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It's That Time of Year Again

Special thanks to Ryan Van Wilgen for donating our annual tractor/hay bails/pumpkins display in front of Town Hall once more this year, as well as Cliff Potter who always helps coordinate this terrific display.

From the Office of Town Manager Michael Downes

Time to help keep your Hometown Newspaper Strong

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

So as I have been doing for the past decade or so, I am asking you to help support the continuance of "Your Town Newspaper by making a voluntary payment. The postage is \$1,200. 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.

So what ever you can do will greatly help the process. Send you payments to:

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TOTOKET TIMES

Deadline	Publication Date
November 28	December 5
December 12	December 19
January 2	January 9
January 16	January 23
January 30	February 6
February 13	February 20



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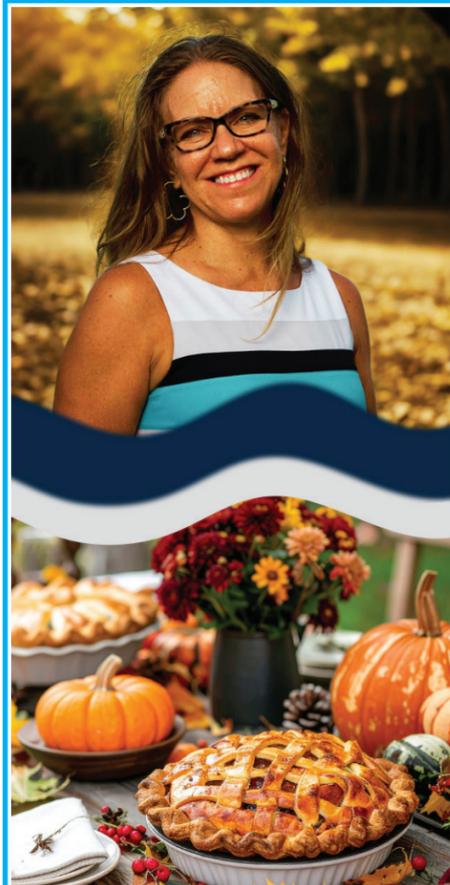
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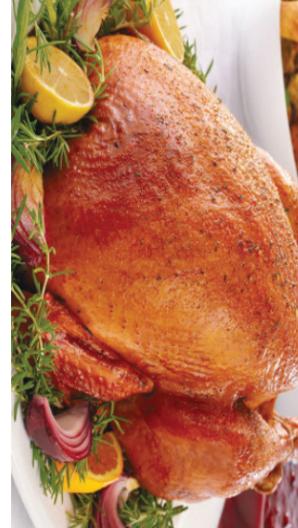
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State Representative Vincent Candelora Connecticut's New Affordable Housing Bill Will Destroy Fabric of Towns and Cities



Last month, many Connecticut residents—including state lawmakers I serve with—attended “no kings” protests, invoking their own interpretation of the principle that taxation without representation isn’t tolerated. Yet weeks later, those same legislators passed a so-called affordable housing bill that strips local communities of their authority in determining what their towns will look like.

The General Assembly met in special session on November 12 and 13 to consider several bills, including 8002—the housing bill Gov. Lamont vetoed after regular session. This new version isn’t quite the compromise it’s billed as. I’ve argued it’s worse.

Everyone in the legislature cares about the affordability crisis. But ramming through a 100-page bill written behind closed doors, rushed through special session without proper public hearings, isn’t the answer. When this inevitably ends up in court, there will be no record for judges to understand legislative intent.

Like the vetoed bill, this legislation will result in unattainable affordable housing goals for cities and towns. The compromise? Unelected bureaucrats who don’t answer to voters, but rather housing advocacy groups, will now call shots on how many units each community must have. Local leaders must navigate a maze involving regional councils of governments—perhaps a step toward county government—as well as officials at the Governor’s Office of Policy and Management, and a new Council of Housing Development created by the legislation. The bill takes planning out of the hands of elected local officials.

One crucial element involves converting commercial property to residential without public hearings—a private equity developer’s dream.

In North Branford, for example, just a small percentage of our property is commercial. Converting even a portion to residential would devastate our ability to fund essential services. And, what happens when grocery stores in food deserts get targeted for conversion? Or when housing goes up next door to marijuana dispensaries? This bill throws such concerns—contemplated in plans of conservation and development—out the window.

Another troubling provision: the bill empowers the state’s Department of Housing to operate as a developer, building housing projects on state land with little to no public input.

If we truly want to address affordability, we need to talk about property taxes. Communities are rejecting town budgets—even parents with kids in schools are voting them down because they can’t afford the tax burden. House Republicans proposed tripling the state’s property tax credit, and I expect this will top our agenda this winter.

Despite claims of bipartisanship from the Governor and legislative Democrats, my Republican colleagues and I received the bill 15 minutes after a press conference announcing it. Worse, the bill changed after that media event, landing in legislators’ e-mail boxes shortly before the House vote.

