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Volume 31 No 25, September 19, 2025



POW-MIA Recognition Day

September 19 was POW-MIA Recognition Day, and local leaders and the Veterans Service Commission in remembering all POWs and MIAs including North Branford's only MIA casualty, Army SFC James Edward Creamer, who went MIA on April 21, 1968 in Thua Thien Province in Vietnam.

Included in the ceremony held at the monument on the green next to the Congregational Church were Mayor Rose Angeloni, Town Manager Michael Downes, Bill Savastano, Hugh Meehan, with the invocation and benediction from Pastor Wendy Tarry of the North Branford Congregational Church.

They were also joined by Andy Macmillen, who was close friends with SFC Creamer and they both enlisted in the Army together during the Vietnam conflict.

Pictured are Mayor Rose Angeloni with members of the Veterans Service Commission: Victoria Caroline, Tony Catapano, Robert Viglione, Charles Larkins, and local veteran and volunteer Bill Savastano.



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Please contact Jamie Abelson
at 203-530-7616 with any questions

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

In an effort to satisfy all needs, both editorial and advertising wise, for the upcoming elections and holidays, the Totoket Times will have the following publication dates for the remainder of the year.

October 17 & 31

November 21

All These issues will be full mail to all homes and businesses.

NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

36th ANNUAL COMMUNITY ROUND UP

Each year, the North Branford community celebrates **Make a Difference Day** by holding a food drive. For the last thirty-five years students and parents from NBPS have traveled through the community collecting nonperishable food items and monetary donations which were then gathered, sorted, and sent to our town's food bank.

The food bank distributes the items to our neighbors in need of a little help maintaining nutritious meals for their families. Over the years, thanks to the support of our students, their families, and the staff of North Branford Public Schools, the food pantry shelves have been well-stocked and able to support the needs of our town members.

Always there for us, we try to support the food pantry as best we can. For the entire month of October, we are asking for donations of gift cards to supermarkets such as Stop & Shop, Big Y, ShopRite, Aldi's or T&J Market or cash gift cards for the food pantry to purchase needed items. Donation boxes will be located in the main lobby of our schools for you and your child to drop off the cards.

When making a donation, please ensure the monetary amount is listed clearly. Donations will be accepted throughout the month. At the end of the month, all donations will be given to our food pantry for their use in supporting those in the town who need them.

In addition, on October 25, 2025, starting at 8:30 am, we will hold the traditional community food round up. Teams of students collect canned goods, pasta, and personal hygiene items from all segments of the community. **Please remember to check expiration dates of food items prior to donating them.**

You can assist by placing items by your mailbox on the morning of October 25th

When teams have completed their route, each team will return to the N.B.I.S. cafeteria and present their items for the official tallying. The three teams with the most donations will receive prizes.

The drive is spearheaded by North Branford teachers, administrators and students. In addition, the North Branford Public Works Department has volunteered their services to help deliver the food to the local food pantry.

We appreciate and are very proud of the North Branford community who have made this event such a great success for the past 35 years!

Thank you for your generous support!

TOTOKET TIMES

Deadline	Publication Date
September 28	October 3
October 10	October 17
October 24	October 31
November 14	November 21
November 28	December 5
December 12	December 19

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Totoket Times is mailed free to all town residents. If you wish to discontinue contact 203-410-4254.

Vincent J. Mase, Sr.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

The Law Office of
Vincent J. Mase Sr. LLC
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR
AT LAW

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E-MAIL:
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mail issues you
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State Representative Vincent Candelora



When I first ran for state representative, my goal was simple: be the voice in Hartford for residents of the 86th General Assembly District and make our state the best possible place to live. After all these years, that mission remains unchanged. But something else has grown equally important to me—protecting the integrity of the General Assembly itself. The institution’s traditions, rules, and standards of

conduct must be preserved for future generations. This principle was put to the test in recent months with the case of Marissa Gillett, the former chairman of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). If you’ve been frustrated by Connecticut’s high electric bills and followed the surrounding politics, you’ve likely heard about Gillett’s recent resignation. It came after Hartford Courant investigations revealed troubling questions about her leadership, including whether Gillett—who is supposed to be a neutral arbiter—ghost-wrote a controversial OpEd critical of utilities and credit rating agencies for Democratic legislators as well as her subsequent handling of communications records.

Most concerning to me was evidence that she may have prevented other PURA commissioners from accessing the agency staff they needed to do their jobs. When I learned about this earlier this year, I was so troubled that I drafted legislation requiring commissioners have staff access—yes, it’s remarkable that such a law would be necessary.

When Governor Lamont renominated Gillett, I questioned her directly about the staff access issue during her February confirmation hearing before the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. She assured me my concerns were unfounded and claimed there was a signed “attestation in writing” from commissioners stating no such directive was ever issued.

I requested a copy of that attestation during the hearing and followed up with a letter on March 27 asking for it directly. To this day, no such document has been produced. Despite Republican objections about these issues and her track record on lowering costs—supposedly her strongest attribute according to Governor Lamont—she was reconfirmed.

By summer, rumors persisted about that alleged directive limiting staff access, supported by an email that allegedly proved it. Despite a PURA staff member remembering the email, the agency claimed it couldn’t be found for court proceedings. However, when the Courant discovered and obtained a printed copy, the situation became untenable for Chairman Gillett.

The central question became clear: Had she been truthful to legislators during her February confirmation hearing? I wrote to the Speaker of the House requesting an investigation panel to determine whether impeachment was warranted.

