

# Branford events

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## First Selectman's Corner

As we end a relatively mild winter, I would like to express my appreciation to the Public Works Department, Recreation Department and other town departments that worked throughout the winter to clear the snow making our community safe for our residents and visitors and to minimize the disruptions to our business community. Spring is an exciting and busy time of year and traditionally the starting point for many new projects. As the warmer weather approaches we look forward to the start and completion of several major projects around town. Below is an overview of what is happening around our community over the next several months.

The Town continues to make progress with a number of projects in town. Quisenberry Arcari Architects, LLC is working on the plans for the Senior Center/Community House Renovation and Expansion project, the Public Building Commission is in the process of completing the grant application to secure reimbursement from the State for the Walsh Intermediate School renovation project, and we are making improvements to the Town's wastewater treatment plant and collection system.

The State is progressing with several infrastructure projects as well. The expansion of the train station at Maple & Kirkham Streets has a spring or early summer target date for completion. These improvements include a new drop-off "kiss & ride" point for rail commuters, a new pedestrian bridge connecting to the main station and platform, new steps leading from Kirkham Street down to the bridge, and additional parking on Meadow Street, where the train station originally stood. Across town, plans are progressing to replace the North Branford Road / Rte. 139 Bridge. This project is

the third component of a larger plan initiated several years ago to improve the roads and bridges on the east end of town. The other two were the redesign and construction of the intersection of North Branford, School Ground and Valley Roads at the North Branford town line, and the complete redesign and replacement of the School Ground Road Bridge.

Meanwhile, we are fully engaged in preparing the Town's FY 2016-2017 budget. We are identifying priorities, balancing needs, and implementing efficiencies. I am confident that we will meet our goals and will continue to provide the best services possible to our residents and businesses, while keeping an eye on the bottom line. The Town's established process of public hearings with the Board of Finance and the RTM through March and April is unfolding according to schedule, and will culminate in May with the adoption of the FY 2016-2017 budget. As the onset of Spring is traditionally a time to clean up after winter and to get ready for better weather and a more active schedule, I encourage everyone to keep up to speed with the many activities and issues in town – Branford offers a full calendar of concerts, exhibits, festivals and activities for all ages and interests. It's easily done through the Town's website - [www.branford-ct.gov](http://www.branford-ct.gov), BCTV channels 18, 19 and 20, this Events publication, and by personally getting involved with any of the Town's many organizations, boards and commissions that are of interest to you.

Sincerely, James B. Cosgrove, First Selectman



James B. Cosgrove

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## CDR Walkathon 2016



CDR Walkathon 2016 Celebrates “Week of the Young Child” with the Branford Early Childhood Collaborative.



*The Artist Who Painted A Blue Horse* by, Eric Carle

The Community Dining Room holds its 13th Annual Shoreline Walkathon on Saturday, April 23 with registration starting at 9:00 am on the Branford Green. Enjoy Music, Glitter Tattoos, Balloon Magic, Starbucks Coffee, raffles, prizes and so much more. All proceeds will benefit the Community Dining Room (CDR). The Shoreline Walkathon attracts hundreds of participants each year who walk, run or stroll while helping to feed local families in need.

Participants will travel a three mile route from the Branford Green to Foote Park and back to the Town Green. It's a wonderful way to enjoy a Saturday morning with family and friends while supporting a critical community resource.

Our 2016 Grand Marshal is Senator, Ted Kennedy, Jr., CDR's “Superstar”, with Branford's home town celebrity Chris Velardi as Master of Ceremony.

*To register or become a sponsor go to: [www.communitydiningroom.org](http://www.communitydiningroom.org)* Registration prior to April 21st will be discounted. Prizes will be awarded for the Team raising the most money, the individual raising the most money, and the most creative team name.

Contact: Jayne Nunziant, Fundraising Director, The Community Dining Room, call 203-530-5880 or email [Jayne4cdr@gmail.com](mailto:Jayne4cdr@gmail.com)

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# Celebrating The Week Of The Young Child™ 2016



The Branford Early Childhood Collaborative (BECC) and their community

partners throughout Branford are celebrating The Week of the Young Child™, an annual event sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers and families.

Throughout town you will find many fun, educational activities during the week of April 17th-23rd, 2016. Kicking off with One Book One Town, the BECC is distributing over 1200 books during this campaign to early childhood centers, preschools and playgroups in March. The book

this year is, *The Artist Who Painted A Blue Horse*, by Eric Carle.

On Tuesday, April 5, 2016 BECC is joining forces with the Community Dining Room on Family Night from 5 pm – 6:30 pm located at 30 Harrison Avenue to select one young artist's drawing to be the design for the CDR's walkathon t-shirt. Please join us for food and lots of fun!

From April 15th to April 30th the Downtown Merchants are participating once again in the Art Walk. All can stroll down Main Street and view the young children's creativity in the merchant windows of downtown Branford.

On Saturday, April 23, 2016, as part of the Community Dining Room's 13th Annual Shoreline Walkathon, families are invited to join us behind Branford Town Hall

for the walkathon and "Little Artists Downtown!" There will be a variety of art activities for children ages 2 to 10 and a chance to meet, Ready Teddy, Branford's newest friend and reading buddy for young children! Please come and join the fun! Food trucks, music and more!

More community events during The Week of the Young Child™ can be found at [www.branfordbecc.org](http://www.branfordbecc.org)

For fifteen years the Branford Early Childhood Collaborative has been a resource for Branford caregivers, families and parents to help improve our children's overall well-being.

To be involved or for further information please contact Robin at [branford.becc@gmail.com](mailto:branford.becc@gmail.com) or Jennifer at [jkelly.branfordbecc@gmail.com](mailto:jkelly.branfordbecc@gmail.com) or 203-415-5237.

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## CONTENTS

First Selectman's Corner . . . . .	1	Blackstone Library . . . . .	15
CDR Walkathon 2016 . . . . .	2	Resident Stickers . . . . .	15
Week Of The Young Child™ 2016 . . . . .	3	Retirement Flexibility . . . . .	16
The Branford Exchange Club . . . . .	4	Presidential Preference Primary . . . . .	17
Branford Parks & Recreation . . . . .	6	Willoughby Wallace Mem. Lib. . . . .	18
Learn Something New! . . . . .	7	Worn or Torn, Faded to Fashionable, Donate it All . . . . .	18
Prearranged Funerals . . . . .	7	Annual Litter Collection Day . . . . .	18
Branford Folk . . . . .	8	Solid Waste & Recycling Dept . . . . .	19
Primary Care . . . . .	9	Vet. Exemption Program . . . . .	20
"How is Your Health? . . . . .	10	Stony Creek Fife & Drum Corps . . . . .	21
\$400,000 And Still Counting . . . . .	10	Shoreline Greenway Trail . . . . .	22
Branford Compassion Club . . . . .	11	Peter Otis, Photographer . . . . .	22
Branford Rotary . . . . .	11	Homeowner Benefit For Elderly & Totally Disabled . . . . .	23
Fourth Annual Golf Tournament . . . . .	11	Economic Dev. Commission . . . . .	23
Musical Art Society . . . . .	12	Hire A Real Pet Sitter . . . . .	26
Stopping the Progression of ALD . . . . .	13	Branford Historical Society . . . . .	27
Your Dental Health . . . . .	13	Community Forest Commission . . . . .	27
"Carnival For a Cure!" . . . . .	14	Food Drive . . . . .	28
Mary Poppins . . . . .	14		

## The Branford Exchange Club Donates to our Community Youth



The Branford Exchange Club making communities a better place to live is carried through its programs of service:

Americanism, Youth Programs, and Community Service-as well as its National Project, The Prevention of Child Abuse.

February, March and April 2016, our Exchange Club will donate and have as our guests: The Branford Girls Swim Team, Branford's Model Congress, and the Branford Girls Field Hockey Team.