Connecticut has an affordability crisis, but creating more government bureaucracy to an already broken system isn’t the answer. We need genuine conversations about property tax reform and real local input in development decisions in order to properly address our affordable housing crisis.

So much for “no kings.”

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

LET’S BE “FRANK”

Well brother, I made it. It’s funny, when you plan a trip of this magnitude you think you will be transformed into a new man once it happens. I’m here to tell you that’s not the case. I wasn’t.

We were not in Greece for more than half an hour when I took a fall. I sat on the bench to wait for the bus to take us to the hotel and the leg on the end was missing and when the guy on the other end got up, I got down. An airport full of people watching me hit the deck. Many running over to help with me explaining the sentiment was nice but they could not help me.

I got up and proceeded to the bus and that was the start of our trip of a lifetime. When we got to the hotel we would only be in Athens that afternoon so SueAnn wanted to check it out even though we got no sleep on the flight. We walked across the street and I did a little walking but I was sore from my fall so I sat on a bench while she continued. As I dozed a bit leaning on the cane (I bring that with me when I am in unfamiliar territory), a gentleman woke me up to hand me some Euro. Apparently, he thought I was homeless.

After that, everything went pretty well. The entire Silver Seas adventure was top rate, even having a butler and cabin attendant for our room. The room was huge with a sitting area as well as a deck. The food was tremendous. After a few days SueAnn would go down and make a dish of fruit to bring to the room so we wouldn’t fill up on the hundreds of items in the breakfast buffet. In that regard I am like you. A breakfast of mortadella, prosciutto cotto, supressata and olives is my kind of meal. Don’t forget the Gorgonzola.

The shows were remarkable. Four singers and a three piece band performed every night with a different theme ranging from Motown, to Sinatra, Broadway tunes and more. They also had an Italian singer who did two different shows singing all the Neapolitan numbers that we always heard at the local festivals in New Haven. He also did Caruso, Bocelli and Pavorotti.

Following the show there was a gentleman named Caleb who played the piano and sang. He had such a wide range of selections from old to new and I relaxed to that and drank more than I am accustomed too.

As I was saying earlier, all of your health issues don’t just go away because you’re on vacation. Between Chiropractor Candice and my daughter - in law Ana I am vitamined up. I am getting around much better with knee, back and neck due to weekly therapy. Very little pain but obesity still hinders my long distant walking tasks. I passed on a few of the excursions with the hills and did some catching up while sitting on the deck of our room overlooking the sea. It’s better for SueAnn to go by herself so I’m not bringing her down and she can do all the things she loves.

About the third day of the trip the seas got a little choppy and for the first time in my life I got seasick. I didn’t throw up but I barely made it back to the room as I was banging off the walls. Immediately my butler Deepak

came to the rescue running in with ginger ale, ginger tea and crackers. He wouldn’t leave until it looked as though I was on the mend.

The next day we had already planned for me to sit out the land excursion but knowing I was in the room by myself, my new main man checked on me every hour to make sure I was doing all right. When SueAnn returned he gave her an update on my condition. I don’t like to play the invalid but it rally made his feel good.




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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
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For the Health of it...

A Month of Grounded in Gratitude



November is overflowing with noteworthy topics to write about, especially in the world of health and wellness. So here I was faced with the dilemma of narrowing it down to just one or tossing the “theme” idea out the window altogether.

I decided on the former and the task at hand was not easy. Here’s why.

November is National Family Caregiver’s Month, Alzheimer’s Awareness Month, National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, and American Diabetes Month. Of course, it is also the gracious host of Veteran’s Day and Thanksgiving. To complicate matters, a flood of memories came over me while perusing all the options and reflecting on each one.

Throughout my career, I’ve had the opportunity to be a supportive resource to hundreds of family caregivers. I have also been a family caregiver and am very familiar with the rewards and challenges that are a part of that journey. I’ve worked closely with the Alzheimer’s Association and have had loved ones, both family members and dear friends, whose lives were shadowed by memory care issues. And I’ve spent nearly 10 years working in hospice care and an additional 5 as a hospice volunteer.

Through this experience I’ve had the privilege to be present with those who made their transition from this life. Among them were patients I barely knew, yet felt a strong connection to, and loved ones who were dear to me. Hospice work also introduced me to the We Honor Veterans program, yet another privilege, to honor those who have served our country.

And, while I currently help guide people through a nutrition and lifestyle program based on blood sugar and hormonal balance, I chose not to focus on American Diabetes Month, as appropriate as it seemed. Although each topic brought back profound, heartfelt memories, I noticed there was one common thread among them, gratitude! So, did I decide to go with Thanksgiving? Not entirely. (But if you read to the end, you will find an invitation to receive a tasty pumpkin themed snack recipe and my favorite sweet potato casserole recipe!)

