cost of vaccine for those not covered by insurance will be



\$25.00. Children younger than 18 years old must be accompanied by a parent. Remember, vaccination is the best way to prevent getting the flu.

*Michael Pascucilla, Director, ESDHD*

## Planning and Zoning Department

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the community. My name is José Giner and I am excited to be the new Town Planner for the Town of Branford. I have a tough act to follow with the retirement of Shirley Rasmussen after over 26 years of service but I hope that people will find the transition seamless - especially with the continued support of an excellent Department staff that Shirley assembled.

I graduated from Tufts University with a B.A. in Political Science. I have over 34 years of experience in the Planning profession - the last fifteen years as the Director of Planning and Community Development with the Town of Enfield. Prior to that I also worked in North Branford, Westport, Killington, Vermont and East Windsor. I hope that my background and experience will help me provide sound advice to the people of Branford as they deal with a diverse and unique set of planning challenges.

My number one priority has always been to provide superior customer service and I hope to continue that focus in my new position.

One of my responsibilities with the town is to oversee our Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program. Through this program the town is offering funds for use by income eligible residential property owners for housing rehabilitation projects at very favorable terms. Please contact our office at 203-488-1255 for more information on the program.

Our staff is available Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feel free to contact or visit us for information or aid with your local planning or zoning-related concerns. While we are always open for counter service, we ask that you call ahead to make an appointment so we can set aside time to give you the attention you deserve.

*José Giner, AICP, Town Planner*

## Shoreline Arts Trail

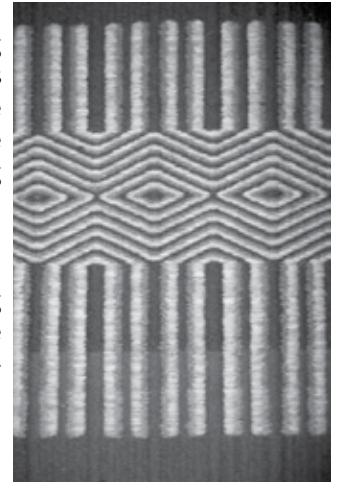
### Open Studios Weekend November 23 & 24

The Shoreline ArtsTrail is pleased to present a community of 47 local artists during its 12th annual Open Studios



Weekend, November 23 and 24, from 10 am to 4 pm along the Connecticut Shoreline. This is a great chance to meet the artists, explore their studios, see amazing art and find something beautiful to take home.

For specific locations and more information about events, discount offers and participating artists, pick up a copy of the Shoreline ArtsTrail map, available in libraries, town halls, Connecticut welcome centers, and visitors' centers in Branford, Guilford and Madison, as well as at the Guilford Art Center and the various studios. Contact Martha Link Walsh at (203) 481-3505 or visit [www.shorelineartstrail.com](http://www.shorelineartstrail.com), and its companion blog or Facebook page, for more information.



Martha Link Walsh  
Martha Link Walsh Gallery

## Shoreline Arts Trail



*Canoe Brook went ziplining Oct. 9, what's next ?*

Canoe Brook participants, who range in age from 60-103, are as diverse as the programs we offer. Current programs are designed to provide opportunities for fitness, personal growth and intellectual stimulation, while connecting with others... A complete listing of our programs, daily activities, & services can be found online at <http://www.branford-ct.gov/senior.htm>. Here's a sampling of upcoming trips, special events and activities planned (as of press deadline).

### November

Tech Tutor 11/4, 18, 25  
Genealogy Group 11/4  
Craft Fair 11/5  
Trip: Chamber Music 11/6  
Smartphone Savvy 11/6  
Lunch & Movie 11/8  
Newcomers Breakfast 11/9  
Hot Topics 11/12  
Intro to Computers 11/13  
Trip: British Art Museum 11/13  
Sen. Meyer's Senior Fair 11/14  
Email Basics 11/19 & 21  
Triad: Insurance Fraud  
Low Vision Support 11/19  
Chanukah Dinner 11/20  
Blood Pressure Clinic 11/21  
Closed: 11/11, 11/28, 11/29