Chairman Gillett resigned the next day. I take no pleasure in Gillett’s departure, but pursuing this matter was necessary. Nominees appearing before legislative committees must understand that truthfulness isn’t optional—it’s required. We entrust these individuals with significant responsibility, and legislators must be able to trust their testimony. The integrity of the General Assembly depends on it.

This entire situation was avoidable. Republicans, myself included, warned Governor Lamont about these concerns. He ignored our warnings and re-appointed her anyway. Chairman Gillett had multiple opportunities to be forthcoming and void this outcome.

Now Governor Lamont faces the consequences. He must not only replace Gillett but find two additional commissioners to reach the statutorily required five members (currently there are only two). This is a substantial challenge given the expertise required, Connecticut’s ongoing electric bill crisis, and PURA’s damaged reputation.

However, there is a silver lining: we successfully protected the institution of the General Assembly. By holding a nominee accountable for potentially misleading testimony, we sent a clear message that the integrity of our democratic processes is non-negotiable.

Rep. Vincent Candelora - House Republican Leader
86th Assembly District - North Branford, Durham, East Haven, Guilford

LET’S BE “FRANK”

Well brother, another excursion as I try to build up my walking for the trip to Europe. This time it was a one day bus trip to Federal Hill in Rhode Island, organized by my wife for the North Haven Sons and Daughters of Italy. We were able to get forty for the bus (10 from our group at Saint Anthony Church).

It was a lot of fun spending the day with some great people from the two groups. I walked close to three miles and although I made it, I am hurting a bit today. As you know I like to analyze things so I will give you two observations

First of all a person of my size has no business getting on a gondola. I knew we were in trouble when my side of the boat was closer to the water than the other side.

The gondolier said he only knew one song that he could sing well and it was Santa Lucia. I didn’t burst his bubble but he wasn’t to proficient with that one.

Getting on the boat was a bit difficult but with my new found flexibility I did it with only grace like I could demonstrate. Getting off was another story. The young man who was built like a weight lifter insisted on helping me out as he explained “I am a lot strongest than I look”. Well I guess I’m a lot heavier than I look because he couldn’t budge me. I finally convinced him to leave me alone and I was able to disembark, only stumbling once but a bit shaky on my legs.

(continued on page 4)

Vote for the Democratic Team

Dear Editor:

I am proud to offer my strong recommendation for the Democratic team of candidates running for municipal office in our community. This year’s slate represents the best of both worlds: experienced incumbents who have already delivered meaningful progress for our town, and dynamic new candidates who bring fresh energy, ideas, and perspectives to the table.

Our incumbents have a proven record of service – strengthening essential public services, championing fairness and equity, and leading with transparency and accountability. They have shown time and again that they are deeply committed to improving the quality of life for all residents.

Alongside them are talented new candidates, ready to step up and continue building on that foundation. These individuals are bringing forward innovative solutions, bold ideas, and a deep concern for the challenges facing our townspeople. Together, they provide the wisdom of experience with the vitality of new leadership.

The Democratic team exemplifies collaboration, inclusivity, and a shared dedication to ensuring that all of North Branford thrives. I have no

doubt that, when elected, they will work tirelessly to establish long-term planning, transparency in government, and fiscal responsibility while strengthening our sense of community.

I wholeheartedly recommend supporting this outstanding group of Democratic incumbents and new candidates. With your vote, we can ensure our town continues on a path of progress, where all stakeholders are treated equitably.

Respectfully,
Judy M. Bannon -
Chairperson, NBDTC

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Letters to the editor...

This paper encourages all readers to voice their opinions and comments. The Totoket Times is not responsible for erroneous information or statements in letters to the editor. Letters should be as brief as possible. All letters must be signed. A telephone number should be included and no personal attacks. This paper reserves the right to edit all letters. All letters should be addressed to :



The Editor
P.O. Box 313, Northford, CT 06472

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The publisher assumes no responsibility for typographical errors. In the event of an error, the publisher will issue a credit adjustment on only the incorrect portion of the advertisement, as well as a retraction in the next issue.

“What A Disgrace”

The Greater New Haven Italian American Heritage Committee which was formerly called the Greater New Haven Columbus Day Parade Committee, Inc. grew to prominence under the leadership of Italian Americans who believe in honoring our past and the legacy of Christopher Columbus. However, under leadership during recent years, the committee buckled under political pressure, changed the parade’s name and began rotating it among several Greater New Haven towns. Often, I am asked, “Why don’t Italians defend their own heritage?” Many do, but a select few do not. Is it from political pressure? Or putting politics ahead of heritage? The fear of business owners being hassled by city officials? Are many just worn out? Rather than thinking the best of others and being optimists, do the leaders at St. Michael’s Church, St. Andrews Society, and the new Wooster Square Italian Immigrant Historical Society (which was incorporated outside of New Haven) fear the citizens of New Haven? Many Columbus statues still stand and haven’t been destroyed, but the pessimists have no hope in New Haven. In Bridgeport, where the Columbus Day Parade honors an American icon, Hispanics, Blacks, and Italians, among many other ethnicities celebrate Columbus Day. With little support from city officials and the number of attendees already declining in New Haven, the members of the Columbus Day Parade Committee brought it to the suburbs. Once New Haven’s parade became a single ethnic event, called the Italian-American Heritage Parade, attendance continued to dwindle. The final nail in the coffin was removing “Columbus” from the parade’s name.