Since gratitude is what resurfaced each time I began to write, I decided to focus on just that, along with the health benefits it brings when practiced consistently. Not to worry, I’m not approaching this from an affirmation chanting, journaling point of view (although those are great tools) but, in a way that may pique the interest of even the greatest skeptic and hardnosed realist. It occurred to me that I am grateful for each of the experiences described above, even though the struggles through them at times were as real as the blessings. So please stay with me on this brief tour of how gratitude can benefit your health.

A good place to start is with the realization that gratitude doesn’t seem to depend on everything going right. This is profound yet often overlooked. Those who struggle with chronic illness, trauma survivors, and those in stressful life circumstances still show improved mental health when they deliberately focus on what’s going well. It’s not necessary to create an illusion that pain or injustice doesn’t exist. However, it does require acknowledging that both good and bad can coexist—and training your brain to notice the good more often. An improved mood and outlook can shed a guiding light on your day.

Over time, with intentionality, that small shift in focus appears to change how your brain and body handle everything else. For example, if we say we are grateful but we’re always complaining. The brain will have difficulty finding that gratitude and allowing it to penetrate.

Studies show that people who regularly express gratitude have been found to show lower resting blood pressure and reduced markers of inflammation. These effects aren’t enormous—no one’s claiming gratitude can replace medication or medical care—but they are meaningful! A grateful mindset might nudge your body out of a chronic low-level stress response and into a more balanced state. A more balanced state lightens our days and creates space for approaching tasks with more focus and clarity. It may not be “enormous” but it’s a pretty big deal and it’s something within our control.

This is merely a snippet of what gratitude can do for you. It’s not a bullet proof shield and won’t make you immune to mishaps, but it might make you a little less tired, a little more patient, and a little more grounded during daily chaos. And if that sounds too good to be true, there’s an easy way to find out—try it consistently for 30 days. I’d love your feedback!

Today I express my gratitude to you by offering my favorite Sweet Potato Casserole recipe and another for tasty Pumpkin Protein Squares. Since there wasn’t enough space to print them, simply reach out at Joann@wellnessfusion.net, and I’ll send them your way.

***This monthly article is here for you, “For the Health of it!”
Happy, Healthy Thanksgiving to all!***

continued from page 3

Still not turning into a healthy new man, one night I experienced a low sugar. My refrigerator was filled with Coke Zero but that does no good for a low sugar. SueAnn called him and within minutes he was in the room with four regular Cokes and the next day he brought me a dish of candy. It’s amazing, these guys are on the ship six months and then they go home to their families for three months. They’re from countries all over the world and they work together for the sake of the patrons on the ship. They all seem to get along. Maybe, the rest of the world can be trained by some of these crew members.

As you know I like to observe, and here are a few of the things that made me wonder.

Although we are told that in Italy, it’s a sin to put cheese on fish dishes, they added parmigiano to many of the seafood pasta dishes I ordered.

At one of the restaurants, they bring a hot stone to your table and you order food that you cook yourself. I couldn’t help think, for all the money this trip cost it’s a shame that we have to cook our own dinner. It’s suppose to be a wonderful experience but I would have had no trouble if they brought me the dish already cooked.

Every day there was a special room on the schedule for the LGBTQ+ community to mingle. From what I’ve read, this group of people want to be recognized as part of the mainstream community. So why do they have a special gathering day? I saw nothing on the agenda for morbidly obese males, the diabetic community or the Catholic mens prayer group. I felt left out.

If I have one complaint about the ship (although I’m not much of a coffee drinker) the coffee was terrible. Even the Latte wasn’t good. So I stuck to tea and fell in love with several specials that I ordered from Amazon while I was still on the ship.

I also noticed that it was not the Love Boat. There were a lot of ugly people by the pool (myself included). No models, no hard bodies just normal people.

Finally, there seemed to be many older men with younger good looking women. Either a lot of men like to go on cruises with their daughters or some young ladies have some sugar daddies.

Well, after a very nice trip it was time for the ten hour flight home from Rome. As I mentioned before they should make planes bigger for muscular men like myself. The food sucks and the cramped spots make for an uncomfortable ten hours. But I made it through.

Using some relaxation techniques between movies, I survived. I watched Lincoln which I enjoyed very much. I would never watch that at home because it is too long and too much like educational television. I also watched Moonstruck (which never get old) for the umpteenth time, and I closed out with Casablanca.

Well that was about it for the trip. We got home Sunday and by Tuesday afternoon I was (as the old man use to say) sick as a dog. Chest, head, bones and stomach and not necessarily in that order. I must have caught something on the petri dish called a plane. After going to work for two days, I had to take two days off. Just as I started to turn the corner SueAnn got sick and then Gina followed.

We had to miss Nico’s 9th birthday party but he was OK with it when I told him he would have a second party at our house next week. He’ll get more presents and he gets to pick the menu.

The good news is not being able to eat, the full week of soups and teas helped me to lose some weight.

