

Branford



Events

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Volume 1 • Quarter 2 • 2013



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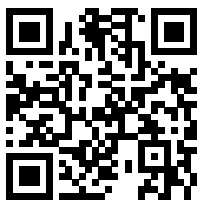
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First Selectman's Corner

This issue of "Branford Events" is arriving in your mail box just as our summer season is about to take off. On the following pages you will find announcements, information, and details on the Branford Festival, the Father's Day Road Race, the high school's graduation ceremony on the green, our popular summer jazz concerts, and more. This issue also contains information to help you safely enjoy the summer, as well as to keep you up to date on various town initiatives and projects.

Although "Super Storm Sandy" and her winter partner "Nemo" may be distant memories for most, we continue to work with FEMA on federal reimbursements for the town's emergency expenses during the storms. And while we work to close out the post-storm reporting, we are turning our focus on the longer range issue of coastal resiliency in the face of sea level rise and global climate change. We have established a mechanism to study and recommend changes to our regulatory offices that will be designed to promote public safety and to protect our environment and property.

I am pleased to announce that three new department heads have joined town hall's ranks. Dan McGowan has taken on the management of the town's Transfer Station on East Main Street and its solid waste and recycling operations. Dan had been with the town's Inland Wetlands office and has a background in environmental services. Emil Coviello is the town's new director of public works. Emil comes to Branford with an extensive

background in public works operations and other municipal services. And, most recently, Alice Pentz began in early May as the new director of the Willoughby Wallace Library in Stony Creek, bringing years of library management experience with her.

Meanwhile, a new public work facility continues as a town priority. Soon after the public works building committee issued its report and recommendation, another viable site was identified. The parcel was not available last year when the town issued its RFP, but once it was brought to town hall's attention an initial review indicated that the eight acre property met the criteria established by the committee, it was submitted for consideration. As a result, it is now under review and, pending any serious flaws being discovered, a dialogue will commence with the appropriate town agencies and officials.

The Amtrak Bridge project continues to progress towards completion, with DOT expecting to have the new bridge and widened roadway finished by the end of this construction season, which runs to late fall. In addition to that project, DOT is also getting closer to beginning its work on the School Ground Road and North Branford Road bridges.



Continued on page 4

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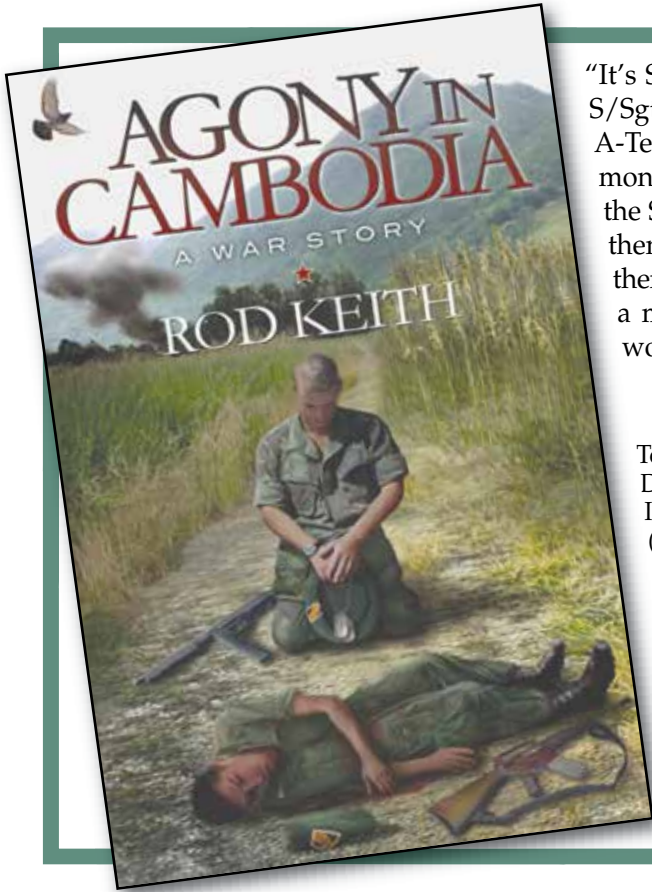
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Author Rod Keith is a resident of Branford.

To order a signed copy, please send your name and address to Dunnottar Publishing, 3 Lakeview Terrace, Branford, CT 06405-4012. Include a check made payable to Dunnottar Publishing for \$13.94 (\$9.95 + \$3.99 S & H).

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**Book Signing at James Blackstone Library
in Branford on Saturday, June 8**

If someone in your family is a veteran, consider giving them this book as a gift for Father’s Day, Veterans Day, etc.