Speaking of coffins, Bill Iovanne, Jr., Wooster Square funeral home director, led the new immigrant monument committee under the supervision of Rosa De-Lauro, who changed her political stance on Columbus when defending Columbus became a liability in the Democrat party. Branford residents, Iovanne and Frank Carrano, who on camera took credit for removing the statue, never entertained the possibility of returning the Columbus statue to Wooster Square Park despite public outcry from Italian Americans. Carrano, former president of New Haven’s teacher union, and a few politically connected individuals decided for ALL Italians which parts of our heritage should be celebrated. All the parts of our cultural heritage work in synchrony; it is like a body with all of its working parts. When one part fails, the body dies. Italian heritage is on its last breath in New Haven.

Instead of honoring American traditions, Italian heritage, and Columbus, now the plinth is being used as a backdrop to place plaques with the names of deceased friends of committee members and businesses, such as Pepe’s Pizza, that funded the new statue while sitting quietly when Italian heritage was under attack in June of 2020. What a disgrace!

The above editorial is taken with permission from the IADL weekly newsletter, written by President Matthew Guarnieri



WELCOME TO KENT FALLS BREWING!

The Town of North Branford is excited to welcome Kent Falls Brewing to the Town of North Branford! Kent Falls opened as the first farm brewery in Connecticut at Camps Road Farm in Kent in 2015. They prioritize sourcing ingredients locally with 95% of ingredients from within 250 miles. They are bringing this philosophy to Northford to create beer and an experience that are local and reflective of the land and the community.

They are offering the Full Pour Pils, a Northford location exclusive pilsener, as well as Buddy Sprinkles Goes to Northford, a special edition of their IPA brewed to celebrate the opening of the Northford location. The original location in Kent will continue to offer curated tastings and flights while the Northford location will feature full pours and food trucks. Kent Falls is located at 418 Forest Road in Northford and is open Thursdays and Fridays from 3 – 9 PM, Saturdays 12 PM – 9 PM, and Sundays 12 PM – 6 PM. Stop by and say hello!

Photo: Co-Founder Barry Labendz and family with Town Manager Michael Downes, Deputy Mayor Jeff Macmillen, and Economic development Commission Chair Liz Caplan.

Frank continued.

The second observation was that Little Italy in Federal Hill can’t make a pimple on the butt of Arthur Ave in the Bronx or The North End in Boston.

The group broke up into different restaurants. Ours was only so-so and they didn’t have a great menu of Italian options. Others went to places and complained about cold food or overly expensive prices.

All that aside it was a fun day.
Take care and I’ll see you soon.

NORTH BRANFORD DEMOCRATS PROUDLY ANNOUNCE OUR PLATFORM FOR THE 2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

OUR ENDORSED CANDIDATES

BOARD OF EDUCATION ~ Stephanie Byrd & Marcey Onofrio

TOWN COUNCIL ~ Bruce Abelson, Marie Diamond, Christopher Heon, Vincent J. Mase Sr., Craig Miller & Daniel Seiden



1

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4

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WHILE BALANCING THE NEEDS
OF THE TAXPAYER

Please follow us on Social Media for more information on individual candidates!

PAID FOR BY NBDTC ~ JUDY BANNON, CHAIRPERSON ~ ELISABETH CAPLAN, TREASURER



A Message from the Republican Team



Election Day is quickly approaching, and the Republican Council members would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of our accomplishments over the past two years.

INCREASES TO PUBLIC SAFETY

- The 2025-2026 budget includes ***one additional police officer*** that will be joining our current team as a task officer in partnership with the State Police. ***This position is partially funded from the Opioid Settlement Fund.***
- New apparatus to replace aging vehicle in the Fire Department – Engine 1 will be replaced at Company 1.

ELDERLY TAX CREDIT - INCREASED ELIGIBILITY

- Income levels were increased starting July 1, 2025 to \$60,000 for single taxpayers and \$70,000 for married married to allow ***more of our seniors and residents with disabilities to qualify for this credit.*** The credit is currently at \$700.

ESTABLISH FUND TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- This program will be ***funded with proceeds from the sale of Town-owned property.*** Approximately \$150K has been added to date. This fund along with the Business Tax Credit program plays a vital role in economic development.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- The ***NBIS project has been completed*** and all issues with the roof, brickwork, windows, sidewalks have been resolved.
- The new ***NBHS is fully occupied*** and the close out process with the State is in progress. The project was completed within the \$70M budget.
- The contract for the addition to Public Works for approx. \$1.5M was accepted and work has begun. This project will be funded by the Town’s Fund Balance and ***no bonding will be used.***

TOWN GOVERNMENT

- The 2025-2026 budget year was very challenging due to the ***state mandated revaluation*** and the ***unprecedented 36% increase in the Grand List.*** Several positions were eliminated and hours were reduced in Public Works and Park & Rec Dept.
- The Social Services dept. received an increase in hours for the part-time assistant to accommodate the increasing needs of our residents.

