



# Totoket Times

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## Keep the Home Fires Burning

Perhaps you have forgotten but we still need your support with a voluntary payment. Postage is going up again in January and it is now your responsibility to keep the Totoket Times up and running. It now cost more than \$2000 an issue to put out the Totoket Times in your mailbox. Looking at the paper you can tell that ads do not cover that expense.

Many advertisers have chosen to go on Facebook where they may get 20 or 30 hits as opposed to reaching more than 5000 homes and businesses. That being said your support is essential to keep the paper going. The Totoket Times through in kind donations gives back what would amount to more than \$30,000 in public service announcements to keep you informed about your community. It is still your number one source for local news and events.

To support your paper and keep the home fires burning, please send your voluntary payments of hopefully \$20 or more to;  
Totoket Times, PO Box 313, Northford, Ct. 06472.

**VENMO FRANK-MENTONE-1**

## For Your Convenience

### I've added pick up Locations

*When there is no mail delivery for whatever reason I have added pickup locations*

#### North Branford

Atwater Library, Patco Service Station, Town Hall, North Branford Post Office, North Branford Barbershop, Hair Designs, We Fix It, Poppy's Bakery, Central Cafe & Taco Palace.

#### Northford

Recreation & Senior Center, Patco Service Station, Edward Smith Library, Northford Post Office, Lucky's T & J's Launderette.

*Check out our website at  
totokettimes.com*

*for the complete edition  
archives of columnists  
& our directory of advertisers.*



*Next Issue will be*

*January 12th.*

*See you next year.*

**Have a  
Happy New Year.**

#### TOTOKET TIMES

Deadline		Publication Date	
January	5	January	12
January	19	January	26
February	2	February	9
February	16	February	23
March	1	March	8
March	15	March	22
March	19	April	5



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The Most  
Wonderful  
Time of  
the Year

Dear Editor:

It's the most wonderful time of the year! With family gatherings, gift swaps and midnight toasts quickly approaching this holiday season, Anheuser-Busch and Dichello Distributors, Inc. are more thankful than ever to be a part of your festivities. Whether you're raising a glass at a loved one's house or celebrating with a night on the town, remember to keep yourself and your community safe.

If you'll be spreading holiday cheer with an ice-cold beer or two, don't forget to plan ahead for a safe ride. There is an average of 300,000 daily incidents and 10,000 annual fatalities related to alcohol-impaired driving in the U.S. – and this problem is 100% preventable.

That's why we've joined forces with Anheuser-Busch, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Uber in a first-of-its-kind industry coalition that is focused on ending drunk driving. In a new initiative called Decide To Ride, we are encouraging everyone to plan ahead for a safe ride home, before the celebrations even begin – because you can't drive drunk if you don't drive there.

For more than 35 years, Anheuser-Busch and its wholesaler partners have invested more than \$1 billion in responsible drinking initiatives and community-based programs to prevent underage drinking, impaired driving and other harmful uses of alcohol. At Dichello Distributors Inc., we're proud to work alongside Anheuser-Busch to ensure that we keep our friends, families and neighbors safe by planning ahead for a safe ride home..

Cheers to a safe, happy and healthy holiday season!

Tony Lota  
Alcohol Awareness  
Coordinator  
Dichello Distributors,  
Inc. Orange CT.



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
TO ALL!



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State Representative Vincent Candelora

Connecticut’s Recovering Restaurant Industry Needs Support, Not More Government Roadblocks



The indelible nature of the American Dream was on display earlier this week, when some 1,400 hospitality professionals from throughout the state gathered for a celebration of entrepreneurship, ingenuity, and grit that characterizes an industry that has faced its share of challenges over the last few years.

It was the Connecticut Restaurant Association’s marquee awards ceremony, which saw restaurateurs and workers take honors for their craft and dedication to an industry that accounts for roughly 10 percent of Connecticut jobs.

Yet as this deserved evening celebration took place, a situation familiar to small business owners at the event brewed elsewhere—a cadre of state lawmakers prepped for a morning news conference to announce a fresh assault on the restaurant industry. State Sen. Julie Kushner, of Danbury, told the media she’ll again pursue legislation to eliminate the tip wage credit for waitstaff.

This policy change, which Labor Committee Co-Chairman Kushner failed to advance last session, would increase costs for small business owners, lead to higher customer prices, and pave the way for **elimination** of waitstaff tipping. It’s frustrating news for an industry hobbled by inflationary costs, stubborn workforce shortages, and government shutdowns that crippled customer traffic.

In our state, certain employers are allowed to pay less than the minimum wage because they can count servers’ tip earnings toward the satisfaction of minimum wage requirements. In exchange, the employer can’t exert any control over tips. If all workers received minimum wage, as Sen. Kushner and some Democrats propose, restaurants could then control the distribution of these tips or even keep them entirely to pay for their overhead operations. It’s a scenario most **wait staff and restaurants** want to avoid.

If the tip credit is eliminated, each one dollar increase in the required wage would cause a 6.1 percent decrease in employment and a 5.6 percent decrease in employees’ earnings, according to a University of California–Irvine study. That could mean the loss of nearly 2,200 tipped jobs and \$8 million in worker earnings. **In fact**, the concept fell apart a few years ago in Maine, where the policy was quickly repealed after it was enacted due to its dramatic negative impact on workers.

Fact is, Connecticut’s restaurant employment structure provides opportunity for residents to earn a living or extra income in a flexible working environment that almost always provides more than minimum wage alone.

When my wife left teaching to raise our children, the stress of one-income living came quickly. She decided to spend a few weekend nights a month waitressing, earning more money than she did as a full-time teacher. Today, my daughter, a college student with a goal of becoming a doctor, is training as a waitress and bartender to create a pathway to pay for tuition over the next decade.

It’s the type of American experience ignored by Connecticut Democrats, who, rather than appreciating the opportunity offered by our state and country, resort to demonizing those they view as mere speedbumps on the path to meeting their goals set by agitators in California, Chicago, or some other progressive haven that’s disconnected from our Main Streets.

Sen. Kushner’s latest broadside at our restaurant industry represents an inflection point for Governor Lamont. I presume he left the ceremony feeling as I did—appreciating the awesome diversity of the bold entrepreneurs and enthusiastic workers who are trying to build futures in Connecticut. I hope the Governor, and even my Democratic colleagues in the legislature, will join me in rejecting this proposal because our restaurant industry, and the workers who currently thrive within it, exemplify the success stories that still embody the American dream.

House Republican Leader Vincent Candelora  
86th Assembly District

North Branford, Durham, East Haven, Guilford

This publication is published bi-weekly by  
Doss Enterprises LLC  
PO Box 313 Northford, CT. 06472  
Tel; 203-410-4254 Fax 203-484-4729  
email: totokettimes@comcast.net

PUBLISHER - FRANK MENTONE JR.

founders - Bert Bunnell Jr. & Anthony Esposito Jr.

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

LET’S BE “FRANK”

Comprised of comments from past Christmas Letters.

