July 2024

### **SHORELINE CONNECTIONS**

A Magazine About Events, Businesses and People Along the Shoreline

Branford, Guilford, North Branford







SPECIAL FEATURE INCLUDED
Summer Around the Shoreline
Food and Beverage Guide



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#### **Table of Contents**

Table of Contents
Area Map
June's Spring into Summer BAsH
Feeding Birds Safely in Summer –Expert Article
Welcome New Members
2024 Women of Excellence Honorees
Meet Our Members
Ribbon Cuttings
Senior Living Communities As A Great Option–Expert Article
Meet Our Members

Community Calendar

History of the Shoreline: The Potato and Corn Festival

Board Member Spotlight

Member Recognition and Milestones

Meet Our Members

The Transformative Power of Performance-Based Music Education

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We had great food, drink, bingo and entertainment at our Spring into Summer BAsH. We helped open the restored Little Red Barn area with a Ribbon Cutting with Carrie Bishop Healy, 1st Selectman Matt Hoey and EDC Coordinator John Tarutis. Entertainment and Bing by the Darling Divas.









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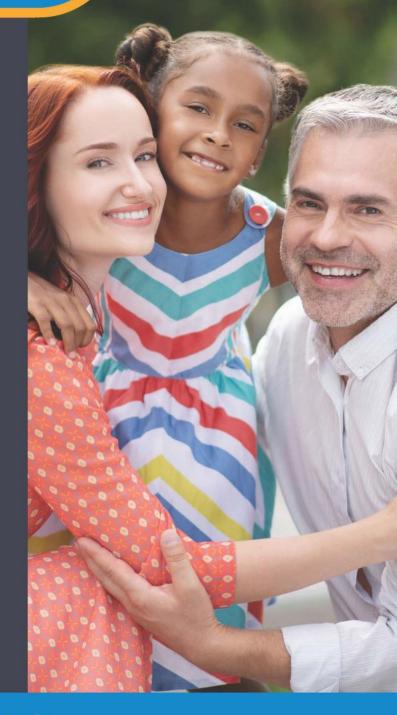


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#### FEEDING BIRDS SAFELY IN THE SUMMER

By Marcey White Country Paint & Hardware, North Branford



It is the peak of summer here on the shoreline, and along with cookouts, camping trips, parades, and other outdoor activities, we go about our days in the backyard trying to stay cool and in the shade. Meanwhile, birds are experiencing their own summer ventures...plant life is blooming and fruiting, and delicious insects are bountiful. Because of this, many think that feeding birds in summer is unnecessary, a waste of money, or even bad for them by keeping a steady source of food available to them will make them "forget" to migrate home for the winter and thus perish in our cold winters.

This has been found to be untrue, as birds have hardwired instincts to get moving when the time is right. Feeders provide only a small percentage of their diet. As for the argument of it being unnecessary and a waste of money, it is all about how you look at it and what it's worth to have these magical beings grace your backyard feeders with their vibrant summer breeding colors and melodic songs of summer. When presented with the correct offerings, you can seduce migratory birds to your feeders that you cannot see here in wintertime, like the splendid orioles and hummingbirds.

Feeding birds in summer is becoming more popular as conservation awareness spreads and people become more aware of the rapidly dwindling numbers of birds. **3 billion birds have gone since 1970.** I can speak all day about the why's, but we are making it harder and harder for birds to thrive. So, why not help by providing an easy, nutritious, and safe place for them to stop and gain respite from travel or parenting? Who doesn't appreciate a well-managed and clean rest stop on their way down to Florida? I bet all you "snowbirds" do!

Summer bird feeding is simply different than winter feeding. Summer brings heat and humidity, and with that comes a few challenges to be aware of.

Uneaten seeds will become moldy and unhealthy if allowed to get wet from rain then stew in the sun. Some molds are even deadly. If you find this occurring, fill feeders only halfway. Let the seed rotate out quicker so it is not sitting in those hot plastic tubes for days on end. Move feeders around occasionally to keep the ground clear of decomposing seed hulls and bird excrement, or with a thorough sweep or rake. This can prevent serious outbreaks like salmonellosis. Regardless

of the time of year, it is important to regularly clean your feeders. To clean your feeder, take it apart and use a dishwasher on a hot setting or hand wash either with soap and boiling water or with a dilute bleach solution (no more than 1 part bleach to 9 parts water). Rinse thoroughly and allow it to dry before refilling. If you're going to start complaining about how much work this cleaning entails, either accept this responsibility or do not feed the birds at all. Their mortality can depend on it.

Hummingbirds are here, and in full force. Avoid red-dyed nectar and mixes as it does nothing. N-O-T-H-I-N-G. Yes, red attracts hummingbirds, and that is why most of their feeders are red, but the color of the nectar is irrelevant to them. There is no scientific proof that the petroleum-based dye, red dye #40, is harmless to birds. Conversely, there is compelling evidence from experienced rehabbers that consumption of this red dye (which isn't regulated as to how much can be added by a manufacturer) causes a higher mortality rate and tumors of the bill and liver in hummingbirds. There is no benefit to using dyes in nectar, and there is every reason not to do so.

Instead, save yourself money and make your own nectar. It is cheap and the print that closely matches natural nectar is a 4 to 1 ratio of water to plain granulated sugar. That is 4 cups of water to every one cup of sugar. Simply stir until the solution becomes clear. With any nectar solution, commercial or homemade, empty, and clean feeders every few days as nectar does go rancid. Placing nectar feeders in shady areas is also highly recommended.

Watch your suet feeders for melting suet. Birds are at elevated risk of damaging their feathers by getting gooey, sticky, melted suet on them. I recommend either placing suet feeders in the shade or switching to suet nuggets offered in a tray feeder. Avoid peanut butter for this reason as well.

Grape jelly and sliced oranges are my favorite offerings in summer. Not only do Orioles go crazy for it, so do the crazy Catbirds, and when these two species try to get their share at the same time it can lead to some funny antics. Woodpeckers also greatly appreciate the oranges, and you can catch them stabbing away at orange flesh with their strong beaks. Like any fresh fruit, change any uneaten jelly and oranges out for new every few days to avoid it rotting and clean the feeder.

Lastly, one element that is so important and overlooked is water. In some areas clean water to bathe in and drink is hard to find. Even offering a big wide shallow bowl of water in the shade helps a great deal after nibbling on seed and suet, while giving birds a means to keep those feathers in top shape while bathing.