Well that’s it for now brother. Say hello to the rest of the crew. The grave blankets will be out this weekend. Have a good Thanksgiving and I’ll see you soon.





Mark Your Calendars For Giving Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Support the North Branford Land Conservation Trust, Inc. (NBLCT) by making a donation on GivingTuesday, December 2nd. Your contribution will support the development of our newest properties - Beech Street Demonstration Forest and Poms Woodlands. We are working hard to make these accessible for everyone to enjoy.

The 17 acre Beech Street Demonstration Forest, will showcase best practices in forest management and become a model for others to follow.

The 19 acre Poms Woodlands, is a testament to the history of North Branford, by noting a former enslaved person, who lived in the Sea Hill area during the time of the Revolutionary War.

Projects are underway for:

- building a shelter
- removing invasive plants
- clearing around tree saplings, to give them room to grow
- creating trails
- building an ADA compliant parking lot

There is still plenty of work to do, but with your generous donation, these two properties will continue to shine, for all to enjoy.

GivingTuesday is a global movement to encourage the generosity of people in the support of charitable giving in their communities, and it inspires people to collective generosity during the holiday season. The collaborative effect of many gifts at once allows good causes to benefit substantially. Great success comes from collaboration!

NBLCT provides value to the community through acquisition and open space for passive recreation. We create and maintain trails and offer programs for the benefit of our community. When you support NBLCT, you give to your own community.

Go to nblantrust.org Click on the DONATE button

Give generously for our community!

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Mark your Calendars for Giving Tuesday December 3, 2025

Support your local community with a generous donation to the North Branford Land Conservation Trust (NBLCT), as part of Giving Tuesday on December 3.

After 3 1/2 years of dedicated and unwavering effort, NBLCT is now the proud owner of 37 acres of former Regional Water Authority (RWA) property at the intersection of Beech St and Poms Ln in North Branford. This achievement would not have been possible without the generous contributions of our supporters. Thank you for believing in our mission and helping us protect and enhance our community's natural spaces.

Owning this land is just the beginning. Your continued support can make the property a special place for everyone, with the the creation of:

- an ADA parking lot and trail to vernal pond
- a trail to a new Chestnut Grove
- a pollinator garden
- a viewing platform of the Lake from the main trail
- Signage

There is still plenty of work to do, but with your generous donation, these two properties will continue to shine, for all to enjoy.

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Kingsbury, Riley
LaRock, Monnique
Lowery, Norah
Luangsay, Natali

Minnocci, Cole
Patel, Risha
Pitcher, Payton
Redman, Colby
Rivera, Joel
Sickinger, Ryan
Vera, Juan
Walston, Joshua
Young, Caden
HONORS
9TH GRADE
Atwood, Caden
Balg, Will
Bello, Brynn
Brustman, Owen
Cappetta, Nathan
Caso, Caisey
Chilmark, Kaitlyn
Collins, Natalia
Conroy, Jesse
Dagliere, Ellie
Diaz, Max
DiMeo, Jaxson
Freeman, Sophia
Gentile, Lola
Hansen, Emma
Iitli, Sercan
Jaracy, Jack
Kavanaugh, James
Levix, Caroline
Loomis, Ana
Lucibello, Tessa
Macauley, Jack
Malone, David
Manning, Avery
Marino, Gia
Morales, Alaysia
Muravnick, Ashlyn
Onofrio, Christian
Oyanedel, Emma
Rolston, Brielle
Salemme, Bailey
Santiago, Giana
Scasino, Marie
Speringo, Gabriella
Stavrides, Nicholas
Toto, Lia
Tynes, Jason
Weyel, Elisa
White, Ryan
Williams, Giovanna

The Northford-North Branford Women's Club, GFWC Is Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Connecticut Federation of Women's Clubs has announced two scholarships that are available to Connecticut women pursuing advanced courses of study at Institutions of higher learning. Awards are granted based on future promises, scholastic ability, and financial need.

The Dorothy E. Schoelzel memorial scholarship has a maximum award of \$2,000. Candidates must have completed three or more years of undergraduate work in an accredited institution with a 3.0 average or higher in the field of Education.

The Phipps scholarship has a maximum award of \$1,000. Candidates must have completed two or more years of undergraduate work in an accredited institution with a 3.0 average or higher toward a bachelor's or post graduate degree.

Completed applications, including general and personal information, a financial statement, instructor/employer references, and official transcript of at least the most recent two years of undergraduate or graduate work must be received by February 10, 2026.

The application may be obtained by visiting the Northford-North Branford Women's Club website at www.northfordnbwomensclubgfwc.org. For further information, contact Rose Lynch at 203-483-8395.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING?



