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VFW Post 8294 Membership

No. Branford/Northford *Post 8294 Veterans of Foreign Wars wants you.* If you are a military veteran or on active duty and you were involved in a foreign conflict, you are eligible to join. We have an in-house service officer that can help you with your questions and applications for veterans benefits such as medical and etc. You do not have to be a resident of Northford or North Branford to join.

Post 8294 in Northford is involved with many community and veteran activities. We also have an active men's auxiliary that is made up of members that were not in a foreign conflict.

If you might be interested in joining regular Veterans of Foreign Wars or Auxiliary, or just need information on veterans benefits, please call the Post at (203) 239-1188, after 3pm and ask for our Quartermaster, or stop by and visit our new Post loation at 1038 Middletown Ave., Northford.

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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 •

FOR SALE: Scotts 50 inch mower deck, 3-blade, exc. cond., good spindles, solid $100; (203) 214-5232

FOR SALE: Work light, LED, new, battery or 12V car adapter with 10 ft. cord, magnetic base $10; (203) 606-0932

Spring on the Quinnipiac

The **North Haven** Trail Association maintains the Banton Quinnipiac Trail in the Quinnipiac River State Park in North Haven and is once again sponsoring the MARSH MARIGOLD WALK on Sat., April 12 at 10am. Spring has arrived and with it acres of tiny yellow flowers blooming along the Quinnipiac River. The flowers correctly named Lesser Celandine are viewed as you walk along the trail to the Pines (approximately 1 mile) and return back by the roadway.

The roadway is the abandoned Banton Street which was at one time home to dozens of families forced to leave in the 70s due to the rising river waters causing excessive flooding. The State of CT relocated families and created Quinnipiac River State Park. You'll learn a little bit of history of this neighborhood passing along the remnants of foundations, driveways that go to nowhere, fences and perhaps flowers that were once planted at the homesites.

Mary Mushinsky of the Wallingford Quinnipiac Linear Trail will act as guide. Participants will meet at the Park entrance located on Upper State Street in North Haven.

Rain cancels. For further info visit www.northhaventrails.org.

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WANTED: Collector buying any Connecticut Brewery items for Wehle, Hulls, Wiebel, Largay or any other CT Breweries, signs, cans, bottles, etc.; call (203) 915-7662 •

FOR SALE: Ninja Flip Up air fryer, gently used $50; (203) 710-7387 •

$500 Merit Scholarship For Environmental Or Plant Science Student

Pictured: Sierra Ciak, recipient of the 2024 Merit Scholarship is studying Environmental Biology at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry with the goal of becoming a Conservation Biologist.



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. We are seeking applicants 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@ideatrainingcenter.com with questions or to request the application. All application material must be submitted on or before April 11, 2025.

Investing in Our Schools Is Investing in North Haven's Future

To The Editor: March 28, 2025

North Haven has long been known as a great place to live, with strong schools, a welcoming community, and a thriving local economy. Our schools are a key reason why my family moved here, and why countless other families are putting down roots and contributing to the town's success. However, with ongoing budget discussions, we must recognize that cutting school funding now will have long-term negative consequences, making our town less desirable and jeopardizing future growth.

Investing in education is not just about the students in the classroom today—it's about the strength and future of North Haven. Well-funded schools ensure smaller class sizes, access to modern technology, and enrichment programs that prepare our students for success. Our teachers and students deserve our full support, and a large part of that involves fully funding our education system. When schools thrive, property values rise, local businesses benefit, and our community continues to grow.

On the other hand, reducing school funding puts all of this at risk. Larger class sizes, fewer resources, and cuts to essential programs will make our schools less competitive, discouraging new families from choosing North Haven. Surrounding towns continue to invest in education, and if we fall behind, we risk losing our reputation as a top-tier community. Once a school system is weakened, it takes years to rebuild—far longer than the short-term savings a budget cut might offer.

We cannot afford to let this happen. A strong education system benefits everyone, not just those with children in school. It strengthens our property values, fuels local businesses, and ensures a well-prepared workforce for the future. As residents, we must urge the Board of Finance to fully fund our schools and keep North Haven a town where families want to live, work, and invest.

Molly Conley, North Haven

A True Advocate for North Haven Is Needed on Board of Finance

To The Editor: March 26, 2025

North Haven residents deserve fair representation on the Board of Finance, but right now, Democrats don't have a real voice at the table. The decisions made by this board impact every aspect of our town—especially our schools—and we need members who will fight for our values, not against them.

During the most recent budget discussions, our current Democratic representative pushed to further reduce the Board of Education budget by an additional $1.5 million. When the Republican majority ultimately voted to keep the original budget intact, she turned around and voted against it. Let's be clear: advocating for deeper cuts and then opposing the final budget is not fighting for North Haven families—it's undermining them.

Even worse, when asked if she understood that her proposed cuts would result in teacher layoffs, she laughed. There is nothing funny about budget reductions that would harm our students, increase class sizes, and strip resources from our schools. Also, who laughs at people loosing their jobs and not being able to provide for their families during these difficult financial times! North Haven's children deserve better.

Strong public schools are the backbone of a thriving community. Families move here because they know our schools provide a high-quality education. Businesses invest here because they want a well-educated workforce. Underfunding education not only hurts students and teachers today but also weakens the long-term economic health of our town.

Democrats in North Haven deserve a representative on the Board of Finance who will fight for our values, for our schools, and for responsible investment in our community. We need someone who will stand up for students, teachers, and families—not someone who actively works against them.

This November, let's make sure we elect a Democrat to the Board of Finance who will truly advocate for North Haven and its future.

Alex Johnson, North Haven

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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.**

Budget Cuts Directly Impact Students and Teachers

To The Editor: March 26, 2025

As North Haven considers its budget, we must acknowledge the direct impact funding decisions have on our students and teachers. Reducing school funding isn't just a numbers game—it has real consequences in our classrooms, affecting the quality of education our children receive.

We are already seeing the effects of limited resources in our schools. At North Haven High School, some sinks don't work. At the middle school, broken lights can't be fixed due to a budget freeze. These may seem like small inconveniences, but they are clear signs of a system struggling to provide students with the safe, well-maintained learning environment they deserve.

Beyond the facilities, budget cuts lead to larger class sizes, fewer academic resources, and diminished extracurricular opportunities. When funding is reduced, schools are forced to make impossible choices—cutting staff, eliminating programs, and delaying essential repairs. This directly impacts students, limiting their ability to learn, explore new interests, and prepare for their futures.

Teachers, who already go above and beyond for their students, bear the burden of these cuts as well. Without adequate resources, they are forced to do more with less—often purchasing classroom supplies with their own money or working in conditions that make effective teaching even harder. Over time, this strain contributes to burnout and turnover, making it even more difficult to maintain the high standards we expect from our schools.

Our students and educators deserve better. Investing in our schools is investing in the future of North Haven. If we allow funding to be cut further, we are sacrificing the quality of education and the strength of our community. We must urge the Board of Finance to fully fund our schools and ensure that every student has the resources they need to succeed.

Lindsey Matis, North Haven

FOR SALE: Lawn tractor, Husqvarna 42", powered by Kawasaki, needs work $200; (860) 395-7440 •

FOR SALE: 21" carry-on luggage, American Tourister Star Wars R2D2, hardside spinner, like new $90; (203) 530-1045 •

WANTED: Antiques or collectibles, highest prices paid for paintings, furniture, glassware, pottery, documents, photographs, bottles, anything old, one piece or entire estates, cash paid; (203) 915-7662 •