### December

Tech Tutor 12/2, 9, 16  
Fantasy of Lights 12/2  
Hot Topics 12/3  
Book Club 12/3  
Trip: Newport Mansions 12/4  
Trip: Westbook Outlets 12/5  
Low Vision Support 12/10  
Lunch Bunch 12/11  
Rotary Dinner 12/12  
Holiday Shop 12/13, 12/16  
Lunch & Movie 12/13  
Holiday Party at Chowder  
Pot w/band 12/18  
Blood Pressure Clinic 12/21  
Midnight at Noon 12/27  
Closed: 1/2 day 12/24, 12/31  
All day: 12/25

### January

Tech Tutor 1/6, 13, 27  
Shingles Clinic (date TBA)  
Low Vision Support 1/7  
Trip: TJMaxx & Expect 1/9  
Trip: UConn Women's  
Basketball at Harbor Yard vs Temple (daytime game)  
AARP Smart Driver Class 1/14  
Hot Topics 1/14  
Book Club 1/14  
Lunch Bunch 1/15  
Blood Pressure 1/16  
Trip: Bishops & Walmart 1/23  
Lunch & Movie 1/24  
Trip: Titanic the Musical  
Westchester Theater 1/30  
Closed: 1/1 & 1/20



## *St. Mary's Ladies Guild Annual Christmas Bazaar*

December 7<sup>th</sup> St Mary School 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Shop all the booths brimming with a variety of Christmas gift ideas.

- ~ Unique Hand crafted items
- ~ Holiday inspired Greenery centerpieces, wreaths, & trees.
- ~ Jewelry, bangles and baubles glittering in silver and gold
- ~ Theme gift baskets
- ~ Assorted Raffle baskets
- ~ Christmas Trim a home to decorate and light up your holidays
- ~ Bake shop filled with yummy baked delicacies
- ~ Candy Shoppe featuring an assortment of homemade fudge, bark, truffles etc.
- ~ White Elephant search and discover the hidden treasures
- ~ Candy Land Café gather for breakfast, lunch or a simple snack & coffee
- ~ Don't forget to top it all off with a Ben and Jerry ice cream cone



We will be selling raffle tickets for our handcrafted quilt. Check out the expert workmanship and design. Holiday music will be played throughout the day plus appearances by the Branford High School Choir and the St. Mary School Fife and Drum Corp.

Peace on Earth will come to stay ... When we live Christmas every day. As you relish the goodies, decorate every nook and corner of your home and enjoy the get-together... May the joy and festivities continue to radiate in your lives, long after Christmas is gone. Merry Christmas...Happy New Year!

## *Holiday Wrapping Paper Program*

The Solid Waste and Recycling Department is excited to inform you that we are introducing a Holiday Wrapping Paper Recycling Program for the upcoming holiday season. This Program is not only new to the Town of Branford, but is the first of its kind in the State! Many thanks are due to Etta Hanlon, a Branford High School student, who brought the concept to my attention.

In the coming months, please be on the lookout for special collection bags which will be available at various locations throughout town for collecting your recyclable holiday paper. Please see below for a list of acceptable wrapping materials. Simply 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

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

Dan McGowan, Solid Waste Supervisor  
dmcgowan@branford-ct.gov

## Branford Parks and Recreation



Photo Courtesy of Bill O'Brien

### "WHERE THE BENEFITS ARE ENDLESS"

In continuing to support its philosophy of "Recreation... Where the benefits are endless", the Branford Parks and Recreation Department dedicates itself to running programs, both active and passive, to promote a positive and healthy lifestyle for all.

Now celebrating its Golden Anniversary, the Branford Community House, the proud home of the Branford Parks & Recreation Department, will be observing its 50th anniversary with an Open House on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, starting at 1:00 p.m. On this day, the general public is invited to partake in celebrating the town's recreation programs, activities, and history behind the construction of the current building on 46 Church Street. In late September, the Community House parking lot was renovated in conjunction with its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary milestone and all attending the ceremony will be witness to the completed project. For more information, please contact the Recreation Department at 203-488-8304.

