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**Edward Smith Library**  
 3 Old Post Rd., Northford

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

To register for events at the library, visit the Events Calendar at our website: <https://northbranford.librarycalendar.com/> or call (203) 484-0469.

**Little Makers: Tues., March 10, 10:30-11am.** Come for 30 minutes of making! Each session has a simple craft activity that we do together. This session we will make a pigeon craft inspired by Mo Willems' Pigeon series. Recommended ages 2-6. Registration required.

**Drop-In Tech Help: Wed., March 11, 10am-1pm & Thurs., March 12, 2pm-5pm.** Free drop-in sessions of personal tech help. First come, first serve. Limited to 30 minutes each. Bring a device that you need help with. No registration required.

**Support Group For Dementia & Alzheimer's Caregivers: Thurs., March 12, 10:30am-12:30pm.** Join facilitator Karen LaBanca for our Monthly Drop-In Caregiving Support Group. If you're responsible for a loved one, caregiver support groups are a way for you and others to share information, insight, advice, or words of encouragement in a safe and supporting space.

**Library Teen Advisory Board: Thurs., March 12, 2:30-4:30pm.** Students in grades 7-12 can join the North Branford Public Libraries Teen Advisory Board (T.A.B.). Give back to your community and have a say in what your library

offers teens. Earn community service hours for each meeting you attend.

**Mario Kart Tournament: Thurs., March 12, 4:30-5:30pm.** Youths aged 10-14 are invited to take turns playing rounds of Mario Kart with their peers. Registration required.

**Secure Your Future: Retirement Planning: Thurs., March 12, 6pm-8pm.** Join the father/daughter team of Lou and Jessica Pelletier for a comprehensive retirement planning workshop. Plus, discover the legal documents every retiree should have. Registration required.

**Tots & Tunes: Fri., March 13, 10:30-11am.** Children ages 18 months & up and their siblings can enjoy 30 minutes of songs, stories and movement at Edward Smith Library. Parent or guardian must attend. Registration not required.

**Monday Night Mah-Jongg: March 16, 6pm-8pm.** Those interested in playing Mah-Jongg are invited. Participants should bring their Mah-Jongg sets.

**Little Makers: Tues., March 17, 10:30-11am.** Come for 30 minutes of making! Each session has a simple craft activity that we do together. This session we will make a rainbow craft. Recommended ages 2-6. Registration required.

**WANTED: Old tools, musical instruments, military, Winchesters, Colts, antique guns & old hunting & fishing. We buy gold & silver coins and jewelry. Anything related to vintage jewelry. Call Joe, (203) 488-7271**

## Come Join The Fun At North Haven Conservation Commission Earth Day Celebration 2026



Pictured: Last years participants.



**North Haven:** Join us on Saturday, April 18th, 2026 from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM at the North Haven Parks and Recreation Center, located at 7 Linsley Street, North Haven, CT 06473, for a vibrant Earth Day Celebration. Now in its 18th year, this event is proudly sponsored by the North Haven Conservation Commission and highlights our shared commitment to environmental stewardship.

This free event invites residents and families to explore a wide range of engaging exhibits and demonstrations presented by local businesses, civic organizations, and state and local agencies. It's not just an opportunity to raise awareness about environmental issues: it's also a chance to discover ways to actively contribute to the improvement of life in North Haven.

We are bringing back the Scavenger Hunt, a fun filled activity with prizes, the Grand Prize being a Amazon Fire Tablet, and other prizes donated by the many exhibitors and vendors. FREE FACE PAINTING from 10:30 to 1:30 by Picasso Parties.

Attendees can look forward to exciting activities, displays, and hands on projects with many participants including Mystic Aquarium, North Haven Garden Club, The North Haven Camera Club, the North Haven Trails Association, Peters Rock Association, the Daytime Gardeners of North Haven, free face painting by Picasso Parties, and many more. Come celebrate our planet and learn how you can make a difference.

