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North Haven Democrats Congratulate Senator-Elect Brandi Mandato and the 2026 Winners

The North Haven Democratic Town Committee (DTC) congratulated Brandi Mandato on her election as State Senator for the 34th District, which covers Durham, East Haven, North Branford, North Haven and Wallingford. With all 25 precincts reporting, Mandato received 19,549 votes (50.3%) to Cicarella's 19,290, a margin of 259 votes, according to results posted by the Connecticut Secretary of the State. She will be the first Democrat to represent the district in more than two decades and the first woman ever to represent the district.

The DTC also congratulated Governor Ned Lamont and Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz on their re-election to a third term, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro on her re-election in the 3rd Congressional District, and Attorney General William Tong, Secretary of the State Stephanie Thomas, Comptroller Sean Scanlon and Treasurer Erick Russell. In North Haven, voters backed DeLauro, Tong, Thomas and Scanlon, and DTC-endorsed candidates won the town's early vote in every race on the ballot.

"Brandi earned this seat by listening to families across five towns about the cost of living and the state aid our schools deserve," said Tim Gabriele, Chair of the North Haven DTC. "We're proud of her, and we're ready to help her deliver for North Haven in Hartford."

The Committee thanked Senator Paul Cicarella for his years of service to North Haven and the 34th District. "Senator Cicarella has served our community with dedication," said Gabriele. "We thank him and for that service and wish them well."

The DTC also thanked Dr. Kathleen Kimball, its candidate for State Representative in the 87th District, for a campaign that earned 39.6% of the vote, the strongest Democratic showing in the district since 2010, and congratulated Representative Dave Yaccarino on his re-election. The Committee also congratulated James Carew on his election as Registrar of Voters.

"Our volunteers knocked doors, sent texts and wrote letters to the editor week after week," said Amanda Gabriele, Chair of the DTC Elections Committee. "In North Haven, we cut the Republican lead in the State Senate race by more than 80% compared with 2024. That is what a community effort looks like, and it's the foundation for the work ahead."

The North Haven DTC thanks every voter who cast a ballot, the town's election officials and poll workers, and the volunteers who made this campaign possible.

The North Haven Democratic Town Committee works to elect Democrats at every level of government and to engage North Haven residents in local civic life. Learn more at www.NorthHa venDemocrats.com

American Legion Post 88 Hamden

Wanted - All Veterans to join our American Legion Post 88 Hamden. Stop in and check us out at 3005 Dixwell Avenue. Please call (203) 281-9522.

WANTED: Military items - swords, daggers, bayonets, helmets, knives, patches, medals & more, U.S. & Foreign; (203) 494-2496, Bill •

FOR SALE: Very cool Christmas idea - Danbury Mint cars, nice to display on a deck or wherever; (203) 530-6947 •

Express yourself in our Letters to the Editor



To submit a letter: Letters to the Advisor should include the writer's name, address and phone number. The writer's signature should appear at the end of the letter. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters will be accepted through Wednesday at 5pm. We will extend the deadline if circumstances allow and providing we have space available. Letters must be no longer than 400 words due to space limitations. The Advisor does not edit letters which are published as they are received. If a letter is questionable, the writer will be contacted for verification. The Advisor reserves the right to not publish letters that may be personally offensive.

High School Play a Success

To The Editor: November 12, 2026

I had the pleasure of attending the fall high school play multiple times this past weekend. Many folks in our town routinely attend the spectacular and now Halo award-winning musicals North Haven High School puts on in the spring, but fewer are aware of, or take advantage of, the fall performance. These are quite often a bit more scaled back productions, but no less impressive.

This year the school staged Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields's delightful piece of metafiction The Play That Goes Wrong. The play is ostensibly a rather rote murder mystery, but actually revealed to be an interactive comedy of errors that toys with audience expectations, draws attention to processes audiences of successful productions take for granted, and winds up revealing more about its haphazard cast and crew than the characters with whom spectators are traditionally supposed to be concerned.

It takes an impressive feat of teamwork, blocking, comedic timing, set design, dramaturgical range, and physical prowess to pull this play off, but our school's multi-talented thespians and stagehands proved themselves more than up to the task. With each performance, there was something new to see or catch. Those who did show up were laughing, applauding, or, in one notable scene at the very end, gasping loudly in their seats throughout. Bravo to Kevin Liftig, the cast, and everyone who made this production both a great success and its play-within-a-play a hilarious failure. Everything went perfectly wrong.

Tim Gabriele, North Haven

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.

Little Makers: Tues., November 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 Three Little Pigs craft. Recommended ages 2-6.

Chess Club: Wed., Nov. 18, 3:30-4:30pm Chess Club is for tweens and teens looking to play chess or join a group of players. Some previous knowledge is required, but beginners are welcome. Registration not required. Tweens under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

3D Printer Drop-In Event: Wed., Nov. 18, 4-6pm. Drop-in to see our 3D printer in action. Ask about the process and get more information on how you can use 3D printing software from home. Registration not required.

Drop-In Tech Help: Thurs., Nov. 19, 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.

All About Artists - Wassily Kandinsky: Thurs., Nov. 19, 5:30-6:30pm. Children ages 6 to 12 can join us for our All About Artists series, where we learn about different artists and create our own artwork in their style.

Tots and Tunes: Fri., November 20, 10:30-11am. Young children ages 18 months and up and their siblings can enjoy 30 minutes of songs, stories and movement. Parent or guardian must attend.

Movie Matinee - *Michael:* Fri., Nov. 20, 1-3:30pm. Join us for our monthly movie matinee at Smith Library. This month's movie is *Michael,* the 2026 biographical-drama. Starring Jaafar Jackson, Nia Long and Coleman Domingo.

Library Teen Advisory Board: Fri., Nov. 20, 3:30-5:30pm. 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.

Read to a Therapy Dog: Mon., Nov. 23, 5-6pm. Children in grades 3-5 are invited to take turns reading to Libby, a trained therapy dog. Reading to a therapy dog can boost reading skills in children, develop emotional and social skills, and encourage a love of reading. Bring a favorite book or pick one from the library.

Monday Night Mah-Jongg: Nov. 23, 6-8pm. Those interested in playing Mah-Jongg are invited. Participants should bring their Mah-Jongg sets.

THANKSGIVING BASKET SHARE

The Thanksgiving Basket Share Program will take place on Monday, November 23rd.

For those wishing to donate a basket or grocery store gift card, call or email the Office of Social Service and express your desire to donate a Thanksgiving Dinner Basket or a grocery store gift card. You may choose the family size you would like to adopt. You may choose to do this alone, or as a group, with neighbors or coworkers.

Although names are not disclosed, a number will be given to both the recipient and the donor. This is used to identify which family is the recipient. All commitments by the donor and recipients will receive written confirmation.

Should you have an interest in being a donor, please contact the Office of Social Service by email, lbreen@northbranfordct.aov or ksperry@northbranfordct.gov or by phone at (203) 484-6006 or (475) 655-0412. There is no end date for donors.