We will continue to work for all of you to provide the services our community needs in a fair and responsible manner. ***Please vote ROW B this election!***

Thank you, the Republican Candidates for the Town Council

Rose Marie Angeloni

Walter Goad

Jeffrey Macmillen

Ron Pelliccia

Robert Whitworth

Thomas Zampano

Early Voting

Oct. 20 - Nov. 2

Election Day

Nov. 4



JENNIFER GURLEY-LANGDON
SWORN-IN AS DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

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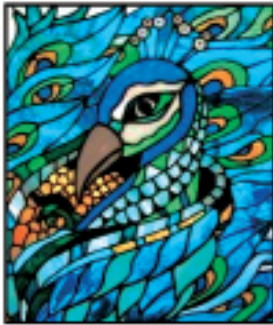
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Jennifer Gurley-Langdon has been sworn-in as the Town’s new Deputy Town Clerk. Jennifer has worked in the Town Clerk’s Office for the past four years as Assistant Town Clerk, and has recently completed her clerk certification. Town Manager Michael Downes appointed her to the post, replacing Suzanne Ashman who retired earlier this month. The North Branford Town Council unanimously confirmed the appointment at their September 23rd meeting.

Photo: Jennifer Gurley-Langdon is administered the oath of office by Town Manager Michael P. Downes to become North Branford’s new Deputy Town Clerk

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Student Athletes Giving Back to the Community

The PoCo Festival Committee recently presented donations to the NBHS sports teams for volunteering at the Potato & Corn Festival. THANK YOU to Coach Salvati and the Football team, Coach Nuhn and the Field Hockey Team, Coach Ramada and the Volleyball Team, and Coach Donohue and the boys Basketball Team (not pictured) for their time and commitment during the festival weekend.

The teams are an integral part of the volunteers needed for a successful festival. We are happy to support them.



Calling all grads:
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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Branford Bible Chapel. 212 Branford Rd., corner of Twin Lakes Rd. 203-488-3586. Sunday morning : 10:00 - 10:30 Worship & Lord's Supper, 10:30 11:00 Announcements and Music Minity, 11:00 -11:45 Ministering of God's Word & Sunday School. . Nursery provided. Vacation Bible School, missions & outreach programs. www.branfordbiblechapel.org

Hope Christian Church (we are an Assemblies of God affiliated church) 211 Montowese Ave., North Haven CT www.hopeag.com. Sunday Service 10:00 AM, Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM. Follow us on Facebook. "realpeople realhope reallife" (203) 234-7328

Northford Community Church. Church is located on Old Post Rd. (Corner of Rte 17 and Rte 22), PO Box 191 Northford. Phone (203)-484-0795, Fax (203)-484-9916. Email: northfordcc@gmail.com. Office Hours: Tuesday 9am-1pm; Other days by appointment. John Vigneri, Pastor. Catherine Klouda, worship leader. Worship service 10am. Join us for coffee hour following worship. Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Like us on Facebook. Our website is www.northfordcommunity.church.

St. Ambrose Parish – Roman Catholic Parish with two church buildings, St. Augustine, located at 30 Caputo Rd. North Branford and St. Monica, located at 1321 Middletown Ave. Northford.

The pastor is Rev. Robert L. Turner. All are welcome and invited to join us for Mass! Summer Mass times include: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 9:00 AM at St. Augustine. Weekend Masses are celebrated on Saturday at 4:30 PM at St. Augustine (English Ordinary no incense used), Sunday at 9:00 AM at St. Monica (English Ordinary, no incense used) and on Sunday at 11:00 AM at St. Augustine (Latin Ordinary with use of incense). The sacrament of Reconciliation is offered a half hour before all Masses, excepting Sunday, and on Monday evenings from 5-6 PM during Adoration. The parish office is located at St. Augustine Church and is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-1. You can access the bulletin and staff emails at NBcatholics.org. If you are new to the area and looking for a wonderful parish or homeschool co-op to join, please visit us or give us a call!

Community Baptist Church. 53 Hopson Avenue, Branford, CT. Pastor Jon Bickel. Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 a.m. and Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Nursery is provided. Adult bible study and prayer meeting, and children's clubs on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. For more info.: 203-488-8581; info@cbcbranford.org; www.cbcbranford.org

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, the White Church on the Hill in the Heart of Northford, has been an integral part of Northford since 1763! Worship services are held Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Refreshments and fellowship always follow. Please join us - we'd love to get to know you! All are always welcome!! The church is also open to all in the community for individual prayer, Tuesdays from noon to 2 p.m. St. Andrew's supports many community programs, and contributes regularly to the North Branford Scholarship Program; North Branford Social Services (NBSS) Thanksgiving Basket Share and Christmas gift and food basket share programs; NBSS Back-To-School Backpacks; clothing donations (donation shed located at the back of the church parking lot); and more. A number of fundraising events are held throughout the year to help us help our neighbors, such as an Annual Rhubarb Fest, summertime Ice Cream Socials, and the annual Harvest Supper. Please join us for the events, and help us help our neighbors! Additionally, the church's Parish Hall is available for rent for birthday parties, showers, receptions, etc. The Rev. Bryan Spinks is St. Andrew's priest; Nan Monde is Sr. Warden. For more information please contact Nan at 203-710-7005

Shoreline Community Church located at 9 Business Park Dr., Units 1-4, Branford, CT. Call us at 203.481.8919. Sunday Services at 8:30 and 10:00 AM (Children and Jr. High activities meet during our 10 AM service). For more information, check out our website www.sccbranford.org. SCC is a diverse community that is dedicated to Making the Invisible God Visible.