Come visit us at our Fried Dough Booth at the Branford Festival this June 17-19 where we raise money for our community projects.

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

We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at LaLuna Restaurant.

Like us on Facebook: Branford Exchange Club (community organization)



*Officer Luigi Amasino with his Branford Police dog Joker attended a Branford Exchange Committee Meeting*



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# Branford Parks And Recreation Spring Happenings

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.

The Robert Martston Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the American Legion Corcoran Sundquist Post #83 will take place at Foote Memorial Park on Saturday, March 19th, 2016 with a rain/snow date of Saturday, March 26th. The hunt will start at 11:00 am at Foote Park on Melrose Avenue for the following ages 4 years through 10 years old (food allergy friendly). All girls and boys should arrive at their destination points at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the hunt.

In the spring, the department provides movement and rhythm classes and music classes for Toddlers ages 12 months to 5 years of age Tuesday to Friday mornings. The Department stands behind its afterschool and youth activities, ranging from Tae Kwon Do, to tennis lessons and

gymnastics. The Little Hornets Soccer Camp, the volleyball clinic & Field Hockey Clinic are always a popular attraction for all. Swim Lessons for children will run for ages 4 and up are held on Fridays & Saturdays. Beginner Horseback Riding/ Horsemanship Lessons will take place at the Helen Joyce Center for Horsemanship in East Haven. Beginner Ballet Lessons and Tap Lessons for grades K thru Fourth Grade will also be offered. Registration for the ever-popular Summer Playground Camp begins on Friday, April 1, 2016. Teen Travel is another exciting camp designed for teens, 7th grade and up to fill their summer with excitement, exceptional trips and spending time with their friends. Trips include venues to New York City, Amusement Parks, and Boston. Registration for Teen Travel begins on Thursday, March 3rd, 2016. Kinder Camp (for 4 to 5 yrs olds) will take place in the form of two sessions. This fun camp will include arts-n-crafts, organized games, special events, socialization and much more.

New this April will be the Branford Recreation Department's Mini Vacation Camps for ages four thru thirteen. The Pre-Teen Camp will be open for those ages eight thru thirteen years old and the Sensational April Vacation Camp will be for ages four thru seven years old. The Sensational April Vacation Camp will be held from April 11 to April 13 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm Set your sites on Marine Science, Literature, Pirates-A-Prowling, Olympic Trials and much more.

For adults, a wide variety of programs are featured including: swim lessons, Tennis Lessons, Tae Kwon Do and "Yoga for Every-BODY". The springtime also brings out special events including: the Annual Dog Frisbee Contest and the Dog "Bone" Scavenger Hunt are scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2016 at Young's Pond Park starting at 10:00 am. Registration for the Frisbee Contest starts at 9:30 am at the park. *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)*

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## Learn Something New! Upcoming Branford Land Trust Events

For more information, visit [www.branfordlandtrust.org](http://www.branfordlandtrust.org).



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### MARCH 23 - LECTURE SERIES - HORSESHOE CRABS AND PROJECT LIMULUS

*with the Sacred Heart University Staff*

Learn the importance of these amazing creatures and how the Branford Land Trust has assisted in the study of Horseshoe Crabs in Long Island Sound. Project Limulus was started in 1998 and has since conducted multiple studies focusing on the life history of the American horseshoe crab population living within Long Island Sound. All lectures are held at the 7 pm at Blackstone Memorial Library. They are free and open to the public.

### APRIL 27 - LECTURE SERIES - HOW TO WATCH BIRDS

*with Robert Braunfield, Artist and Naturalist*

This illustrated talk will feature Robert's artwork and writings which have appeared in national publications and exhibits. Robert teaches bird watching classes and leads conservation projects which included a 25-year Bluebird Nestbox Project which fledged over 5,000 Eastern Bluebirds. His wood bird sculptures have won numerous awards and have been exhibited nationally. All lectures are held at the 7 pm at Blackstone Memorial Library. They are free and open to the public.



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## Prearranged Funerals

Prearranged funerals are just that-funerals that have been arranged prior to the death. There are many reasons for doing this, but the most common one is for Title 19. Title 19 (Medicaid) is a government program that will pay for your living expenses after you have exhausted all of your assets. When someone is applying for Title 19 benefits, they are allowed a few assets, including an Irrevocable Preneed Funeral Service Trust (IPNFSC) and a Revocable Burial Space Contract (RBSC), among others. To set up an IPNFSC, you should meet with a funeral director and discuss the desired arrangements, and pay the funeral home up to \$5,400.00. The funeral home is required by Connecticut law to deposit 100% of the money paid to them in advance into an IPNFSC with a state recognized escrow agent outside of the funeral home. There are some forms to fill out and certain personal biographical data is needed to establish the contract. The money is then deposited with the escrow agent and the client, or their personal representative is given a deposit receipt. The money is held in escrow until the death of the client. The funeral home, after performing the services they have been contracted for, then submits a request for the release of the escrow account to them for their payment. That is basically how an Irrevocable Preneed Funeral Service Contract is established.

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## Fiery Fiddle Tunes at Branford Folk



Noted old-time musicians John Kirk and Trish Miller bring their repertoire of fiery fiddle tunes, folksongs and fancy footwork to the stage of the Branford Folk Music Society on Saturday, March 12.

The show is set for 8 p.m. in the auditorium of the First Congregational Church of Branford, 1009 Main St., on the Branford Green. Admission is \$15 for non-members, \$12 for members and \$5 for children 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/)

The concert will mark the Branford Folk debut of this married couple from New York's Adirondack Mountains. Determined,

as they aptly put it, "to changing the world one tune at a time," John and Trish have been performing together since 1988 and have toured throughout the world, from the Grand Canyon to Barbados, from New York City's Carnegie Hall to the Academy of Culture in St. Petersburg, Russia, playing music and singing in concerts, festivals, and schools, and calling contra and square dances. Much of their music is rooted in the local lore of the Northeast woodlands.

John's lyric voice, good sense of humor and versatile instrumental skills (fiddle, mandolin, guitar, banjo, keyboard and ukulele) have earned him widespread recognition in folk and traditional music circles, while Trish is especially known for her clogging and guitar and banjo work. In 2011, the U.S. State Department selected John and Trish and their band Mountain Quickstep to be touring music ambassadors in Eastern Europe and Turkey.

Both John and Trish teach at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and John has been on the music faculty at Bennington College in Vermont since 1998. John is on staff at several music camps and has theatrical experience as a composer, musician and actor. The Dixie Chicks recorded his song, "Long Roads" and he's worked for many years in recording studios as a musician and producer.

Trish plays guitar, banjo, dances and sings traditional and original music. She teaches banjo at Skidmore and is also a dance caller and country dance choreographer. She has a diverse repertoire of circle, square, contra and mixer dances. As a former member of the famed Green Grass Cloggers, from Asheville, N.C., Trish learned ensemble footwork and toured extensively.

The 42-year-old Branford Folk Music Society is an all-volunteer, non-profit, educational organization dedicated to preserving and encouraging the growth and appreciation of folk music, song and tradition. Branford Folk's concert series will continue on April 9 featuring Grammy Award-winning musician Stacy Phillips who will be joined by a select group of bluegrass pickers including renowned fiddler Kenny Kosek for what's sure to be an exciting night of "folk music in overdrive."

*Article prepared by Steve Winters, secretary of the Branford Folk Music Society and host for 42 years of "Profiles in Folk" on WSHU Public Radio (91.1 and 89.9 FM) in Fairfield.*



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## Primary Care

Primary care continues to be an evolving concept, and one of its biggest barriers is the misunderstanding of its value. When one thinks of what primary care is, one may visualize a doctor he or she would visit for an acute sickness, and others would imagine their long term physician who treats their family and chronic illness. Some may even define primary care as an entry point to health care, while others would see it as the pivotal point of health care integrating all its facets. Each of these may have an element of truth because they each touch on a different aspect within primary care. Primary care is the first line of defense in staying healthy, getting well from an acute illness and stabilizing chronic illness. As the foundation of an effective healthcare, primary care is the keystone to maintain optimal health

and prevent disease.