Misters set with timers will even "train" hummingbirds to stop by at a given time for a quick rain shower and cooling off. Bird baths and fountains attract bird species that will not come to a feeder, like Robins. Just like your feeders, keep birdbaths healthy for birds by cleaning with a scrub brush and changing the water daily to prevent algae.

Maintaining a clean, hygienic space for birds to eat, drink, and bathe during summer will bring much joy and benefits to the birdwatcher. Parent birds will bring their fledglings with them to feeders and things can get very entertaining when watching them learn to be birds. It has been proven that bird watching has a positive impact on our mental health while reconnecting us to nature...so I encourage anyone that feeds birds in winter to try feeding them in summer, too!

Marcey White works in the Paint Department at Country Paint & Hardware in North Branford. She is also an Ornithologist.





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# 2024 Women of Excellence Honoree **PAOLA RARICK:**Excellence in the Arts

Born in Argentina, **Paola Rarick** came to Connecticut at the age of five, and thanks to a very alert first grade teacher who told her mom put Paola in dance classes, she has been dancing ever since.

A competitive dancer with a background in ballet, tap, musical theatre and lyrical dance, Paola opened her Studio One Dance Studio when her daughter was five, and fifteen years later the studio is still dancing. Choregraphing was not something Paola had planned to have on her resume, but when her daughter was five and in an Artful Living Production show of Mary Poppins they were in need of a choreographer. The producer, knowing she was a dancer, asked her to do it, she protested she didn't do musical theater, but he didn't take no and as we say now the rest is history. She now does choregraphing for the Shoreline Theatre Company, Branford High School, Legacy Theatre and Artful Living Productions.

Some of the productions she has choreographed include Hairspray, The Little Mermaid, The Addams Family, The Producers, and Anything Goes to name a few. There are just too many to list.

She loves teaching dance, and among her favorites are ballet and Lyrical Dance. But when pressed, its teaching people how to tap when they don't know how for Community Theatre productions. Watching them go from saying I can't do it to the smiles on their faces as they are tapping in front of an audience is such a joy for Paola to see.

Paola is quick to give back to the community by running dance classes at Family Day and doing dance classes on the town green. She holds a Zumba class with all proceeds going to provide a scholarship to a student who wants to dance but the family cannot afford it.

Paola has a professional and personal commitment to excellence and an electric positive demeanor to all she encounters. She takes her platform as a teacher seriously to the one hundred students who attend her dance studio. She emphasizes the studio is a place to feel safe where one can take risks, learn who they are and most importantly to remember you learn from making a mistake. She instills in them to be respectful, be kind and has no tolerance for those who are not respectful and kind in her studio or when choregraphing theatre productions.

With a degree in corporate communications Paola is able to teach all levels from age three to adult dance. Paola and her husband's 20-year-old daughter is following in her mother's footsteps as she is a student at the Manhattan School of Music.

Paola's drive to teach comes from loving people. Loving people drives her not only in teaching students to dance but teaching them to believe in themselves.



# 2024 Women of Excellence Honoree **DEBORAH ABILDSOE:**Excellence in Investment Leadership

**Deborah Abildsoe** is an acknowledged expert in the field of investments. She has assisted many hundreds of people to pursue their goal of financial well-being and stability.

Deborah, who grew up in Branford worked for nearly 20 years in banking in Norway. While there the bank trained her as an investment advisor and when the opportunity arose Deborah and her family moved back to the States to work in the Norway bank's New York City branch. When the bank wanted her to return to Norway, she declined and became an investment advisor first with Merrill Lynch and then Bank Boston, before partnering with an accounting firm in Hamden in 1999, allowing her to found ARIA, a company with the goal of providing unconflicted investment advice to individuals when that type of advice was rare among banks, wire house and insurance companies. After several years she bought out the accounting firm.

In 2011, Deb negotiated a transaction with GSB (Guilford Savings Bank) and formed the foundation of what today is Grey Ledge Advisors, a SEC registered investment adviser and wholly owned subsidiary of GSB that works with over 1,000 clients along the CT shoreline and beyond.

Deborah has shared her knowledge co-writing articles on estate and retirement planning for TIAA accounts with Irving Schloss, Esq (her husband), which appeared in Bureau of National Affairs Estate, Gift and Tax Planning Journal. She has coauthored a book on the subject which was published in Dec 2000. She also teamed with Irving Schloss and co-authored an article "How much do we need to retire?" A realistic look at how life works and funds operate which was published in Trusts and Estates in 2009. Deborah has been an active member of the Guilford Community. She served as president of the Board of the Art Center and the Guilford Free Library. She is a former Corporator of GSB. She recently has stepped down off the board of the Guilford Foundation.

She and her husband have four children between them. Her husband's children are in Salt Lake City and Philadelphia, while her children have returned to the Scandinavian countries of Norway and Denmark.

When they aren't traveling to see their children and six grandchildren, they are quite proud of their gigantic garden growing potatoes, different types of squash, carrots, kale, tomatoes, beets, string beans, melon, raspberries, strawberries and more.



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# 2024 Women of Excellence Honoree JUDITH MEYERS:

#### Excellence in Philanthropic Leadership

**Judith Meyers** is a licensed clinical and community psychologist with over 35 years of experience working in the nonprofit, academic, government and philanthropic sectors.

She has been a leader in the philanthropic community, having served nine years as a board member of the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy (a statewide membership organization with 111 members and the voice of philanthropy in CT) including two years as Chair (2016-2018). She is a founding member of the Connecticut Early Childhood Funders Collaborative that comprises sixteen foundations and was a founding member of the Behavioral Health Funders Network as Grantmakers in Health.

In 2018, she stepped down from serving 18 years as the first President and CEO of the Children's Fund for Connecticut, a public charitable foundation, and its subsidiary, the Child Health, and Development Institute on Connecticut.

Earlier in her career she was a Senior Associate at the Annie E. Casey Foundation. She has worked as a policy advisor on the staff of governors in two states and in the US House of Representatives as a Congressional Science Fellow.

Judith is committed to developing and nurturing meaningful and effective relationships between and among caring and engaged people – trustees, grantees, and community members – to bring their stories, values, gifts, passions, and legacies to life to have the greatest impact.

She has experience in and working knowledge of the health, mental health, education, child welfare, juvenile justice and social welfare systems and can apply her well-honed research and analytic skills to a broad range of content areas that may arise in collaborating with individuals and families.

With her training she can work with families to help them integrate different and sometimes conflicting points of view to reach common ground that respects and incorporates the passions, interests, and values among and across generations of family members in philanthropic planning.