The North Branford Congregational Church, NACCC, 1680 Foxon Road, North Branford CT. Join us for meaningful worship and Bible based teaching every Sunday at 10 am. Sunday School for children during service. Communion on the first Sunday of the month. We offer Bible study, choir, lunch bunch, 2nd Sunday brunch, charity work, book club, praise team, men's fellowship and more. Our pastor is the Rev. Wendy Tarry. To contact our church: Office hours are Wednesday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Phone: 203.488.8456, email: nobdcong@sbcglobal.net, website: www.northbranfordcongregational.org Come grow in faith with us!

Please join us for worship at **St. John's Episcopal Church** at 129 Ledge Hill Road in Guilford, CT 06437. Our services are at 10 am each Sunday with Youth Spiritual Foundation for ages 5 and up every first and third Sunday. Coffee hour after our service in our parish hall. See our Facebook page St. John's Episcopal Church, Guilford CT. 203-457-1094. check our website at www.saintjohnsguilford.org

United Methodist Church, Branford 811 East Main St, Branford (Route 1, across from Bill Miller's Castle). www.umcbranford.org or (203) 488-0549. Sunday service 9:30am - both in-person and live on our website. "The Church on the Rock," led by Pastor . We invite you to discover the power of faith in Jesus Christ bringing God's love to the world. Join us to worship, experience God's word, and stay connected.

Zion Episcopal Church, 326 Notch Hill Road, North Branford. While we are in transition, we continue to hold services of Morning Prayer following Rite 2 in the Book of Common Prayer, and do have services of Holy Eucharist when we are fortunate to get a supply priest. At this time, we have a single service at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday morning. Refreshments and fellowship to follow service in the parish hall. Please visit our Facebook page or our website zionepiscopalchurch.org. Zion is an open and affirming congregation for those seeking a safe place to worship and grow in Christ. 203-488-7395

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish will be having their Christmas Bazaar on Friday, November 7th from 5-8pm and Saturday, November 8th from 9am-3pm at St. Therese Church Hall, 555 Middletown Ave., North Haven. We are currently looking for vendors for our Bazaar selling giftable Christmas merchandise. If interested in being a vendor call Sharon at 203-239-5378 M-F 9am- 4pm or 203-234-0215 evenings for a vendor application or for more information.

REDS ROOM & CHRISTIAN MEDIA SPOTLIGHT
PARTNERING WITH NORTHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH
THESE EVENTS
Live Worship Concert
featuring
October 11th
@ 6pm
Deborah Scott
Olga Gavrilov
Breath & Arrow
Pastor John Vigneri
Cat Leigh Band
www.redsroom.net/
christianmediaspotlight

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
HALLOWEEN FALL DANCE
Saturday, October 25, 2025
7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Saint Monica Church Hall
1331 Middletown Avenue, Northford, CT 06472
Raffle Baskets & 50/50 Raffle Music by DJ – Anthony Esposito
BYOB & Snacks
Setup, Pizza & light desserts are provided by: Knights of Columbus
- COSTUMES ENCOURAGED -
Tickets \$20/per person
For questions or tickets, please contact Wayne at:
203-410-3885 or knightout6801@gmail.com
PROCEEDS WILL HELP WITH THE PURCHASE OF THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS DINNERS FOR MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY
COUNCIL 6801

St. Pio Ladies Guild
Christmas Fair
Saturday Nov. 15th - 9am-3pm
Sunday Nov. 16th - 8:30am-1pm
Our Lady of Pompeii Church
355 Foxon Rd. East Haven
FEATURING:
Homemade: Candies, Baked Goods
Breakfast/Luncheon Menu
Raffles
Costume Jewelry
Handmade Christmas Crafts
Face Painting & Kids Games
Oh Holy Night
Visit With Santa

IT’S ITALIAN - IT’S ALL GOOD

Local author to Speak at North Haven Sons and Daughters of Italy Meeting

Local author Arnaldo Aranci will be the guest speaker at the North Haven Sons & Daughters of Italy meeting on Tuesday October 7th. There will be a brief business meeting starting at 7:00 PM followed by the author’s presentation.

The topic will cover his book called *Nicla’s Story*. It is a love story and a tale of survival and danger set against the backdrop of a war. It is full of Italian culture, language, food, places and history. It has received rave reviews on Amazon.

Arnaldo is a first generation Italian American and the book is inspired by his parents experience during World War II in Italy. His dad was an Italian American soldier who met and married an Italian girl.

The presentation will take place at the Hope Christian Church Hall on 211 Montowese Avenue in North Haven. It is open to the public and light refreshments will be served. There is no charge.

This is the first event which honors our Heritage Month.

Let’s not lose our rich Italian American culture and traditions!

by Mark Hehl

Connecticut has the highest per capita population of Italian Americans in the USA. Our pizza is award winning and considered the best in the country. Here are some childhood recollections of a local Italian American who grew up in a very Italian enclave during the 1950’s.

Like many other Italian Americans my age, I grew up with a foot in two worlds during the 1950’s and 1960’s. At home, my mother maintained many rich Southern Italian traditions. In school, and on the streets of NYC, I was American. *If you cut me, I may bleed garlic and olive oil!*

My first years were spent in a close-knit Italian neighborhood. I am fortunate to have these memories, being the oldest surviving sibling/cousin and probably the only one to remember this. I grew up surrounded by grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and even one great-grandmother, who did not speak English. I remember her saying to me and my cousins at meals in Sicilian “Mancia e zititi!” (eat and keep quiet).