New this year the Conservation Commission has invited several small home based businesses to join our celebration. We wanted to highlight and showcase the many talented entrepreneurs of North Haven and give them an opportunity to share and sell their craft with all attendees at Earth Day. Vendors include Cookie Girl CT, Oakwood Candles & Creations, Helena Angelic, 203 Woodworks, The Gift Girl, The Kitchen Witch, L.A. Farm, Brooklyn Dough & Co. LLC, Frosted, Over The Raindow, The Kitchen Witch, Jellyman's Woodworks, Blind Date Books by Cindy Adinolfi, and a few vendors selling their homemade crafts.

Article & photos by Cindy Golia

### \$500 Merit Scholarship for Environmental or Plant Science Student

**North Haven:** A \$500 Merit Scholarship sponsored by the Daytime Gardeners of North Haven is available to a North Haven resident who is majoring in a field of study related to environmental or plant science, horticulture, botany, conservation, floriculture, forestry, landscape design, plant pathology, or an allied subject, at a certified college or university.

who are highly motivated to pursue a career in one of these fields of study. The applicant may be a senior currently in high school or already attending the college or university program.

Please email Sally@ideatraincenter.com with questions or to request the application.

**All application material must be submitted on or before April 11, 2026.**

We are seeking applicants

## Town News from... David Cohen North Haven Third Selectman



It's the most wonderful time of the year -- budget season! I'll admit it, before I became a member of the Board of Selectmen, I found the budget process to be confusing and hard to follow. I would hear folks in town say things like "this is a tough budget year," or "this is a challenging budget cycle," but I didn't really understand why. Why is one year more challenging than another? Isn't it always hard to find enough dollars to support all the needs and wants of our town? Well, the answer is, it depends, and there's no doubt this year is a doozy.

Last year, after several years of minimal to no tax increases, we had a very large tax increase due in large part to a property revaluation that occurred at the height of the market, a rapid rise in inflation and the end of Covid-era stimulus. With the shock of last year's increase still fresh in our minds, now comes another budget barreling down the parkway, and the ingredients that made last year so tricky are still very much in play. Costs haven't come down, in fact in many cases they've only gotten worse (health care as a prime example), funding from the state and federal governments is limited and uncertain and contractual obligations to our town employees (non-discretionary spending) make up the vast majority of our budget. We do a good job of bringing new business to town to take pressure off our residents, but these businesses have a variety of infrastructure needs (fire, police, roads and other services) that burden other parts of our budget.

So, what does this all mean? It means it's going to be a tough budget year. Everyone wants to avoid another tax hike AND we want to ensure our town departments and the Board of Ed have the resources they need to provide high quality services for our community and an excellent education for our kids.

But, it's not as dire as it seems! Over the last few months each of our town departments, including our Board of Education, has presented thoughtful budgets to our Board of Finance, making every effort to keep their increases minimal and necessary. Now, of course, not all requests are created equal, and the Board of Finance will need to make a series of choices about which particular increases are needs and which are wants. And, at the risk of letting the cat out of the bag, I think we will likely see a mill rate increase this year to support the proposed budget. How large of an increase remains to be seen, but I can tell you that when folks come out on April 13 for our public hearing at the high school they should feel good that what they are hearing and seeing is the result of a robust and honest conversation between our department heads, subject matter experts and elected officials about the state of our town and how to best allocate our resources for the common good.

It has been said that all politics is local. Well, I certainly wish that were the case, because we do politics pretty well here in North Haven. Under our town meeting form of government our residents are the legislative body. Meaning, rather than a town council and mayor making decisions for people, we operate under a more direct form of democracy where residents assemble to directly debate, vote on, and set policy on town matters like budgets, bonding and taxes. We have a unique independent spirit here in town, grounded in the principle that the People, with a capital "P," are the most qualified to make the decisions that most directly impact their lives. This is the cornerstone of our way of doing business. Don't get me wrong, our elected officials play a vital role in managing the day-to-day operations of the town, but we look to our residents to make the ultimate decision on what happens in North Haven. There's no doubt this form of government demands a greater level of participation from an engaged citizenry than most places in America, but we are certainly up to the challenge. North Haven is a special place, and your voice and perspective are necessary to a well functioning town government.

With that in mind, I look forward to seeing you on April 13 at the high school for our town's annual meeting. I encourage you to come out and see what our town departments have been working so diligently on - come curious, ask questions, and embrace your role in North Haven's governance.

# Think Spring!

## Grilling Season is Here!







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