Knights Of Columbus Council 14664 May Family Of The Month



Hamden: The Knights of Columbus Council 14664 has selected the Ossa Family as May 2025 Family of the Month.

Deacon Tullio has actively served in the Archdiocese of Hartford for 21 years – 3 of which has been at St Paul VI Parish. He and his wife Flor have over 30 years in Family counseling. Both have formed and prepared a team to conduct Baptismal classes and Marriage preparation. Flor and Tullio also have coordinated and directed live representation of the 7 last words of Christ for over 20 years across two different Parishes. Pillars in the Spanish Community, they have led intergenerational faith formation programs in all sacramental preparation and coordinated a bilingual Eucharistic Adoration monthly for our Parish. The Ossa family will be greatly missed as they relocate to Florida in the coming months. Tullio, Flor and their two sons have given abundantly to our parish in so many ways. We all have been blessed to have worked, planned and worshipped with this family.

Set the Right Example

When was the last time you said "good morning" to someone?

When was the last time you did a random act of kindness?

When was the last time you called a friend?

When was the last time you paid a visit to someone that was ill?

When was the last time you opened a door for someone?

It is not difficult to be kind and it should be a priority to be a person who others want to be around. You also can make a difference in someone's life when they are down and out by making yourself available. By sharing your goals and exhibiting your values, you will inspire others to do the same.

Remember to be a believer, set a good example, and go to church.

Ron Johnson, Hamden

HAMDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY
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Applications are being accepted for Studio and 1-Bedroom Apartments.

These Apartments include kitchens, walk-in showers, laminate flooring and new insulated windows as well as updated heating and cooling systems. Heat, air conditioning and electricity are included in monthly rent.

Qualifications:
Applicants must be 62 years of age or older and have temporary or periodic difficulties with one or more essential activities of daily living such as feeding, bathing, grooming and dressing.
Income cannot exceed $63,700/year for 1 Person, $72,800/year for 2 People.

Services:	*Daily Activities:*
Resident Services Coordinator	Daily Social Hour
Hot Breakfast	Card Games
Dinner at Noon	Bingo
Light Supper	Arts and Crafts
Housekeeping	Pizza Parties
Podiatrist	Musical Entertainment
Blood Pressure Clinic	Weekly Movies
Town Shopping Bus Availability	Ice Cream Socials
24 Hour Staff Coverage	Pet Therapy
	Sittercize

*Most services listed above included in monthly rent.

If interested, please call 203-248-9036/711 Relay CT to request an application.

For more information please visit our website:
www.hamdenhousing.com

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Town of North Haven

REFUSE COLLECTION: MEMORIAL DAY

The North Haven Public Works Field Operations wishes to advise all North Haven residents that the refuse and recycling collection for the week of May 26th, will be **Delayed By One Day.**

The Recycling Center will be closed on Mon., May 26.

The Recycling Center will be open Tues.-Fri., 8am-noon and Saturday, 8am-1:45pm.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday.

Please follow us on Facebook for up-to-date information and notices at Town of North Haven Public Works Field Ops.

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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 •

Statement from the DTC on the 2025-'26 Budget Referendum

The **North Haven Democratic Town Committee supports** a "Yes" vote on the May 20, 2025 town budget vote. It is the best option available for our community.

This is an imperfect budget, but also a necessary one. It will require a tax increase that will be felt by many families and residents. But it will also preserve critical services — from education and public safety to library hours and recreational programs — that we rely on and that make North Haven a vibrant and welcoming place to live.

The need for some increase in North Haven did not arise overnight. Our current budget reality stems, in no small part, from years of failing to invest in modernizations and improvements. Choosing not to raise the mill rate in prior years, or arguing to lower it at times, despite increasing costs and growing needs, takes the political easy path instead of the long-term right path. Deferring investments in infrastructure, education and community services has left us with hard choices today.

Our state representatives have also failed to secure state funding that we desperately needed to avoid further shifting the tax burden onto local taxpayers. In education, North Haven brings home far less in state funding than comparable districts. According to the Connecticut School Finance Project, North Haven ranks 136th out of 169 towns in per-pupil Education Cost Sharing funding — well below the state average. North Haven schools are forced to do more with less to achieve the same results year after year, and critical capital projects have been put off.

In emergency services, our fire department was denied the four new positions requested this year, despite needing at least 12 new firefighters (and at least one additional apparatus) to reach the level of staffing required to align with industry best practice. The impossible trade-offs voters are forced to grapple with at this year's budget referendum - a lower tax bill, or a guaranteed response to a 911 call, for example - won't be fixed with one year's budget and demand leadership accountability.