Judith has given back to the community in a variety of capacities. She is one of five trustees of the Grossman Family Foundation, Chair of the Board of Directors at the United Way of Greater New Haven, a member of the Guilford Foundation and previously a board member of the Hartford Stage Company. Most recently, she was the Keynote Speaker at the Shoreline Chamber's 2024 Nonprofit Conference.

In 2021, she and her husband Richard Hersh established a permanent scholarship to be given to one or more Guilford High School students who wish to pursue a liberal arts and sciences degree at a 4-year college. The student must have demonstrated excellent character, academic achievement, community service and financial need.

#### 2024 Women of Excellence Honoree

# MARY ELLEN DILELLA: Historical Preservation

**Mary Ellen DiLella** is dedicated to continuing education even after retiring from the classroom after 38 years of teaching third grade at the Totoket Valley Elementary School. Mary Ellen has a bachelors, masters, and sixth year in teaching.

Always loving history, even as a student, Mary Ellen went to a Totoket Historical Society meeting and as we can say the "rest is history." Today, Mary Ellen is the president of the Totoket Historical Society dedicated and committed to preserving the town's history for future generations.

Mary Ellen and her team are leading the efforts to restore the little red schoolhouse. It is the oldest one-room schoolhouse still standing in New Haven County. It was built around 1805 and was used as a school until 1905.

Through her commitment the Historical Society has grown in volunteers. Mary Ellen initiated a meeting with the school superintendent who was very receptive to forming a partnership between the schools and the historical society to be called the Young Historians. Through this partnership with the schools, Mary Ellen and her team instruct students and their families in local history through learning about the diverse individuals who built North Branford and instilling in them pride in the town's history.

Mary Ellen revived North Branford Days, which is held once a year and is part of the first and second-grade curriculum to teach students about the town history. Stations are set up in the school where students go to learn more about North Branford's past.

Through her love of history and as board co-chair, Mary Ellen has been able to recruit a diverse board to assist in grant writing, computer literacy, event volunteering and outside maintenance of the buildings the Historical society oversees. She has enthusiastically overseen the development of new activities including a Barn Dance and Trivia night to name a few. Though, she is quick to share the spotlight with these members as she says without them the historical society could not continue.

Besides volunteering to teach our town history at the schools, Mary Ellen collaborates with other organizations in town including the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Rotary, Library, Land Trust, Public Works and Recreation department to share the town's cultural education in different venues.

A lifelong resident of the town, Mary Ellen served as past vestry member and senior warden at St Johns Episcopal in North Haven. While teaching she served on a variety of school faculty and administrative committees and was selected teacher of the year. She has been a member of Northford Cemeteries Association since 2014 and serves on their Executive Board. She is the mother of Thomas, a writer, artist, and special education teacher in the New Haven public schools, who with his wife Monique have Mary Ellen's light of her life her granddaughter Nora and her daughter Angela is a freelance writer and the head of informational services at the New London Public Libraries and engaged to Alex, and she shares her life with her partner Peter, family and friends.

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#### 2024 Women of Excellence Honoree

#### **RITA NEY:**

#### Excellence in Community Involvement

**Rita Ney** has contributed much to the town through her passion for community involvement.

Involved in a motor vehicle accident that changed her life forever, Rita, instead of sitting home, turned that tragedy into a positive for the residents of the North Branford and Northford communities.

Before her accident in 2014, which left Rita with a traumatic brain injury as well as physical injuries, she was a general store manager, managing a multi-million-dollar business. While she continues therapy and surgeries since the accident Rita has not let this stop her from as she says, 'being a productive member of society."

When beginning her recovery Rita, in a time where she thought she couldn't even help herself she had a strong desire to help others. This is when Rita reached out to the Food Pantry of North Branford, which had just opened, and inquired about volunteering. Today she is the president of the Food pantry and continues to lead the volunteers in providing food for town residents in need of assistance. Throughout the pandemic Rita and the Board of Directors continued to keep the Food Pantry doors opened ensuring her neighbors stayed nourished and supported.

During the pandemic in a time where so many things were uncertain the Police Officer's in North Branford were working hard to ensure the safety of the town residents Rita wanted to thank them for what they did.

And what a thank you she did. In 2020 Rita organized a thank you parade on her road and neighboring roads. All the neighbors changed their front porch lights to blue and lined the streets as the police cars came down the streets where they were the recipients of gift cards, candy, homemade cookies, music, and more all to the cheering and gratitude of those who lined the streets.

In 2021 Rita did the same for the fire department and EMT'S. Except this time the lightbulbs were red. One neighbor joked that they were going to buy all different colors for the next parade Rita organized.

A believer in community, her first year in their new house Rita sent Christmas cards to every neighbor in their neighborhood wishing them the happiest of holidays. You can also find Rita putting goodies in neighbor's mailboxes such as candy bags, cupcakes and s'more kits. Her husband joked and said, "You don't know the people you're sending the cards to." She replied with she doesn't need to because change must start somewhere.

A wife and mother of two adult children, Rita continues each day to give back to her community. While she could have chosen to withdraw herself after a life-changing accident, Rita made the decision she would remain positive even though physically challenged and stay a productive member of society each day.



# **Excellence in Community Leadership**

**Barbara Barrett** has a strong commitment to giving back to the community. After a successful 35-year career at AT&T, Barbara retired as Executive Director/Assistant Vice President leading hundreds of employees, managing large budgets, as well as being responsible for leading special cutting-edge technology projects.

After retiring Barbara volunteered at the Schubert Theater, the Community Dining Room, the Blackstone Library, and the Friends of the Blackstone Library. Always a reader it was a natural fit for Barbara when she was asked to become a member of the Friends in 2017. Previously serving as vice president, she is now in her third year as President of the Friends. The Friends of the Blackstone Library is a non-profit with a mission to support literacy and enrichment programs for Branford and surrounding communities.

The largest fundraiser for the Friends is the Annual Book Sale held under the tent the third weekend in September on the Town Green. Recognizing the need to generate additional revenue, in 2017 Barbara developed the process of selling books online to benefit the library. The books, mainly non-fiction, are sold on Amazon and eBay throughout the year, adding significantly to the revenue raised by the Friends of the Blackstone Library. To keep book prices affordable to all, recently Barbara led the initiative to obtain sponsorships to offset rising costs for Friends operations.