Well brother, another Christmas season is upon us and my thoughts trailed to some old letters and old memories. These letters and memories made me realize how lucky we really were. Things always change, and life never stands still but when you are lucky enough to have tradition and great memories, it allows us to enjoy the treasures of days gone by as well as create new memories with the foundations that were put in place.

Looking back on our childhood, it’s funny, but I don’t remember one gift I ever received. I often hear people talking about the great gift they got when they were thirteen or the expensive gift they got when they were sixteen. But I don’t remember one thing I ever got for Christmas.

I remember that it was a season for the preparation of the birth of Christ. There wasn’t just one event. It was the series of events that made it special. It started right after Thanksgiving with trip to W.T. Grants to get the money books to start shopping. The coupon books were store dollars and it would take mom and dad an entire year to pay them off then mom could start over for the next year. Pop would work a week through his vacation so he would get double time to have extra Christmas money. We would always stop at the popcorn place and get a bag of caramel corn for us and a bag of plain popcorn to feed the pigeons on the New Haven Green.

Decorating the house was a family gathering. I remember one year my Godmother and her fiancée surprised us with a visit on the night we were preparing. They were embarrassed and tried to leave but Mom would not hear of “such nonsense”. She put out whatever she had to go with the coffee and we had so much fun that for a while it became a tradition for them to visit on decoration night.

The tree was never the centerpiece of the decorations. Although it was the most time consuming. It always had to be a live tree. I remember dad on his belly (no easy task) making sure the fifty cent stand was centered enough to hold a tree bigger than its allotted capacity. Sometimes he even had to tie crab line string to the windows to hold it up. Mom would then hang what seemed like hundreds of Christmas cards on the line to show the importance of family and friends. Back then, everyone sent Christmas cards.

The main event was putting out the Manger. Mom would give us cloths to polish the pieces. There would be cotton, a white linen, straw for the house and the baby never went in until the 25th. It had to be perfect. “After all, this represents the birth place of Baby Jesus,” mom would demand.

We would spend a great amount of time at Church, helping the nuns with the gifts for the children. We didn’t have much but we felt rich. “There were always those less fortunate than ourselves,” mom would say. “It’s our job to take care of them”.

Before and after the holidays, we would spend the week visiting dad’s older brothers and sisters. With dad being the second youngest of thirteen, mom made sure we showed respect and visited everyone of them as it was the right thing to do. There wasn’t an exchange of gifts. There were cookies and baked goods exchanges, but conversation and talk about family was the main event. Being the youngest, I never found these visit too exciting as there were no kids to play with. I always laughed when daddy’s sisters would force us to eat all kinds of food and then admonish mommy not to feed us so much because we were getting chunky.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were more up my alley as we would see Uncle Albert & Aunt Marge and Uncle Rudy and Aunt Tess. There were plenty of kids to play with and we never wanted the two days to end.

There was Christmas caroling at senior housing and also the neighborhood where uncle Rudy knew some of the older people with no families.

So we are luckier than most as we continue with these ways. The visits are fewer as televisions in the bedroom are curtailing the making of the big families. But we still do it right thanks to the foundation our parents set. We still get together with everyone and share the meaning of Christmas.

So this holiday season, we pray for those who weren’t as lucky as we were. We remind our children how lucky they are and we remember the good times as we create new ones.

Love you and give my best to the family.  
I’ll see you soon.

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





## Estate Planning for Everyone: Getting Ready to Plan Your Estate By Attorney Marc

If 2023 was your year to update your estate plan or plan your estate for the first time – there is not much time left. Sometimes getting started is the hardest part. Crafting an estate plan is a crucial undertaking that goes beyond distributing assets; it's a thoughtful strategy to ensure your wishes are honored and your loved ones are taken care of when you're no longer able to do so. As you embark on this journey, it's essential to consider various aspects to create a comprehensive and effective estate plan.

Before diving into the technicalities, clearly articulate your goals and wishes. Identify your priorities, whether they involve providing for your family, supporting charitable causes, minimizing tax implications, or preserving a family business. Carefully choose beneficiaries for your assets and consider contingent beneficiaries. If you have minor children, designate guardians who will raise them in line with your values. Regularly review and update these designations as family dynamics and relationships evolve.

Compile a detailed inventory of your assets, including real estate, investments, retirement accounts, and personal property. Regularly update valuations to ensure your estate plan reflects the current value of your assets. Take stock of your outstanding debts and liabilities. Determine how these will be settled and whether your estate has sufficient liquidity to cover these obligations without jeopardizing your intended distributions to beneficiaries.

Decide whether a will, a trust, or a combination of both is most appropriate for your circumstances. Wills govern the distribution of assets upon death, while trusts provide flexibility and can be used to manage assets during your lifetime and distribute them efficiently after your death.

Appoint someone you trust to make financial decisions on your behalf with a durable power of attorney. Additionally, establish healthcare directives, including a living will and healthcare power of attorney, to outline your medical preferences and appoint someone to make healthcare decisions when you're unable to do so.

In the digital age, consider your online presence and digital assets. Provide instructions for accessing and managing digital accounts, social media, and other online assets. Addressing these aspects ensures a comprehensive approach to your estate plan.

Life is dynamic, and circumstances change. Regularly review and update your estate plan to reflect major life events, such as marriages, divorces, births, deaths, or significant financial changes. A well-maintained estate plan ensures it remains aligned with your current intentions. Seek the assistance of legal and financial professionals when crafting your estate plan. Estate planning involves complex legal and financial considerations, and professionals can help you navigate the intricacies, ensuring your plan is legally sound and achieves your intended outcomes.

Crafting an estate plan is a multifaceted process that requires careful consideration of various factors. By defining your objectives, selecting beneficiaries wisely, addressing debts, choosing appropriate legal instruments, considering tax implications, and regularly reviewing your plan, you can create a comprehensive strategy that safeguards your legacy and provides for your loved ones in the years to come.

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## North Branford Fights Back Against Property Fraud by Offering PropertyCheck Updates to Residents

**NORTH BRANFORD** – The Town of North Branford has implemented Cott Systems' PropertyCheck in an invigorated effort to combat property and mortgage fraud in North Branford. This 24/7 service allows residents to sign up on the Cott Systems' RECORDhub through the Town of North Branford website to receive notifications when official documents are recorded in their name. Residents can activate alerts based on the spelling of their name. There is no cost to participate.

"The Town is pleased to offer this additional tool at no cost to the residents as a means to protect their property from unethical practices," said Mayor Rose Angeloni.

"This is an important resource to our residents to help protect their property interests, and I hope they will take advantage of it as an added line of defense against fraudulent activity," said Councilor Thomas Zampano.

The Town Council approved the implementation of the PropertyCheck System last October at the recommendation of Town Clerk Lisa Valenti and Town Manager Michael Downes.

Property fraud can occur if someone forges your identity, transfers your property into their name, and records the document. This fraudulent activity can make it appear as if

that person owns your home or property before the victim is aware anything has happened. Such criminal activity is becoming more prevalent today as cyber criminals exploit every avenue they can to cause harm and steal from everyday citizens.