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



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is like a day without
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First Selectman's Corner ... continued from page 1

A third project in that part of town will be the redesign of the intersection where those two roads meet with Valley Road, at the town line with North Branford. Inspection of the bridges revealed they are in subpar condition for the traffic volumes on those roads, while the intersection is located on a curve at the bottom of blind descent and has long been a safety hazard. DOT has completed its public meetings on the projects and is in contact with property owners in the area; with the design work nearing completion, DOT expects to begin work later in this construction season.

As always, I encourage you to keep abreast of these and other town issues, easily done through our website, www.branford-ct.gov, and now with the quarterly issues of "Branford Events." Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer.

*Sincerely,
Unk DaRos*

Branford Economic Development Commission

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

The commission is gratified to have contributed to efforts that saw the town's 2012 net grand list grow by .63% over the previous year, ranking 6th among 30 towns reported in area news sources. It is also pleased to see the department of labor report a drop in the town's unemployment to 6.8%, compared to the greater New Haven region at 8.5% and the state at 8.2%.

The Commission extends a warm welcome to the following companies and businesses that have recently opened their doors in Branford: New England Orthotic and Prosthetic Systems, The Thimble Island Brewing Co., Sea Grass Grill, Envy Boutique; Lovet Dress Shop; See Us Grow childcare and learning center.

The EDC has recognized the following town businesses over the past couple of months with its Business Recognition Award program: Parthenon Diner & Restaurant and owner John Sousoulas, Van Wilgen's Garden Center and owner Bill Van Wilgen, his wife Laurie and his son Ryan for success with their fourth generation family business, and to Shore Publishing and its publisher Lisa Miksis, along with its Branford publication The Sound and its on-line news service ZIP06. The award cites these businesses for being leaders in their respective fields and for contributing to the betterment of the Branford community.

*Terence Elton,
Branford Special Projects Manager and EDC*

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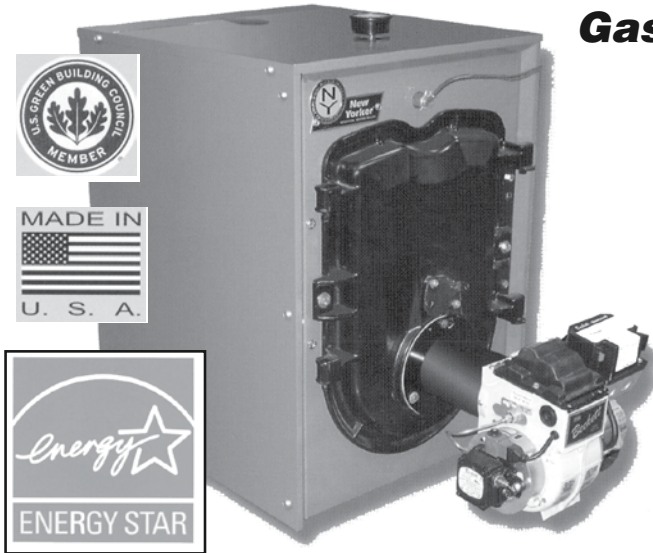
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Branford Jazz on the Green - 2013 Series

The Town of Branford, Branford Festival and the Branford Recreation Department, are pleased to announce the fifth annual Branford Jazz on the Green Series. This year's series will span eight Thursday nights, beginning in late June and running through the end of August, with each concert scheduled for 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

27	June	Giacomo Gates
4	July	Independence Day - no concert
11	July	Vincent Ingala
18	July	Ed Fast & conga bop
25	July	Brian Torff
1	August	Reunion
8	August	U.S. Coast Guard Dixieland Jazz Band
15	August	Clay Ross ~ Matuto
22	August	Lao Tizer

The 2013 Branford Jazz on the Green Series invites residents, neighbors, family, and friends all along the shoreline to kick-off the weekend early and to enjoy the unique atmosphere of the Branford Town Green and to listen to some of Connecticut's and the nation's best jazz musicians. Many of the town center's shops and boutiques join in the event by staying open late, and the town's many award-winning restaurants will be looking forward to serving you!

Remember to check for restrictions or cancellations on the Branford Jazz website at <http://www.branfordjazz.com>. We look forward to seeing everyone on the green this summer.

Dale Izzo

Branford parks and Recreation 203.488.8304

The Branford Festival



June 14-16

Come to the Branford Green on June 14th through the 16th and help celebrate the summer with the 29th annual Branford Festival. Since 1985 the Branford community has been kicking off its summer season with a weekend long party of music and activities for all ages.