It is important to understand the value of primary care and how it fits in the context of our healthcare. Primary care consists of a team with the patient at the center and the primary care physician as the coach. This partnership keeps the patient, the unique individual, as the main focus. True primary care is an integral part of the population it serves and goes beyond those moments spent with the doctor in the office. Primary care personalizes treatment through the dynamics that forges an invaluable patient-doctor relationship, and then goes on to be the link between a person and his or her healthcare community.

When it comes to the bond between primary care physician and the patient, it is essential to have an

established patient-doctor relationship since health risks and treatments are influenced by social elements.

Thus, these "personal" questions asked during a visit intake and the "small talk" with the doctor are all pertinent information that will tailor care to meet each individual's values, lead to improved outcomes, and produce an enjoyable experience. Primary care is also the network linking a patient to the health resources within the community.

The most valuable benefit from primary care is preventive treatment, NOT medical treatment of disease. Therefore, in order to promote health, primary care relationships need to be established early and be ongoing.

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# "How is Your Health? How is the Health of Your Community?"

The East Shore District Health Department wants to hear from YOU!



The East Shore District Health Department (ESDHD) will be conducting a Community Health Assessment from late February through the month of March 2016. As a part of the health department's national accreditation requirements,

a health survey will be conducted online and in-person throughout Branford, East Haven and North Branford. This survey will ask people questions about whether they feel healthy or not, about their access to healthcare, and about how they take care of themselves. The results of this survey will be combined with several other surveys that have been conducted along with State and Nationally collected data to create a picture of the East Shore District Community's Health.

Armed with this information, the health department and the ESDHD's Community Health Improvement Planning Board will be in a position to strengthen programs that exist and create new programs to address the health needs in the community. Our last assessment survey was conducted in 2012. It will be interesting to see if the profile collected has changed significantly with the institution of the Affordable Care Act.

Significant finds of the 2012 Community Health Assessment:

- 82% of people rated their health as good or excellent
- The 5 most common health conditions people suffered from (in order highest to lowest) were: high blood pressure, high

cholesterol, arthritis, heart disease, and diabetes

- Nearly 25% of people who responded to the survey had more than one of the chronic conditions listed above
- There was strong correlation between lower income and suffering from chronic conditions
- 46% of people reported that they exercise 3 or more times a week
- Almost 50% of people reported eating 1-2 servings of fruits or vegetables per day

The New 2016 Community Health Survey will be available online, at the Health Department website ([www.esdhd.org](http://www.esdhd.org)), at the Health Department Office, libraries and town halls. Representatives of the health department will be also conducting surveys in person throughout the community. The Spanish version of the survey will also be available to residents. Our goal is to get to know the profile of the community better as a result of this survey, because State and New Haven County data does not always reflect the health data of our specific community.

Results of the 2016 Health Assessment survey will be presented at community meetings in late May to Early June when we plan to hold community conversations about health in the community and how we can address needs in the community. If there are questions or you would like to become involved please contact Barbara Naclerio at [bnaclerio@esdhd.org](mailto:bnaclerio@esdhd.org).

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Homemaker Thrift Shop initially opened in 1976 as a non-profit community shop with a mission to raise money for local charities. The all volunteer staff still has the same mission. At present, the shop is in a new location in Brushy Hill Plaza. To date, the Homemaker Thrift Shop has given more than \$400,000 to several local community agencies.

The money is made as a result of sales of donated and consigned items in the shop. Volunteers, shoppers and donors are always welcome in this friendly shop.

After expenses for the shop, are paid, donations are made to health based Branford agencies such as: The Branford Community Dining Room, Branford Medical Transportation, The Branford Counseling Center, The Emergency Fuel Assistance Program, Non-monetary donations are made to Orchard House, and Harbor Health Clothing. Accessories for men, women and children that is in good condition is always welcome and is sold at reasonable prices. Household goods, small pieces of furniture, decorations, books, games, electronics and sporting goods are often available. There are many items for crafters.

Nancy Lee Salk



# Fourth Annual Golf Tournament

## Benefiting Branford Lions Club and Brian's Hope



The Branford Lions Club is pleased to announce the 4th Annual Branford Lions Club & Brian's

Hope Golf Tournament is scheduled for June 6th. It will be played on the Robert Trent Jones Course at Lyman Orchard's Golf Club. This event is very popular, and has proven to be very successful. The event includes, player gift, breakfast, driving range, putting green, golf with cart, prizes, and a very tasty dinner to follow. There are also raffle and silent auction prizes.

The event was established as a way to help support Brian's Hope on its mission to stop the progression of adrenoleukodystrophy

(ALD). Brian's Hope is that they will someday be able to keep every child with the potential for developing ALD well. To this end, they have identified three important goals to make their dream a reality.

- Promote Awareness of ALD
- Ensure Genetic Screening for All Newborns
- Support Advances in Research

Proceeds from the event also go to help the Branford Lions Club to continue its support of those with sight and hearing loss and disease. The Lions Club has embraced the challenge from Helen Keller to be "Knights of the Blind" by supporting

the many worthwhile organizations that conduct research and provide services for those individuals with sight and hearing loss, diabetes, and other diseases.

Please come out to support this worthwhile and fun event. In addition to playing in the event, there are several ways you can support us. You can provide a sponsorship (several options available), or you can make a donation to the raffle or silent auction. Please contact Lions President Steve Burke at 203-640-9329, or [sburke@weichertshoreline.com](mailto:sburke@weichertshoreline.com). Please visit [branfordclions.org](http://branfordclions.org) and [brianshope.org](http://brianshope.org) for more information about both organizations.

## Branford Compassion Club



Branford Compassion Club, Inc. is a 501(c)(3), non-profit feline rescue organization which operates a shelter located at 2037 Foxon Road in North Branford. The Branford Compassion Club Feline Rescue & Adoption Center is open to the public every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For almost two decades Branford Compassion Club has provided spay/neuter assistance for feral and stray cats in the Branford community and beyond. We continue to support, on a daily basis, the care and feeding of feral cats in our established colonies. In addition, BCC has placed thousands of cats and kittens into loving, forever homes over its 19-year history; we recently adopted out our 1000th cat from our

brick and mortar shelter which opened five years ago.

Throughout the year, Branford Compassion Club holds numerous special adoption events and food and supply drives as well as major fundraisers to help cover the cost of veterinary bills and operating expenses for the shelter.

Upcoming events include a "Shy Cats" adoption day, scheduled for Saturday, March 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Branford Compassion Club Feline Rescue & Adoption Center. "Teacups and Catwalk", a fashion show and tea benefiting BCC, with styles from Saybrook Country Barn, is planned for Sunday, April 17 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Pine Orchard Yacht & Country Club in Branford.

For more information on BCC, please visit our website at [www.branfordcompassionclub.org](http://www.branfordcompassionclub.org).

## Branford Rotary



The Branford Rotary Club was chartered in 1928 and has a solid history of supporting the community. The Rotary Club of

Branford is an organization of 75+ women and men representing a cross-section of local business and professional leaders, living and/or employed in Branford, who work as volunteers on a variety of local and international projects to improve the quality of life in their home and world communities.

### ROTARY BOOK COLLECTION

With the Branford Festival approaching,

books are being collected for the annual sale. Book bins can be found at several locations in Branford including Re/Max Alliance Realtors on Pine Orchard Road, the YMCA on East Main Street, Raymond James Financial on North Main Street, Orchard House on Shore Drive in Short Beach, and Stony Creek Firehouse on Thimble Islands Road.