Sunday family gatherings were at Uncle Eddy’s (born Ignacio) house, across the street from where I lived. We needed to walk through the basement to reach the yard, as gatherings were outside when the weather was good. At my uncle’s house, I played with my cousins and ate authentic Italian food. Eggplant, figs, tomatoes, sausages, and pasta were usually on the menu. The vegetables were homegrown. My memory of eating caponata was resurrected during my visits to Sicily. Caponata is an eggplant-caper based salad that the Arabs brought to Sicily during their reign there. When tasting it while in Sicily, I said to my wife: “This tastes like Brooklyn.” My childhood memories just hit me like a thunderbolt.

Being engrossed in marriage, children and a professional career caused me to almost forget and not practice these wonderful childhood traditions. Soon after writing my second book *An Immigrant’s Dilemma*, Legas Publishing, Mineola, NY, I realized that the Italian American traditions that I was exposed to were not passed down to my children. I suspect that my failure was not unique and that others of my generation were also deficient at this.

There were many reasons for the erosion of our traditions, such as: intermarrying with other ethnicities, the desire of the older generation to have their children become American, protection from prejudice / bigotry, the severe reduction of Italian immigrants due to very low immigration quotas during the 1920’s thru the 1940’s, newer generations moving out of predominantly Italian American enclaves, extended families and grandparents no longer living is close proximity to each other, Italian or other regional languages not being used at home, mothers joining the workforce, and the natural course of assimilation into American life.

These lost traditions include: *Onomastico* (one’s Saint name day) & St Joseph day celebrations, group cooking of meals by grandparents, old men playing cards. Sunday afternoon dinners with the extended family that lasted until evening, making homemade wine, enacting various *malocchio* defenses, not venturing outside with wet hair, uncovering the fig tree in the spring, attending the feast and eating a sausage and pepper sandwich followed by an Italian Ice, listening to a drunk old man sing: *C’e la luna mezzo mare* at a wedding reception, only eating Italian food at home & not at a restaurant, the smell of a pot of sauce on the stove almost every day & dipping crusty Italian bread in it as it cooked, the naming of children after grandparents, living with parents until married, and Christmas eve celebrations with various seafood including baccalà.

Here are some suggestions to revive our culture:

Onomastico - Explain to children that in the past their Saint name day was celebrated like their birthday and have a small celebration.

St Joseph’s Day – Construct a small altar, eat pasta with sardines and breadcrumbs, and serve sfingi or zeppole for dessert.

Sunday Afternoon Dinner – Invite the extended family and friends and serve traditional food in a leisurely manner. Be sure to have multiple courses over the entire day.

The Feast - Attend one with the younger generation. It would be best to travel to a city for a street Feast as these resemble the ones of yesteryear. Be sure to eat a sausage and pepper sandwich followed by Italian ice.

Cook Sauce – Get a recipe, preferably from an Italian grandmother, and cook a batch from scratch. Dip good Italian bread and enjoy it while simmering, then enjoy it with *al dente* pasta.

Christmas Eve - Conduct a family get together and be sure to serve multiple seafood dishes and other Italian delicacies. Include a baccalà dish, (be sure to soak it long enough prior to cooking). Exchange gifts then and not on Christmas Day. Consider attending midnight mass.

About Mark Hehl

Mark Hehl is an Italian American engineer, consultant, and public speaker. He is the author of the books: *An Immigrant’s Dilemma*, *Amusing Confessions of an International Consultant* and *Ameri-Sicula: Sicilian Culture in America*. He has conducted educational programs for various Italian American Organizations, been a guest on various Italian American radio shows and has had multiple articles published. Mark is the 2025 recipient of the Italian American Ambassador Award from Italian Charities of America.

Mark is the son of a Sicilian mother and spent his early years around his Sicilian relatives and was immersed in that culture.

FRIED DOUGH PIZZA NIGHT

Friday, October 17, 2025, 6:00PM



Featuring Mark Hehl
Talking about growing up as an Italian American
also Featuring Al Clemente
with a musical presentation
Enjoy a fun evening.
2 Fried Dough pizzas, Salad, Beverages, Coffee and Dessert.
6:00 PM
Hope Christian Church
211 Montowese Avenue, North Haven
Only \$15 per person.
For Entertainment and Supper
For tickets call SueAnn at 203-710-4186

North Haven Sons & Daughters of Italy
Lodge 2805

MARDI GRAS, MASKS, MURDER! Mystery & Dinner

Menu: Lasagna, Salad, Dessert
\$20.00 for Members - \$25.00 for non-Members
Friday November 14, Doors open at 6:00 pm. Show starts at 6:30.
Seating is Limited! All Acting Roles are taken.
All guests can participate in solving the mystery.
For Tickets come to Lodge meeting
or Contact Lenny or Sharon at
203-507-6509 or Lric56@yahoo.com
Held at Hope Christian Church



Recycling News

Important Dates for the Fall

Leaf Drop-Off opens – Saturday October 18th.

Scrap Metal Pickup – week of October 20th.

Electronics collection at Public Works – Saturday 11-1. Bulky Waste Pickup – week of November 3rd.

North Branford Fall Leaf Collection opens on October 18th.

North Branford residents can bring their leaves to the leaf drop off center located to the left of the old police station, around Wall Field on Route 22 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Just follow the signs. No brush or grass clippings. The leaf drop off will be open on Saturdays October 18th, 25th and November 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd. Please place leaves in biodegradable leaf bags (no tape please) or empty them loose onto the ground.

There will be a curbside pickup of leaves in untapped biodegradable paper bags the weeks of December 1st – December 12th.

