Totoket Times

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For Our Town From Our Town

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Volume 33 No 1, November 20, 2026



"Now thanks be unto God which always causeth us to triumph in Christ and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."
2 Corinthians 2:14

Time to help keep your
Hometown Newspaper Strong
Keep the Home Fires Burning



To spend time explaining all the Totoket Times does for our community would be a waste of time. After 25 years, those who know, know, and those who don't know will never get it.

So I am asking you to help support the continuance of ***"Your Town Newspaper"*** by making a voluntary payment.The postage is now $1,300. per issue and the printing is close to $1,000.

As you can easily see, our advertising dollars do not support those expenses and I don't want to increase their rates as they are fighting hard enough to keep their local businesses going.

Perhaps $20 or more would help the cause but anything you can do will be greatly appreciated. Remeber it's "***For our Town, from Our Town.***

Send you payments to:

Totoket Times, PO Box 313, Northford , CT 06472
or VENMO Frank-Mentone-1
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LET'S BE "FRANK"

TOTOKET TIMES

Publication Dates	Deadlines
December 4, 2026	November, 27, 2026
December 18, 2026	December, 11. 2026
January 8, 2027	January 1, 2027
January 22, 2027	January 15, 2027
February 5, 2027	January 29, 2027
February 19, 2027	Beruary 12, 202

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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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Vincent J. Mase Sr. LLC
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW

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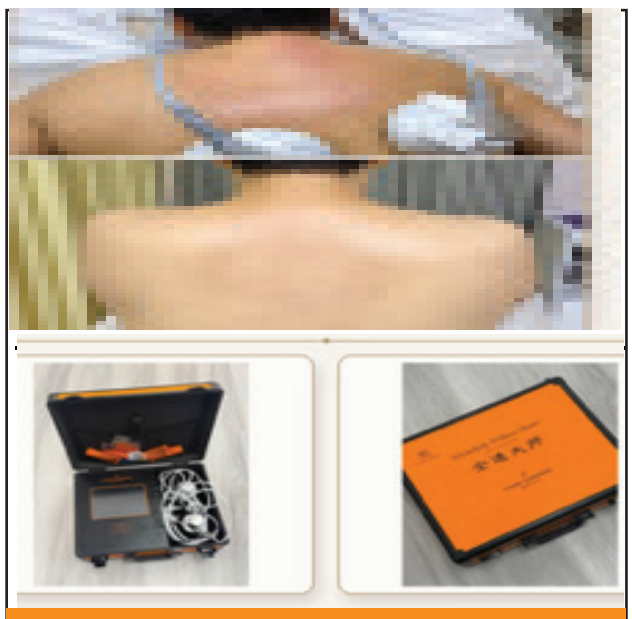

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State Representative Vincent Candelora



There's no way to sugarcoat it, Election Day here in Connecticut was tough for Republicans. Consequently, there will be significant changes in our state's House and Senate chambers when the 2027 legislative session begins January 6th.

In the House, Republicans will have 35 of the 151 seats. In the Senate, Republicans will occupy just three of the 36 seats.

While "one-party rule" is a phrase that's been bandied about at the State Capitol for years, it's never been more appropriate than now.

Naturally, Republicans across the state are dissecting the results and are having "what went wrong" conversations. Meanwhile, news outlets and hobbyist pundits are theorizing the death of the party here.

Of course, as leader of the House Republican Caucus in Hartford, I view those "demise of the party" headlines as little more than clickbait that ignore the past.

After all, I've lived through difficult election cycles driven by national issues—2006 and 2008—that diminished Republican numbers in the General Assembly. That latter election left House Republicans at 37 seats. I've also seen our caucus fight back and make gains. By the 2017 budget year, Republicans had pulled even with Democrats with an 18-18 tie in the state senate, and at 72 seats, we were within six of a majority in the House.

Those numbers allowed us to implement a historic bipartisan budget and the fiscal guardrails that have allowed us to begin paying down massive unfunded liabilities. Party balance is, indeed, a good thing for Connecticut.

A combination of factors allowed Republicans to claw back those seats and create that much-needed balance in the House and Senate. The state was in difficult financial shape, and strong Democratic majorities pursued a bevy of policies that were unpopular—tax hikes as well as shell game spending and borrowing practices.

I can make a case that's where we are now. Yes, the state has a healthy budget reserve fund, a major difference from before that bipartisan budget. But already there's a drumbeat to erode the very guardrails that helped us build up those once-depleted reserves. And on opening day, members of the legislature who will build the next two-year budget will face a projected billion dollars of red ink. What's more, the slew of Democrats who won seats in the House and Senate are dyed-in-the-wool progressives who will walk into office with not just a list of social service programs they want to create or expand, but also plans to implement new taxes on high income earners. There will be a conversation about tolls, too.

So where do we go from here? Forward. Republicans will be focused on affordability, on what things cost and what our constituents and small businesses can bear. And we won't just complain about it. We'll offer solutions, the way we have in the past. During this current two-year cycle we put forward a full alternative state budget, and offered concrete plans for property tax relief too. You can expect that same type of effort when the next session begins.

We've been in tough spots before, and we've clawed our way back. We'll do it again, and eventually Connecticut will be better off with a little more balance in Hartford.