She has a knack for fostering a creative volunteer environment, generating community engagement, and making those who volunteer appreciated. Under her leadership she has over seventy dedicated volunteers all year round.

Barbara works closely with the trustees, library staff and community members. Her leadership has led to higher engagement from the Branford Community and has set a trajectory for the Friends to raise even more funds to provide enrichment programs for the Branford Community.

Over the past six years, Barbara's participation and leadership has resulted in raising over \$400,000, resulting in a new milestone for the Friends in exceeding \$1 million in total Friends' gifts since its inception in 1988.

Not only does Barbara give her time, energy and commitment but believes in the mission of the library with direct donations to the library.

Barbara and her husband Joe reside in Branford. They have one son.

### Edward Jones



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# SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITIES AS A GREAT OPTION FOR AGING IN PLACE

By Pam Kirkby, Seniors Real Estate Specialist (SRES) The Forevermore Homes Team of Coldwell Banker.



Many seniors want to live in their current homes through their retirement years. That's understandable; it is where they have raised their families and created memories.

However, most haven't considered the modifications needed to make their home accessible and safe. Fall prevention is paramount. A fall can be debilitating and severely impact the quality of life for a senior. Seniors should plan for the worst-case scenario – needing a wheelchair and the assistance of a caregiver. To stay safely in their home, they need the following:

- One-level living
- 2. Low threshold covered entry to accommodate a ramp
- 3. Wide doorways 36" is recommended
- 4. Accessible bathroom with a curbless shower
- 5. Private space for a 24/7 caregiver

Additionally, the home should be in a location close to their support system and community activities. Isolation is not good for anyone, especially seniors.

Seniors must also consider the cost and hassle of home maintenance. Sadly, many seniors defer maintenance on their homes and the resulting deterioration reduces the value of their most valuable asset. For these seniors, tackling even basic home maintenance must be a priority before addressing modifications for aging in place.

After considering the physical, financial, and emotional considerations of modifying or moving, many realize that they are better off moving to a home more conducive to aging in place.

Unfortunately, in this current real estate market here on the Connecticut shoreline, one-level, move-in-ready homes are scarce.

That's why Senior Living Communities, built to be safe and accessible for residents as they age, can be a wonderful and affordable option for many seniors. There are many here on the Shoreline and in greater New Haven County that vary in cost, amenities, and levels of support.

#### Here is a high-level overview of the options:

Independent Living Communities are designed for older adults who are active, in reasonably good health, and are able to live independently. They appeal to seniors who want to enjoy their current lifestyle without the burden of home maintenance, house cleaning and meal prep. They provide core services and generally three meals per day. Many of these communities offer a constellation of amenities and services that are reminiscent of a resort lifestyle including lovely outdoor grounds and environments, restaurant style dining, fitness facilities, wellness classes, social events and outings, spiritual/worship offerings, arts and craft options, educational programs, travel programs, and more.

There are monthly fees including room, board and amenities which vary based on apartment size and location within the community.

Assisted Living Communities are like Independent Living Communities, but they have in-house staff to provide core services including laundry, transportation, housekeeping services, meals, recreational activities, and assistance with activities of daily living. In Connecticut, some assisted living facilities are subsidized for low income seniors, and many offer services for seniors with dementia or memory impairments. Residents are evaluated for physical and cognitive abilities prior to move-in to determine the level of care needed. The monthly fees are for room, board, and amenities, as well as for the plan of care based upon the residents' needs.

Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) offer Independent Living, Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing, and Memory Care services within the same community. They offer lifetime living accommodations and a wide variety of services, including a specified package of long-term health and nursing services for older adults. Seniors usually enter these living arrangements while able to live independently and enjoy the amenities and lifestyle. They have the peace of mind knowing they can easily transition from independent living to assisted living to skilled nursing care within the same community without having to move.

CCRC communities require a one-time "buy-in" fee in addition to the monthly fee for room, board, amenities and the plan of care.

The stigma attached to Senior Living Communities is the misconception that they are like nursing homes. While nursing homes serve a vital need for people needing round-the-clock, skilled nursing care, most people would like to avoid or delay that level of intervention. Rather, Seniors and their families are strongly encouraged to explore Senior Living Communities as an option for their retirement years.

There are many resources for Seniors to evaluate options and create a plan for aging in place.

Call us any time and we will be very happy to point you in the right direction. Pam Kirkby is a Seniors Real Estate Specialist (SRES) and Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS) with The Forevermore Homes Team of Coldwell Banker. While she works with all age demographics, she has a special passion for serving the needs of seniors. She can be reached by email at pkirkby@forevermorehomes.com and by phone at (203) 988-8690.





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The Tech Team, established in 2019 in Branford, CT, began as a mobile repair service and has grown exponentially thanks to its loyal and fantastic customers. Located at 1236 Main St. in Branford, the company specializes in motherboard repair, basic screen and battery replacements, and more. The team eagerly anticipates serving new and returning customers. Offering convenient pick-up and delivery services or onsite repairs, The Tech Team excels in repairing iPhones, game consoles, Macs, Samsung devices, iPads, and computers.



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www.thetechteamct.com

## THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF PERFORMANCE-BASED MUSIC EDUCATION

Writer: Marina Fogarty, SoR Madison GM

In today's world, the significance of performance-based music education cannot be overstated. This kind of approach to learning music not only develops a child's musical skills but also enhances cognitive abilities, fosters



creativity, and improves social skills among children. By engaging students in regular rehearsals and live performances, this educational model instills discipline, teamwork, and resilience, preparing them for challenges both on and off the stage! At its core, performance-based learning empowers children to express themselves confidently and creatively. It builds self-esteem through achievement and provides a supportive community where students collaborate, learn from each other, and grow together. This approach to music education goes beyond technical proficiency, nurturing a lifelong love for music and equipping students with skills that are invaluable in all aspects of their lives.

**School of Rock Madison** offers an immersive environment where children ages 4+ can experience the joy and transformative power of music. Whether they dream of playing like their idols or simply want to explore the world of music, School of Rock Madison provides a supportive setting to learn and grow through music with a big performance at the end of each season at the Space Ballroom in Hamden. Come in for a school tour or trial lesson to see if performance based music education is a good fit for you and your family!