Scrap Metal Pickup will be the week of October 20 on your normal trash pick-up day.

Items taken: A/C units, metal lawn furniture, large appliances, hot water tanks, tools, metal fencing, filing cabinets, outdoor grills, small machines, non-riding lawn movers and similar metal items.

Hazwaste Central will be closing for the season after October 25th

Safe & Free Disposal of Residential Household Hazardous Waste
HazWaste Central helps area residents in member towns protect water quality by safely disposing of household wastes. Located at RWA at 90 Sargent Drive in New Haven, HazWaste Central is open from **9 a.m. until noon on Saturdays only**. Household hazardous waste comes from everyday products used in the home, garage, yard or garden.

A visit to HazWaste Central is quick and easy. Participants never have to leave their cars, and the waste is off-loaded by professionals. Some of the household wastes that can be dropped off include aerosol cleaners and sprays, antifreeze, oil-based paint and pool chemicals. We also list some of the accepted items on your yellow trash information card.

Please visit <https://www.rwater.com/in-the-community/hazwaste-central> for a complete list of what is accepted along with the online registration form. You can also call 203-401-2712 or email ask.hazwaste@rwater.com.

Only Rain in the Drain

Storm drains may look like acceptable places to toss in dog poop, but they’re definitely not. These systems directly lead to natural water sources. In other words, all those nasty bacteria from dog waste could end up in lakes, rivers, and drinking water.

Pet waste isn’t biodegradable, and it doesn’t act as fertilizer. Pet waste left in the street or dumped into the storm sewer causes very real public and environmental health risks.

Remember to bring a bag and clean up after your dog.

Can I recycle it?

Connecticut has a website to help with recycling questions: www.recyclect.com.

They also have an app.

For more information about recycling in North Branford you can check out North Branford’s Recycling Committee’s website: <https://www.northbranfordct.gov/245/SolidHazardous-Waste-Recycling-Committee> or our Facebook page: North Branford CT Hazardous Waste & Recycling Committee

Thank You for Your Participation

Former North Branford High School Principal Dr. David Perry author of three books

David D. Perry, author of:
Bluff, Bluster, Lies and Spies: The Lincoln Foreign Policy, 1861-1865
The Third Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War: Obstinate Devils From Middle Fork Bridge to Cedar Bluff
Lincoln’s Minister of Mystery: Henry Shelton Sanford and Civil War Intelligence

Dr. David Perry has an earned doctorate from Columbia University, and worked as a high school principal for many years before turning to teaching at two Connecticut Universities. He taught: graduate education, undergraduate American and European History.

Doctor Perry is stayng active down in Florida working on another book and

tutoring teenagers in preparation for their SAT.s
Previous Civil War articles include:

- 1. “Abraham Lincoln and John George Nicolay, The Impact of Auditory and Visual Learning Styles on the Civil War”, 2010 (Lincoln Memorial University Press)
- 2. “American Braggadocio: The Lincoln Administration Foreign Policy”, 2010, Maryland Park Comm.
- 3. “Dispatch Number 10 and What it Reveals about William Seward and Abraham Lincoln”, 2012, International Lincoln Association.

NARFE Meeting

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association monthly meeting will be held Monday, October 6, 2025 at 1:00 pm at the North Haven Congregational Church, 28 Church St. All active and retired federal workers and retirees are invited to attend.


The guest speaker will be Cherie Strucaly, Director of AmeriCorps Volunteer Services, Agency on Aging of South Central CT. Cherie will lead a conversation on important topics that many avoid but deserve our attention.

NARFE is dedicated to protecting and preserving the earned benefits of federal workers and retirees. Info: <http://www.Narfe.org>

2025

Hosted by Branford Compassion Club's Feline Rescue & Adoption Center

Animal Awareness Day



October 5. 2025

Rain or Shine - indoor event

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Guilford Fairgrounds

111 Lovers Lane, Guilford

Blessing of the Animals - 1:30 pm

Mini therapy horses & dogs

Turtle Haven rescue turtles

Dog training demo

Vendors and Rescue Group Booths

Food Trucks

Bake Sale

Children's activities

WPLR tent

DJ

Live Entertainment

Photos with Santa

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Branford Veterinary Hospital

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PLATINUM SPONSORS


Anne & Jeff Godsey

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Veterinary Associates of North Branford

WPLR 99.1



For more info: www.branfordcompassionclub.org



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TRUNK or treat

Saturday October 18th
2:00 - 3:30pm Rain or Shine
STW Community Center Parking Lot

AUTUMN NIGHTS AT AUGUR

FALL CONCERT SERIES
JUICE BOX
Thursday, October 9th 6:00-8:00pm
Augur Park - 290 Forest Rd

POWER YOGA

This yoga practice is a full body workout that will challenge your mind and body. With this practice you will build endurance, gain core strength, create flexibility and promote weight loss. Instructed by Toni McGovern

STW Yoga Room Mondays, Oct 6 - Nov 10 *No class 10/13*

5:00-6:00pm Ages 16+ Cost \$55 res/ \$60 nr

STW Yoga Room Wednesdays, Oct 8 - Nov 8

5:00-6:00pm Ages 16+ Cost \$55 res/ \$60 nr

YOGA PILATES FUSION

Stillness is a powerful practice. With the help of props to support the body you will relax muscles and calm the nervous system. Help reduce stress and create an overall well being. Instructed by Toni McGovern