Gift Certificates Available

- **Gallery Gift Shop**
- **Stained Glass Classes**
- **Restorations**
- **Repairs**
- **Custom Work**

Glass Dance Studio

1999 Foxon Road, North Branford

glassdancestudio.com

860-614-4816



NORTH BRANFORD BARBERSHOP

HAIR CUTS
MEN \$16.00
SENIORS & KIDS UNDER 10 \$14.00

Tues, 8:30 - 5:00 Wed 8:30 - 5:00
 Thur 8:30 - 5:00 Fri, 8:30 - 5:00
 Saturday 8:30 - 2:00
 - WALK - INS ONLY -

OWNER- ROBERT VIGLIONE
 1179 FOXON RD, NORTH BRANFORD | (203) 484-6789



North Branford Soccer Club Annual Board Meeting

North Branford Soccer Club is holding its annual board meeting at 7:00pm on December 17, 2025. Changes to the club bylaws and voting on board members will occur at this meeting. All may attend. See our facebook page or email info@nbsoccer.com for the link to the virtual meeting.



North Haven Sons & Daughters of Italy Helping Veterans

The North Haven Sons and Daughters of Italy, Lodge 2805 recently held a collection of single serving snacks to benefit the patients of the West Haven VA Hospital. The drive was very successful, and on November 10th members Lodge members delivered 13 full grocery bags and 4 boxes of snacks to members of the Dept. of CT VFW Auxiliary. The Auxiliary will in turn distribute the snacks to patients at the WHVA on a regular basis. Our Lodge is proud to partner with the VFW Auxiliary for this mission. Thanks to all our Lodge members for the generous donations. Please visit www.northhavenlodge2805.club for more information about our Lodge.

left to right: Lodge members Donna Casciello, Ralph Casciello (U.S. Air Force Vietnam veteran), Steven McDermott (U.S. Army Vietnam veteran) and Maria McDermott delivering the snacks to the VFW Auxiliary at the West Haven VA Hospital. Submitted by Denise Mazzotta Krause



FREE SANTA PHOTO

FOOD & FUNDS DRIVE



Make a food or cash donation and take a FREE professional photo with Santa!

Sponsored by: Kim Dawson 203.481.4605

**SAT. DEC 6TH
 NBPD 11AM - 1PM**

Connecticut Sportsplex®

FIELDHOUSE FAMILY FUN CENTER

LASER TAG BIRTHDAY PARTIES
 LASER TAG GROUP OUTINGS

WALK-IN LASER TAG OFFERED
 FRIDAY 5PM—9PM
 SATURDAY 11AM—7PM
 SUNDAY 11AM—4PM



203-484-4383
www.ctsportsplex.com



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

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!

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

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

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: northfordccc@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.northfordcommunitychurch.org.

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!

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.

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 zionaepiscopalchurch.org. Zion is an open and affirming congregation for those seeking a safe place to worship and grow in Christ. 203-488-7395

**SEND YOUR HOLIDAYSCHEDULES TO
TOTOKETTINES@COMCAST.NET**

NBCC Holly Fair

The North Branford Congregational Church will be holding it's annual Holly Fair on Saturday, November 22nd from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The church is located at 1680 Foxon Rd (Rt 80), North Branford. This year the raffle prizes are a \$500 Stop & Shop Gift Card, A Tree of Fortune and a Toaster Oven/ Air Fryer Combo. The fair will also feature a White Elephant Room, Jewelry, The Cookie Walk, A Pie Path, Better Treasures, Basket Raffles, The Country Kitchen, Handmade Crafts and our Cafe' Noel for breakfast and Lunch. The church provides free parking and is handicapped accessible. Call the church office at 203-488-8456 for more information.

Holiday Cookie Sale & Gift Fair



December 13, 2025
11:00 am to 2:00 pm
American Legion Hall
243 North Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

Homemade cookies - make your own dozen
 Other baked goods
 Crafts, Gifts, Merchandise for Sale
 Raffle
 Spin the roulette wheel to win a prize



Proceeds benefit Branford Compassion Club's Feline Rescue & Adoption Center
<http://www.branfordcompassionclub.org>

Crafters Care Events Presents ...



A HOLIDAY ARTISAN MARKET

@ Millpond

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025
11 am to 4 pm
Millpond Gatherings
1565 Middletown Ave. Northford, CT

\$5.00 Cash Only
Entry Fee Benefits
The Food Pantry of
North Branford

Support local small business
 Holiday shopping from handmade artisans and crafters
 All from CT!

SOME TIDBITS ABOUT THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a national holiday celebrated on various dates in October and November in the United States, Canada, Saint Lucia, Liberia, and unofficially in countries like Brazil and Germany. It is also observed in the Australian territory of Norfolk Island. It began as a day of giving thanks for the blessings of the harvest and of the preceding year. Various similarly named harvest festival holidays occur throughout the world during autumn. Although Thanksgiving has historical roots in religious and cultural traditions, it has long been celebrated as a secular holiday as well.