PropertyCheck works seamlessly in the background of the Town's land records management RECORDhub software, automatically alerting if a document with matching name is recorded. All residents have to do is opt-in by creating a RECORDhub account, create alerts for their name and choose a preference for alerts – email or text message.

"It's also a good idea to set up multiple alerts based on first, middle and last name variations and your spouse's name, to be sure that an alert will be triggered in case a recording happens with some kind of slight variation," says Paul Feters, the product Implementation Specialist at Cott Systems.

To sign up for alerts residents should go to the town website, [northbranfordct.gov](http://northbranfordct.gov), and navigate to the Town Clerk's page. Under "List of Services" click on PropertyCheck click "sign up" and follow the prompts. PropertyCheck can also be found through the "Online Services" link on the front page. **Michael P. Downes**

## Meet Our New Town Businesses



### WELCOME TO WeFixIt!

WeFixIt! Is a brand-new device and electronics repair shop. "If it has a circuit board we'll fix it," says owner Dylan Petrarca-Smith. We were pleased to join them for a ribbon-cutting December 7<sup>th</sup> to celebrate their opening. Come visit them when your device is on the fritz come visit them - they are in the plaza at 1717 Foxon Rd. with Good Vibes Nutrition.

**Photo: L-R: Asst. Town Manager Rory Burke, EDC member Scott Small, Town Manager Michael Downes, owner Dylan Petrarca-Smith, Mayor Rose Angeloni, Nancy Gerson of Guilford Savings Bank, and State Representative Vincent Candelora.**



### WELCOME TO SWEET POPPY'S BAKERY!

We were thrilled to welcome Sweet Poppy's bakery to North Branford with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting December 7<sup>th</sup>. Sweet Poppy's specializes in allergen-free baked goods such as cakes, cupcakes, muffins and whoopee pies. Come check them out at their location in the plaza at 1717 Foxon Rd!

**Photos: L-R: Representative Vincent Candelora, Town Manager Michael Downes, EDC member Scott Small, Nancy Gerson of Guilford Savings Bank, Owner Jaclyn Pascale, Mayor Rose Angeloni, Assistant Town Manager Rory Burke. Front Row: Jaclyn's children Nathaniel, Matthew and Elizabeth.**

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# NORTH BRANFORD SCHOOLS DSITRICT REPORT

## Jerome Harrison Elementary School

Jerome Harrison Elementary School is off to a great 2023-2024 school year! Staff have been hard at work creating positive classroom cultures that encourage student thinking, curiosity, collaboration, and engagement. Opportunities for student-led activities and discussions happen throughout the day in order to help cognitive development and independence. This year, JHS implemented STEM instruction (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) for all students pre-k through second grade. This has provided students with a space to explore, take-risks, problem solve, and learn foundational STEM concepts that they can build on throughout their educational career. What an amazing opportunity for our students!



Our preschool expanded this year to include more opportunities for 3 and 4 year old students to learn and develop here at JHS. Using the Creative Curriculum, students learn important foundational skills in reading, math, writing, science, social studies, and social/emotional learning.

Lastly, staff have been hard at work teaching and reinforcing social/emotional skills and character development including kindness, respect, gratitude, compassion, and acceptance. These

qualities are incorporated across curricular activities as well as in whole school assemblies. Students and staff gather once a month for our BEE (be respectful, be responsible, be safe, and be kind) assemblies in order to encourage positive behavior and school spirit. These assemblies not only help students feel connected to our school but also allow students to learn different ways to show support towards others. JHS's student council, a group of first and second grade student leaders, also help to spread these qualities out into the community with their work with our local food pantry, animal shelters, and senior center to name a few. We look forward to the remainder of the year where we continue to learn and grow!



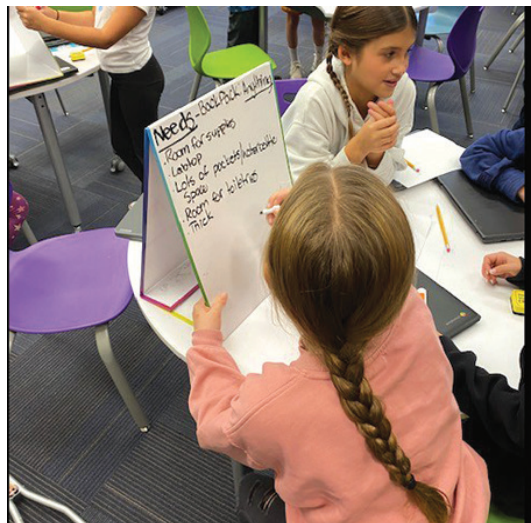
## Totoket Valley Elementary School

The start of the 2023-2024 school year at Totoket Valley Elementary School (TVES) has been both productive and rewarding. We continue to prioritize cultivating thinking cultures and classrooms and fostering an environment where staff actively engage students in critical thinking skills. As a school community we value high impact instruction through the Making Thinking Visible and Building Thinking Classrooms approach, aligned to the instructional vision of our district. This innovative approach breaks the traditional model of school and aims to enhance the overall learning experience for our students academically, socially and emotionally. As we planned for this year, our teachers were very thoughtful about modifying physical

learning environments to promote collaboration and a student-centered approach to teaching and learning. Building and fostering cultures of thinking in all that we do as a school leads to a sense of collective responsibility, leadership and an overall care for one's self and community, as well as increased ownership and overall commitment to the learning process. This approach has had a positive impact on students' connection to school and to learning, and has led to an increase in student confidence and academic achievement.

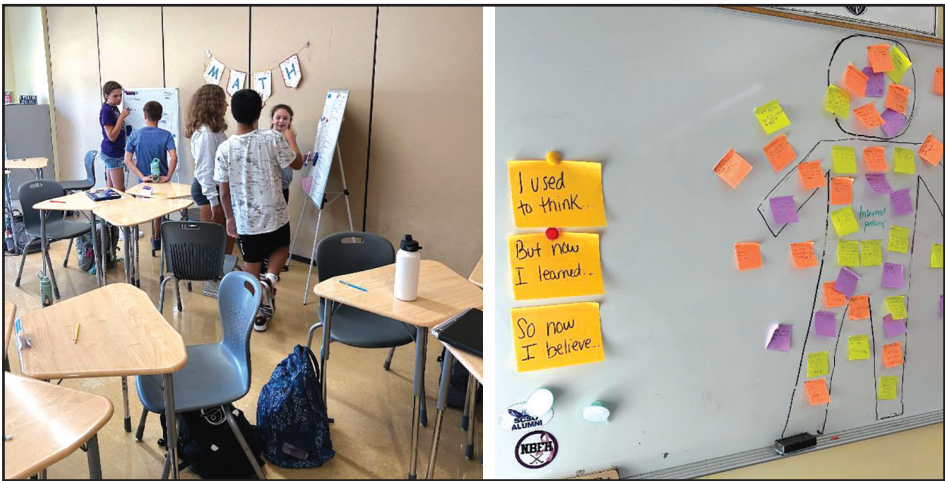
At TVES, we recognize the importance of emotional intelligence as the foundation for academic success. Students are consistently provided with opportunities and experiences that promote a safe school climate, which leads to students being more open to taking risks in both academic and social environments they encounter during their school day. Through our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) initiatives, school-wide ROCKS (Respect, Opportunity, Cooperation, Kindness, and Safety) assemblies and Community Days, Morning Meeting, Restorative Practices and our Second Step curriculum students are able to develop the foundational pro-social behaviors that support emotionally intelligent thinkers, communicators and collaborators. Through various programs and initiatives this year, our school is committed to nurturing well-rounded individuals who not only excel academically, but also possess strong social and emotional skills. Students participate daily in Morning Meetings as a way to build community, connect with one another and practice key pro-social skills. These skills are also practiced and reinforced through our Second Step curriculum. Mental health team members push into classrooms weekly to provide direct instruction to assist students in developing strategies for self regulation and management of emotions.