Beginning in the fall, the department provides movement and rhythm classes and music classes for Toddlers ages 12 months to five years of age Tuesday to Friday mornings. The Department stands behind its afterschool and youth activities, ranging from Tae Kwon Do and afterschool hoops for kindergarten and first grade, to tennis lessons and gymnastics for walking age to 10 years old, arts and crafts workshops for ages five to 12, and the ever-popular Toddler Halloween Party and Parade. Swim lessons for children are run year round at the Walsh Intermediate School Swimming Pool, on Saturdays for ages four on up during the school year. The Branford Junior Basketball League for grades two thru eight begins in November and runs thru mid-February. Registration for the league began in late September and early October.

For adults, a wide variety of programs are featured including: swim lessons, Aqua Zumba and yoga. The annual men's basketball league for Branford residents ages 18 and older runs from the beginning of October thru mid February on Thursday nights with games at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. Sponsors of the teams include Branford Book & Card, G & G Earth Materials, Trap Runner, Warner Construction, WS Clancy Funeral Home and V.F. McNeil Insurance. For those interested in open hoop times for the general public, you can visit the Joe Trapasso Gymnasium inside the Branford Community House at the following times: Monday-8:30-10:30 p.m. ages 18 and over, while Tuesday, Friday and Saturday night hours are from 7:30-9:30 p.m. for all age hoops.

The Walsh Intermediate School Swimming Pool on Damascus Road is home to general public open swim hours for Branford residents. Monday and Friday, the pool is open for all age swim from 7:30-9:15 p.m. and on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday night hours are for Adults only from 7:30-9:15 p.m. Saturday weekend hours for family swim starts at 1:15 and ends at 3:15 p.m. A complete pool schedule is available at the W.I.S. Pool office during open swim time or online at [www.branfordrecreation.org](http://www.branfordrecreation.org).

In the winter, holiday programs highlight the Recreation Department's event festivities. All Branford children who are registered can expect calls from Santa or can send a letter to Santa. Those who are in the decorated spirit can enter the Holiday House Decorating Contest and win prizes. The town's Tree Lighting Spectacular on the Branford Town Green is held Thanksgiving Saturday starting at 5:00 p.m. All toddlers can visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus in conjunction with the Branford Recreation Department's Toddler Class.

The Annual Branford Sports Hall of Fame, honoring athletes, coaches, fans, sports journalists and others in the athletic spectrum who have brought pride, honor and prestige to the town of Branford will once again set center stage at its 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala on Friday, November 22nd at Woodwinds Restaurant on 29 School Ground Road. This year's honorees include: Dr. Katherine P. Andriole, Jennifer Baird Hamilton, Mark J. Borrelli, Mary Kate Conte Andrews, Edwin J. Dingus, Christine Esposito, Liza Grudzinski, Alex Palluzzi, Jr., Reuben Taylor and the 1988 and 1990 Branford High School State Champion Girls Swim Teams. Tickets for the dinner are \$50.00 per person and can be purchased by calling Andrea Steady at (203)488-8304.

For any additional information, you can call the Recreation Department at (203)488-8304 or log into our website at [www.branfordrecreation.org](http://www.branfordrecreation.org).

*Alex Palluzzi, Jr., Director  
Branford Department of Recreation*

*"You folks [at Essex Printing and Events Magazines] were easy to work with, exacting in detail, and produced our jobs quickly and exactly as we needed them done."*

*- Literacy Volunteers Valley Shore, CT, Inc.*

## *BCTV - Branford's Precious Gem*



There is a gem close to Branford's town center and although it is not a diamond or a sapphire, it is valuable and it shines. This special place is the headquarters of Branford

Community Television, commonly known as BCTV. Many residents will know of BCTV as viewers, but BCTV is trying to get the word out that this little jewel on Kirkham Street offers many opportunities for Branford residents to become active contributors, as well.

A click onto one of BCTV's three public access stations, or a visit to our up to the minute website ([www.branfordtv.org](http://www.branfordtv.org)) will reveal many exciting developments. From new television shows for all ages such as Carl Yard's edgy talk show "Real Life," and Marc Schwartz's, "Healthy Aging," and the acquisition of cutting edge equipment, to live broadcasts of town meetings, BCTV is staying current and evolving to meet the community's desire for locally produced entertainment and information.