This year's 29th edition of the Branford Festival will kick off on Friday, June 14th, at 4:45 and continue through to 4pm on Sunday the 16th. For details on the weekend, go to <http://branfordfestival.com/>.

This year's schedule offers a broad variety of fine food from local restaurants, activities and rides for the kids, a talent show, baking contest, and Saturday's craft & business expo, along with great musical entertainment on Friday and Saturday evenings, and Sunday afternoon.

Musical shows include: *Introduction: The Chicago Experience* on Friday evening, with a Saturday line-up of *The Travis Moody Band*, *Bad Kittie*, *Memphis Soul Spectacular*, and *Scarab: The Journey Experience*. And on Sunday, *Nicole Frechette* closes out the Festival program from the main stage in front of town hall.

If you have never been to the festival, check out the photo gallery of past weekends then check the schedule and make your plans for the weekend. If you are a veteran of the festival, check out what's new and make plans for another fun-packed weekend.

Festival Hours: Friday 4:45 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. (Food available at 5:00 p.m.), Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., and Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

See you at the Fest!

Dale Izzo - President, Branford Festival Board

From the Tax Collector's Office

A reminder to all Branford taxpayers, especially new residents, that tax bills for the 2012 Grand List year will be mailed at the end of June. The first installment of real estate and personal property taxes, and all motor vehicle taxes are due July 1st and will be considered delinquent if paid or postmarked after August 1st. Interest reverts back to the July 1st due date and is charged at a rate of 1-1/2% each month per Connecticut state statute.

You may now print a duplicate bill or pay on line at www.branford-ct.gov. "View/ Pay Tax Bills". Put in your last name and first initial to locate your bills. Payment may be done by credit card (fee of approximately 3% will be applied)

or by electronic check (ACH) for a fee of .95. If you owe prior year taxes, you must first call the tax office at 203-315-0672. You may pay by mail to: Tax Collector, PO Box 136, Branford, CT 06405 or in person at the tax office Monday through Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm (except holidays).

If you are having difficulty paying your taxes, please call 203-315-0672 and speak with the Tax Collector who will help you work out a payment arrangement.

Joanne Cleary, CCMC

Tax Collector, Branford, CT

(203) 315-0672 Phone (203) 315-3334 Fax

jcleary@branford-ct.gov



Branford Road Race

The 34th annual Branford Road Race will take place on Father's Day morning, Sunday, June 16th. Starting and finishing on the Branford town green, this race is among one of the most highly attended races in the area, with thousands of runners competing in the five mile run along one of the most picturesque routes in the northeast.

June 14

Last day for on-line registration or drop off at soundRUNNER, Lynn's Deli, or Planet Fitness (Branford only).

June 14, 15

Packet pick-up & registration at soundRUNNER (10 am - 6 pm).

June 16 - Raceday

8:00 am - Registration, Packet Pickup

9:30 am - Fun Run starts

10:10 am - 2-mile Health Walk Starts

10:15 am - 5-mile Race Starts

12:00 noon - Awards

This is truly a community event with hundreds of Branford residents among the thousands competing in the race. Crowds of family and relatives support the race on the green at the finish line, and neighborhood after neighborhood along the race route cheer-on the runners with hearty shouts and live music.

So please join us, on the road or along the road and make this year's race the best yet.

Ray Figlewski, Founder and committee chair

Floodplain Management

New Flood Insurance Rate Maps are coming!

This is a reminder of FEMA's announcement that new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) have been developed for coastal areas of Branford and will be effective as of July 8, 2013.

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

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

The FIRM maps are to become effective on July 8 and are available on the Town of Branford website for you to view [www.branford-ct.gov]. The maps are also available in the engineering department located on the second floor in Town Hall. Please contact your insurance agent regarding flood insurance and rates. The Town Engineer, who is also the

Floodplain Manager, does not make flood zone determinations for insurance purposes, but has resources available to assist you with understanding the FIRM maps.

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

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

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

Janice Plaziak, PE, Town Engineer

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Building Department

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Along with summer and warmer weather fast approaching, many of us own or a least know someone who owns a swimming pool or outdoor spa that will soon be opened for the season. Swimming pools are installed and designed for many years of enjoyment so taking the time to conduct these simple checks as an informed consumer is part of a plan to ensure safe use for years to come. Please also remember there is no substitute for adult supervision when owning a pool, someone's life or death may depend on you!

When the decision is made to open your pool or spa, a good general rule is to inspect your pool area and equipment as part of the process. Visually inspect your equipment, check and replace anything that looks broken, frayed, corroded or worn when connecting or starting up your equipment. Check and test your equipment power supply including GFCI breaker, means of disconnect and proper pump grounding before powering up any equipment.