As a school, we also believe that a variety of enrichment offerings provide opportunities beyond the standard curriculum for students to explore and develop their diverse interests, passions and talents. Through our After School Enrichment program students participate in specialized courses based on their interests. During the school day our staff facilitates enrichment experiences including Math Olympiads, the National Scripps Spelling Bee, Battle of the Books with a focus on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, band, and chorus. Additionally, on Wednesdays our Allied Arts teachers provide enrichment to students in their specialized areas - third graders participate in Art Enrichment, fourth graders in Makerspace, and our fifth graders in Physical Education. Our Magic Mailbox contests and Artist Spotlight celebrates creative expression and our involvement in the Connecticut Invention Convention is an opportunity for our learners to gain experience as inventors and engineers. There are also a variety of student leadership opportunities through the TVES Student Senate.





TVES proudly celebrates these accomplishments, reinforcing its commitment to providing a stimulating and nurturing learning experience for the children of North Branford and we look forward to seeing growth in all of these areas through our work during the rest of this school year!



North Branford Intermediate School

North Branford Intermediate School has been hard at work this fall implementing teaching and learning strategies aligned with the district instructional vision and Making Thinking Visible (MTV) and Building Thinking Cultures (BTC). Teacher professional learning, Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), and schedules have been redesigned to support this work. This work has led to some redesign of classroom environments, instructional practices, and student led learning in the classroom, and the results are exciting for both staff and students to see more engagement, more enjoyment, and more challenge across content areas. This work will continue throughout the year. NBIS also was recently awarded a state grant

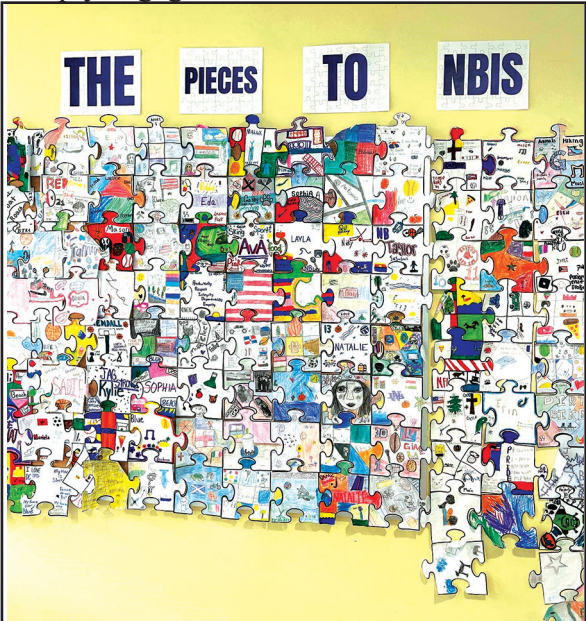


to support improvement in Smarter Balanced Assessment math scores. The grant is focused on providing high dosage tutoring during the day and after school for students below standard. NBIS math teachers and staff will be working hard this year to implement plans and support around this grant award and we are excited for the additional support for students in math.

Additionally, the staff has been hard at work in building the NBIS school community and student connectedness as a building level goal. This

work is designed around the idea that all students should feel closely connected to their school and be deeply engaged with a teacher/staff member,

classroom, club, activity, sport, or experience. To meet this end NBIS kicked off the year with expanded opportunities for athletics, clubs, and opportunities including 32 options for our students ranging from field hockey and cross country to Best Buddies, Newspaper, Video Production, Creative Writing, and many more. Additionally our PRIDE (Productivity, Respect, Integrity, Dependability, and Empathy) program has



North Branford High School

The opening to the school year at North Branford High School was successful and very exciting as it was the first time the school year began with students attending the new facility. The learning and teaching process continues to be the centerpiece of the staff’s efforts including implementing new strategies in the classroom involving Making Thinking Visible. An initiative that better ensures deeper understanding and student discourse. Staff have implemented new instructional practices, improved current teaching techniques and will continue to participate in professional development throughout the school year. North Branford High School continues to provide a comprehensive and rigorous experience for our students including offering several Advanced Placement (AP) and Early College Experience (ECE) courses. NBHS was recognized by the College Board this fall as an Honor Roll High School for AP success and participation. Students are also provided opportunities to take challenging elective courses in addition to the required high school graduation requirements. Project Lead the Way (Pre-Engineering and Bio-Medical), Video Production, World Language, Automotive and Technology Education (Construction), and several electives in the core areas are offered at North Branford High School. The NBHS Technology and Engineering Education Department has been selected by the CTEEA (Connecticut Technology and Engineering Education Association) as the Program of the Year in the stateConnecticut.



Culture and a positive school climate are essential in order for students to excel. Our vision of the graduate SOAR (Socially

Responsible Contributor, Open-minded Engaged Citizen, Achievement Focused Student , Resilient Life Long Learner) is also the framework that articulates clear expectations for students and staff in an encompassing fashion.



The expectations outlined within SOAR provide rubrics that are used to measure student achievement and progress. This framework also provides opportunities to recognize students and staff through school wide events that take



place each fall. Students at NBHS are offered to participate in many co-curricular activities including service organizations, clubs and athletics. Over twenty clubs are offered and over 20 varsity sports are offered with many students participating in several co-curricular activities each school year. The Drama Club and the Music Department sponsor several events annually including productions and concerts open to the public. The fall cabaret, the spring musical and the seasonal concerts showcase our students talents and contribute to the culture and climate at NBHS.

A flex period outside of scheduled class time takes place daily with advisory agenda sessions occurring on Fridays. School information and school news are typically included in the agendas. Additional transitional activities



happen throughout the year in order to support seniors (and their parents) as the seniors prepare for life after graduation. Financial aid workshops, individual guidance counselor conferences and ongoing support with the transition to college, the military or career is essential. As a graduation requirement, all seniors complete a Capstone Project that focuses upon career exploration or community service. This involves a mentorship experience when shadowing a professional, reflective journal writings and a culminating performance project. Our staff is looking forward to challenging and supporting all students as they progress throughout the school year in and beyond the classrooms of NBHS.