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

LET'S BE "FRANK"

Well brother , it's Thanksgiving weekend. Where do I start? First, Thanksgivings without the old man, then without mom, then without you and finally without Mary, were all very tough. It got worse when we had to deal with a deadly Covid virus, but we have still survived,

It's funny, even when I was young most people always looked to me to organize, make the decisions and be the guy with the answers. Now that I am the oldest, they look to me even more. So as usual,we are hosting Thanksgivng this year.

I am remided of what mom always use to say. "Be thankful for what you have and thank God for your blessings."

I am thankful that forty five years with SueAnn and we are closer than ever as we spend more and more time with each other and grow stronger as a team.Now that I am officially retired it seems that we are rarely apart. I'm not sure if she is happy about it, but I certianly am.

I am thankful for the memories of holidays past. I laugh as SueAnn pulls out Mary's turkey pan to prepare our meal. Our sister never made it through 65 years and never cooked a turkey in her life but when we cleaned out her house at the time of her death, she had a brand new never used turkey pan.

I'm thankful that when many people reach Thanksgiving with no homes, no jobs and no money we are pretty comfortable.

I am thankful for a family that still seems to need me and a wife and kids who still seem to care about me.

I am thankful for a community that works together and helps each other out whenever help is needed.

I am mostly thankful for still being able to follow the traditions of family given to us by mom and the old man. I also have three children who want to continue these "together" customs.

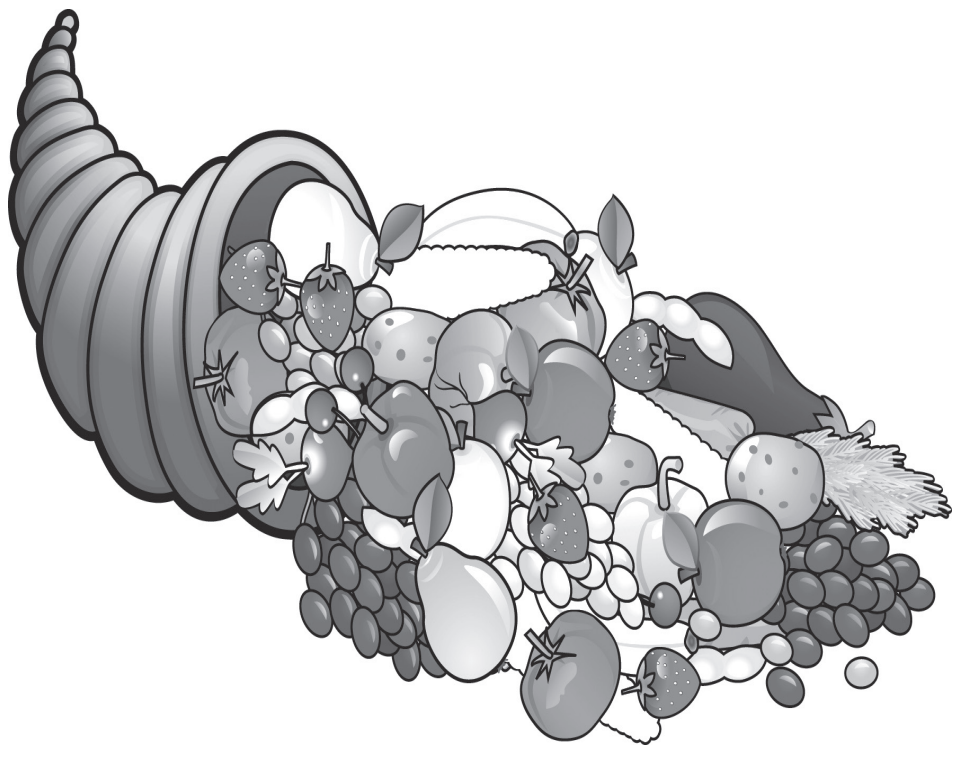
I am thankful this year as I am writing this letter it is the ten month anniversary of my little fall with the large consequence. I have finally been cleared to go in the pool and hot tub. It's been a tough road but it could have been a lot worse.

I am thankful that the Lord still gives me the strength to stay involved with the Sons and Daughters of Italy, and my first love, Saint Anthony Church. I'm not what I use to be but who of us are?

This year, I am particularly thankful for my family. Frank and Ana are coming up from Florida with the newest addtion to our family, Lucas. For an entire week we will have the whole family together. My three kids, daughter and son in law, and my three grandsons. The baby is six months old and it's the first time we will all be together.

It's time to prepare the antipasto (not the shittitery board), the macaroni and sauce (not the pasta & gravy) the turkey the soup, sweet potatoes, etc, etc etc.

Take care my brother. I miss you and the rest of the crew and I'll see you soon,



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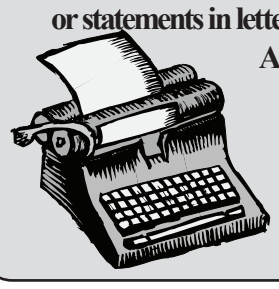
Letters to the editor...

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





Madigan Receives Meritorious Service Award

At a recent Sons and Daughters of Italy State Dinner, Marybeth Madigan(center) was recognized with the Meritorious Service Award for her hard work and dedication. She is pictured here with North Haven Lodge #2805 president Susan Velleca (Left) and State President Joseph Bellicci

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Copies of the Totoket Times can be picked up at the following local businesses.

Why not stop in and visit them.