In addition to a knowledgeable permanent staff, we also run a high school and college internship program. Our interns are simultaneously learning about television production from our pros, while keeping BCTV fresh and relevant to our culture where smartphones have replaced flip phones and technology is changing by the second! To that end, BCTV is also utilizing

social media outlets such as Youtube and Twitter to ensure that our content is seen by all facets of our community.

Local television really is the perfect forum for organizations to publicize their events, for town government meetings to be seen by all, and for Branford citizens to realize their own dreams to be on television. No prior experience is necessary because BCTV is here to train and work with anyone who expresses interest in moving forward with their television production ideas.

All you have to do is call our station manager, Walter Mann, and you too can sparkle and shine!



## *Building Department*

### **Be prepared for the season**

With the change of season fast approaching, we should all take the time to make sure we are ready, part of this process relies on you.

With our heating equipment starting up for the first time of the season, take the time to examine the condition of your equipment. Start your equipment and make sure it is in proper working order for supplying either heat or hot water. Take the time to examine the condition of your equipment including the venting of your equipment. Make sure all connections look secure and free of rot or corrosion, listen to the sound of your equipment running and stopping. Any unusual sounds, noises or if something just does not look right to you should be further investigated by a licensed technician. Make sure all direct vent equipment intake and exhausts are free and clear at the termination points on your exterior.

Now is the time to also make sure your Smoke detectors and Carbon Monoxide detectors are in proper working order within your home. Change out any detectors that are ten years of age or older and replace the batteries in all detectors throughout your home. Make sure each level of your home has at least one Smoke detector. All sleeping rooms should have a proper working Smoke detector and install a Carbon Monoxide detector outside each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedroom.

A simple inexpensive device such as a Smoke detector or Carbon Monoxide detector could possibly save someone's life one day. Please feel free to contact us at 203-315-0674 we would be happy to assist you with any questions you may have.

*Anthony Cinicola  
Building Official*

## *The Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut*

The Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut has many programs to offer those living with epilepsy. In particular, we offer 7 support groups throughout the state. Our newest group is meeting in Guilford for adults living with epilepsy and parents of children with epilepsy. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

at Guilford Parks & Recreation 32 Church Street Guilford, Connecticut 06437.

Those interested in attending meetings are asked to please RSVP, to the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut by calling 800-899-3745 or emailing Allison at [Allison@epilepsyct.com](mailto:Allison@epilepsyct.com). Offices are located at 386 Main St., Middletown, CT.





BRANFORD LAND TRUST

# NATURE EXPLORER PROGRAM



Land Trust and the Town of Branford, and to learn about various aspects of nature found there, such as birds, trees, wild flowers, or how to identify animal tracks.

We have also had several shows with live animals: one with birds of prey and another with reptiles and amphibians, and we hope to have another event with live animals again this year, since it is so exciting to see live animals that live right here in Connecticut!

Included in the Nature Explorer Program are also some of the Land Trust's traditional annual events, such as the Branford River Parade, where non-motorized boats go down the Branford River from the high school to Branford Point, the pre-Thanksgiving walk on the Van Wie property, which is the Land Trust's largest holding, and the New Year's Day walk.

Please be sure to go to the BLT website to check out the calendar to see what events are scheduled for the upcoming months, including:

## November 24

Annual Pre-Thanksgiving Day walk on Van Wie Preserve, Sunday, November 24, 1:00 p.m. Join us for BLT's annual walk at the lovely Van Wie Preserve. Directions: from Leetes Island Road, turn east onto Red Hill Road. Meet at the trailhead.

## January 1

ANNUAL NEW YEARS DAY WALK at the Supply Ponds, Wednesday, January 1, 1 PM. See the first and largest preserve in Branford, and where the Queach Preserve adjoins the property. Meet at the main parking area. From Route 1 take either Mill Plan Rd. and then the first left onto Short Rocks Rd., or take Chestnut St., which goes directly into the preserve. For questions, please call 203-415-1571.