We cannot undo more than a decade of inadequate investment in our wonderful town, but we can choose to learn from it and build a better future. The North Haven DTC believes in a future where our town doesn't just survive, but thrives. That future depends on consistent, responsible investment in our schools, our services, and our shared quality of life.

Passing this budget on May 20th is a critical step forward. We urge all residents to make a plan to vote and to vote YES— not just for this year's services, but for the future we all deserve.

Let's build that future together. — North Haven Democratic Town Committee

I WAS JUST THINKING.....

By Sally J. Buemi
Selectman, Town of North Haven

I was just thinking about the proposed budget, which is $137.6 million – a $9 million increase in spending. The focus this year has been on revaluation, a process that happens every 5 years to adjust assessments in all components of the grand list to reflect current market conditions. This year, the residential properties increased 37.5% - a much higher rate than commercial and business property, resulting in a shift of the tax burden onto the homeowners.

What are the consequences of the reval AND this spending increase? Your taxes are going up. This will be the third year in a row that your taxes are going up. But this year, the average homeowner's tax increase is $1,250. Some folks will see about $900 and some will see an increase in the $1,700 range. The mill rate, which determines your taxes, is going down, as it customarily does in a reval year. Your house value went up 37.5%, however, the mill rate is going from 34.64 to 29.46, only a 15% reduction. Branford had a reval this year with a reasonable spending increase but their mill rate went from 31 down to 22, a 29% reduction.

Some folks want to blame this nightmare solely on the reval. But don't forget the unprecedented $9 million spending increase. So here is what I did. I took the proposed budget of $137.6 million, and pretended there was no reval, this year. I used the current grand list, and with a simple calculation, I determined the mill rate would have increased by over 3 mills to fund this budget if there was no reval. In my opinion the reval is being used as a mask to disguise the spending increase. Yes, the reval is a significant factor, but the spending increase is equally significant.

At the Budget Town Meeting, a citizen said that our taxes have been steady, and that in some years, taxes stayed the same. This was offered as a justification for accepting this year's large increase. First, the past 2 years we had large tax increases, with the mill rate increasing by 2 mills in each year. Second, yes, there were 2 years (2021 and 2022) that taxes stayed the same at 30.71 mills. However, in both of those years, the budget used short term federal pandemic money (known as ARPA and ESSER) as revenue sources. We also created new employment positions during those 2 years. It is a bad idea to use short-term revenue for long-term obligations. Then, in 2023, the federal money was gone and the mill rate jumped up to 32.65 and then to 34.64 this current fiscal year. These recent tax increases were especially difficult for our fixed income folks and for families struggling to make ends meet.

I had great concern about the Board of Finance (BOF) effort in this budget season. Mr. Freda has often said, and rightfully so, that the challenge for the BOF is to balance needs with what the taxpayers can afford. I think the BOF, especially the republican majority members, failed this challenge. I didn't see any meaningful scrutiny of the budget requests. I also believe the BOF failed to adequately scrutinize non-tax revenue sources. Yes, your taxes are the main source of revenue, but we have 43 other sources, some of which could be increased, which would lower the mill rate.

I also didn't like the scare tactics used to convince people to vote for this budget. A good budget should not need such tactics. And to make matters worse, signs were displayed on town property (throughout the library) and posted on a library facebook page which intended to convince people to pass the budget. There is a state law that prohibits the use of town property or town resources to advocate either for or against a referendum. There is a $1,000 civil penalty for violating this law. As soon as the town attorney was made aware of these signs, it was recommended that they be removed, and they were removed. In my opinion, these signs jeopardized the integrity of the Budget Referendum, and perhaps even the enforceability of the results.

Please vote on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. All voting is at the Rec. Center, between 6 AM and 8 PM.

FOR SALE: 48x81" headboard, 33x81" footboard, 1 5/8" thick, maple light stain, semi-circular, great condition $200; (203) 214-5885 •

FOR SALE: Craftsman radial arm saw $50, like new, extra blades $3; (203) 494-9867 •

FOR SALE: Hubley, toy Flintlock pistol in box $75; Mattel, toy Remington Derringer belt buckle $65; (203) 269-5362, leave message •

FOR SALE: Ladies Quinnipiac fleece, full zipper, long sleeves, slash pockets, wine color $12; (203) 606-0932

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