History

Prayers of thanks and special thanksgiving ceremonies are common among most religions after harvests and at other times of the year. The Thanksgiving holiday history in North America is rooted in English traditions dating from the Protestant Reformation. It also has aspects of a harvest festival, even though the harvest in New England occurs well before the late-November date on which the modern Thanksgiving holiday is celebrated.

In the English tradition, days of thanksgiving and special thanksgiving religious services became important during the English Reformation in the reign of Henry VIII. Before 1536 there were 95 Church holidays, plus every Sunday, when people were required to attend church and forego work. Though the 1536 reforms in the Church of England reduced the number of holidays in the liturgical calendar to 27, the Puritan party in the Anglican Church wished to eliminate all Church holidays apart from the weekly Lord's Day, including the evangelical feasts of Christmas and Easter (cf. Puritan Sabbatarianism). The holidays were to be replaced by specially called Days of Fasting and Days of Thanksgiving, in response to events that the Puritans viewed as acts of special providence. Unexpected disasters or threats of judgement from on high called for Days of Fasting.

Special blessings, viewed as coming from God, called for Days of Thanksgiving, which were observed through Christian church services and other gatherings. For example, Days of Thanksgiving were called following the victory over the Spanish Armada in 1588 and following the deliverance of Queen Anne in 1605. An unusual annual Day of Thanksgiving began in 1606 following the failure of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605 and developed into Guy Fawkes Day on November 5. Days of Fasting were called on account of plagues in 1604 and 1622, drought in 1611, and floods in 1613. Annual Thanksgiving prayers were dictated by the charter of English settlers upon their safe landing in America in 1619 at [Berkeley Hundred](#) in Virginia.

In Canada

According to some historians, the first celebration of Thanksgiving in North America occurred during the 1578 voyage of [Martin Frobisher](#) from England in search of the [Northwest Passage](#). Other researchers, however, state that «there is no compelling narrative of the origins of the Canadian Thanksgiving day.

Antecedents for Canadian Thanksgiving are also sometimes traced to the French settlers who came to [New France](#) in the 17th century, who celebrated their successful harvests. The French settlers in the area typically had feasts at the end of the harvest season. They continued throughout the winter season, even sharing food with the [indigenous peoples](#) of the area.

As settlers arrived in Nova Scotia from New England after 1700, late autumn Thanksgiving celebrations became commonplace. New immigrants into the country—such as the Irish, Scottish, and Germans—also added their own traditions to the harvest celebrations. Most of the U.S. aspects of Thanksgiving (such as the turkey) were incorporated when [United Empire Loyalists](#) began to [flee from the United States](#) during and after the [American Revolution](#) and settled in Canada.

In 1859, the government of the provinces of Canada declared a Thanksgiving Day in which “all Canadians [were asked] to spend the holiday in ‘public and solemn’ recognition of God’s mercies. On 9 October 1879, Canada’s Governor General, the [Marquis of Lorne](#), declared November 6 as “a day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed.”^[21] The Canadian Parliament on 31 January 1957 applied the same language in its proclamation for the modern holiday: «A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed—to be observed on the second Monday in October.

In the United States

[Jennie Augusta Brownscombe’s 1914 portrait, The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth](#), now on display at [Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts](#)
[Jennie Augusta Brownscombe’s 1925 portrait, Thanksgiving at Plymouth](#), now on display at the [National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.](#)

An annual thanksgiving holiday tradition in North American colonies is documented for the first time in 1619, in what is now called the Commonwealth of [Virginia](#). Thirty-eight English settlers aboard the ship [Margaret](#) arrived by way of the James River at [Berkeley Hundred](#) in [Charles City County, Virginia](#) on December 4, 1619. The landing was immediately followed by a religious celebration, specifically dictated by the group’s charter from the [London Company](#). The charter declared, “that the day of our ships arrival at the place assigned for plantation in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God Since the mid 20th century, the original celebration has been commemorated there annually at present-day [Berkeley Plantation](#), ancestral home of the [Harrison family of Virginia](#).

The more familiar but historically inaccurate explanation of the origins of the Thanksgiving holiday involves the [Pilgrims](#) and [Puritans](#) who emigrated from England in the 1620s and 1630s. They brought their previous tradition of [days of humiliation and thanksgiving](#) (both of which involved [fasting](#)) with them to [New England](#). A multi-day festival in 1621 in [Plymouth Colony](#) was prompted by a good harvest, though it was not at the time described as a thanksgiving. The [Wampanoag](#), who had a mutual defense treaty with the colonists, responded in alarm to sounds of ceremonial gunfire, and were welcomed to join the feast. Along with the [last surviving Patuxet](#), the Wampanoag had helped them get through the previous winter by giving them food in that time of scarcity, in exchange for an alliance and protection against the rival [Narragansett](#) tribe.