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#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR** Chamber events are highlighted in Green **AUGUST 1.** Farmers market at the Guilford 4:00PM - 7:00PM **Guilford Fairgrounds** details **THURSDAY** Fairgrounds **AUGUST 1.** LOBSTER BAsH at The Guilford 6:00PM - 9:00PM Guilford Lobster Pound details **THURSDAY** Lobster Pound Grassy Strip Music Series at **AUGUST 1.** Madison Beach Hotel, Curio 7:00PM - 9:00PM Madison Beach Hotel details **THURSDAY** Collection by Hilton **AUGUST 2.** BACA's Sunset Cabaret at The 5:30PM - 9:00PM New Haven details Estate **FRIDAY AUGUST 8-24.** Love Affair: A New Musical times in link Legacy Theatre, Branford details **THURS-SUNDAY AUGUST 8,** Farmers market at the Guilford 4:00PM - 7:00PM **Guilford Fairgrounds** details **THURSDAY** Fairgrounds Grassy Strip Music Series at **AUGUST 8,** Madison Beach Hotel, Curio 7:00PM - 9:00PM Madison Beach Hotel details **THURSDAY** Collection by Hilton **AUGUST 13,** 9th Women of Excellence Awards details 11:30AM - 1:30PM The Woodwinds **TUESDAY** Luncheon Maintaing Your Home To Preserve Nathanael B. Greene **AUGUST 14,** Value - A Free Lunch and Learn Community Center, 11:00 AM details **WEDNESDAY Program for Seniors** Guilford **AUGUST 15.** Farmers market at the Guilford 4:00PM - 7:00PM details Guilford Fairgrounds **THURSDAY** Fairgrounds Grassy Strip Music Series at **AUGUST 15,** Madison Beach Hotel, Curio 7:00PM - 9:00PM Madison Beach Hotel details **THURSDAY** Collection by Hilton **AUGUST 17.** Sweet Dreams: A Bedtime Story 10:00AM Legacy Theatre, Branford details Comes to Life **SATURDAY AUGUST 18.** Henry Whitfield State Nature Stewards Field Day 10:00 AM details **SUNDAY** Museum, Guilford **AUGUST 22,** Farmers market at the Guilford 4:00PM - 7:00PM **Guilford Fairgrounds** details Fairgrounds **THURSDAY** Grassy Strip Music Series at **AUGUST 22.** Madison Beach Hotel, Curio 7:00PM - 9:00PM Madison Beach Hotel details **THURSDAY** Collection by Hilton **AUGUST 23,** Paul Dostie KARE Foundation Golf Portland Golf Course, 9:00AM - 5:00PM details **FRIDAY** Tournament Fundraiser Portland **AUGUST 23.** Paint and Sip w/JQ Clay at the Grey Goat Farmtique, 6:00PM - 8:00PM details

#### Click here for full list of events.

6:30PM - 8:30PM

4:00PM - 7:00PM

7:00PM - 9:00PM

**FRIDAY** 

**AUGUST 28,** 

**AUGUST 29.** 

**THURSDAY** 

**AUGUST 29,** 

**THURSDAY** 

**WEDNESDAY** 

**Grey Goat** 

at the Grey Goat

Fairgrounds

Make Your Own Sea Glass Bracelet

Farmers market at the Guilford

Grassy Strip Music Series at

Madison Beach Hotel, Curio

Collection by Hilton

**Branford** 

**Branford** 

Grey Goat Farmtique,

**Guilford Fairgrounds** 

Madison Beach Hotel

details

details

details

### NORTH BRANFORD POCO FESTIVAL

By Mairi Bryan



The 22nd Annual Potato and Corn (PoCo) Festival will take place at Augur Field in North Branford on August 2nd, 3rd and 4th 2024. The festival began in 2002 as the brainchild of Pam Geary, the Director of North Branford Parks and Recreation Department, and was originally a Potato Festival until it was decided that the two delicious often overlooked staples of potatoes and corn should both be celebrated. North Branford and Northford have long been farming communities, and celebrating this through the festival seemed appropriate, and to do it in a way that highlights farming as an important part of the community, and to benefit that same community.

Now, twenty-two years on, the festival attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year and is a highlight in the North Branford calendar. The festival is a self-sustaining event that operates under the Park and Recreation department. The money raised by the festival is reinvested into the festival in addition to giving back to the community. Recipients of festival funds are the local PTOs, "Project Graduation" for high school seniors, local sports organizations, Boy Scout Troops, the NB Food Pantry, as well as local senior center events. Non-profits are encouraged to participate in the festival at no charge to gain support and raise money from visitors and the community.

Local farms, among them the DeFransesco Farm, Country Farm II, Cecarelli Farm, and Larry Augur's Farm Stand all contribute their produce to the festival. Larry Augur, a descendant of the family for which Augur Field is named stays involved in the community, and still hays in the Augur Valley behind Augur Field on the Farm River.