STW Yoga Room Mondays, Oct 6 - Nov 10 *No class 10/13*

6:15-7:00pm Ages 16+ Cost \$50 res/ \$55 nr

STW Yoga Room Wednesdays, Oct 8 - Nov 8

6:15-7:00pm Ages 16+ Cost \$50 res/ \$55 nr

YIN YOGA

Yin yoga is a slow paced practice holding poses for 3-5 minutes. You will gain circulation in joints and improve flexibility that will aid you in everyday activities. Instructed by Toni McGovern

STW Yoga Room Mondays, Oct 6 - Nov 10 *No class 10/13* 7:00-8:00pm

Ages 16+ Cost \$55 res/ \$55 nr

STW Yoga Room Wednesdays, Oct 8 - Nov 8

7:00-8:00pm Ages 16+ Cost \$55 res/ \$55 nr

TAI CHI

Bring balance and harmony to your life while you strengthen your body in this traditional T'ai Chi Ch'uan class. Taught by an instructor with 30 years of martial arts experience and a Gold Medal Winner of the T'ai Chi Ch'uan nationals. Students practice relaxation, balance and flexibility while learning to understand the body/mind relationship. Instructor: Rich Dicine

October 14 - December 9 *(no class 11/11)*

Ages 18+ STW Classroom Tuesdays 6:00-7:00pm
\$70 res/\$75 nr

**Classic Car
& Motorcycle Show**

Saturday, October 11, 2025
10am-2pm - PoCo grounds
290 Forest Rd.

- ★ \$10 entry Fee
- ★ Judging on vehicles 1990 and older
- ★ Trophies
- ★ Prizes & Raffles
- ★ Live DJ playing your favorite oldies

Event will be rescheduled due to rain or wet field conditions
Contact ninaburkhardt@yahoo.com

— SENIOR CENTER — COFFEE WITH A COP

October 7, 2025

STW Senior Room 10:00-11:30pm Register by 10/3
Join us and some of our North Branford Police Officers for coffee (and donuts) and conversation!
No agenda or speeches, just a chance to ask questions and get to know the wonderful Officers in our Town.



PUMPKINTOWN October 29, 2025

10:00am—2:00pm \$30 res / \$35 nr

Enjoy an Autumn visit to Pumpkintown USA in East Hampton where we will take a ride through Pumpkintown Forest while enjoying some delicious apple cider donuts, stroll the Village, and visit the Harvest Store and garden center! Register by 10/8

SENIOR CENTER HOEDOWN

Come to our Hoedown! A great time with fabulous food, friends, & music!

OCTOBER 23rd

12:00pm - 2:00pm

STW Community Center

**\$6res/\$8nr per
person 55+**

Pulled chicken sliders, mac & cheese, coleslaw, corn bread & dessert

Pre-registration required by October 15th

METEORS WITH MARK

Northford resident and astrophotographer Mark shares with us his amazing photos of the skies over Totoket Mountain in Northford and explain how he captures all the wondrous images and videos.

October 28 - 1:00-2:00pm

STW Senior Room - FREE

please register by 10/24

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

Personal, For Sale, Help Wanted, Tag Sale, and all non-business classified
1 issue \$9.00 2 issues \$12.00 3 issues \$15.00
20 words or less, not including phone #. \$.05 per word, per run, after 20 words
Lost and Found FREE
Business Classified Ads & Real Estate
3 issues \$35.00, 6 issues \$60.00, 12 issues \$100.00
\$.10 per word, per run, after 20 words
Payment MUST accompany all ads. The advertiser must notify this newspaper of any errors.

Send ad along with your check to:
Totoket Times P.O. Box 313 Northford, CT 06472
For more information call 203-410-4254

ELECTRICIAN

TJC Electrical Services - No Job too small or big. Service upgrade & Generator Specials. Call Tom Cassella at 203-619-2823. Licensed & Insured.

PLUMBING

John DiMaggio Plumbing - Residential/Commercial repairs/remodeling. Big or small. Water Heater Specials! Licensed & Insured. Call 203 - 627 - 6826. References available.



RENTAL SPECIAL

PREPAY FOR 3 MONTHS GET 4th MONTH FREE

- Storage Containers are 20x8x8 with full wide swingout doors
- Clean, Modern, Weather tight, fresh cross air ventilated
- Drive right up to unit for loading & unloading
- No lugging items on to carts, up elevators & down long hallways
- Conveniently located at the Northford/North Haven town line on Rt. 17 (Middletown Avenue)
- Minutes from major highways I-91, I-95 and Merritt Pkwy
- 24 hour access, safe, well lighted, 24 hour video surveillance
- Month to Month contracts



1015 Middletown Avenue
Northford, CT
203-484-4753

Rental office hours: 9-5 weekdays or by appointment

Celebrate Life!

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West Haven, CT 06516

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North Branford, CT 06471

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"I truly cannot say enough how grateful my family and I are to Keenan for their exceptional service. From the moment we met to make arrangements to the actual service, they were great. There was no financial pressures, our limits were respected, and everything was said outright."

"Beautiful and peaceful space, staff was very kind and sympathetic... Their kindness will not be forgotten."

Scan below to visit our website!!

CRAFT FAIR

CRAFTERS CARE

An Event That Stocks The Food
Pantry of North Branford

Saturday, Oct 11, 2025

(RAIN DATE – SATURDAY OCT 18, 2025)

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Handcrafted vendors, raffles, live
music and more!

DOODY'S INN
465 Foxon Rd. North Branford