The club is seeking donations of books, audio books, CDs, and DVDs for its annual fundraising sale. Audio books, gently used hardback & paperback editions of all genres will be accepted, excluding encyclopedias and textbooks. 100% of all funds goes

directly to the Branford Rotary Foundation, the charitable branch of the Branford Rotary Club.

The sale of these books supports such projects as dictionaries to all Branford third grade students, construction of Branford Volunteer Services Center, and computers for the James Blackstone Memorial Library.

Contact Dave Kozma, project leader, at 203.641.9485 or [davejkozma@gmail.com](mailto:davejkozma@gmail.com) to arrange for collection of large donations. Donations are tax deductible, and receipts are available upon request.

# Musical Art Society, Spring 2016

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, 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.

## Upcoming concerts:



**Big Band/Little Band** featuring the Branford Town Band and the Walsh



**Intermediate School Jazz Ensemble**  
**Friday April 8, 2016 at 7:30 pm**  
Branford Evangelical Free Church  
231 Leetes Island Road, Branford, CT  
Info: Chris Cohen (203) 453-0297 or  
Carol Titcomb (203) 488-3088.

**Annual Members & Guests Dinner Meeting** with entertainment by the 2016 scholarship winner

**Thursday May 19, 2016 at 6:00 pm**  
Shoreline Café, 1247 Main Street  
Branford \$25 per person. Info: Cathy Hall 203-488-2753. Further info: Barbara Shaw (203) 481-2819. MAS website: <https://sites.google.com/site/musicalartsocietyofbranford/>

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3

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One per customer.



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One per customer.



**\$16.95 + tax**

**1 Large Cheese Pizza, 10 Wings  
& (1) 2 Liter Soda**

Cannot be combined.  
One per customer.



# Brian's Hope – Stopping the Progression of ALD

## A 501(c)(3) Foundation



“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” Helen Keller

I hope this quote will resonate with all of you who have given your time and support towards realizing the mission of Brian's Hope: spreading an awareness of ALD, making ALD newborn screening a reality, and supporting research for this insidious disease. The endless encouragement and dedication my family and I have experienced throughout the years has been humbling; to be a part of such a giving group of people is a blessing. All of our shared efforts to stop the progression of Adrenoleukodystrophy, no matter how small or large, continue to bring us closer to our ultimate goal: eradicating this disease.

The research we support at the Kennedy Krieger Institute is advancing. This will further our understanding of the disease, while potentially supporting the development of a new therapeutic approach for ALD patients. Newborn screening continues to save lives. New York has identified 33 ALD babies since January 2014. After passing the bill for newborn screening here in CT in 2013, we are proud and relieved that Connecticut is now testing our babies for ALD. Your support is directly impacting boys and their families who are affected by ALD. On behalf of the entire ALD community, thank you.

Brian's ripple is far reaching. In his very quiet way, he inspires so many to positively affect change for the ALD community and

## Simple Steps for Your Dental Health

Simplicity is a wonderful thing. Everyone needs an easy-to-maintain daily routine at home to keep their teeth and gums healthy and their smiles bright. “Clean, healthy teeth are incredibly important, not just for the health of the mouth, but for the entire body” explained Dr. Vincent J. Michael, of Michael Dental Care in Guilford, CT. Dr. Michael recommends a simple daily care schedule for his patients. Brushing with a quality powered tooth brush twice daily puts more power behind the wrist to remove plaque and food particles. Flossing ensures there is no debris hiding between teeth or deep under gums, cutting the bacteria count in the mouth and helping to prevent cavities. “If your floss is getting stuck between your teeth or shredding, try a tape floss that easily slides through teeth. If you notice staining in between your teeth, rub

some toothpaste across your teeth and then floss it through to really polish those hard to reach areas.” Waterpicks have been available for years and the newer models have incredible strength. They flush everything clean and are advantageous for those with bridges, implants or limited dexterity. Tongue scraping scoops plaque and bacteria from the surface of the tongue, and mouth rinsing with a therapeutic rinse is advantageous to the health of teeth and tissues. Dr. Michael finished stating, “Simple routines are inexpensive and very important to tooth longevity, dental health and overall health.” To help keep yourself smiling, keep gums and teeth clean and healthy at home and don't forget to schedule regular check-ups and cleanings with your Dentist.

ultimately to #savetheboys. If you are not yet a part of our effort, we welcome your participation. During these chilly days of winter we look forward to our warm weather events.

On June 6th the 4th Annual Branford Lions/Brian's Hope Golf Tournament will be held at Lyman Orchards on the Robert Trent Jones course. We are honored to work with this terrific group of people and co-host a fun event that will benefit both organizations. So get your foursome together to enjoy great golf and a chance at a variety of silent auction and raffle prizes.

Not a golfer? How about swimming, biking, running, volunteering, or sponsoring? Plans are underway for the 20th Annual Hammerfest Triathlon, Sunday, September 18th at the Owenego. This USAT sanctioned event is a great race for the seasoned triathlete, a newbie, or anyone wanting to cross it off their bucket list. Relay teams are also welcome! This is our major fundraiser and a great day of competition, community, camaraderie, and most importantly, caring. If it's your first time, we are quite sure you will come back next year. It's going to be a celebration. The Bloomquist's hospitality, a beautiful venue, music by DJ Ron Glick, and a delicious cookout make for a fantastic morning. Sign up on Active.com and search for: Hammerfest Triathlon.

For further info contact [jeankelley@brianshope.org](mailto:jeankelley@brianshope.org) or visit our website: [www.brianshope.org](http://www.brianshope.org). Make sure to like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/BriansHopeForALD](https://www.facebook.com/BriansHopeForALD). Follow us on Instagram: @BriansHope.

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# Join the Relay For Life's "Carnival For a Cure!"



The Relay For Life of the Shoreline returns to Walsh Intermediate School, 185 Damascus Road in Branford, on Saturday, May 21, 2016

for its annual fundraising event in support of The American Cancer Society.

The Relay For Life movement is the world's largest fundraising event to fight every type of cancer in every community, with four million participants worldwide in 2015. It unites communities around the globe to celebrate cancer survivors, honor and remember friends and loved ones lost to the disease, and raise money to fund groundbreaking cancer research. Funds raised also help the American Cancer Society provide free information and services to people with cancer, and support education and prevention programs.

Relay For Life of the Shoreline is a fun, family-friendly community event where individuals and teams "camp out" for

12 hours at Walsh Intermediate School and take turns walking around the track. Individuals and teams raise funds before and during the event to help the American Cancer Society save more lives from cancer.

The theme for this year's Shoreline Relay is "Carnival For a Cure." Participants and volunteers will be hosting carnival games, fundraisers and activities for all ages, including the Walsh zip-line and KnockerBall. The fun begins at 11:00 am and ends at 11:00 pm. The public is encouraged to attend!

Traditional Relay ceremonies will also occur throughout the event. Join us at 12:00 pm for our Opening Ceremony to officially "kick-off" the event. Later in the afternoon, come listen to inspirational survivor stories and celebrate our survivors and caregivers as they participate in a special Survivor/Caregiver lap. At 9:00 pm, join us for the Luminaria Ceremony... a touching ceremony where candles are lit to honor survivors and remember those



lost to cancer. The Closing Ceremony, where participants celebrate their fundraising accomplishments and pledge to continue the fight, begins at 10:30 pm.

Participant registration is now open! Please consider supporting this important community event by starting a team or joining the fun on May 21st.

Visit [relayforlife.org/shorelinect](http://relayforlife.org/shorelinect) to register or contact Christine Ackermann at [cackermann100@gmail.com](mailto:cackermann100@gmail.com) to learn more about this event.

Together, we can make a difference!  
Christine Ackermann, Event Lead  
2016 Relay For Life of the Shoreline



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## Mary Poppins



Branford High School Performing Arts will present Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's "Mary Poppins" March 16 - 20, 2016.