NORTH BRANFORD:

TOWN HALL ,
NB BARBER SHOP,
ATWATER LIBRARY
HAIR DESIGNS,
NB POST OFFICE
PASTRY FUSIONS,
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Coconut Custard Pie	$17.50	Apple Crumb Pie	$18.00
Chocolate Cream	$20.00	Chocolate Lemon	$18.00
Pecan Pie	$22.50		

Cheesecakes (8" $35.00/ 10" $45.00)

Pumpkin Cheesecake
New York Style Cheesecake (plain or with Strawberries)

Breads

Snowflake Dinner Rolls $7.50 Doz.

Assorted Stuffed Breads

Antipasta	$17.50	Buffalo Chicken	$18.00
Pepperoni & Cheese	$16.00	Broccoli & Cheese	$16.00
Eggplant Parmesan	$16.00	Spin, Saus. & Cheese	$17.50

***Full Stuffed Bread Menu is also available.

Desserts

Assorted Italian Pastry
Holiday Cookie Platters $20.00 per pound.
Dessert Cakes available from our menu

Antipasto & Pasta Trays ***(only available fro 11/24 & 11/25 pickup)***

Ciabatta Antipasto - A Stunning Holiday Centerpeice with an assortment of cheeses, meats, marinated vegetables and olives, all servced on fresh baked ciabatta bread, $100.

Store made Lasagna - Layers of fresh pasta, ricotta cheese, mozzarella and house made meat sauce. Full Pan $95.00 Half Pan $65.00

Store made Manicotti - Fresh pasta stuffed with ricotta cheese and mozzarella, then topped with house made tomato sauce. Full pan $75. Half pan $55.

To ensure availability please place order by Sunday, November 22nd.

Holiday Store Hours:

Tuesday November 24th 7:30 - 3:00
Wednesday, November 25th - 7:30 - 3:30
Thursday, November 26th & Friday, November 27th - Closed.
Saturday, November 28 th 8:00 - 3:00.
Sunday, November 29th 8 - 12.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



ON NOVEMBER 6TH, VFW POST #12106 DONATED $1,000. TO THE BRANFORD FOOD PANTRY



The North Branford Republicans have donated $500 worth of Turkeys to the North Branford Food Bank. "It is our hope that anyone in North Branford who may not have the means, should be able to have the Thanksgiving dinner they deserve" - Chairman, Ed Boughton. "We recognize the need to help those who frequent our Food Pantry, and have relied on the Food Pantry to help them through tough times" -Mayor Rose Angeloni. We also want to thank those who helped us raise the money, and to thank the food bank staff for working with us to fulfill the needs of North Branford's citizens this Holiday Season.

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NORTH BRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL PERIOD I HONORS

HIGH HONORS
12TH GRADE
Ahmed, Afran
Annunziato, Lorenzo
Balliu, Jayden
Biehler, Aiden
Caffalette, Talan
Cameron, Peyton
Carbone, Armani
Ceron, Natasha
Chasanoff, Ella
Dolzani, Steven
Dowson, Marina
Duggan, Finn
Esposito, Ava
Ferraro, Myles
Filicia, Cheryl
Forgione, Matthew
Frost, Adrienne
Guerrero, Gabriel
Harper, Mia
Ilitle, Semih
Keil, Brianna
Kilstrom, Mason
Kleckner, Kayla
Kundrath, Brianna
LeBeau, Autumn
Macauley, Kate
Magazzi, Marcus
Marashi, Edmira
Martone, Alia
McCullough, Joseph
Miller, Craig
Nargi, Joseph
Paolini, Natalia
Patel, Vedi
Pereira, Alexander
Perrelli, Mya
Pinette, Eliza
Plano, Luca
Podzikowski, Siena
Porcu, Juliana
Rish, Aesop
Rivera, Luis
Rosado, Aliyah
Rosado, Haylee
Salvati, Nicolas
Sigal, Alexandra
Sigal, Michael
Stakaj, Daniella
Troche, Gian
Troqe, Iris
Velasco, Matthew
Wang, Natalee
Weld, Aubrey
Wojciechowski, Emma
Wright, Carly
Zulawski, Katheryn

HIGH HONOR
11TH GRADE
Abanoz, Eda
Acampora, Justin
Adinolfi, Ava
Anderson, Matteo
Behrens, Greta
Beisaw, Mia
Biolzi, Sadie
Blotney, Cole
Brennan, Dalton
Camarco, Logan
Cereni, Mariela
Chittenden, Shelby
Cicarella, Gianna
Collins, Andrew
Connelly, Kylie
Corsini, Gianna
Cronan, Alexander
Dagliere, Gracie
DeLieto, Melanie
Dudek, Cooper
Gambardella, Lilah
Hollenbeck, Rebecca
Hortillo, Ethan
Jaracy, Jake
Kirmali, Layla
Knoob, Tyler
Lake, Evan
LeClaire, Isabella
Lorenti, Olivia
Luangsay, Natalie
Mann, Emily
McDermott-Miliano, Gabriella
Merry, Jacob
Minnocci, Cole
Murphy, Ryan
Negron, Ellexis
Parisi, Francesca
Pavic, Marin
Pelczar, Carson
Redman, Colby
Reyes, Emilia
Smith, Broden
Traill, Ian
Vander Wyk, Noah
Vitale, Liliana