Special Services

Meeting the individual needs of all learners is a priority for the Office of Special Services. It is the belief of North Branford Public Schools that universal access to high quality education can be achieved for all students through high-leverage, inclusive instructional practices and a unified vision that all special education students are general education students first.

Each year the Office of Special Services identifies a department goal and accompanying professional learning opportunities. The focus areas for the 23-24 school year were based on the rollout of a statewide, web-based special education data management system called CT-SEDS (Connecticut Special Education Data System). As a result of this rollout the district has made the transition to Case Management as the service delivery model in North Branford. The Case Management Model provides a more streamlined approach to the special education supports and services provided in the district. A student's case manager is typically their special education teacher or related service provider. The case manager is responsible for coordinating services, overseeing the Individualized Educational Plan and serving as the liaison between a student's teachers and their family. Professional learning opportunities have been developed to support faculty and staff in navigating the new platform and transitioning to the case management model of service delivery.

While the transition to the case management model was born out of necessity, the feedback from families and staff have been overwhelmingly positive. Families have shared that communication has improved and that they feel more connected to the support being provided to their children. Staff have also reported positive associations with the model including having a greater understanding of the special education process and a more holistic view of their student's.

Curriculum and Instruction

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction has been hard at work this summer and throughout the fall in continuing our efforts across the district to expand the instructional approaches of Making Thinking Visible and Building Thinking Cultures. These instructional approaches stem from the work

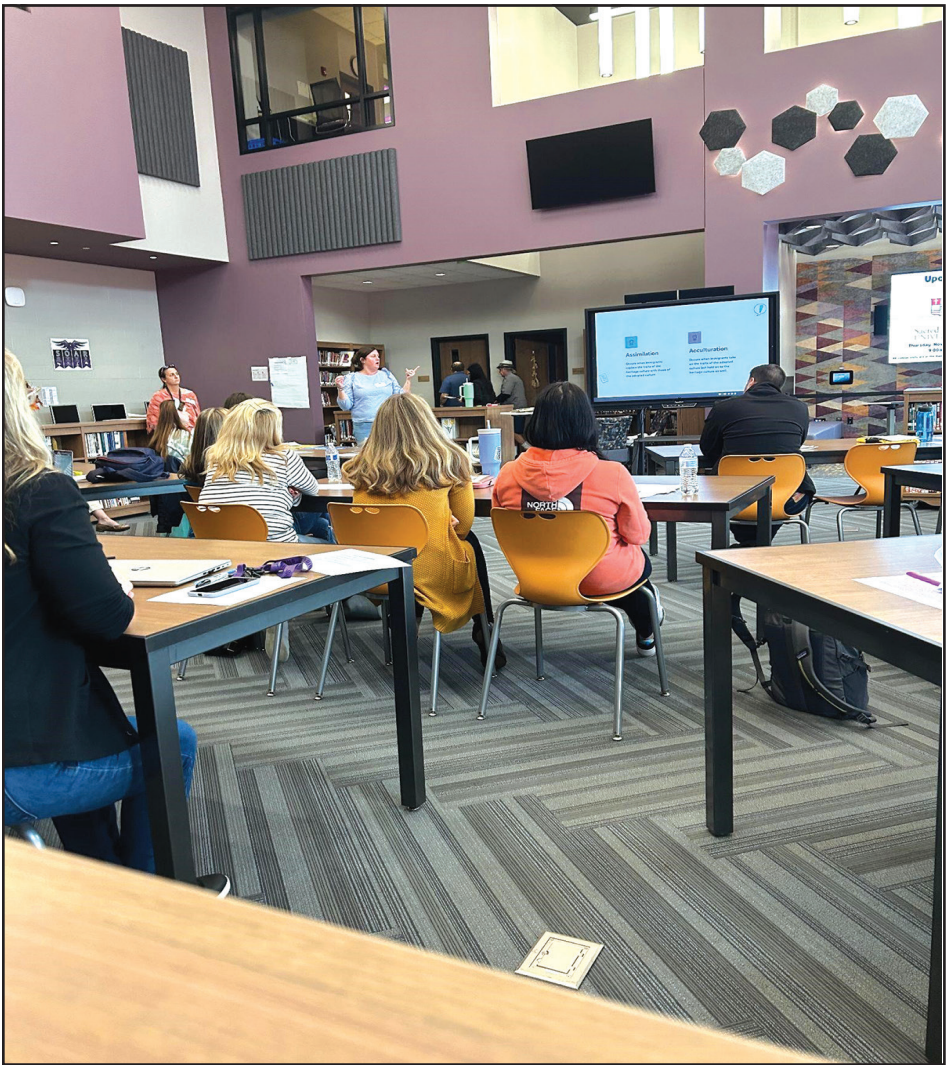


at Harvard University's Project Zero and focus on collaborative learning, expression of thought, deep questioning, reflection, respectful discussion, and watching ideas/thinking evolve over time. (see here for more information: <https://pz.harvard.edu/projects/cultures-of-thinking>). These philosophies are also foundations of the NBPS

instructional vision, which guides administrator, teacher, and staff work across the district to enhance and improve student learning. The vision also includes a steady focus on collaborative learning, continuous student and staff reflection, and building a climate of care and trust. Administrators, instructional coaches, teacher leaders, teachers, and staff are working together to model these learning philosophies in classrooms and in their own professional learning and work together. In addition to ongoing professional learning around these instructional practices, teacher leaders and teacher teams across the district are updating curriculum landscape maps and unit plans across the district in all content areas that now embed some of these high leverage instructional practices. These are updated and uploaded to the NBPS Curriculum website as the work unfolds.

Working closely with the Office of Curriculum and Instruction is the district PDEC (Professional Development and Evaluation Committee) Team, a group of K-12 teachers and leaders across the district that support our teachers and administrators with the pending legislative changes around how teachers and administrators will be evaluated and provided with ongoing feedback on their practice; these changes will be implemented in the fall of 2024. This group meets regularly, will receive state-led training, and will ultimately develop the plan for NBPS in these areas in alignment with state guidelines. Perhaps most exciting is PDEC's efforts recently to plan for, build, and implement some new professional learning experiences for our

teachers and staff members that included a K-12 teacher panel presentation in August, and will kick off a brand new K-12 teacher mini conference in November. This conference style learning event will be led exclusively by district teachers/leaders and all teachers will be able to self-select sessions of interest around the district vision. These new changes are very exciting for our district, our teachers, and are key in improving teaching and learning in NBPS.



**NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Office of the Superintendent**  
**1332 MIDDLETOWN AVENUE NORTHFORD, CONNECTICUT 06472**  
**(203) 484-1440 Fax (203) 484-1445**  
**e-mail [sschoonmaker@northbranfordschools.org](mailto:sschoonmaker@northbranfordschools.org)**  
**November 29, 2023**

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,  
This letter is to inform you of a recent change to the state legislation regarding the entry age of kindergarten students. The purpose of this letter is to share how North Branford Public Schools will be implementing this new requirement and what it means for families of current preschool students.