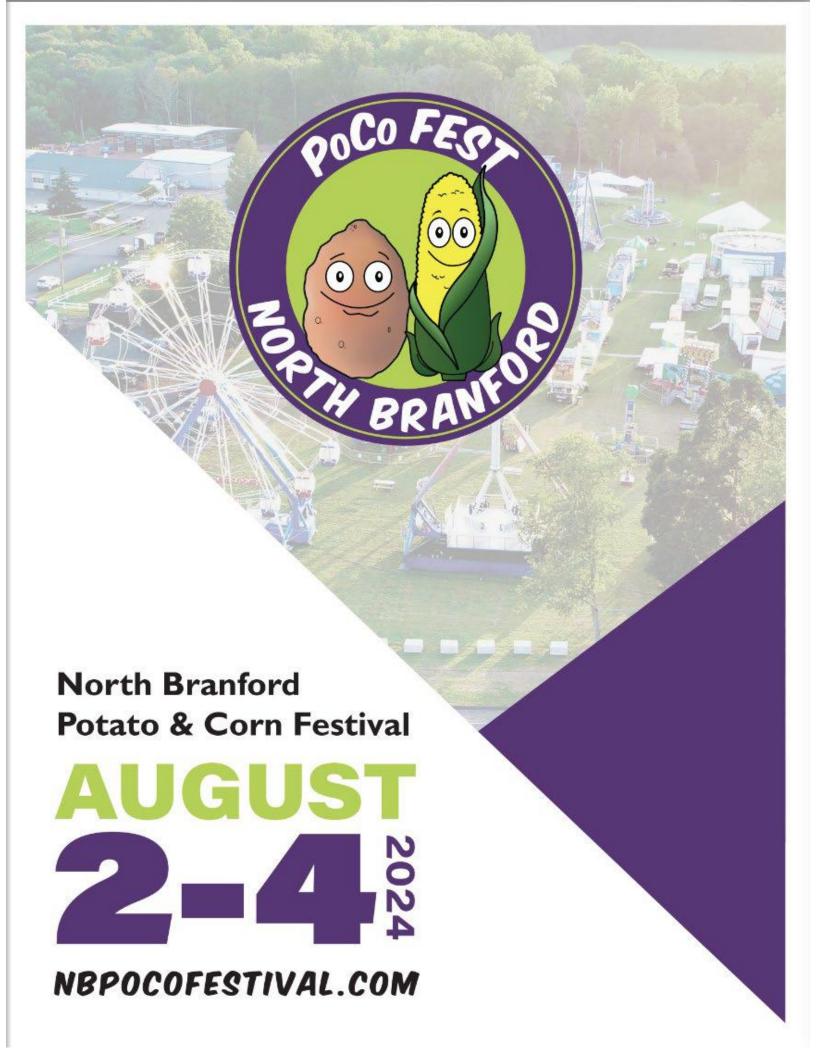


This year, as always, the Festival has something for all the family. There are food and craft vendors, tractor pulls, a classic car show, as well as carnival rides and contests for corn shucking and potato sack racing. There will be live bands on the main stage on all three days, and a beer and wine tent for refreshments.

Come and enjoy everything that the PoCo Festival has to offer and support the

Come and enjoy everything that the PoCo Festival has to offer and support the local community in North Branford.





## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT KAREN BROWN

Karen Brown is the owner of Canción Tequila and is entering her second year as a board member.



#### Where are you originally from?

I am Connecticut born and bred. I lived in Easton the first 18 years of my life. When I was growing up there, it was more of a farm town than a New York bedroom. I complained about it back then because as a kid I felt there was nothing to do, but I appreciate the beauty and rural feel now.

#### Where do you live now?

I currently live in Branford. We've been here for about 5 years. Prior to that I spent 30 years in Guilford so I didn't move very far! Guilford is where I raised my 3 boys and the shoreline is a wonderful place to raise a family.

#### Tell me a little bit about yourself and what you do.

I have been in marketing my entire career. I graduated with a business degree with a focus on marketing. I've done everything from being a retail buyer to selling pharmaceuticals. I spent 13 years working for a local retail brand called Trailblazer and Denali where I was their marketing and e-commerce manager. I loved that position because I worked with like minded people who loved the outdoors. I'm an outdoors person; I love to ski and hike and kayak and enjoy spending as much time outdoors as possible. When I left there in 2016, I went to work for a company that my husband had started here in the U.S. He worked in pharmaceutical Research & Development and needed help so I went to work for him. Long story short we sold the company several years later and decided to retire, and somehow through a series of what we would call "happy accidents", have ended up being co-owners of a tequila brand called Canción Tequila!

## What was your earliest involvement in the Chamber and why?

We joined as a member about two years prior to me becoming a board member. We're in a unique situation being in the tequila business in that not only do we have to try and get restaurants and package stores to take on our product but we also have to find people who like tequila and try our brand. I think the chamber gives us so many opportunities to have that exposure to either people who appreciate an ultra premium tequila or the exposure to the actual businesses that would carry our brand. I'll also add that through the chamber we have had many opportunities to support local non-profits that are members or affiliated with the chamber as well. Through events or donations we want to be a supportive member of this wonderful community of organizations.

#### Where can people buy your tequila?

If you go to to our website, canciontequila.com, there is a "find us" button where you can type in a town or a zip code and locations near you will come up.

How many years have you been on the board? I am just into my second year.

#### Why did you step into this role?

I was living in Guilford for almost 30 years when I worked at Trailblazer and Denali which was headquartered in Guilford. We were incredibly involved in the communities where we had retail stores. We held a lot of in-store events, outside events, races, film festivals and things like that and through the money that we raised we started our own foundation. When I left that position went to work for a company that was based here in the U.S. but it was also part of a global conglomerate. I was working from home and felt really disconnected from the community. Shortly after, we ended up semi-retiring and getting involved in our tequila business. Now, here I am back trying to make new connections, seeking out new opportunities to network, meet people and help the community and some of these non-profit organizations all while building our brand at the same time. I guess that's kind of it in a nutshell.

#### What's a fun fact about you?

My life is really dedicated to my family, children and my grandchildren and an outdoor lifestyle. As mentioned before I am an avid skier, a former runner and I spend as much time as I can outside hiking, biking, kayaking, and stand up paddle boarding. I am a member of the New Haven Ski Club which holds trips and fun things to do year round. This past winter we skied in Kitzbuhel, Austria which was a lot of fun. I do try to stay as active as I can. It may not be a fun fact, but it is my passion. I also love to refinish furniture – something I have enjoyed for a long time but until recently haven't always had the time to pursue.

#### What's your favorite spot on the shoreline?

Oh, that's easy! Chaffinch Island in Guilford. It's a great little spot. I actually haven't been there in a bit but for many years that was where I would go and sit if I needed to be by myself. I spent a fair amount of my time in Guilford as a working, single parent of three and I'll admit it wasn't always easy. Chaffinch Island was sort of my special spot that brought peace to me at a hectic time. If it was low tide, I could walk out to the end of the rocks and just sit or take a chair and read a book. When I married for the 2nd time that is where we held our wedding ceremony.



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## **Member Recognitions and Milestones**

Congratulations to **Dr. Beth Collins** who has been honored by Castle Connolly to be named a Top Doctor for the second year in a row!

In a one-of-a-kind achievement within the gaming industry, **Mohegan Sun** has secured a coveted place on the Global Most Loved Workplaces 2024 list. This list, which is meticulously compiled by Newsweek in collaboration with the Best Practice Institute, is seen as the vocational equivalent of the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Congratulations to **Cynthia Flower Shop** of Branford being voted one of three in the Best of New Haven 2024 in the Florist Category.

The **Grey Goat Farmtique** in Branford has been voted Best in Connecticut Gift Shop or Specialty Shop by the Connecticut Post.

The Shoreline Chamber of Commerce wants to share your awards, recognitions, celebrations. You have worked hard to receive these recognitions and want to celebrate your accomplishments with our members and beyond each month. Send your recognition news to Mary at mary@shorelinechamberct.com by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.



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www.guilfordabc.org

## MEET A MEMBER LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF GREATER NEW HAVEN



The Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven (LVGNH) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving literacy in the Greater New Haven area. They provide free literacy tutoring to adults who need help with reading, writing, and English language skills. The organization recruits and trains volunteers to work one-on-one or in small groups with learners to help them achieve their personal, educational, and professional goals. LVGNH's mission is to promote literacy as a means of empowering individuals and strengthening the community.

