

Q.U. Accounting Students to Offer Free Tax Help

Hamden: Quinnipiac University accounting students will once again offer free income tax preparation services this year at a series of sessions organized by the university's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Services are available to taxpayers from the area with annual household incomes of $69,000 or less.

The sessions will take place at the M.L. Keefe Community Center, 11 Pine Street, Hamden, from 3-8pm every Thursday from February 5 to April 9 (with the exception of March 12). Those who are interested may walk in; no appointments are necessary.

The students will also offer a Tax-a-Thon Day from 9am-3pm on Saturday, April 11. The Tax-a-Thon Day is by appointment only. Those who are interested may contact Advancing CT Together (ACT) or the Connecticut United Way to schedule an appointment.

Matthew Maron, assistant teaching professor of accounting and VITA program coordinator at Quinnipiac, and other professors from the School of Business will review each tax return before it is e-filed.

For each session, taxpayers must bring the following documents: Social Security card or ITIN numbers for themselves and each person listed on the tax return; a copy of last year's (2024) Federal and State tax returns; a valid photo ID; documentation for all income from work, Social Security or pensions, including (but not limited to) forms W-2, 1099-R, SSA-1099, 1099-G; education expenses; total amount paid for child care (along with the daycare provider's name and address and Tax ID number); their bank routing and checking or savings account numbers (if they request direct deposit); a copy of their mortgage 1098 form; receipt of property taxes paid; and Access CT form 1095A (if the taxpayer has purchased medical insurance through the Marketplace Exchange).

Quinnipiac's VITA program is part of the United Way of Greater New Haven's VITA coalition. For more information, contact Maron at (203) 582-7623 or matthew.maron@qu.edu.

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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: Feb. 3, 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 Valentines photo craft. Recommended ages 2-6. Registration required.

Drop-In Tech Help: Wed., Feb. 4, 10am-1pm and Thurs., Feb. 5, 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.

Slime Lab: Thurs., Feb. 5, 5:30-6:30pm. We will transform our Community Room into a science lab for kids, going over the scientific method and doing hands-on science. This month we will be learning about states of matter and will complete a slime lab. For ages 6-12. Registration required.

Tots & Tunes: Fri., Feb. 6, 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. Registration not required.

Wicked Take & Make Crafts: Sat., Feb. 7, 9am-3pm at Smith Library and Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Rd., North Branford. Celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day. We are giving away two different Wicked-themed craft bags. Visit both if you wish. Please Note: Craft bags are limited and will be available first come, first serve, and must be picked up at either library on February 7.

Monday Night Mah-Jongg: Mon., Feb. 9, 6-8pm. Those interested in playing Mah-Jongg are invited. Participants should bring their Mah-Jongg sets.

Little Makers: Tues., Feb. 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 heart painting craft. Recommended ages 2-6. Registration required.

District 23A Lions Clubs

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

District 23A Lions Clubs -- New Haven & Fairfield Counties are now accepting applications (Scan QR code). Communities in the local area that have Lions Clubs are: Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, New Haven, North Haven, Wallingford, and West Haven.

Lions Clubs are looking for fun, positive community members dedicated to making a difference. The benefits are Leadership Growth, Community Impact, Networking and Friendship, Global Reach, and Local Action.

FOR SALE: Toro power shovel, electric corded, 7.5 amp motor, like new, original box $100 or best offer; (203) 606-0932

Sen. Cicarella Honors North Haven's Tessa Hallinan At 2026 Kid Governor Inauguration



Pictured: 2026 Connecticut Kid Governor Tessa Hallinan, her Cabinet, Rep. Yaccarino, 2025 Kid Governor Keudy Martinez, Sen. Cicarella, Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas, Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi, and Supreme Court Justice Steven Ecker gather at the Kid Governor Inauguration held at Connecticut's Old State House.

North Haven: State Sen. Paul Cicarella (R-34) today attended the inauguration ceremony for Connecticut's 2026 Kid Governor, Theresa "Tessa" Hallinan of North Haven, joining educators, students, and community leaders in celebrating youth civic engagement and leadership.

Tessa Hallinan, a student at Green Acres Elementary School, was elected by fifth graders across Connecticut to serve as the state's 2026 Kid Governor. Her campaign platform, "Everyone Belongs," focuses on fostering inclusion and understanding for students with disabilities.

"Tessa's message is a powerful reminder that leadership can come from any age. Seeing students take ownership of these ideas gives me great confidence in the future of Connecticut," said Sen. Cicarella. "I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this inauguration such a meaningful and memorable event especially the Connecticut Democracy Center, the team at Connecticut's Old State House, and the dedicated teachers and staff who support these students every day. As a parent whose own son has participated in this program, I've seen firsthand how impactful Kid Governor is in inspiring confidence, civic engagement, and leadership in young people. Today's ceremony was a wonderful reflection of that impact."

Kid Governor Hallinan will also collaborate closely with her Cabinet Members, meet with constituents, speak publicly on issues important to students, and participate in Connecticut Democracy Center programs throughout the year.

The 2026 Kid Governor Cabinet includes:

Sen. Cicarella noted the strong participation of students both in person and online during the ceremony, highlighting the lasting impact of the Kid Governor program.

- Aja Reci, Charles Wright Elementary School
- Alyvia Stoddard, Glastonbury East Hartford Magnet School
- Dylan Ellis, CREC Academy of International Studies Elementary School
- Myra Ruparel, Center Elementary School
- Nana Appau, Odyssey Community School
- Samuel James, Renzulli Academy

"Programs like Kid Governor don't just teach civics, they inspire it," Sen. Cicarella added. "Congratulations to Kid Governor Tessa Hallinan, her Cabinet, and everyone who worked to make today's inauguration such a success."

North Haven Garden Club's May Market Annual Fundraiser 2026



Pictured Above: Dianna Ramadei & Italia Avitable selling annuals last year. **Bottom:** Sandy Ginter selling our blank cards with shots form members gardens.

North Haven: Come visit and support the North Haven Garden Club. Our annual May Market will take place on Saturday, May 9th, from 9 A.M. to 12:00 PM rain or shine at North Haven Parks and Rec., 7 Linsley Street across from the Police Station. This is the North Haven Garden Club's primary fundraiser. The funds from this sale pay for our programs, committee budgets, educational scholarships, and beautification projects.

The plant sale will feature extraordinary perennials, most hand-dug from members' gardens that attract bees, butterflies, and birds. The sale will also feature herbs, vegetable and tomato plants and fabulous, unique and colorful annuals, outstanding geraniums and an array of flowering hanging baskets.

Come see a wide variety of vendors who are selling their creative crafts, baked goods, birdhouses, Pampered Chef, Rays Raw Honey, and many more, there's something for everyone.

Come early, bring a friend and bring a wagon. If you need any help or assistance it will be provided by the Key Club of North Haven.

Vendor space is available or $20.00 a spot. Please bring your own table and chairs. For more information on becoming a vendor email nhgccindy@yahoo.com.

Don't forget to check out The North Haven Garden Club on Facebook for lots of useful and entertaining information and pictures of all our club does in our great town of North Haven! For membership information please email Italia at italia_a@comcast.net.

North Haven Garden Club is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Inc., New England Garden Clubs Inc., and The National Garden Clubs Inc.

Article and photos by Cindy Golia