Based on the books by P.L. Travers and the 1964 Walt Disney film starring

Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke, "Mary Poppins" has delighted audiences on Broadway and in theaters around the world and is sure to delight the Branford community.

Everyone's favorite nanny, played by senior Marissa Smoker, will bring out the kid in all of us, as she, along with the effervescent chimney sweep, Bert, takes Jane and Michael Banks on magical adventures of the mind and heart. This charming story, combined with memorable music, high-energy dance numbers -- and some special surprises -- will have you laughing, tapping your feet, and maybe even shedding a tear - whether you are seeing it for your first time or your fiftieth!

Showtimes are Wednesday, March 16 at 7:30p.m.; Thursday, March 17 at 7:30p.m.; Friday, March 18 at 7:30p.m.; Saturday, March 19 at 1:00p.m. and 8:00p.m.; and Sunday, March 20 at 2:00p.m.

Tickets are \$18 Adults / \$15 Students (Pre-K through 12) & Seniors. For information and to reserve tickets 203-315-7998 x2500.

# Spring Events at Blackstone Library

Registration for all programs with an \* is required. Please call 203.488.1441 ext. 318 for adult programs, or 323 for children. Alternatively, visit our website to register and find out about more programs we are offering this spring.

## MURDER AT BLACKSTONE ABBEY

Friday, May 13 @ 7—10 pm. \$50.

Solve the clues & catch a killer—our second annual murder mystery features a script with a Victorian twist. Cocktails and appetizers \$40 per ticket.

## THE JOLLY BEGGARS CONCERT

Sunday, March 6 @ 2—3:30 pm

Traditional stories from Irish folklore interspersed with music, traditional reels and jigs. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

## A FLY FISHING SAFARI\*

Saturday, March 19 @ 2—3 pm

Learn about the art and craft of fly fishing with Jim Turecek, an expert fly fisherman with 40 years experience. Travel from local trout streams and Long Island Sound, to the bonefish flats of the Caribbean to learn about fresh and salt water fly fishing. There will be displays of equipment, prey species and Q & A following the program.

## HOMEMADE BODY SCRUBS WORKSHOP\*

Tuesday, March 22 @ 6:30—7:30 pm

Make your own Coffee Body Scrub or Vanilla Pumpkin Spice Sugar Scrub. You decide which 4 ounce scrub to create! Presented by mother/daughter team Velya Jancz-Urban & Ehris Urban of Grounded Holistic Wellness.

## INSIDE EMILY DICKINSON: HER POETRY & HER LIFE

Sunday, April 17 @ 2—4 pm

A performance based on the letters, life stories and poems of Emily Dickinson. Ginger Grace reaches out to the audience for ideas, words and phrases, and with their input, new poems are created. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

## SHAKESPERIENCE PRESENTS JULIUS CAESAR\*

Sunday, May 22 @ 2:00—3:30 pm

Witness the story of “the noblest Roman of them all” as

## Resident Stickers

Resident Stickers valid for the next two years will be available March 21st at the Tax Office in Town Hall. The current stickers expire on March 31st. The stickers allow you access to parking at Parker Park and Foote Park, and use of the Transfer Station. Stickers are for residents only and not for commercial use.

Please bring your valid driver's license and vehicle registration. These are required to obtain a resident sticker. The cost is \$5 (cash only please) and residents 65 and older are free. If you are a part-time/seasonal resident, in addition to your license and registration, please also bring a utility bill (cable, electric, gas) showing service in your name at your Branford address.

Please call the Tax Office at 203-315-0672 if you have any questions.

Shakespeare's tale of political intrigue and betrayal is brought to life in this adaptation by Emily Mattina. This production illustrates how the themes in Shakespeare's plays still relate to our lives today. The balance of power is staged on a metal toy construction set that devolves along with the action.

## Programs for Children

### EASTER EGG DECORATING

Friday, March 25 @ 2—4 pm

We provide the necessary dyes, stickers, holders and other materials—just bring your hardboiled eggs.

### MYSTIC AQUARIUM PRESENTS: AMAZING SHARKS

Tuesday, April 12 @ 2—3 pm

Learn about fascinating shark adaptations, the challenges they must overcome for survival and the conservation efforts underway to protect them. Touch tanks will be included. For children in grades 3-6.

### READ TO A DOG: BUILDING LITERACY SKILLS WITH PET PARTNERS

Fridays, April 29, May 27 @ 4—5 pm

Research shows that when children read aloud to dogs, their stress is reduced, leading to improved reading ability and attitude. Join us for a session with Pet Partners and their registered therapy dogs. Children in grades K-4 will have the opportunity to read aloud to a dog of their choice for 15 minutes. Bring your own book or borrow one of ours. No registration required.



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## Government's Decision Expands Retirement Flexibility



Jeffery Arendolz, CPA

It's not often the federal government makes a decision that nearly everyone is happy with, but that's what happened with a regulation that was recently finalized by the U.S. Treasury Department. Changes to the regulations under Internal Revenue Code section 401(a)(9) allow individuals the ability to defer the distribution of their qualified assets beyond age 70 ½ through the purchase of a Qualifying Longevity Annuity Contract (QLAC).

Generally, the new rules provide an exception to Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) by allowing a QLAC to start making payments as late as age 85, meaning people can defer paying taxes on money that they may not need in early retirement. This is big news for those people who have been taking RMDs because they have to, not because they want to.

This educational third-party article is being provided as a courtesy by Jeffery Arendolz, CPA. For additional information or topic(s) discussed, please contact Jeffery Arendholz at Arendholz Bryan & Associates, PC, (203) 483-7333

## CT River Area Health District (CRAHD) Zika Virus Information

The Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD) will be monitoring the Zika virus with State Health Officials and is preparing to be part of a statewide response if needed. CRAHD offers the following information and CDC links regarding the virus:

**AREAS WITH ZIKA:** The first confirmed cases of Zika virus were reported in Brazil in 2015. Local transmission of the virus has been reported as close as Puerto Rico and the Virgins Islands. Although there have been cases within the US, there haven't been any reports of locally transmitted cases in the continental USA. As of this writing, the only cases seen in the US are those returning from affected areas of the world.

<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html>

**TRANSMISSION:** Zika virus is transmitted to people through the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito. (CT is home to Aedes species mosquitoes) Mosquitoes become infected when they bite a person infected with the virus, and then the mosquito could spread the virus to other people through bites.

<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/transmission/index.html>

**PREVENTION:** As with other advice with mosquito transmitted diseases such as west Nile virus, avoid mosquito bites by protecting yourself. Aedes mosquitoes are very aggressive biters, and routinely bite during daylight hours, so protection from mosquito bites is required throughout the day. There currently is no vaccine or medicine to treat Zika virus.

<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/index.html>

**FOR PREGNANT WOMEN:** Researchers are studying a possible link between Zika virus infection and birth defects, particularly microcephaly in newborns. Because of this, CDC recommends that pregnant women and women attempting to become pregnant take special precautions and follow travel restrictions to areas where Zika transmission is ongoing. It has been found that mother to fetus transmission could occur. If travel to Zika active areas cannot be avoided, strict adherence to

mosquito bite prevention is warranted. It is also recommended that women in this category discuss risks with their physician prior to travel. <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pregnancy/index.html>

**SYMPTOMS, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT:** About 1 in 5 people infected with Zika virus become ill, with most illnesses mild. Common symptoms are fever, rash, joint pain, conjunctivitis, muscle pain and headache. If you are sick enough to seek medical attention, and have traveled to an area where Zika virus is active, you should let your Doctor know. Zika virus can be identified through a specialized blood test. Treatment is of symptoms only.

<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/symptoms/index.html>

Please refer back to these sites as spring and summer approaches and mosquitoes become active in Connecticut. The Connecticut River Area Health District is the local health department for the towns of Old Saybrook, Clinton, and Deep River.