Beginning in the 2024-25 school year, the date for Kindergarten entry has changed. To start kindergarten in the 2024-25 school year your child must turn five on or before September 1, 2024.

[Public Act 23-208](#) states, "public schools shall be open to all children five years of age and over who reach age five on or before the first day of September of any school year." [Public Act 23-208](#) provides the following provisions: "a child who has not reached the age of five on or before the first day of September of the school year may be admitted (1) upon a written request by the parent or guardian of such child to the principal of the school in which such child would be enrolled, and (2) following an assessment of such child, conducted by such principal and an appropriate certified staff member of the school, to ensure that admitting such child is developmentally appropriate."

North Branford Public Schools understands that the timing of this change creates a number of challenges for families. For this reason, North Branford has developed a transition plan for the 2024-25 school year. This transition plan will allow for greater flexibility in the assessment process. The process for early entrance to kindergarten beyond the 2024-25 school year is currently under consideration and a specific procedure will be forthcoming.

North Branford Public Schools will continue to accept Kindergarten registrations for children who turn five on or before September 1, 2024. Any child who is not five years old on or before September 1, 2024 will generally be admitted to kindergarten under the following conditions:

Parents/ guardians must submit a written request to the building principal, Beth Parker.

Email requests should be directed to: [lbiestek@northbranfordschools.org](mailto:lbiestek@northbranfordschools.org)  
Mailing address: 335 Foxon Rd, North Branford, CT 06471

1. Parents/ guardians will make their child available to participate in an assessment to ensure that "admitting such a child is developmentally appropriate."

Inquiries about kindergarten registration and assessment should be directed to the main office at Jerome Harrison Elementary School (203) 484-1235.

Sincerely, Scott Schoonmaker - Superintendent of Schools

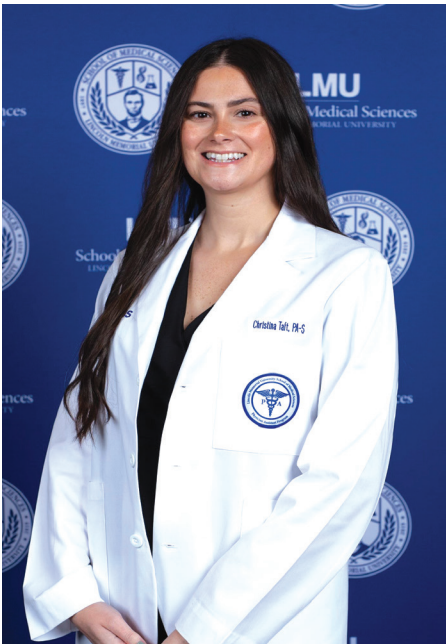


North Branford Public Schools  
Excellence in Education



The North Branford School To Work Transition Program is celebrating the holidays with a farm fresh Christmas tree graciously donated to us for the second year by the Keating family at Totoket Tree Farm in North Branford. The Keating Family bought the Totoket Tree Farm in 2022 and opens the day after Thanksgiving every year. The Christmas tree has not only put us in a festive spirit, but has taught the students several invaluable life skills. As we get new students, they get to use the skills and tools to join previous year's traditions and create new traditions in our program as well. Using the money we have from cashing in our saved cans and bottles, the students were able to make a shopping list, create a budget, and shop for the items needed to decorate the tree. Activities such as these allow students to put into practice their money skills, independent living skills, teamwork, and interactions with community members. While at the program, the students are responsible for watering the tree and turning the lights on and off. The staff and students look forward to years to come with this tradition! Thank you Totoket Tree Farm for putting smiles on our student's faces and lighting up the Augur House!

Local Student Receives her “White Coat”



Local North Branford resident and North Branford High School graduate class of 2016, and Salve Regina University graduate class of 2020 Christina Brianna Taft is now attending Lincoln Memorial University Physicians Assistants Assistant program in Knoxville TN.

Her parents Charles and Donna Taft are proud to announce their daughter received her white coat in a ceremony in late October and has started her clinical rotations this November for the next year to prepare for graduation in December 2024.

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SUBMISSION MATCHES 6:00-7:30PM  
MMA FIGHTS START AT 7:30PM  
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MORE INFO REALITYFIGHTING.NET OR 860-537-3686

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SUNDAY 11AM—4PM



203-484-4383  
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Recycling News

Christmas Day and New Year’s Day are Trash Holidays  
Pickups will be delayed 1 day for these 2 weeks.

Christmas Tree Pickup – January 2 - 12, 2024

Here are some tips for this holiday season.

Meal Planning

- Single-use paper plates, cups, napkins and utensils all belong in the trash.
- Shop smart to avoid throwing away excess food.
- Compost your food scraps.

Gift Giving

- Think outside the box – purchase experiences, memberships or donating to a non-profit on behalf of a friend or family.
- Check out local thrift and consignments stores for holiday gifts.
- Shop local to support your local economy.

Please recycle the packaging that your holiday shipments arrive in.

- Cardboard shipping box - recycle bin
- Styrofoam – trash bin
- Bubble wrap – plastic film drop-off location
- Shipping envelopes (plastic in and out) – plastic film drop-off location
- Shipping envelopes (mixed materials) – trash bin
- Plain cardboard gift box - recycle bin
- Plain wrapping paper – recycle bin
- Fancy wrapping paper (metallic, glitter, flocking) – trash bin
- Ribbons/bows/string – trash bin
- Cellophane wrapping paper – trash bin
- Plain holiday cards – recycle bin
- Fancy holiday cards (metallic, glitter, flocking) – trash bin
- Photo holiday cards – trash bin

If you aren’t sure if it should go into the recycling or trash, put it in the trash. Don’t put your recyclables inside a cardboard box or plastic bag. Recycling should always stay separated and loose

Plastic Film Reminder

The town’s drop off locations are:

Atwater and Smith Libraries, Northford Store, STW  
Community Center, The Food Pantry of NB, Country Paint  
and Hardware, T.J.’s Launderette

Are you interested in getting involved on a town committee?  
Does it upset you when you see littering?

Do you wonder where the trash goes and how recycling works?  
Next year is full of possibilities and we could use some new ideas.



**CENTRAL**  
— CAFE —  
NORTH BRANFORD, CT

**Live Music**

12-16 Bernie Gagliardi  
12/22 Dave Lefkin  
1-13 The Mediums  
1-26 Rob Glassman  
Band



**MARC GUERTIN**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

WILLS & TRUSTS  
ASSET PROTECTION  
ESTATE PLANNING

203-500-0201  
MARC@ATTORNEYMARC.COM  
222 RIMMON ROAD • NORTH HAVEN, CT 06473

The Solid/Hazardous Waste and Recycling Committee is looking for new members. Please call the Town Manager’s office if you are interested For more information about recycling in North Branford you can check out North Branford’s Recycling Committee’s website:thbranfordct.com/government/boards-commissions/hazardous-wasterecycling-committee.aspx or our Facebook page



Northford-North Branford Women’s Club, GFWC

Sponsors Little Free Library

The Northford-North Branford Women’s Club, GFWC is proudly sponsoring a Little Free Library. The Library is located at 44 Village Street in Northford. The library was built by Ed Collett and painted appropriately in a sunflower theme by club member Patty Meglio.