HIGH HONORS
10TH GRADE
Adhikari, Ashmi
Alves, Mya
Balg, Will
Bernardo, Bella
Brigance, Evangeline
Caffalette, Avery
Camejo, Hannah
Collins, Natalia
DeLucia, Tessa
Demiroz, Ekin
Diaz, Max
Downes, Alexandra
Fusco-Cuneo, Lucy
Giannotti, Brinleigh
Grimes, David
Gwiazda, Macey
Iamunno, Santino
Karim, Fatima
Levix, Caroline
Lucibello, Tessa
MacDougall, Kendall
Malkin, Riley
Mazzucco, Gianna
McLain, Jerimaiah
Onofrio, Christian
Paulino, Kimberly
Podzikowski, Sophia
Poston, Tyler
Salvati, Gianni
Salz, Arianna
Sandagata, Luciano
Sinski, Emma
Spanier, Elisia
Weyel, Elisa

HIGH HONORS
9TH GRADE
Altland, Noelle
Ames, Eden
Aneiro, Hayden
Bernardo, Talia
Bayreuther, Harrison
Bonaldo, Brooke
Budd, Lillian
Calvo, Allison
Connelly, Emma
Coplin, Rya
Demertzoglou, Epameinondas
Downes, Alexandra
Gagnon, Emelyn
Giacomarro, Caden
Guarderas Soto, Danna
Hollenbeck, Heidi
Hurley, Aishlyn
Leete, Norah
Lucibello, Amalia
Martinelli, Nathaniel
Martinez, Emma
Pelczar, Anna
Reding, Alexander
Saccu, Mason
Velasco, Samantha
Venturini, Nino
Wheaton, Mara

\HONORS
12TH GRADE
Angiollo, Luca
Budeit, Alana
Burns, Landen
Calle, Leo
Cassella, Anthony
Cavalier, Alexis
Esposito, Mason
Fusco-Cuneo, Aden
Gauvin, Cameron
Gildersleeve, Dustin
Gonzalez-Delgado, Leilani
Harper, Mallory
Jara, Javier
Keil, Brianna
Koelle, Adam
Lahun, Baindu
Landau, Brian
Martone, Santino
Masella, Izabella
Meizies, Tyler
Plano, Matteo
Small, William
Spinelli, Valentina
Stimpson, Juliana
Trindade, Tyler

HONORS
11TH GRADE
Altland, Gabriel
Baxter, Asher
Biron, Isabella
Brindisi, Nadia
Budd, Ellie
Cantore, Nicholas
Caporale, Kaydence
Cappella, Jason
Cappetta, Donato
Castro, Lance
Cook, Quinn
Dahlheimer, Logan
DeFrancesco, Ava
Durkin, Alexa
Fryer, John
Fuina, Grace
Galasso, Matthew
Getman, Lyllianah
Intravia, Natalie
Karpel, Ethan
Kingsbury, Riley
Leonard, Quinn
Lucibella, Dessa
Martinez, Andrew
Papa, Kaileb
Patel, Dhanvi
Patel, Risha
Rivera, Joel
Sickinger, Ryan
Tilton, Zoey
Virginelli, Sophia
Witkowsky, Hunter
Wyatt, Adilyn
Young, Caden

HONORS
10TH GRADE
Bello, Brynn
Brochu, Landen
Cahill, Austin
Colafati, Damien
Conroy, Jesse
Criscuolo, William
Cucinotta, Jackson
Deleo, Maddox
Doody, Dylan
Duffy, James
Gentile, Lola
Guercia, Oakleigh
Hansen, Emma
Heon, Nora
Ilitli, Sercan
Jaracy, Jack
Kavanaugh, James
Knowlton, Benjamin
Loomis, Ana
Macauley, Jack
Manning, Avery
Marino, Gia
Minyettys, Darisha
Montero, Christian
Muravnick, Ashlyn
Oyanedel, Emma
Potocsky, Addison
Reep, Brian
Rolston, Brielle
Salemme, Bailey
Santiago, Giana
Savo, Lucas
Scasino, Marie
Speringo, Gabriella
Tracz, Tanner
Tynes, Jason
Yanza-Rivera, Jaquelyn
Zolnik, Gavin

HONORS
9TH GRADE
Allen, Cameron
Anderson, Nico
Behrens, Annaliese
Biehler, Thomas
Casella, Matteo
Ciancola, Tyler
Claude, Mason
Clearly, Molly
Constantinople, Isabella
Cook, Owen
Cretella, Sofia
Di Martino, Noemi
DiLungo, Gennaro
Duggan, Cashel
Esposito, Lily
Ferraro, Eliaz
Gularte, Madison
Khan, Muhammad
Kleckner, Zoey
Maybury, Myla
Mejia Vargas, Iker
Mickiewicz, Emma
Morrell, Reagan
Mullen, Liam
Murphy, Madeline
Pizarro, Liangeliz
Ramage, Brody
Richardson, Breanna
Rosado, Isabella
Salvati, Isabella
Sciuto, Abbey
Swanson, Kevin
Toti, Giuliana
Troqe, Joni
Voos, Allison
Walston, David
Wyatt, Coltyn

JHS & TVES Donate to NB Food Pantry

Student Senate members from Jerome Harrison & Totoket Valley Elementary recently organized food drives to collect food items for the North Branford Food Pantry (NBFP). The items collected will be used to make Thanksgiving dinner baskets to be distributed to North Branford clients of NBFP. Items included stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, and green beans. Student Senate members collected over 300 lbs of food that was donated to the Food Pantry.







