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➡*Letters continued from previous page*

A One-Sided Information Environment Erodes Our Local Democracy

To The Editor: October 1, 2026

With local newspapers disappearing, Facebook community pages have become one of the main ways North Haven residents learn about town government and the people who represent them. Busy parents and working families don't always have time to hunt down every candidate's website. For many, the community page is the news.

That's why it matters who controls these pages. In North Haven, most are run by Republicans, some of them Republican campaign managers. Senator Paul Cicarella's political posts appear there regularly, and I have no objection to that. But Democratic and third-party candidates are routinely denied the same opportunity. I've tried for years to share campaign and town governance related posts and been refused.

The result is a one-sided information environment that quietly limits voters' choices. When residents hear from only one party, they aren't really choosing between candidates. They're choosing from what they've been allowed to see.

Some will say Democrats should just start their own pages. But do we really want town news split into two separate narratives, each delivered only to people who already agree? That divides our community further and ensures no one's views are ever challenged.

Pages that have taken on the role of a local newspaper should hold themselves to a newspaper's standards of fairness and open access. The fix is simple. If a page allows posts from one party's candidates and officials, it should allow them from all parties.

I've asked Senator Cicarella and other Republican officials to use their influence with these admins, many of whom belong to their own party. I ask again here. Candidates and supporters who are confident in their ideas don't need to shut others out of the conversation. They welcome the debate and let voters decide.

Winning because the other side was silenced isn't winning on the merits. It's a slow erosion of our local democracy, and its effects will outlast any single term in office. Democracy and equal access to voting information needs come before personal beliefs, party, candidate, and issues every time because it is the most fragile and precious thing that we have to protect while we all too often take it for granted.

Alex Johnson, North Haven

North Haven Deserves Answers Before Amazon's Drones Take Flight

To The Editor: October 1, 2026

Over the years, I have supported economic development and welcomed businesses that invest in North Haven. Innovation can create jobs and opportunities, but new technology should not move forward without fully considering its impact on the people and communities it will affect.

That is why I have serious concerns about Amazon's proposed Prime Air drone delivery operation based in North Haven.

Amazon is seeking authorization for drone deliveries within approximately 7.5 miles of its North Haven facility, potentially operating seven days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., with authorization for up to 1,000 delivery flights per operating day.

An operation of this scale raises legitimate questions about noise over residential neighborhoods, privacy, public safety, property impacts, and environmental disruption. Residents deserve clear answers about flight paths, altitudes, monitoring, safeguards, and how concerns will be addressed before these drones take flight.

I recently joined members of our legislative delegation in raising these concerns directly with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. I have also been in conversations with CT DEEP regarding the proposal and the potential environmental disruptions it could create. I will continue working with the Department to ensure impacts on wildlife, nesting areas, coastal resources, and surrounding neighborhoods are carefully considered.

These concerns extend beyond North Haven. East Haven Mayor Joseph Carfora has also raised questions about flight paths, noise monitoring, privacy protections, emergency procedures, and how residents would report problems associated with drone operations.

I support innovation, but innovation must be balanced with our responsibility to protect the quality of life our residents expect and deserve. Until these serious concerns are adequately addressed and appropriate safeguards are in place, I cannot support Amazon's proposed drone delivery operation in our community.

North Haven residents deserve transparency, accountability, and answers before this proposal moves forward.

Dave Yaccarino,
State Representative, 87th District
Connecticut General Assembly

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LWV Hosts Successful Meet & Greet

North Haven: The League of Women Voters of Hamden/North Haven hosted its first North Haven Meet & Greet on September 29th, bringing together the four candidates seeking election in Senate District 34 and House District 87 with North Haven residents.

The event, held at the Mildred A. Wakeley Community & Recreation Center, drew a strong turnout and provided residents with an opportunity to hear directly from the candidates and engage with them individually.

Candidates participating in the Meet & Greet were Senate District 34 candidates Paul Cicarella and Brandi Mandato, and House District 87 candidates Dave Yaccarino and Kathleen Kimball.

The League thanks the candidates, residents, NHTV and the staff of the Recreational Center who helped make the Meet and Greet a successful evening and looks forward to continuing its work to provide North Haven voters with opportunities to become informed and engaged in the electoral process.