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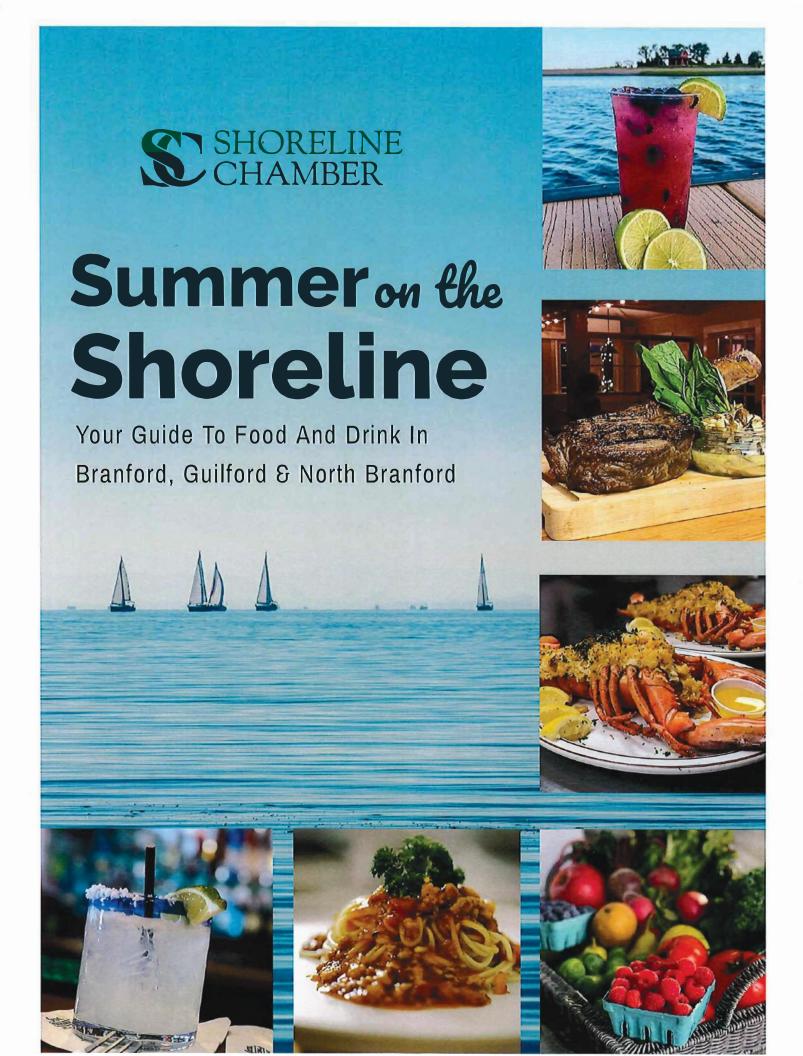
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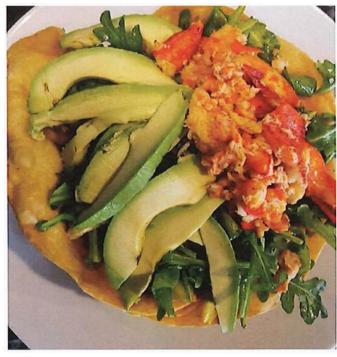
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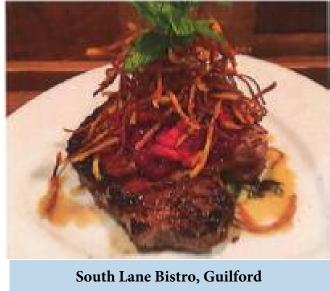














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## Caius Farm Brewery

101 North Branford Road Branford, CT 06405 203-433-4660 www.caiusfarmbrewery.com

As we continue to hone our craft, we will also continue to embrace our farmhouse aesthetic and culture, and work as much as possible with Connecticut-grown ingredients. We can't wait to explore the future of our beer with the local community and we will keep to our slogan of: Body, Soul, Mind, Beer.



420 East Main Street
Branford CT 06405
(203) 208-4690
cafefiorebranford.com

Our menu includes a selection of traditional Italian dishes, as well as unique culinary specialties.



1200 Boston Post Road Guilford, CT 06437 (203) 453-7040 carpanzanos.com

Offering fresh pizza slices, breads, sauces, and more all made and prepared in house.





1486 Boston Post Road
Guilford, CT 06437
(203) - 453 - 9800
dandreagroupct.com
https://locations.dunkindonuts.com/en/ct/guilford/1486-boston-post-road/363019

Frank D'Andrea opened his first Dunkin' Donuts in 1991 at in West Haven, CT and grew his business to many stores located throughout the Greater New Haven area.



(203) 623-9400 Guilford Town Green Guilford, CT 06437 www.instagram.com/thegreenery.ct/

Mobile food truck serving salads and wraps with a laid back style. We offer a create-your-own menu or choose a classic: caesar, cobb, wedge, caprese, santa fe, greek or kale salad. Catering available.

## Da'Carmine

845 West Main Street Branford, CT 06405

(203) 481-3208 dacarmine.net

Delicious Appetizers, Pizza & Calzones, Strombolis, Stuffed Breads & Wraps, Seafood, Chicken & More.



145 Block Island Road Branford, CT 06405 (203) 488-3007

docksidebranford.com

Enjoy our deck for fresh seafood, outdoor dining, and the best sunset on the shoreline. So drive on down or sail on in for lunch or dinner daily.



178 Thimble Islands Road Branford, Connecticut 06405 203 488 0145 stonycreekmarket.com

Open daily year round for breakfast and lunch, offering sandwiches, salads, fresh baked goods, homemade soups, and more. Stony Creek Pizza is served selected evenings seasonally. Est. 1981.



BRANFORD

624 W Main Street Branford, CT 06405 {203) 488-2700 elisrg.com/branford

The best in American food with an outdoor deck for dining and an extensive selection of draft beer, wine and martinis.



1008 Main Street
Branford CT 06405
(203) - 208 - 0930
www.gcafebakery.com

Eatery and Espresso Bar with fresh breads & pastries made with all natural ingredients baked daily.



845 W Main Street Branford, CT 06405 {203) 481-8050 www.jerseymikes.com

A fast-casual sub sandwich franchise serving authentic East Coast-style subs on fresh baked bread.