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THE FOOD PANTRY OF NORTH BRANFORD
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CHURCH DIRECTORY

The newly formed St. Pier Giorgio Frassati Parish officially brings together the parish communities of St. Ambrose, North Branford and St. Elizabeth of the Trinity, North Haven into one united Catholic community. Rooted in the spirit and example of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, the parish begins this new chapter of faith, service and community. Parish leaders say the merger is an opportunity to strengthen ministries, foster deeper connections among parishioners and continue the mission of the Church with renewed energy and hope. The parish now includes the worship locations of St. Augustine Church, 30 Caputo Rd, North Branford; St. Monica Church, 1321 Middletown Ave. , Northford; St. Barnabas, 44 Washington Ave. North Haven and St. Therese Church, 555 Middletown Ave., North Haven.

All are warmly invited to join us for Mass and becoming part of our growing parish family. Weekend and daily Masses are offered throughout our parish community, providing many opportunities for worship, prayer, fellowship and service. Whether you are a long-time parishioner, returning to the Church or searching for a parish home, we welcome you to pray with us and experience the joy of our Catholic community!

MASS TIMES:SATURDAY VIGIL MASS 4 PM St. Barnabas, 4:30 PM St. Augustine
SUNDAY MASS:8 AM St. Barnabas | 9 AM St. Monica
10 AM St. Therese | 11 AM St. Augustine | 5 PM St. Therese DAILY MASS
Monday-Thursday | 8 AM St. Barnabas
Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. | 9 AM St. Augustine
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
A half hour before all morning daily Masses,
Sat. Vigil and during Adoration
Adoration - 5-6 PM Mon. St. Augustine | 5-6 PM Wed. St. Barnabas
Please reach out to the parish office with any questions 203-484-0403 or 203-239-5378

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

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. 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!

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.

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



NORTH BRANFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1680 Foxon Road, North Branford

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HOLLY FAIR

November 21, 2026 - 9:00AM - 2:00PM



Still need gifts for family and friends, there will be many festive tables to buy from. A jewelry table filled with earrings, bracelets and so much more, one filled with hand crafted items. And for all you pie lovers, we will also have a table filled with a variety of fresh baked pies. Don't forget we also have a White Elephant Room for you to browse through filled with all sorts of tag sale articles which can now become your treasure. There will be so many other tables to browse through, so please save the date and invite your family and friends to come with you!





NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARIES EVENTS

Tots and Tunes

NORTHFORD: Young children ages 18 months and up and their siblings can enjoy 30 minutes of songs, stories and movement at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road, from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 20. Parent or guardian must attend. Registration not required.

Movie Matinee - "Michael"

NORTHFORD: Join us for our monthly movie matinee at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road, on Friday, Nov. 20, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. This month's movie is "Michael", the 2026 biographical-drama. "The early life of musician Michael Jackson, from the discovery of his talent as the lead of the Jackson Five to the artist whose creative ambition fueled a pursuit to become the biggest entertainer in the world." - IMDB. Starring Jaafar Jackson, Nia Long and Coleman Domingo. To register, visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Library Teen Advisory Board

NORTHFORD: The Teen Advisory Board (T.A.B.) will meet from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., on Friday, Nov. 20, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Rd., Northford. Students in grades 7-12 can join the North Branford Public Libraries Teen Advisory Board (T.A.B.). Give back to your community and have a say in what your library offers teens. Earn community service hours for each meeting you attend. To register, visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Holiday Bazaar and Book Sale

NORTH BRANFORD: Join us at the Atwater Memorial Library for our annual Holiday Book Sale on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. Holiday classics for children and adults alike will be on sale, along with special bundles that make the perfect gift. Browse our selection of hand-made holiday cards and gifts tags, as well as puzzles, DVDs and holiday music CDs. Afterwards, walk next door for the Totoket Historical Society's Holiday Bazaar to check out even more festive items. Please consider donating a non-perishable food item or unwrapped toy to help support the North Branford Food Pantry.

Read to a Therapy Dog

NORTHFORD: Children in grades 3-5 are invited to take turns reading to Libby, a trained therapy dog, on Monday, Nov. 23, from 5 to 6 p.m. at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road. Reading to a therapy dog can boost reading skills in children, develop emotional and social skills, and encourage a love of reading. Bring a favorite book or pick one from the library before the event. Registration required. To register, visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Monday Night Mah-Jongg

NORTHFORD: Those interested in playing Mah-Jongg are invited to the Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road, from 6 to 8 p.m., Mondays, Nov. 23 and 30. Participants should bring their Mah-Jongg sets. To register, go to northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Little Makers

NORTHFORD: Join us for a simple craft activity that we do together, 10:30 to 11 a.m., Tuesdays, Nov.24, and Dec. 1, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road. Recommended for ages 2-6. Registration required; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Drop-In Tech Help

NORTH BRANFORD: Personal tech help is available from noon to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays, Nov. 24 and Dec. 1, at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. First come, first serve. Limited to 30 minutes each. Bring a device that you need help with. No registration required.

Needle Arts

NORTH BRANFORD: Those who like to knit, crochet, embroider, quilt, etc. are invited to Atwater Library from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Nov. 25, and Dec. 2 (and every Wednesday). For more information, go to northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-315-6020.

Holiday Closing

Atwater Library in North Branford and Smith Library in Northford both will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25-26, in observance of Thanksgiving. Both libraries will reopen at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28.