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota. Their mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book-exchange boxes.

Come by and visit. Take a Book, Share a Book.

For membership information, contact Vicki at victorialanza2017@gmail.com.

(pictured are Liz Boissard, Patty Meglio, Mary Ellen Collett and Ed Collett)

Company 1 Receives Plastic Film Program Bench



On Tuesday, November 28, NB Fire Department Company 1 was presented the latest bench NB has earned from the Plastic Film Recycling Program, sponsored by Trex and supported by our NB Big Y. This NB’s 14th bench.

NB Solid/Hazardous Waste and Recycling Committee members Bill Savastano and Hank Petroskey made the presentation.

A big thank you to Lauren Davis and the staff at Atwater Library who agreed to donate the second bench they earned to the NB Fire Companies. To date, Atwater Library has collected over 4,000 pounds (2 tons) of plastic film.

The bench will give our First Responders a nice place to rest between

calls. Thanks to everyone who participates in the Plastic Film Recycling Program and please continue to be diligent in placing only acceptable items in the collection bins and turn all bags inside out.

The purpose of North Branford’s Solid/Hazardous Waste and Recycling Committee is to develop and implement environmentally sound solutions and best practices for solid waste disposal and recycling management on behalf of our town.

Seated are Co 1 Members Kyle Conklin and Ken Ash. Standing is Acting Fire Chief Anthony Esposito, Jr. (photo by Hank Petroskey)

NORTH BRANFORD  
REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the town of North Branford.

On Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the North Branford Town Hall located at 909 Foxon Blvd, North Branford, to endorse candidates for the Republican Town Committee

Edward J. Boughton  
Chairman, NBRTC



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](http://www.branfordbiblechapel.org)

**Hope Christian Church “A Place to Belong”.** 211 Montowese Ave., North Haven, CT. [www.hopeag.com](http://www.hopeag.com) Sunday services 10AM. Coffee served every Sunday 9:00 am. Church open for prayer Tuesdays noon to One. Thursday Bible study 7:00 PM. Like us on facebook.

**North Branford Congregational Church, UCC,** 1680 Foxon Road, North Branford, CT Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM. On the first Sunday of each month please attend and share communion with us. Nursery Care is available.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](mailto:nobdcong@sbcglobal.net), website: [www.northbranfordcongregational.org](http://www.northbranfordcongregational.org) Remember, all are welcome no matter who you are, no matter where you are on life’s journey; you will always be welcome here.

**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](mailto:northfordcc@gmail.com) Office Hours: Tuesday 9am - 1pm; other days by appointment. John Vigneri, Pastor . Jane K. Leschuk Minister of Music. 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.northfordcongregational.church](http://www.northfordcongregational.church)

**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](http://www.sccbranford.org). SCC is a diverse community that is dedicated to Making the Invisible God Visible.

**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](http://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!

**St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church,** 1382 Middletown Avenue - The White Church On The Hill In The Heart Of Northford (at the intersection of Rtes. 17 & 22). Sunday worship at 10:00 a.m. Coffee and fellowship always follows. The Rev. Bryan Spinks is Priest-In-Charge. St.Andrew’s is a member of the Middlesex Area Cluster Ministry Network (MACM Network), along with St. James (Higganum) and Emmanuel (Killingworth). Please join us - we’d love to get to know you! All are welcome! St. Andrew’s is the proud home of the Food Pantry of North Branford - a vital community resource serving families in need in Northford and North Branford. St. Andrew’s also partners with St. Pauly Textile in a broad outreach program to help people in need here in the U.S. and around the world. Donations of usable clothing, shoes, boots, belts, purses, sheets, blankets, curtains and stuffed animals may be made at the donation shed in the church parking lot, available 24x7. Visit our website at <https://www.saintandrewsnorthford.org> Like us on Facebook - St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church of Northford, CT. For more information contact us at 203-484-0895; Nan Monde, Sr. Warden, 203-710-7005; Rev. Spinks, 860-304-5266; or MACM office, 860-345-0058.

**United Methodist Church, Branford** 811 East Main St, Branford (Route 1, across from Bill Miller’s Castle). [www.umcbranford.org](http://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 Kent Jackson. 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. Our vicar is the Rev. Lucy LaRocca. 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](http://zionaepiscopalchurch.org). Zion is an open and affirming congregation for those seeking a safe place to worship and grow in Christ. 203-488-7395



News from St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church  
Christmas Eve at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church

All are invited and welcome to celebrate Christmas Eve at St. Andrew’s, the White Church on the Hill in the Heart of Northford, 1382 Middletown Avenue.Sunday, December 24th, carol sing will begin at 3:45 p.m. following by Holy Eucharist at 4:00. Any questions contact Nan Monde, 203-710-7005.”

Clothing Donation Shed at St. Andrew’s

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, the White Church on the Hill in the Heart of Northford, 1382 Middletown Avenue, welcomes donations of gently used clothing at its drop-off shed, located in the church’s parking lot. In addition to clothing, other items accepted include shoes, belts, purses, blankets & quilts, sheets & pillowcases, curtains, and stuffed animals. Donations are distributed by relief organizations, such as the International Red Cross, to people in need in the U.S. and around the world. There is a QR code on the front of the shed to scan for tax deduction purposes. St. Andrew’s receives a small amount of funding for the donations, which, in turn, helps support its local community outreach programs.The collection shed is available 24x7. Further information contact Nan Monde at 203-710-7005.”

DEATH NOTICES



**Joseph A. Ardine II**, 54, of Northford, passed away peacefully on Tuesday evening, November 28, 2023, at his home with his family by his side. Born in Meriden on June 4, 1969, he was the beloved son of John J. and Sherry Fitzsimmons Ardine. Joseph earned a bachelor’s degree from Emerson College, Boston and worked in management for the Penny Saver, Long Island, NY and later as a claims adjuster for Aetna Life Insurance. Besides his parents Joseph is survived by his loving brother and sister, John C. Ardine and Marcella Ardine, and by his many Aunts and Uncles.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the World Wildlife Fund, 1250 24<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20037.

[www.northhavenfuneral.com](http://www.northhavenfuneral.com)



**Annemarie Heim DeRienzo**, 87, of North Branford, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Yale New Haven Hospital with her family by her side. She was the beloved wife of 63 years to Joseph DeRienzo. Annemarie was born in Silesia, Prussia on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1936, and was the daughter of the late Josef and Hedwig Grundmann Heim. She worked for Stop & Shop in Branford for many years and later in the cafeteria at Guilford High School until her retirement. Annemarie was a member of the Guilford Senior Center. She had a passion for working in her garden and enjoyed taking walks and hiking with the “Huff-n-Puff” girls as she would jokingly say. Mother to her loving daughters and their husbands Maryanna (Edward) Bouffard and Jackie (Franz) Folz. Devoted grandmother to Franz (Daryl) Folz, Joseph (Tara) Folz and Rebecca (Patrick) Nestor. Also survived by her little angels, great-grandchildren Liam, Amelia, Noah and Miles; and her brothers Eduard and Arnold Heim. Predeceased by her sister Barbara Heim. Annemarie leaves behind several nieces and nephews.