Walk your entire pool barrier, check for any rust or corrosion that can compromise your fencing and allow unwarranted access. All pool area access points of your barrier system, including gates and doors, should be inspected and tested for proper performance. Test to ensure the self-closing and latching performance of such gates.

If you have recently installed a swimming pool within the past years and want to know if your pool or spa project has been properly inspected by the town Building department, please feel free to contact us at 203.315.0674. We would be happy to assist you with that process. Please remember one key role of the Building department is to help protect you, as the consumer.

Anthony Cinicola, Building Official

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



The Impact of the Branford Community Foundation

The Branford Community Foundation (BCF) started in 1979 with a small boy and a swing set. Five-year-old Darin Etzel was ill with a rare blood disease and needed a bone marrow transplant. "At that time," says Darin's father, Dave Etzel, "there were only three hospitals in the country that did that procedure." So Darin and his parents went to Sloan Kettering in New York City, the closest facility to home. Dave and his wife, Mary Margaret, took an apartment in the city to be with Darin while he underwent this latest medical effort to restore his health. Friends from Branford traveled to New York to donate blood and offer support to Darin and his parents. These friends wanted Darin to have something special to look forward to at the end of this difficult time, so they raised \$770 to buy him a terrific swing set. "The swing set," says Dave, "was hope for the future." Sadly, Darin developed complications and died on January 1, 1980. In his memory, his family wanted to carry into the greater community, the "hope for the future" that their friends had wanted for them. The Branford Community Foundation began with the \$770 raised for Darin's swing set.

The mission of the BCF is to connect people who care, with causes that matter, for the purpose of preserving and promoting the quality of life in the Branford Community, now and for generations to come. The BCF is governed by a board of directors selected for knowledge of the education, cultural, civic, moral, public and other charitable needs of the Branford community and serves without compensation.

"The Branford Community Foundation works every day to help address the most pressing issues facing our community, including emergency fuel and food assistance; youth development; environmental education and preservation; and the arts. Community foundations impact lives, solve problems, and improve futures," said Eunice Lasala, BCF President. "In a down economy, with limited resources and a growing need for services to help families in need, we are more determined than ever to bring our community partners together to find innovative and effective solutions to some of our most challenging social problems."

Community foundations such as BCF are independent, public entities that steward philanthropic resources from institutional and individual donors to local nonprofits that are the heart of strong, vibrant communities. Community foundations represent one of the fastest-growing forms of philanthropy in the United States. Every state in the United States is home to at least one community foundation - whether large or small, urban and rural - that is advancing solutions to a wide range of social issues. In fact, the 2011 Columbus Survey found that despite the recession, giving by the nation's 100 largest community foundations actually increased slightly in 2010 to \$3.7 billion and exceeded

pre-recession levels seen in 2006 and 2007.

Today, thanks to the generous support of our donors and careful financial investment, BCF maintains over one million in endowed funds and invests over \$50 thousand in the community each year. BCF likes to share real stories about how the organization works with private and public community leaders and organizations to keep "hope for the future" strong in our town. Some recent examples of our "investments" are:

In 2010 BCF provided \$25,000 in seed funding for the construction of the new Soundview Family YMCA.

In 2011, BCF supported two free performances of "Emergency Used Candles," one at Evergreen Woods Retirement Community and one at the Blackstone Memorial Library.

In 2012, BCF provided financial assistance for ten Branford children and teens to attend Camp Hazen YMCA summer programs.

While BCF was pleased to support these important community efforts, the Foundation's work is more than just about responding to grants. Last winter when the community faced a fuel crisis, BCF - working in parallel collaboration with the Community Foundations in Guilford and Madison - spearheaded a fundraising effort to address the shortfall. Using a challenge grant that would match every dollar raised up to the level of \$10,000, BCF was able to maximize its donation in the spring of 2012 to the Branford Counseling Center to distribute to Branford families in need.

BCF works hard to respond to community needs, and the Board continually looks for ways to improve the process of the Foundation's giving. To that end, the organization recently implemented new policy and procedures to make BCF grant-making more effective. The application form has been modified and the review process for grant request has been streamlined; grant requests will now be evaluated quarterly (03/31; 06/30; 09/30 and 12/31). The modifications to the application now adhere to national and Connecticut state standards and capture more meaningful data.

The new application form can be downloaded at www.branfordcommunityfoundation.org.