Dance Mode

NORTH BRANFORD: Get ready to dance, sing, and play instruments on Monday, Nov. 30, from 10:30 to 11 a.m., in this family-oriented program at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. Recommended for ages 18 months and up. Siblings are welcome. Registration not required.

3D Printer Drop-In Event

NORTH BRANFORD: Drop in anytime from 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at the Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road, to see our 3D printer in action. Ask about the process and get more information on how you can use 3D printing software from home. Registration not required.

Afternoon Dance Mode

NORTH BRANFORD: Get ready to dance, sing, and play instruments on Wednesday, Dec. 2, from 4:30 to 5 p.m., in this family-oriented program at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. Recommended for ages 18 months and up. Siblings are welcome. Registration not required.

Drop-In Tech Help

NORTHFORD: Personal tech help is available from 10 to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road. First come, first serve. Limited to 30 minutes each. Bring a device that you need help with. No registration required.

Bowties And Books

NORTH BRANFORD: Put on your most elegant bowties and fanciest tutus (or whatever you find comfortable), and join us on Thursday, Dec. 3, from 10:30 to 11 a.m., for songs, stories, and silliness at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. Recommended for ages 6 months to 4 years with a parent or caregiver. Registration not required.

Open Craft Night for Adults and Teens

NORTHFORD: Join us on the from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road, to work on your own craft project or try something new. This program is for adults and teens 13 and over. Book bedazzling, cross stitch bookmarks, and scrapbooking supplies will be provided. No registration required, but feel free to do so if you would like e-mail reminders.

Understanding Medicare Changes for 2027 North Branford Office of Social Services

The North Branford Office of Social Services, in partnership with the Agency on Aging, will offer a class explaining the many Medicare changes taking effect in 2027.

The class will cover plans leaving Connecticut, including Connecticare, Care Partners, and Silverscripts, along with premium changes affecting Medicare Advantage, Part D prescription drug, and Medicare Supplement plans. The average Part D premium is expected to increase from $80.25 to $114.51.

Participants will learn when they may change plans, switch from Original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan, or return to Original Medicare. We will explain Initial, Open, Special, General, and Medicare Advantage enrollment periods. People whose Medicare Advantage plan is leaving Connecticut will also learn how to select a new plan by the applicable deadlines and avoid disruptions in coverage.

The class will also explain the differences between Original Medicare, Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement, and prescription drug plans, as well as what Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D cover.

Event details: Tuesday, November 17, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Education Media Room, located in the main lobby of the STW Community Center. Registration: Please confirm your attendance by calling 203-484-6006 and leaving a message, or by emailing lbreen@northbranfordct.gov.

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD OFFICE OF SOCIAL SERVICES DECEMBER HOLIDAY BASKET SHARE

The December Holiday Basket Share will take place on, Thursday December 17, 2026 For those that need some assistance with their Holiday dinner and/or gifts for children, you only need to contact the Office of Social Services and request to be a recipient in the December Holiday Basket Share. The requirements are that you are in need and a resident of North Branford or Northford. Your information is protected, and your name will not be disclosed. You must be able to pick up your basket or arrange for someone to pick it up for you. We are unable to deliver or bring it to your car. For those wishing to donate a basket, you only need to call or email the Office of Social Service and express your desire to donate a Holiday Dinner Basket or a grocery store gift card, with or without children's gifts. You may choose the family size you would like to adopt. You may choose to do this alone, or as a group, with neighbors or co-workers. For those wishing to include children's gifts, this Office will provide you with the children's wish list. Although names are not disclosed, a number will be given to both the recipient and the donor. This is used to identify which family is the recipient. All commitments by the donors and recipients will receive written confirmation. Last Day to be part of the Program as a recipient: Friday, November 13, 2026. Should you have an interest in being a recipient please contact Office of Social Service by email at ksperry@northbranfordct.gov or by phone at 203.484.6006 by 11/13/2026. There is no end date for donors to participate. Donor drop off will be on 12/18 between 9:30 and 11 am; recipient pick up will be between 11:30 and 1 pm

December Hike With the NBLCT



Join the North Branford Land Conservation Trust, Inc. (NBLCT) for an autumn hike at Harrison Farm Preserve on Saturday, December 5 from 9:30-11:30 am.

Starting at the Atwater Library, we will ascend the stone steps through the Starry Lane property and enter the 22-acre Harrison Farm Preserve.