Several celebrations were held in early New England history that have been identified as the “First Thanksgiving”, including Pilgrim festivals in Plymouth in 1621 and 1623, and a Puritan holiday in [Boston](#) in 1631.^[14] ^[15] Now called [3 Oktoberfeest](#), Leiden’s autumn thanksgiving celebration in 1617 was the occasion for sectarian disturbance that appears to have accelerated the Pilgrims’ plans to emigrate to America.^[16] The 1621 Plymouth celebration was largely forgotten for hundreds of years and did not contribute to the development of the American holiday. It was retroactively termed «the first Thanksgiving» in a footnote added to an 1841 book by Alexander Young, and the Pilgrim story was then later incorporated into celebrations of the holiday.

Later in New England, religious thanksgiving services were declared by civil leaders such as [Governor Bradford](#), who planned the Plymouth colony’s thanksgiving celebration and feast in 1623. The practice of holding an annual harvest festival did not become a regular affair in New England until the late 1660s.

Thanksgiving proclamations were made mostly by church leaders in New England up until 1682, and then by both state and church leaders until after the [American Revolution](#). During the revolutionary period, political influences affected the issuance of Thanksgiving proclamations. Various proclamations were made by [royal governors](#), and conversely by [patriot](#) leaders, such as [John Hancock](#), General [George Washington](#), and the [Continental Congress](#),^[22] each giving thanks to God for events favorable to their causes. ^[23] As the first President of the United States, George Washington proclaimed the first nationwide thanksgiving celebration in America marking November 26, 1789, «as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God”,^[24] and calling on Americans to «unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions

On October 31, 1939, President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) signed a [presidential proclamation](#) changing the holiday to the next to last Thursday in November in an effort to boost the economy. The earlier date created an extra seven days for [Christmas shopping](#) since at that time retailers never began promoting the Christmas season until after Thanksgiving. But making the proclamation so close to the change wreaked havoc on the holiday schedules of many people, schools, and businesses, and most Americans were not in favor of the change. Some of those who opposed the change dubbed the holiday [Frankssgiving](#) that year.

Edited from Wikipedia

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Final Results
MUNICIPAL ELECTION
November 4, 2025

Total Number of Electors - 9621

District 1 - 5121
District 2 - 2564
District 3 - 1936

Total Number Voting - 3271 (34%)

District 1 - 1710 (33.4%)
District 2 - 902 (35%)
District 3 - 659 (34%)

Town Council	District 1	District 2	District 3	Total
Marie E. Diamond*	D 811	367	323	1501
Vincent J. Mase, Sr.*	D 824	367	316	1507
Craig C. Miller*	D 860	380	302	1542
Christopher N. Heon	D 748	341	271	1360
Daniel J. Seiden	D 775	371	278	1424
Bruce E. Abelson	D 782	353	277	1412
Rose Angeloni*	R 1010	568	382	1960
Thomas P. Zampano*	R 943	517	359	1819
Jeffrey Macmillen*	R 923	563	367	1853
Walter L. Goad, Jr.*	R 880	507	344	1731
Ronald Pelliccia, Jr.*	R 884	499	356	1739
Robert H. Whitworth, Jr.*	R 872	519	355	1746

Board of Education

Marcey Onofrio*	D 896	431	342	1669
Stephanie L. Byrd	D 821	361	296	1478
Marjorie Bonadies*	R 845	491	329	1665
Carolyn Candelora*	R 997	542	372	1911
Elizabeth Hintz Siena*	R 902	532	365	1799
Kara L.C. Papa Pet. Cand.	405	178	163	746

* denotes those elected

DEATH NOTICE



Calvin Beck 92 of Northford passed away peacefully on Monday, October 27th, 2025, at the Midstate Medical Center, Meriden. A man of quiet strength, warmth, and great skill, he lived a long fulfilling life rooted in family, hard work, and a deep appreciation of nature. He was the beloved husband of 69 years to the late Audrey M. Belcher Beck. Calvin was born in New Haven on April 22nd, 1927, and was the son of the late Sigmond F. and Lydia E. Gherlone Beck. Calvin devoted his career to his craft as a skilled tool maker, known for his precision, dedication and

pride and a job well done. His hands built not only tools but a lifetime of memories for those fortunate enough to know him. Outside work, Calvin found joy in life's simple pleasures, cooking gourmet meals from his garden's bounty, caring for animals, spending time outdoors camping, fishing, hiking and tending to his plants. He shared his love for nature with others as a boy scout leader for many years. He was an avid reader and seeker of knowledge. Calvin will be deeply missed and fondly remembered for his love of the earth, his craftsmanship, and his kind and steady presence in the lives of all who knew him. Father of Calvin D. Beck, Todd E. Beck and Allison Rogge (Scott). Proud grandfather of Patricia Gordon (Al), Thomas Beck, Rachel Caswell (John), Jack Rogge, and Ryan Rogge. Brother of Susan Beck and the late Lois Phillips, Nancy Woghan and Collis Herman Beck. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association www.alz.org or to Disabled American Veterans [day.org/donate/www.northhavenfuneral.com](http://donate/www.northhavenfuneral.com)

Recycling News

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

Saturday November 22nd 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 December 1st -12th on your normal trash pickup day.