Northford & North Branford Public Libraries

EDWARD SMITH LIBRARY UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Drop-In Tech Help: Thurs., October 8, 10am-1pm. Personal tech help is available. First come, first serve. Limited to 30 minutes each. Bring a device that you need help with. No registration is required.

Support Group for Dementia & Alzheimer's Caregivers: Thurs., Oct. 8, 11:15am-1:15pm. Caregiver support groups are a way for you and others to share information, insight or words of encouragement. Facilitator, Karen LaBanca.

Banking Scams Targeting Seniors: Thurs., Oct. 8, 1-2pm. The Grandparents Scam. The Lottery Scam. The IRS Scam. These all share a common goal-to access your personal financial information and steal your money. Come learn about common banking scams and how to avoid being a victim.

Lego Robotics: Grades 1-2: Thurs., Oct. 8, 5-6pm; Grades 3-5: Thurs., Oct. 8, 7-8pm. Build with Legos and learn simple coding using Lego Education Spike Essentials Kits.

Tots & Tunes: Fri., Oct. 9, 10:30-11am. Young children ages 18 months & up and their siblings can enjoy 30 minutes of songs, stories and movement. Parent or guardian must attend.

Saturday Storytime: Oct. 10, 10:30-11am. Join Children's Librarian Miss Mary for 30 minutes of stories, music and movement. All ages.

Holiday Closing: Mon., October 12. Smith Library will be closed in observance of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day. We will reopen on Tues., Oct.13 at 10am.

Little Makers: Tues., Oct. 13, 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 birthday cupcake craft. Recommended ages 2-6.

Amazing Generation Book Club: Tues., Oct. 13, 6-7pm. Children in Grades 3 & up and their families are invited to a discussion of delaying screen usage. We'll discuss the #1 New York Times bestseller "The Amazing Generation" by Johnathan Haidt and Catherine Price. Copies of the book can be picked up at Smith Library. Pizza and drinks provided. Activities for kids and siblings.

ATTENTION NORTH HAVEN RESIDENTS

THE TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN

FALL LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE AT

www.town.north-haven.ct.us

Town of No. Branford Office of Social Service

ENERGY ASSISTANCE 2026-27 HEATING SEASON

This Office of Social Service energy assistance season began October 1 for Northford and North Branford residents. It is preferred that those that heat with a deliverable fuel such as oil, propane, or pellets are seen initially followed by utility heating customers.

Utility heating customers should participate in a program offered by the utility company; there are several programs to choose from. The programs offered are medical protection, matching program, balance forgiveness and the like. Information regarding programs offered by the utility companies is available in the Office of Social Service lobby. ***Although applications appointments began October 1 the program begins on November 2.***

There are two ways to apply, you may apply online, following this link: https://portal.ct.gov/dss/economic-security/winter-heating-assistance/energy-assistance---winter-heating/how-to-apply or in this Office, by appointment beginning October 1. You must bring to your appointment copies of all your required documents. This office cannot make copies for you. Please bring all required documents. Applications can not be completed without the required documents, incomplete documents will result in a delay or denial.

If you are interested in applying for Energy Assistance, you may call North Branford Social Service at (203) 484-6006 or (475) 655-0412 to make an appointment.

A list of required documents needed to complete your application is available in both public libraries, online at https://www.northbranfordct.gov/252/Social-Services. and the Stanley T. Williams Community Center, Social Service Lobby. There are significant changes to the program.

This program is based on income and not assets.

Daytime Gardeners Present Garden Trivia Game!



North Haven: Come join the Daytime Gardeners of North Haven for a game of garden trivia! Learn some new garden information while having fun with everyone in this game of trivia. Participants will work in teams to answer the questions presented. Open to the public but you must register in advance. Come individually or come with friends. We will form the teams as we get organized to start.

Game date is Oct. 27, 2026. Game time is 11:00 AM to noon at the North Haven Community Center, 7 Linsley Avenue, North Haven. Join in the fun and learn while you play! Please call the Daytime Gardeners at 203-239-1557 to save a seat. Seating is limited, so please register early. The guest donation is $5.00.

The Daytime Gardeners welcome new members at any time. If you have an interest in gardening, please contact proto.mary@yahoo.com to obtain more details about our club activities and membership.

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