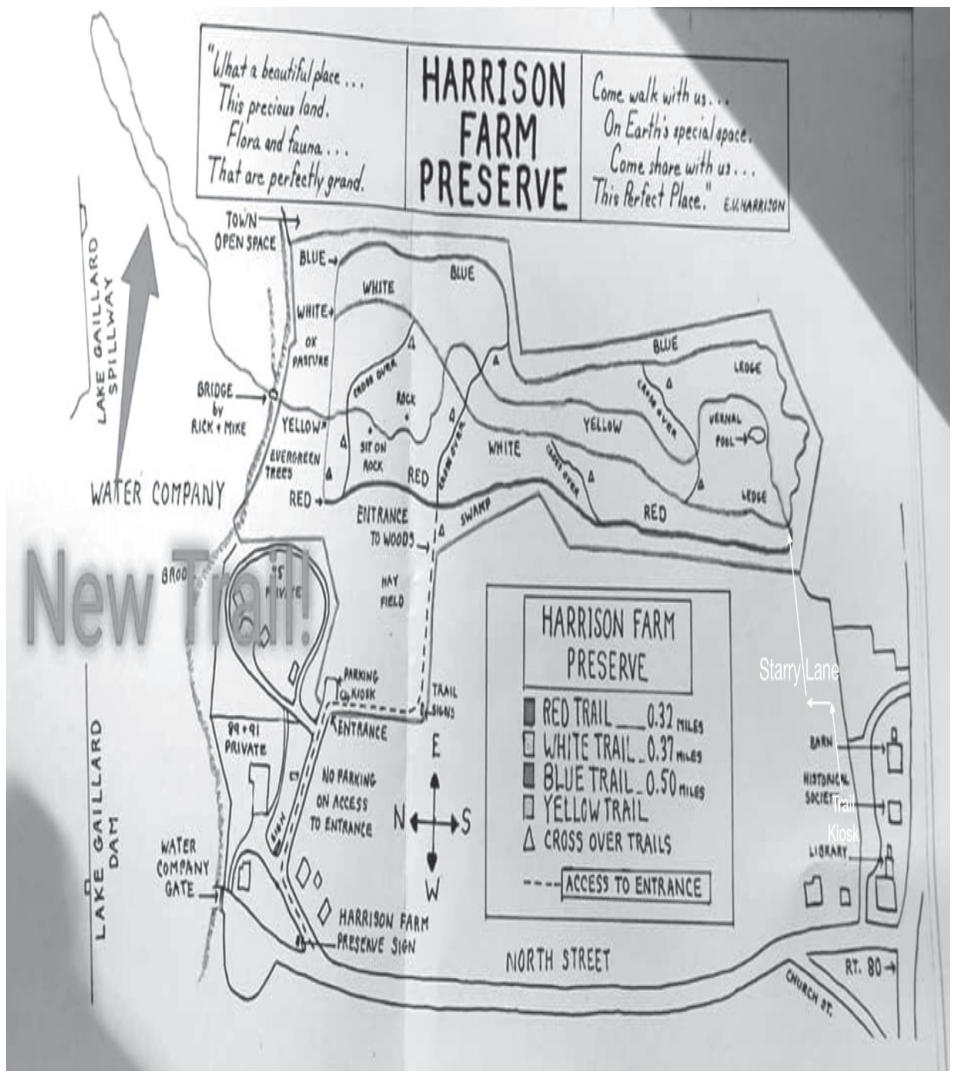
We will follow the Yellow Trail across a footbridge built by NBLCT volunteers, leading to a loop on Regional Water Authority property where we may get glimpses of Lake Gaillard, before returning to Atwater Library.

Please meet at the parking lot of Atwater Library by 9:15 a.m.

NBLCT coordinates a number of events for adults and families throughout the year.

Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and supportive walking footwear. Length of the hike is less than 2 miles.

Rain date: December 6.



Recycling News

Thanksgiving is a trash holiday. Pickups are delayed one day following trash holidays.

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Saturday November 21st is the last day that the leaf drop-off is open.

North Branford residents can bring their leaves to the leaf drop off center located to the left of the police station, near the Public Works Facility on Route 22 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Just follow the signs. No brush or grass clippings. No commercial vehicles. 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 biodegradable leaf bags (no tape please), the weeks of November 30th – December 11th on your normal trash pickup day.

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Reminder of the items to put into your Recycling Tote.

Glass Containers.

Metal containers – tin, aluminum, steel

Plastic Containers and Trays with numbers 1-7 on them

Paperboard Boxes and Cartons

Milk and OJ cartons and juice boxes

Paper, newspapers, mail envelopes, magazines, paperback books, paper bags and cards

Corrugated Cardboard

Items to put into your Trash Tote.

Light bulbs, plate glass, Pyrex, pottery, ceramics

Empty paint cans, coat hangers

Plastic smaller than 2”, Black plastic containers.

Styrofoam

Anything contaminated with residue (food, oil)

Bubble lined paper mailers

Fancy wrapping paper (no metallic, foil, plastic coatings)

Shredded paper

Plastic Film Recycling

Plastic Film – bring to town or retailer drop off location

Grocery bags, bread bags, wood pellet bags, salt bags, zipper bags,

Plastic wrap from water bottle cases, diapers, bathroom tissue, and paper towels, as well as bubble wrap, shipping pillows and all plastic mailers.

Items to Recycle at other Locations

Household Batteries – Office supply store

Electronics and Tech– Electronics or office supply store

Paint – Paint drop-off location (paintcare.org/drop-off-sites)

Small cosmetic containers – Beauty supply store (pactcollective.org)

Medications – Collection bin at NB Police Dept, some drug stores

Waste Oil – Auto Supply Store

Printer Cartridges – Office supply store

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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

NORTH BRANFORD
PARKS, RECREATION, AND SENIOR CENTER
STW COMMUNITY CENTER • 1332 MIDDLETOWN AVE NORTHFORD

WWW.NBRECREATION.COM • CALL (203) 484-6017

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK! @NBPARKSANDRECREATION AND INSTAGRAM! @NBPARK.REC.SENIOR

Annual Tree Lighting

Friday, December 4th

Town-owned Augur Property 290 Forest Road, Northford • 6:30 - 8:00pm

Parking is at 260 Forest Rd (wall field)



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NORTH BRANFORD ROTARY CLUB

Ice Sculpting | Hay Rides | Fireworks

Marshmallow Toasting | Hot Chocolate & Cookies | *And Santa!*

Marshmallow toasting sticks provided by: SMORSTIX

FOOD TRUCKS:

LETTERS TO THE NORTH POLE

Mail a letter to Santa, Mrs. Claus, or your favorite elf or reindeer!