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

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 5th
 Town-owned Augur Property 290 Forest Road, Northford • 6:30 - 8:00pm
Snow or Shine!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NORTH BRANFORD ROTARY CLUB

Ice Sculpting
 Marshmallow Toasting
 Marshmallow toasting sticks provided by: **SMORSTIX**

Hay Rides
 Stage Performances

Hot Chocolate & Cookies
 And Santa!

FOOD TRUCKS:
 ARCA MORGAN'S, KAPPA, THE SHED, THE STONE

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

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 12/12/25. 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

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 5th!

Tickets can be purchased for \$1 per ticket (cash only) at the STW Community Center during regular hours until end of day on 12/3. The drawing will be held on 12/4 and the winner will be notified.

TURKEY SHOOT FREE-THROW CONTEST

Saturday November 22, 2025
North Branford High School

Details on nbrecreation.com!

JOIN US FOR Dinner
Come Share Good Food, Good Company, And Connection

The second Friday of every month, 5:30-7:00 PM
 STW COMMUNITY CENTER - 1332 Middletown Ave. Northford

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12, 2025
FRIDAY JANUARY 9, 2026
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2026

You are warmly invited to join us for a delicious home-cooked meal

Suggested donation: \$5/per person
 (or whatever feels right to you, just reach out to us)
 All proceeds go toward food and future dinners.

Kindly RSVP!
 nbrecreation.com or call the office (203)484-6017

(203) 484-6017 • www.nbrecreation.com

— SENIOR CENTER —

HEALTH & WELLNESS CLINIC

LOW COST!

Dec 12th | **10AM - 1PM**
 Stanley T. Williams Community Center
 1332 Middletown Ave. Northford, CT 06472

Register by Dec 9th to Reserve Your Spot (Limited to 25)
 (Cash/Check Only)

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

\$100 per pet for all others

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

INCLUDED SERVICES:
 + Wellness check
 + Rabies vaccines
 + Basic deworming
 + Heartworm testing (dogs only)
 Free + Distemper combo vaccines

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

Additional services such as nail trims and non-core vaccines (Lyme, Lepto, Kennel Cough) available for added fee

VCE
 VETCAREEVERYWHERE.ORG

AQUA TURF

Holiday Classics with the Cartells!
 At Aqua Turf Club
December 9, 2025- \$58res/\$63nr
 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: 8/22 Payment is due at time of registration

IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE

Playhouse Holiday Jamboree
 At Ivoryton Playhouse
December 17, 2025- \$58res/\$63nr
 Lunch (on your own) at Lenny & Joe's then we're off to the theater to celebrate the holiday season at the Playhouse Holiday Jamboree!

Celebrate the holiday season with a lively, festive evening of music and storytelling! This joyous show, features a captivating selection of classic and contemporary holiday favorites performed by world-class entertainers.

Departs 10:30 am Returns: appx. 5:00 pm
 Payment is due at time of registration

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

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

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Did you know:
The amount of energy Americans use doubles every twenty years




Taking orders now through November 21st
Assorted Cupcakes decorated as Thanksgiving Dinner!
www.j-cakes.com 203-488-2800
Foxon Road, North Branford, Farm River Plaza



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Every life is unique. Every goodbye, special.

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★★★★★
"Keenan Funeral Home was truly amazing and very attentive to all of our needs. Thank you Keenan, for being there in our most painful time."
"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!!




999 Foxon Road, North Branford
203-484-0330 www.pastryfusions.com
2025 THANKSGIVING DAY MENU

9" Pies
(All our pies are made from scratch with real fruit, butter & no preservatives)

Pumpkin Pie	\$17.50	Apple Pie	\$18.00
Coconut Custard Pie	\$17.00	Apple Crumb Pie	\$18.00
Chocolate Cream Pie	\$18.00	Chocolate Lemon Pie	\$18.00

Cheesecakes (8" \$45.00 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	\$16.00
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 \$19.25 per pound.
Dessert Cakes available from our menu

NEW THIS YEAR
Ciabatta Antipasto - A stunning Holiday centerpiece with an assortment of cheeses, meats marinated vegetables and olives all served on fresh baked ciabatta bread. \$100.
Store Made Lasagna - Layers of fresh pasta, ricotta cheese, mozzarella and house made meat sauce. Full pan \$95. Half pan \$65.
Stoe 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 place order by Sunday, November 23rd.

Holiday Store Hours:
Tuesday November 25th 7:30 - 3:00, Wednesday, - 7:30 - 4:30
Thursday, November 27th & Friday, November 28th - Closed.
Saturday, November 29th 8:00 - 3:00. Sunday, November 30th 8 - 12