Branford Jazz Concert Series & Stony Creek Brewery Present an evening of music featuring local Jazz artists, plus premium crafted beers Wednesday, March 30, 2016 from 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm. Stony Creek Brewery, 5 Indian Neck Avenue, Branford. Ticket Price, \$25.00/person. Includes: Exclusive Pint Glass & your first beer on us!

So come enjoy an evening of live Jazz!! Food Truck on site or bring your own.

For tickets call 203.488.8304 or visit us on line at [Branfordjazz.com](http://Branfordjazz.com)

All Proceeds to benefit The Branford Jazz Music Scholarship Fund



# Presidential Preference Primary - Tuesday 4/26/2016

You may register to vote and/or enroll in a party in-person at The Registrar of Voters Office 40 Kirkham Street Tuesdays or Thursdays 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, or at the Town Clerks Office Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, by mail by requesting a Mail In Voter Application from either office, or online registration. Applications can also be found on the Secretary of State's Website or the Town of Branford's Website under Registrars of Voters. Online Registration can be found on the Registrar of Voters web page LINK STATE VOTER LOOKUP.

### Important dates to remember:

Tuesday April 12, 2016 The Registrars of Voters Office will be open at 40 Kirkham Street for a Special Voter Registration Session, for the purpose of new voter registration and/or enrollment of electors entitled to vote in their party's Presidential Preference Primary to be held Tuesday, April 26,

2016. Hours: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Thursday April 21, 2016 Registration and Enrollment Cut-Off by Mail – for PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY A Mail-In- Application for registering and/or enrolling in the party of their choice for voting in Presidential Preference Primary unless registering or filing application for enrollment in-person with registrar of voters or town clerk must be received by the Registrar of Voters (or postmarked) by Thursday April 21, 2016 in order to be eligible.

Monday, April 25, 2016 Registration and Enrollment Cut-Off in Person – PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY. Deadline for registering in-person with the Registrar of Voters or Town Clerk, and deadline for enrolling in person for voting in the Presidential Preference Primary. Applicants must appear in person with Identification. Hours: 9:00 am to

12:00 noon.

Polling Locations: Primary Day April 26, 2016 All Polls will be open from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm.

### Voting Districts And Polling Locations

- First District Community Center. 46 Church St.
- Second District St. Therese Church. 105 Leetes Island Rd.
- Third District Orchard House. 421 Shore Dr.
- Fourth District Fire Headquarters. 45 North Main St.
- Fifth District Indian Neck School. 12 Melrose Ave.
- Sixth District Mary T Murphy School. 14 Brushy Plain Rd.
- Seventh District . . . . . Walsh Intermediate School. 185 Damascus Rd.

Visit the Town's website branford-ct.gov for answers to frequently asked questions.

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# Spring Events at Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library

The March Art exhibit in the Keyes Gallery is by Debra Baldwin--works in oil

March 11 - Local Author Night at 7:00 pm. Check the library website for more information: wwml.org.

March 15 - Mark Schenker series The Fiction of Crime and Punishment continues with *The Secret Agent* by Joseph Conrad at 7:00 pm.

March 24 - Laurey Sandler of Shoreline Speech Therapy will present a program the Amazing Development of Speech and Language for parents at 7:00 pm.

The April Art Exhibit in the Keyes Gallery

is by Roslyn Meyer - photography.

April 10-16 is National Library Week. This year's theme is Libraries Transform highlighting the critical role libraries play in the digital age. Check the library website for upcoming events: wwml.org.

April 15 - Friday @ the Library during National Library Week. Come listen to guitarist Neal Fitzpatrick and flutist Elaine Thoma perform a selection of music by Domeniconi, Ibert, Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Caliendo and more. 7:00 pm. This program is free to the public. It is presented by funds from the Friends of Willoughby Wallace Library.

April 19 - Mark Schenker series The Fiction of Crime and Punishment continues with *Atonement* by Ian McEwan at 7:00 pm.

Story times with Miss Stephanie are Mondays for preschool and toddlers and Fridays at 10:30 for babies under two years old.

LEGO Club is on Wednesdays at 4:00.

The library offers passport service by appointment only. Call the library at 203-488-8702.

Museum Passes to many Connecticut attractions are available for borrowing.

## Worn or Torn, Faded to Fashionable, Donate it All

As you prepare to do a spring cleaning of your closet and update your wardrobe, I would like to ask you to "Donate, Recycle, Don't throw away" those old clothes and shoes. All clothing can be donated and recycled. The only requirement is that the cloth be clean, dry and odorless. If it was clean enough to be in your closet, it is probably clean enough to be recycled.

There is also no need to determine if someone would wear those old clothes again. All used clothing, even pieces with stains or

missing buttons can be recycled. In fact, less than half of the textiles currently donated are reused as clothes, with the rest used as insulation, carpet padding, and wiping cloths among other uses. And your donated textiles need not be limited to shirts and pants. Footwear regardless of matching pairs and/or missing heels are recyclable. As are handbags, belts, socks, gloves, towels, sheets, linens, curtains, etc. Again if it is clean, dry and odorless it is recyclable.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the average person throws away 70 lbs of clothing per year. Currently only 15% of used clothing and textiles are being recycled. The other 85% goes into the trash with most people not knowing that they can recycle those unused textiles and protect the environment.

Two textile clothing drop off boxes are located at the Branford Transfer Station, but there are many others spread throughout the town, as well as many local charities and thrift shops that are always looking for donations. Please give your textiles a second life.

Dan McGowan, Solid Waste Supervisor

## Annual Litter Collection Day

Branford's annual litter clean-up day will be Saturday, April 23, with a rain date of April 30. A dumpster will be located on Town Hall Drive across from Town Hall, for the collection of trash collected on our roadsides, beaches and trails. We will begin at 8:00 am and work until noon. High School students can receive credit toward their graduation requirements, Scouts can work toward their badges and younger participants will receive prizes! Please wear gloves and sturdy shoes. A map of "trouble spots" will be available.

Please contact Maryanne Hall (203-488-4272) if you have questions or suggestions.

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# Branford Solid Waste & Recycling Department

## Leaf Collection & Holiday Schedule

Beginning the week of March 28th and thru the week of May 12th, the Town will be collecting leaves curbside on alternating weeks. 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 Saturday March 26th in observance of Good Friday. And also on Monday May 30th in observance of Memorial Day; all curbside collections will be delayed one day that week.

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.

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

### Monday Meal Special

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Offer expires 5/30/16

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# Veteran Additional Exemption Program

## Income Based

This is a reminder for Veterans to apply for an Additional Veteran Exemption based on Income. The exemption is based upon certain income levels and marital status. There are two programs available to veterans. One is a State Program §12-811 and reference in subsection b under §170aa and the other is a Local Option Veteran Program §12-81f.

Application for the state additional exemption and the local option additional exemption are filed with the Assessor's Office in the Town of which the veteran resides. The filing period is from February 1st through October 1st of 2016. Once a veteran is approved for the additional exemption he/she must submit an

application on a biennial basis. Income received by both a husband and his wife is considered in determining the eligibility of married persons for the exemption. If a person is legally separated pursuant to CGS §46b-40, as of the December 31st, 2015, he or she is treated as single for purposes of this program.

Under these additional exemption programs provided by subsection b under §12-170aa, §12-811 and § 12-81f, a veteran must meet several requirements to qualify for these additional exemptions. The Veteran must have filed a DD214 or other proof of eligibility on the Land records by September 30th, 2016 as stated in §12-93 and meet the requirements under §12-81 subsection 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24. All income received in the calendar year of

2015 must be filed in the proper manner with the Assessor at application time. The Veteran and/or spouse's domicile, must be where they reside and located in the Town of Branford for the exemption to be applied. If the Veteran does not own real estate in the Town of Branford, the veteran's domicile must be in the Town of Branford and have their Motor Vehicles registered in the Town of Branford.