## January 18 & February 22

ANIMAL TRACKING CLASSES Saturday, January 18 and Saturday February 22, 9:30 AM. Join Tom Cleveland and Chris Woerner to learn how to increase your awareness of the natural world. Meet at the Regional Water Authority Parking lot on the north side of Hosely Ave, which is down Hosely Ave. 0.3 miles from Brushy Plain Rd. (near the large water tower at the top of the hill). Bad weather dates: January 19 and February 23). For questions, contact Tom at 203-981-9040 or tomclevelandjr@gmail.com.

*Hope to see you soon on the trails!*

In 2009, the Branford Land Trust started the Nature Explorer Program to help Branford residents, both adults and children, learn more about the natural environment of our hometown. All together, there have been around eight programs scheduled each year. And, each event is FREE and open to the public!

This program was inspired by the terrific response of Branfordites to activities at the BLT 40th Anniversary picnic held in 2008, where there was a scavenger hunt, live animals, a display from the Peabody Museum of natural artifacts, and a walk around Young's Pond.

Most Nature Explorer programs take place out-of-doors to familiarize people with some of the trails maintained by the



## *Stony Creek Fife & Drum Corps*



### **Stony Creek Fife & Drum Corps seeking new membership.**

The Stony Creek Fife & Drum Corps, one of the most well known Fife & Drum Corps in New England, is looking for new members. Male individuals from age 10 and up can participate. The Corps provides free membership and instruction. No experience necessary. There are openings in all of the sections, Color Guard, Fife, Snare drum, and Bass drum.

The "Creek", as known by many, provides structure and discipline with its well known patriotic music and uniformity. The Stony Creek Fife & Drum Corps has been continuously active since 1886. The Corps participates in St Patrick's Day Parades, Memorial Day parades, 4th of July, and many Fife &

Drum Musters and other special events throughout the year.

Practice is held every Thursday night at 7:30 pm at the Corps own practice hall, Seaside Hall, 215 Thimble Island Road in the village of Stony Creek.

To contact the Corps:  
Ken Avery - [kenneth\\_avery@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kenneth_avery@sbcglobal.net) or visit our website [www.stonycreekdrumcorps.org](http://www.stonycreekdrumcorps.org).

### **The Corps will be participating in the following upcoming events:**

Branford Veteran's Day Parade on Sunday, November 10th  
Branford Holiday Parade on Saturday, November 30th

## *Fall Wines*

Fall is here and the cooler temperatures call for some fuller-bodied red and white wines. Two great varietals that come to mind are Malbec and Torrontes, which are both mostly produced in Argentina.

The red varietal, Malbec, originated in France, and is used for blending in small amounts in Bordeaux, and in larger quantities in Languedoc. In France, Malbec tends to be drier than in Argentina due to the soil and the climate. The long warm season in Argentina allows for Malbec to become full and juicy, which enables it to stand on its own as a varietal in the wine-making process. The flavors are rich with dark fruit such as black cherry, cassis and blackberry. Malbec does maintain its dry finish and also can acquire a slight spicy component. Malbec is also blended with Cabernet Sauvignon, Bonnard, and Syrah in Argentina to create huge red blends that knock your socks off. These blends can be over-looked due to the huge

popularity of red blends in California right now, but they are definitely worth trying for a fuller, spicier mouth-feel.

Torrontes is a white varietal widely grown in Argentina. It is a unique and unusual varietal showing a floral nose with complex fruit flavors of apricot, and citrus fruits with a medium dry finish. Torrontes has a heavier mouth-feel, like that of a Chardonnay, but with a lighter finish. This varietal is a great pairing for lemon chicken or heavier seafood dishes.

Although the lazy days of summer have dwindled away, the beautiful New England fall weather calls for more barbecues and gatherings. Being extremely versatile, both Malbec and Torrontes pair with almost any fare you choose to serve up. So take a step away from your every-day go-to wines and serve up some South American treats!