. [www.northhavenfuneral.com](http://www.northhavenfuneral.com)



**Joyce Solkoske Rennie**, 84, of Northford, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Connecticut Hospice, Branford with her loving and devoted family by her side. She was the beloved wife of 64 years to Ernest G. Rennie. Joyce was born in New Haven on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1939, and was the daughter of the late Lawrence and Alyce Murray Solkoske. She worked as a Dental Assistant for the former office of Dr. Michael Pace, North Haven for many years. Joyce later worked as an Administrator for the Better Business Bureau then for Kos Chiropractic Center. She enjoyed traveling with her family, was a sports enthusiast, being a fan of the UConn Men & Womens basketball, and the New York Yankees. Most of all, Joyce loved being with her close-knit family who she loved unconditionally. Mother of Deborah Signor (Robert) and Keith S. Rennie (Jeanne-Ann). Gram of Michael Welton (Samantha), Jarrett Rennie (Jessica), Melanie Rennie and the late Scott Welton. Great-Gram of Lila, Gardner and Reese. Sister of JoAnn Lenihan and the late Robert Solkoske and Roberta Whitcher. Also survived by nieces and nephews.

[www.northhavenfuneral.co](http://www.northhavenfuneral.co).





# 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

**Light Up North Branford**  
**HOLIDAY LIGHT DECORATING CONTEST**  
**Tuesday, December 19th**  
**6:00 - 10:00 p.m.**  
**FREE**

Get into the holiday spirit with a fun and festive competition!  
REGISTER TO GET YOUR HOUSE ON THE MAP!  
A map of display locations will be available on our website on December 20th.  
Registration required by 12/15 [www.nbrecreation.com](http://www.nbrecreation.com)

**Winter Break**  
**DAY CAMP**

Winter Break just got a little bit COOLER! Come join us for 3 days of fun! Each day will offer a different theme with corresponding games, activities and crafts!

**December 26- 28, 2023**  
**8:30am - 4:30pm**  
STW Community Center

**\$30 per day or \$75 for all 3 days**  
*Lunch available for an additional \$4/per day*

**TAI CHI CHUAN - QIGONG**  
Ages 18+ STW Classroom  
**Tuesdays 6:00-7:00pm Dec 26 - Feb 13**  
\$70 res/\$75 nr

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

**\*NEW YOGA CLASSES WITH BRIANNE BARRETT OF BHOGAH YOGA\***  
**ADULT DAYTIME YOGA**

An all level yoga class designed to help reduce stress, clear the mind, stretch and strengthen the body and help attendees feel more healthy and whole.

**Fridays Jan 5 - Jan 26**  
STW Yoga Room  
12:00-1:00pm \$40 res/ \$45 nr

**LET'S DANCE!**

This half hour class is perfect for children ages 2-3. Using age appropriate music and movement, this class promotes early learning skills, listening skills, helps develop motor skills, and engages children in the love of dance at a young age.

Instructor: Brittini D'Urso, Revolution Academy of Dance  
Ages 2-3 STW Classroom  
Tuesdays 9:00-9:30am  
January 9 - 30 \$30 res/\$35 nr

**2 NIGHTS IN ATLANTIC CITY!**  
**JULY 14-16, 2024**  
**\$450**

*\*Per Person, double occupancy*

**Price includes:**

- Motorcoach transportation
- 2 nights lodging in an Atlantic City Casino Hotel
- 3 meals: 2 breakfasts and 1 dinner
- A Casino Bonus
- Spectacular gaming and sight-seeing in Atlantic City *and much more!*

**\$75 due at registration; final payment due: 5/7/2024**  
Departure: STW Community Center  
1332 Middletown Ave, Northford, CT @ 8:00 a.m.



**— SENIOR CENTER —**

**Holiday Mingle w/ NBHS Student Council & Chamber Choir**  
**December 20, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**  
STW Community Center

Join us for a special Holiday Mingle with the North Branford High School Student Council & the NBHS Chamber Choir!

*The NBHS Chamber Choir will do a special performance at 10:45 a.m.!*  
**FREE - Please register by 12/15**

**SENIOR CENTER**  
**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

**Thursday, December 21, 2023**  
Join us for our Annual Holiday luncheon and a special visit from Santa!  
**Lunch served at 12:00 pm**  
**Register by 12/18**

Join Chef Giovanna for a demonstration on how to make delicious Holiday Hors D'oeuvres. Watch as she prepares and teaches you how to make this fantastic dish then taste it for yourself!

**December 19, 2023**  
**Holiday Hors D'oeuvres**  
STW Gym/Cafe 1:00-2:00pm \$3 Register by 12/15

**SENIOR CENTER**  
**NOON YEAR'S EVE PARTY**

Let's celebrate the new year together with a Noon Year's Eve Party!



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  
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2023 HOLIDAY MENU

**Desserts**  
**Pastry Fusions Holiday Favorite - Chocolate Devastation Cake** - Chocolate cake filled with alternating layers of chocolate ganache and chocolate mousse, then frosted with a chocolate whipped cream and topped with chocolate ganache.  
**Chocolate Ganache Cake** - Multiple layers of chocolate cake and chocolate ganache with a chocolate ganache frosting.  
**Cannoli Cake** - Vanilla cake filled with cannoli cream, then frosted with whipped cream.  
**Assorted Italian Holiday Cookie Platters** - \$18.75per pound.  
**Assorted Italian Pastry**

<b>Pies</b>			
Apple Pie	\$17.00	Chocolate Lemon Pie	\$17.00
Apple Crumb Pie	\$17.00	Ricotta Pie	\$26.75
Chocolate Cream Pie	\$18.00	Italian Cream Pie	\$25.00

**Cheesecakes 8" \$30.00 10" \$40.00**  
**New Your Style Cheesecake w/strawberries or cherries**  
**Raspberry swirl cheesecake drizzled with chocolate ganache**

**Breads**  
Snowflake Dinner Rolls \$7.50/dz.  
Italian Bread, \$2.50

<b>Assorted Stuffed Breads</b>			
Antipasta	\$16.00	Pepperoni & Cheese	\$15.00
Eggplant Parmesan	\$16.00	Chicken Parmesan	\$16.00
Buffalo Chicken	\$16.00	Broccoli Sausage & Cheese	\$16.00
Spinach & Cheese	\$15.00	Spin, Sausage & Cheese	\$16.00

Full Stuffed Bread Menu is also available to order.  
*To ensure availability, please place orders by December 21st.*

**Holiday Store Hours**  
Tuesday December 19th, thru Friday December 22nd 7:30 - 3:00  
Saturday, December 23rd 8:00 - 3:00  
Sunday, December 24th - 8:00 - 2:00  
Monday 25th thru Thursday December 28th - CLOSED