Please telephone the Assessor's Office for additional requirements and any questions between 8:30 am. and 4:30 pm. Monday through Friday at (203) 488-2039. Before applying you may want to telephone to learn the information that must be provided to make application.

*To download previous issues of Branford Events visit [www.eventsmagazines.com](http://www.eventsmagazines.com) and download the issue you desire!*



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# Stony Creek Fife & Drum Corps Starting The New Year Strong!



This year marks the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Stony Creek Fife & Drum Corps. This looks to be a very exciting and eventful year.

The Corps practices every Thursday night at 7:30 pm at our practice hall, Seaside Hall right in the village of

Stony Creek. There is no experience necessary if you are interested in joining we will be able to teach the fife, snare, and bass drum. There are no annual dues to become a member, all we ask is for your time and dedication.

The Corps has been on a roll since our big International Fife & Drum Concert this past August featuring the St Mary's Prize Band of Limerick Ireland. We would like to thank everyone that came out for that event. It was a huge success and had many compliments that night. One of the comments from people were "you should do this again!" So with that in mind we are proud to announce that we will be hosting a special 130th Anniversary Concert at Madeira Park on Saturday May 7th 2016. We will have different Corps performing this year. We have invited the Camden Continentals Fife & Drum Corps of Camden NY. This Corps' powerful drumline and excellent fife line is one of the most exciting Corps to watch. The Camden Continentals are also hosting the National Fife & Drum Muster on Friday and Saturday

August 12th & 13th in Camden NY. The Stony Creek Fife & Drum Corps is honored to be the Feature Corps at this event.

Stony Creek Fife & Drum Corps is also working on a special appearance at our 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert of one of the most well known Fife & Drum units in the Country. Details will be coming soon.

Please visit our website for a complete 2016 Event Schedule. The website will be getting a makeover this year with updates and videos of the Corps. [www.stonycreekdrumcorps.org](http://www.stonycreekdrumcorps.org)

To contact the Corps please email or call the Corresponding Secretary/ Business Agent Ken Avery 860-790-0654 and email- [kenneth\\_avery@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kenneth_avery@sbcglobal.net)

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE:

- Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup>  
Stamford St Patrick's Day Parade, Stamford CT, 12 pm
- Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup>  
Hartford St Patrick's Day Parade, Hartford CT, 11 am
- Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup>  
New Haven St Patrick's Day Parade, New Haven CT, 1:30 pm
- Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup>  
Holyoke St Patrick's Day Parade, Holyoke MA, 12 pm
- Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Meriden Daffodil Festival Parade Meriden CT, 11:30 am
- Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>  
130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert Madeira Park, Stony Creek CT, 2 pm

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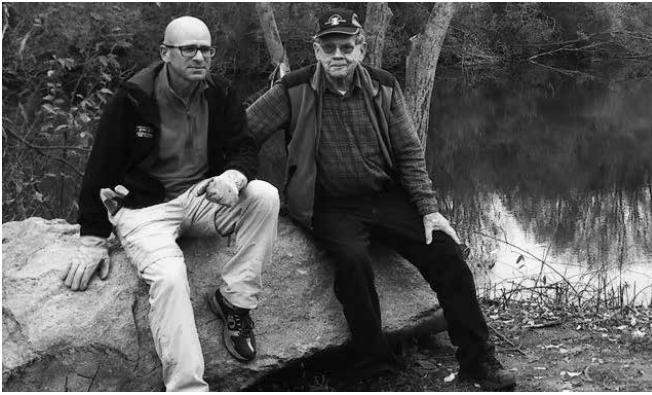
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# Shoreline Greenway Trail



*Phil Mongillo and Chet Blomquist at Chet's Pond*

Great news! Those of you who have been following our development of the Shoreline Greenway Trail at Branford's Tabor property will be happy to hear that the Town of Branford, our partner in this effort, has contracted with Stantec, Inc. to design the final trail. Residents of Branford will have an opportunity to comment before the design is finalized. In the meantime, volunteers will continue to keep our temporary trail open. Reminder: Branford's beautiful Ecology Park is nearby at the end of Tabor Drive!

## FIRST SATURDAY WALKS


March 5th, Saturday, 10 a.m. Branford: Come join us for an early look at spring from the Shoreline Greenway Trail. Start at the

ball field on West Point Road in Stony Creek, cross the Trolley Trail section of the Greenway, continue on our section parallel to Tilcon Road, and walk back the same way. Weather permitting, we will do the Land Trust loop up to the Vedder Monument. With luck, the ospreys may be back in time for our walk. Directions: Take Exit 56 off of I95 and turn south on Leete's Island Road. At stop sign at intersection, go straight across onto Thimble Island Road. After driving under the railroad tracks, take first right onto West Point Road. Park at ball field, where we will start our walk. Questions: contact Leo Cristofar at 203-214-5824.

April 2, Saturday, 10 a.m. Madison: We will walk the beautiful Hammonasset section — about two miles round trip, pretty easy, through forest and along salt marsh shores. The walk will feature artists painting en plein air along the trail as we stroll by and chat with them about their work. The walk will start at the eastern trailhead parking lot just east of the entrance to Hammonasset Beach State Park. Exit 62 from I95, South to Route 1, left on Route 1 first right into the parking lot. This walk is particularly suitable for baby strollers.

May 7, Saturday, 10 a.m. East Haven: Check the SGT website for details.

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## Peter Otis, Photographer

For decades Peter Otis has been capturing “places, plants, people, plus other gems” with his cameras. Recently his images around the Branford Green have been on Branford Events Magazine covers.

Peter Otis Photos, LLC is eager to be hired to capture images that will last long after any event has taken place. Whether it is photographing events, seminars and reunions at Yale University and elsewhere, to portraits of individuals for social media (LinkedIn and Facebook), to family gatherings, kids and grandkids, to lectures, as well as Mitzvahs, confirmations, and weddings, to capturing the beauty of the natural and built world, Peter is ready to be your photographer.

Some recent long term projects for Peter Otis Photos, LLC included 3 year documentation of the construction of Yale's Platinum LEED Kroon Hall, properties of the Guilford Land Conservation Trust, 8 events for Guilford's 375th celebration, and all liturgical and social activities at Trinity Episcopal Church in Branford, including removal, restoration and repair of stained glass windows.

Please look at [www.peterotisphotos.com](http://www.peterotisphotos.com) for many examples of Peter's project images or contact Peter at [peter@peterotisphotos.com](mailto:peter@peterotisphotos.com).

# Homeowner Benefit For Elderly & Totally Disabled

Now is the time for homeowners to apply for a benefit program for the elderly and totally disabled pursuant to §12-170aa. The benefit takes the form of a credit that appears on an eligible person's tax bill this July of 2015. The benefit amount is based upon graduated levels of income and a person's marital status.

Application for this benefit under §12-170aa are filed with the Assessor's Office in the town in which the elderly or totally disabled person resides. The filing period is from February 1st through May 15th of 2016. Once a person is approved for this benefit he/she must submit an application

on a biennial basis. Income received by both a husband and his wife is considered in determining the eligibility of married persons for the benefit. If a person is legally separated pursuant to CGS §46b-40, as of the December 31st, 2015, he or she is treated as single for purposes of this program.

Under this benefit program provided by §12-170aa, an applicant or his spouse must, as of the October 1st, 2015 assessment date must meet several requirements to qualify for this program. Including but not limited to the age requirement of the elderly who must be 65 years of age

prior to December 31st, preceding the date of making application and/or be the surviving spouse of a person who had been receiving a benefit who has attained age 50 or older as of the December 31st preceding the application for the benefit.

Please telephone the Assessor's Office for additional requirements and any questions between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. Monday through Friday at (203) 488-2039. Before applying you may want to telephone to learn the information that must be provided to make application.