*Art Lipuma, Manager  
Spirits of Madison*

## 2013 Leaf Collection Schedule

November							December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2	1	2 🍂	3 🍂	4 🍂	5 🍂	6 🍂	7
3	4 🍂	5 🍂	6 🍂	7 🍂	8 🍂	9	8	9 🍂	10 🍂	11 🍂	12 🍂	13 🍂	14
10	11H	12 🍂	13 🍂	14 🍂	15 🍂	16	15	16 🍂	17 🍂	18 🍂	19 🍂	20 🍂	21
17	18 🍂	19 🍂	20 🍂	21 🍂	22 🍂	23	22	23	24	25H	26	27	28
24	25	26	27	28H	29	30	29	30	31				

🍂 - Leaf Collection Day

H – Holiday, Transfer Station is Closed

If a Holiday is on a Monday, ALL COLLECTIONS ARE DELAYED ONE DAY

Beginning on November 4th and continuing thru December 20th, except for Thanksgiving week, the town will be collecting leaves curbside. 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.

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.

*Dan McGowan  
Solid Waste Supervisor*

## SPOTLIGHT

**on our newest Branford Events customer!**

DIVORCE FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS, LLC

EDIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

POPPIES CHILDRENS RESALE CLOTHING

WINDOW PRODUCTS



# Branford WPCA



priority on courteously serving the public and protecting human health and the environment.

### Function

The primary function of the WPCF is the efficient operation and maintenance of the Town of Branford wastewater facility and collection system. The Superintendent is charged with directing efforts of the WPCF towards the utility's mission (in a cost-effective manner).

The Town of Branford operates and maintains an expansive sewer system with over 100 miles of underground sewer pipe, 50 sewage pumping stations, and a wastewater treatment plant located at 75 Block Island Road. The sewers and pumping stations collect an average 4 million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater and then direct it toward the centralized facility for treatment and eventual discharge from a subaqueous outfall located within Branford Harbor. During the past year, the plant treated over one billion gallons of wastewater.

The Town of Branford has established a Sewer Commission designated as the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) to exercise all powers and authority over the Town of Branford Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) as set forth in municipal statutes.

### Goal

Our wastewater facility (and collection system) is a publicly owned treatment works dedicated to providing the efficient transportation and treatment of wastewater from the town of Branford. Wastewater personnel will place their highest

The 2013-2014 Town's fiscal budget dictates the wastewater plant day-to-day operations are covered by a \$3.4 million Enterprise Fund-Operating Budget which is funded through 1) a Sewer Utility Fund, 2) the fees collected from the sewer utility bills charged to residents, 3) septage receiving fees from the various haulers, and 4) nutrient removal credits (monies).

*Dan Gregory  
WPCA and WPCF Supervisor*

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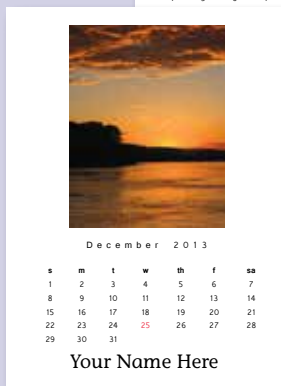
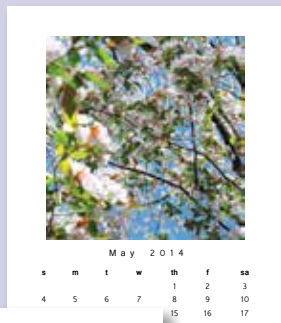
<b>Department</b>	<b>Name / Title</b>	<b>Phone (203)</b>	<b>Email</b>
Animal Shelter	Laura Burban - Director	315-4125	lburban@branford-ct.gov
Assessor's Office	Barbara Neal - Assessor	488-2039	bneal@branford-ct.gov
Building Department	Anthony Cinicola - Building Official	315-0674	acinicola@branford-ct.gov
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	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	José Giner – Town Planner	488-1255	jginer@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	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	Anthony DaRos – First Selectman	488-8394	adaros@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	Marianne Kelly -Town Clerk	315-0678	mkelly@branford-ct.gov
Willoughby Wallace Library	Alice Pentz - Librarian	488-8702	apentz@branford-ct.gov
Water Treatment	Dan Gregory - Supervisor	488-3125	dgregory@banford-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

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