25 Whitfield Street Guilford, CT 06437 (203) 533-7988 chapter-one.com

Our New American menu offers everything from fresh seafood to salads and burgers, and specialty cocktails.

#### **HOURS**

Monday: Closed

Tuesday - Friday: 11:30am - 10pm Saturday & Sunday: 10am - 10pm







1347 Boston Post Road Madison, CT 06443 (203) 318 - 5090 www.cohensbagelcompany.com

At Cohen's, we take pride in our products using only the finest ingredients to create our baked goods, sandwiches and salads. All breads, bagels and pastries are baked on-site daily. Cohen's Bagel Company provides a wide range of services including casual catering, corporate breakfasts and lunches, eat-in or take-out dining. Other than our now famous bagels, Cohen's Bagel Company offers a menu including fresh-baked breads, specialty sandwiches, smoothies, soups, salads, and gourmet coffees.







Stylish but traditional Indian cuisine and splendid service

kamanaindiancuisine.com

1004 Boston Post Rd, Guilford, CT 06437 Phone: (203) 689-5728 or (203) 689-5287

1070 Main St, Branford, CT 06405 Phone: (203) 433-4009, (203) 433-4339 or (203) 433-4061



205 South Montowese Street Branford, CT 06405 (203) 488-1500 www.lennysnow.com

Sourcing the best seafood New England has to offer - from house made chowders to fresh lobsters to succulent steamers to clams and oysters on the half-shell.



850 Boston Post Rd.

Guilford, CT 06437

(203) 453-4759

www.naplesrestaurantguilford.com

A family owned restaurant with fantastic real Italian cuisine and out of this world pizza with a variety of options.



750 East Main Street
Branford, CT
(203) 896-5700
nonnaginasmarket.com

Offering fresh, homemade Italian food prepared onsite. Lunch bar changes every day but it will always include fresh and delicious pizzas, panini, salads, and soups.

## **QUATTRO'S**

14 Water Street
Guilford, CT 06437
(203) 453-6575
www.quattrositalian.com

Specializing in Northern Italian cuisine and a fusion of Italian and Latin flavors from creative tapas to more traditional fare. Fine dining in a friendly and fun atmosphere for every member of the family.

#### ROSE ORCHARDS FARM

33 Branford Road
North Branford, CT 06471
(203) 488-7996
www.roseorchardsfarm.com

We grow apple, peaches, blackberries, strawberries, blueberries, pears, tomatoes, squash, corn, mums, flowers, lettuce, and more on our 50 acre farm.



130 Shore Drive Branford, CT 06405 (203) 315 - 0005 rossovino.net

Italian, Modern European, Wine Bar with open, clean, quaint neighborhood beach vibe.



103 N Main Street
Branford, CT 06405
(203) 208-1579
www.shorelineprime.com

Gourmet market chain known for meats, also offering seafood, produce, groceries & prepared foods.



33 Water Street, Unit A Guilford, CT 06437 (203) 533-7040 jaiporexpress.com



HOURS Monday: CLOSED

Tuesday-Thursday: 11:30am-8:30pm Friday-Saturday: 11:30am-9pm Sunday: 11:30am-8pm

Authentic Indian food, lots of spices and herbs, dine in and take out in near Guilford Green





At Millpond Gatherings we are a destination location where we serve farm fresh foods in our Steakhouse & Tavern, celebrate the joining of families in our Venue, and will soon offer a place to stay and explore our historic property and surrounding farmland. Join us this summer for "Music at the Mill" our patio live music series EVERY THURSDAY from 5:30pm - 8:30pm. We'll have great musicians, drink specials and more!

#### Hours

Monday: Closed Tuesday - Thursday: 4pm -10pm Friday - Saturday: 11:30am -10pm

Sunday: 10:30am - 10pm

1565 Middletown Avenue Northford, CT 06472 (203)-714-4400 www.millpondgatherings.com





336 Forest Rd
Northford, CT 06472
(203) 484-2028
www.defrancescofarm.com

DeFrancesco Farm is family-owned and operated in Northford, CT. Since our farm stand opened in 1995, we've treated every custom

## GUILFORD 41' 16' 21.58" N,72' 40' 0.57" W MOORING

505 Whitfield Street Guilford, CT 06437 (203) - 458 - 2921 guilfordmooring.com

Casual, airy seafood restaurant & bar with skylights, patio seating & harbor views.

## Mi Bella

225 Montowese St, Branford, CT 06405

(203) 208-4102

Mi Bella Restaurante is a fine dining restaurant that features a beautiful mix of Italian and Mediterranean dishes. It has come to be by a chef with 20 years' experience and passion for cooking.



info@papaspyrosoliveoil.com 203-623-6485 www.papaspyrosoliveoil.com

Experience the authentic essence of Greece with our award-winning extra virgin olive oil. Our family-run business offers a range of prepared foods and cosmetic products made from our premium oil.



418 Forest Road Northford, CT 06472 www.stewardsofthelandbrewery.com

Farm brewery utilizing CT, MA, NY malts, hops, and other ingredients grown by our farm and fellow farmers. Enjoy the food truck of the day however no outside food or drink is permitted.



999 Faxon Road North Branford, CT 06471 (203) 484-2721 www.supremeseafood.net

Over 15 years as
Connecticut's "Best Eat-In or
Take Out Seafood on the CT
Shoreline"!



77 Whitfield Street
Guilford, CT 06437
(203)- 453-4849
www.marketplaceguilford.com

With a rich history and deep community roots, our one-stop shop—café, smoothie and milkshake bar, bakery, deli, grocery, gourmet-to-go, and catering—will keep you coming back for more.

## Rossitto's RISTORANTE

284 East Main Street Branford, CT 06405 (203) - 483 - 7773 www.rossittos.com

A family owned and operated Italian restaurant offering a collection of signature Italian classics and modern American specials. Highlights include fresh made pastas, slow-roasted meats, and fresh seafood.



**DINER - RESTAURANT** 

374 E Main Street Branford, CT 06405 (203)- 481 - 0333 parthenondiner.com

Quality and consistency, great prices, and friendly service is what makes this award winning, family owned and operated Diner so special.



Belle Vie Cafe, Guilford



16 Business Park Drive Branford, CT 06405 (203)- 208 - 2827 www.thimbleislandbrewery.com

Brewery producing ales, stouts & more, with tours, free tastings & growlers to take home.



Saybrook Point Resort & Marina



Millpond Gathering, Northford



South Lane Bistro, Guilford