# Branford Economic Development Commission

At its December meeting the Branford Economic Development Commission presented Connecticut Hospice 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 1974, Connecticut Hospice is considered the birthplace of the American hospice movement, offering pain management, home care, inpatient care, interdisciplinary care, hospice arts and bereavement support. Under the guidance of Rosemary Johnson-Hurzeler, Connecticut Hospice has become affiliated with dozens of hospitals across the state, and serves as a teaching environment for students at Yale, UConn, and Quinnipiac Universities. In 2014 The Joint Commission, a national accreditation agency that evaluates health care organizations, awarded its certification to CT Hospice as the first certified palliative care teaching hospital-hospice in the nation. With more than 300 employees, it is one of the largest employers in town. Pictured at the award presentation are [l to r] EDC chairman Perry Maresca, EDC member Joe Gordon, VP and CFO Tom McGovern, Director of Volunteers Joan Cullen, Director of Development Linda Laucella, and First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove.

The EDC continues to support a variety of development projects across town, including the "Atlantic Wharf" project which recently received site approval from the Planning & Zoning Commission for its plans to transform the 7½ acres of the former Atlantic Wire property into a transit oriented, mixed-used complex of residential



units and ground level commercial space. Other development projects underway include the expansion of Stony Creek Brewery's production capacity, as well as American Polyfilm, Inc.'s new state-of-the-art advanced manufacturing facility on Rte. 1.

And we are pleased to welcome to town Farmington Bank and its new mortgage office on School Street, Mac Auto Sales on North Main Street, and Tru-Spec Metals on Business Park Drive. At the same time, we want to extend a warm welcome to Toy Time, which opened its doors on Main Street just as the holiday season began, as well as to new neighbors Bell'Oliva gourmet cooking oils and the Branford Arts Center & Gallery, both also on Main Street. All of these new enterprises have quickly become part of the Town's diverse collection of restaurants, shops and boutiques, enhancing the appeal of our Town Center as a destination for residents and visitors alike to live-shop and play.

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## BRANFORD TOWN HALL DIRECTORY

[www.branford-ct.gov](http://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

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## Hire A Real Pet Sitter

Tina Dodge, owner of For The Love of Paws, is partnering with Pet Sitters International for the Get A Real Pet Sitter® campaign to educate pet owners on what to look for in a reputable, professional pet sitter. With more than 60 percent of households owning at least one pet, finding reliable pet care is likely a concern for the majority of pet owners on The Connecticut Shoreline. For these pet owners, Tina Dodge, owner of For The Love of Paws has an important piece of advice: Don't be tricked by so-called pet sitters.

"Many pet owners use the term 'pet sitter' incorrectly, referring to anyone—from a family friend to the neighborhood teenager asked to walk a dog—as a 'pet sitter,'" says Dodge. "It is important that pet owners understand that pet sitting is a professional career and professional pet sitters offer peace of mind that other pet-care options cannot." Even for pet owners committed to using professional pet sitters instead of friends or family, the search can be confusing.

With the influx of pet-care directory sites popping up in the last couple of years and news stories touting pet sitting as an easy way to earn extra cash, more and more people are deciding to cash in on the growing need for pet care. Dodge's pet-sitting service, For The Love of Paws has offered pet-sitting services in Branford, Connecticut for 12 years and is a member of Pet Sitters International (PSI), the world's leading educational association for professional pet sitters. Tina's business is insured for liability and Tina has undergone a criminal background check. Tina has been trained in Pet First Aid and is certified in canine and feline behavior.

PSI President Patti Moran—who also founded the pet-sitting industry more than two decades ago—offers additional advice for pet owners. "Simply being listed on an online pet-sitter listing—or even on a nationally-publicized directory—does not make a pet sitter a professional, qualified care provider," explains Moran. "Anyone can post a profile advertising pet-sitting service, so it's important for pet owners to take a closer look to ensure they are hiring a real pet sitter."

Dodge is joining with PSI and thousands of fellow pet sitters to promote the "Get A Real Pet Sitter®" message to educate pet owners on what they should look for when selecting a professional pet sitter.

PSI and For The Love of Paws advise pet owners to ask these important questions when interviewing a potential pet sitter:

1. Is the pet sitter insured and bonded?
2. Can the pet sitter provide proof of clear criminal history?
3. Does the pet sitter provide client references?
4. Is the pet sitter certified and has he or she participated in pet-care training, such as pet first aid?
5. Is the pet sitter a member of a professional and educational association, such as Pet Sitters International?

Dodge encourages local pet owners to visit [loveofpaws.com](http://loveofpaws.com) or call (203) 640-7068 to learn more about her business credentials and services. To learn more about PSI, visit <http://www.petsit.com>.

## Branford Historical Society



The Branford Historical Society actively maintains the historic Harrison House Museum circa 1724 at 124 Main Street Branford. The Harrison House is closed for scheduled tours in the winter months, however by appointment

tours can be made available by emailing us at [info@branfordhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@branfordhistoricalsociety.org). Look for the house to be open again in June, every Saturday from 1-4 pm.

On Tuesday April 26, 7:00 pm at the Blackstone Library, Jane Bouley will give a talk and slide presentation on the History of The Atlantic Wire Company. She will begin with the early Branford settler John Wilford who owned the land on Meadow Street, to William Hitchcock, his family and the wire company he started in 1906. Jane will discuss the building, the process of wire drawing, and the many products that were produced by using the wire from The Atlantic Wire Company.

Refreshments will be served. This program is sponsored by the Branford Historical Society. Donations will be accepted and appreciated in support of the Harrison House.

In May we will hold our Annual Dinner, revisiting the topic of the Dutch Fort Archaeological Dig, performed in 1998 on Linden Ave, featuring speaker Jim Powers who will talk about the project and the findings. Stay in touch on our Website at [www.branfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.branfordhistoricalsociety.org) for more information on the Annual Dinner, along with other upcoming events, and information about the Historical Society and the Harrison House Museum.

## Community Forest Commission

The primary mission of the CFC is to protect and increase the number of native trees in Branford. Native trees support our insects, birds and mammals whereas non-native plants may not support any wildlife. Furthermore, scientific studies have shown that the presence of trees clearly improves human health (Tzoulas et al. Landscape and Urban Planning 81: 167-178; 2007). Additionally, trees help clean our streams and rivers, conserve energy in the winter, cool buildings, sidewalks, etc. in the summer, combat global warming, decrease noise pollution, increase property value and have many other benefits.


A mature tree usually has a significant monetary value. Proper care includes watering a newly planted tree several times a week for several years and mulching correctly: a ring several feet from the tree with no mulch next to the tree trunk.

Current members of the CFC are: Peggy Carpenter, 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, email contact: [Shirley.McCarthy@yale.edu](mailto:Shirley.McCarthy@yale.edu).

# ACT II

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## Food Drive

### To Benefit Branford Food Pantry



On Saturday, May 7, the Branford Letter Carriers will participate in a food collection that will benefit the Branford Food Pantry. This is the largest food drive in the country and is critical to those local agencies who are trying to provide supplemental food to families in need. That need is growing while the supply of surplus foods is decreasing.

Residents are encouraged to support this food drive. Food items can be set near, or hung from, mailboxes and they will be collected when mail is delivered on May 7.

Typically, this drive generates 14,000 pounds of food that is brought to the Branford Food Pantry on Harrison Ave. where some 30 volunteers will unload, sort and put away the goods. While all non-perishable food is welcome, there is a special need for peanut butter, jelly or jam, stew, tuna fish, juices, cereal, hardy soups, canned chicken or pork, hash and other meat containing foods.

The Branford Food Pantry serves about 174 needy families monthly and distributes 15-18,000 pounds of food a month. Last year the total food distributed was 230,000 pounds! This is no small feat and it is only possible through the generosity of the community-food or cash donors, collecting groups like the Letter Carriers and volunteers at the Food Pantry.

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