Find the template On our website nbrecreation.com

Santa's Little Helper RAFFLE

HELP SANTA LIGHT THE CHRISTMAS TREE!

Purchase a raffle ticket for a chance to light the town tree at the Annual Tree Lighting on Friday, December 4th!

Tickets can be purchased for $1 per ticket (cash only) at the STW Community Center during regular hours until end of day on 12/2. The drawing will be held on 12/3 and the winner will be notified.

MARY'S HOLIDAY COOKIE BAKE!

Join Mary Amter for a festive, hands-on baking workshop for Adults/Adult and child where you'll make (and take home!) a holiday-inspired tray of 5 different cookie varieties.

* Candy Cane Shortbread * Ricotta Anginettes
* Oreo Truffles * Lemon Crinkle * Cream Cheese Snickerdoodles

December 13
9:00am-12:00pm
STW Kitchen - Ages 12+
$65res / $70 nr



Mary's Culinary Classes

Join Mary Amter in this unique, hands on culinary experience that will engage children in preparing delicious creations. They will explore, create, and learn basic cooking techniques!

Grades 3-5 at STW Community Center ***EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS***

1:00 - 3:00pm Cost $40 res/ $45 non-res per class



WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16, 2026

ROAST BEAST SLIDERS AND GRINCH TREE CUPCAKES



BABYSITTER'S CERTIFICATION

TUESDAY, DEC 29, 2026

STW GYM/CAFE

9:00 - 2:00PM $65 RES/$70 NR

AGES 12 - 15

Please register by 12/18

Girls & Boys Welcome! Ideal class for current and future sitters. This training gives you the knowledge, skills, and confidence to care for infants and school-aged children. This course addresses safety issues, preventing injuries and illnesses, and basic childcare. Students learn by doing and will be required to demonstrate the skills to be certified by the American Pediatric Association. (Bring a lunch)

Instructor: Ambulance Co. #4

Gifting Tree

Year after year, our Gifting Tree program helps bring extra holiday cheer to Senior Citizens in our community. Kindly remove an ornament tag from the tree and purchase a gift card to either Big Y, Walmart, Walgreens, or Dollar General and return the tag with the gift card to one of our Gifting Tree locations by 12/11/26. Recommended denominations, $20-$40

Find our Gifting Trees at:
STW Community Center -1332 Middletown Ave. Northford
Atwater Memorial Library -1720 Foxon Rd. North Branford
Edward Smith Library - 3 Old Post Rd. Northford

SENIOR CENTER

GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE

Annie the Musical Dec. 2, 2026

Departs 11:00am Approx. Return 5:00pm



$145 res / $150 nr

Enjoy lunch at the Gelston House and a show at the Goodspeed Opera House!

Leapin' Lizards! The musical that stole America's heart comes home to celebrate its 50th anniversary on the stage where it all began! With pluck and positivity, Annie escapes Miss Hannigan's orphanage in search of her parents and finds a new family with her lovable mutt Sandy and billionaire Oliver Warbucks. This dazzling new production bursts with joy and timeless songs like "Tomorrow," "It's the Hard Knock Life," and "Maybe." You can bet your bottom dollar—it's the can't-miss event of the season! Please register by 11/6 - Payment is due with registration

AQUA TURF

Holiday Classics with the Cartells!

At Aqua Turf Club

December 8, 2026- $62res/$67nr

Featuring a sing-a-long with The Glamour Girls, Santa & Mrs. Claus! Menu: Roasted Turkey & Baked Cod

Departs 10:15 am Returns: appx. 5:00 pm

Register by: 10/30 Payment is due at time of registration

HEALTH & WELLNESS CLINIC

LOW COST! LOW COST!

Dec 18th

10AM - 1PM
Stanley T. Williams Community Center
1332 Middletown Ave.
Northford, CT 06472

Register by Dec 15th to Reserve Your Spot (Limited to 25)

(Cash/Check Only)

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

$60 per pet for qualifying Seniors and Veterans
$100 per pet for all others

Register Online at:
VetCareEverywhere.org
Or Call: 203-484-6017

NORTH BRANFORD PARKS AND RECREATION & SENIOR CENTER

ATTENTION -
- All cats must be in carrier and all dogs must be leashed
- No litters of puppies or kittens
- Prior proof of rabies required for 3 year rabies certificate

INCLUDED SERVICES:
+ Wellness check
+ Rabies vaccines
+ Basic deworming
+ Heartworm testing (dogs only)
Free + Distemper combo vaccines courtesy of petco love
* Additional services such as nail trims and non-core vaccines (Lyme, Lepto, Kennel Cough) available for added fee

VCE
VETCAREEVERYWHERE.ORG

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

CLEANING

D &D Cleaning is back. Small house cleaning for Northford & North Branford.Call Don at 203-804-0753 and leave a message.

ELECTRICIAN

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

HEATING & COOLING

Avallone Heating & Cooling - Heating & air conditoning repair, maintenance or installation. Call 203-530-9329

PLUMBING

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