The Branford Community Foundation is proud to make a difference in the community. These efforts are only possible through the gracious giving of the people who care about our mission and who have supported us. On behalf of the board and all those that have benefited from our supporters, a heartfelt "thank you". If you would like more information, including how to initiate a grant or how to give to the Foundation, please visit our website or contact Eunice Lasala, Board President, at 203-488-6063.



**Essex Printing Winner
In New England Regional Awards
of Excellence Competition**

The announcement was made on April 4 during PINE'S Industry Awards Gala with hundreds of industry professionals in attendance.

PINE'S Awards of Excellence Competition attracts over 200 entries from 41 printing and imaging companies across New England competing in a variety of printing and graphic communications categories.

Essex Printing won Awards of Recognition for the printing of Essex Savings Bank's 2013 calendar. A panel of judges with extensive experience in printing and print production examined a wide range of work submitted. Each entry was judged anonymously on its own merit in a category with similar printed pieces.

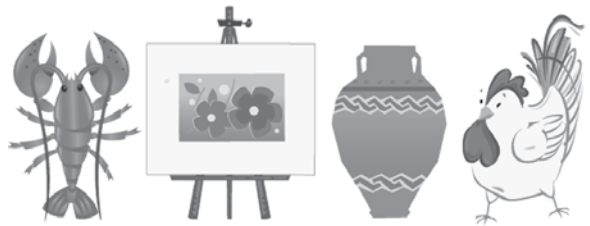
"We are very proud to have won this competition because it confirms our commitment to our clients that we provide an outstanding level of quality printing," said William McMinn, President of Essex Printing and Events Magazines.

For more information please contact Essex Printing at 860-767-9087.

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Branford Wastewater

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The Branford Wastewater Treatment Plant has the never ending challenge of keeping the effluent, that goes into the Branford River and then into Long Island Sound, as clean as possible. Meeting that challenge are sixteen dedicated municipal employees, with various skill sets and training that help keep the total system safe, efficient, running smoothly and operational costs low. The plant, upgraded several years ago, has been recognized by the Natural Resources Defense Council with an award for the positive impact it has had on the quality of beaches in Branford and the shoreline. Another significant result of the plants design and operation is in the revenue it generates for the town as part of the Long Island Sound Nitrogen Reduction Program, with the last payment to town totally more than \$117,000.

We are governed by the town's Board of Selectmen and its Water Pollution Control Authority, and permitted by the CT State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection [D.E.E.P.]. The treatment plant, located at 75 Block Island Road, treats a design of 4.5 mgd of wastewater flows generated by Branford as well as some wastewater from North Branford. Our operation includes more than 100 miles

of pipe providing service to nearly three quarters of the town. Septic disposal, boat and RV waste for Branford residents are also accommodated at the plant.

At this time our five-year permit is up for renewal in September, and our application to the state D.E.E.P. is already on file with them for their review.

Needless to say, it was been a rough season on our infrastructure from all the past storms that mother nature delivered. We are pleased that the facility and the crew persevered and kept the system running throughout all the wind, rain and power outages we experienced.

We are pleased to say that 90% of the relining of the East Main Street gravity line coming from the Rt.139 Pump station is completed. At this time, we are waiting on the new outflow chamber to be rebuilt. This is necessary due to the toll that the hydrogen sulfide gas has taken on the reinforced concrete chamber that is currently in place.

At the same time, various pump station upgrades are in the planning stages right now and hopefully come to fruition in the not too distant future.

Dan Gregory

Superintendent, Branford Wastewater Treatment Facility



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The 3rd Annual Closer to Free Bike Ride for Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven will take place on Saturday, September 7th. Riders have the option of cycling 25, 62.5 or 100 miles. Our ride travels through multiple shoreline towns including Branford, Madison, Guilford, Essex, and Old Saybrook. We've been called the "best organized ride in Connecticut." And for good reason...our experienced staff and volunteers will take care of you from mile one until the finish line. Clear route cues and signage, lots of food and

drink and efficient SAG when you need it will help you leave the worrying behind so you can focus on the miles ahead. Plus our finish line festival at the Yale Bowl has fun for everyone, with live music, a beer garden, food trucks and so much more. Our volunteers and Road Crew are the backbone of the Ride. We've got fun and rewarding volunteer opportunities for anyone who wants to lend a hand. The Closer to Free Ride simply can't happen without the generous support of our family of sponsors. The Ride is the perfect platform to give your brand exposure while joining in the fight against cancer. We've got sponsorship packages to fit every budget and every goal, with lots of innovative ways to connect with our desirable demographic.

For more information on the riding, volunteering, or sponsorships please visit www.rideclosertofree.org or email rideclosertofree@ynhh.org. You can also reach us at (203) 200-CTFR (2837).

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