



# Totoket Times

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Volume 32 No 5 December 19, 2025



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Next issue of the Times will be January 9, 2026, Deadline will be January 2, 2026

### TOTOKET TIMES

Deadline		Publication Date	
January	2	January	9
January	16	January	23
January	30	February	6
February	13	February	20
February	27	March	6
March	13	March	20
March	27	April	3



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



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E-MAIL:  
Mase\_attorney@sbcglobal.net

Thank You.

On Nov 14th the Jonathan R. Boughton Scholarship Corp. hosted its third annual fundraising event. And it was an amazing success! We raised over \$20,000!! Next year we will add yet another school to our award list. This makes for a total of four schools, and 8 awards! \$12000! In 2026! All thanks to supporters like you! Thank you all for your help and support, and see you next year!!

Celebrate Safely

Dear Editor:

With the holidays approaching, many of us are looking forward to celebrations with friends and family. As you gather with loved ones to spread cheer or raise a glass to the new year, remember to encourage those around you to make responsible choices when it comes to alcohol.

Throughout this holiday season, Anheuser-Busch and Dichello Distributors are honored to be a part of your festivities and are committed to helping ensure that your time-honored traditions are celebrated safely. That's why we're encouraging everyone in Connecticut to Decide to Ride by planning ahead for a safe ride home from all your holiday gatherings.

Over the last 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. This holiday season, all of us at Dichello Distributors are proud to partner with Anheuser-Busch, MADD and Uber to promote Decide to Ride, the safe choice after a night out.

We extend our deepest gratitude to every community member who embraced this message in 2025 and wish you a joyful holiday season!

Sincerely,  
Geoffrey Acampora  
Dichello Distributors.



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## State Representative Vincent Candelora PURA's Pattern of Problems Demands Legislative Investigation



Eagle-eyed watchers of state government might've caught a recent news report about the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) and the "public benefits" portion of our electric bills.

A Hartford advocacy organization called the Nonprofit Accountability Group (NAG) has received nearly \$200,000 in ratepayer funds through PURA, made

possible by 2023 legislation. The money covered people in "environmental justice" communities to attend advocacy workshops—including completion bonuses, travel and food stipends, and childcare payments. The organization's director and others, including a Hartford city councilwoman, were paid thousands to coordinate sessions for a dozen or so participants, according to the CT Inside Investigator report.

While encouraging civic participation is laudable, I didn't vote for that bill, and I'm not sure anyone ratepayers would appreciate public benefits charges being used this way—especially when you and your neighbors are squeezed by high electric bills. What's more, given that federal investigators are already examining how some Hartford-area organizations received and spent state funding, who can blame ratepayers for having their fur up on this?

That's why I recently called for the legislature's Government Oversight Committee to hold hearings on PURA—not just on NAG funding, but on a troubling pattern at the agency.

Recently, a Superior Court judge issued an extraordinary rebuke of PURA, finding the agency's information so unreliable he could not exercise his judicial authority fairly. The judge referred PURA's general counsel and an assistant attorney general—the AG's office represented PURA in its legal wrangling with utilities—to the state's attorney discipline system for potential sanctions. Overall, some of the general issues uncovered during the high-profile court case: automatic deletion of public records, concealment of evidence, and apparent coordination between PURA's former chair and legislative leaders. Former Chairman Marissa Gillett already faces a \$1,000 fine from the Freedom of Information Commission.

This isn't just bureaucratic dysfunction—it directly undermines public confidence in an agency that makes decisions affecting what every Connecticut household and business pays for electricity.

Connecticut ratepayers deserve answers: What systemic failures allowed this behavior? Who was involved in the deletion of records and concealment of evidence? How are ratepayer-funded programs being awarded and spent? And what reforms are necessary to prevent this from happening again? This is an issue not just for the courts, but for legislators whose responsibility it is to vote for PURA commissioners and whose constituents are ratepayers.

The funding for NAG—registered as an LLC, not a nonprofit—shows why scrutiny matters. The organization requested \$9,000 to draft testimony for a docket that wasn't even accepting written comments, \$2,000 for filing fees PURA doesn't charge, and \$5,000 for overhead that the state's Office of Consumer Counsel said "should not be funded by ratepayers."

Residential and commercial ratepayers saddled with high monthly utility bills deserve a regulatory agency they can trust to make decisions based on facts and law—not one that operates in the shadows, misleads the courts, and rubber-stamps questionable spending. While the resignation of former Chairman Gillett was a positive development, only a thorough legislative inquiry into what transpired can provide the accountability ratepayers deserve.

Now, the ball is in the court of the president of the State Senate and the Speaker of the House. They can compel the Government Oversight Committee to hold the hearing. You can review my full hearing request letter at [repcandelora.com](http://repcandelora.com).

**Rep. Vincent Candelora**  
**House Republican Leader**

**86th Assembly District**

**North Branford, Durham, East Haven, Guilford**

## 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. MERRY CHRISTMAS

I'll see you soon.




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

### 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





NORTH BRANFORD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL PERIOD I HONORS

Grade 8 High Honors

Allen, Cameron Sean  
Altland, Noelle  
Ames, Eden Maci  
Aneiro, Hayden  
Bayreuther, Harrison  
Bernardo, Talia Rose  
Bonaldo, Brooke Marie  
Brown, Aubrey  
Brown, Randall Philip  
Calvo, Allison Rose  
Ciancola, Tyler  
Claude, Mason Noah  
Connelly, Emma Rose  
Constantinople, Isabella  
Cook, Owen Paul  
Coplin, Rya Nicole  
Cretella, Sofia  
Doughty, Eli Joseph  
Furtak, Lilliana  
Gularte, Madison  
Hollenbeck, Heidi  
Hurley, Aishlyn  
Kleckner, Zoey Nicole  
Lavoie, Brooklyn  
Leete, Norah Shea  
Lucibello, Amalia  
Martinelli, Nathaniel  
Martinez, Emma Rose  
Maybury, Myla Blake  
Morrell, Reagan  
Murphy, Madeline  
Paul, Emma

Pelczar, Anna  
Ritter, Joseph  
Saccu, Mason  
Saja, Austin Martin  
Salvati, Isabella  
Savo, Andrew  
Tobias, Julia Isabelle  
Toti, Giuliana Lidia  
Velasco, Samantha  
Venturini, Nino  
Wheaton, Mara  
Wyatt, Coltyn Jason

Grade 7 High Honors

Anderson, Rocco  
Bernier, Ava  
Bevilacqua, Mariachiar  
Brindisi, Livia Joy  
Bronit, Mila Cataleya  
Brown, Adriana Marie  
Buchter, Alana Marie  
Buontempo, Mila Elle  
Byrd, Jeremiah Robert  
Cahill, Cooper Flynn  
Camp, Geneviese Rose  
Camp, Madison Rose  
Cifaldi, Madison Taylor  
Connellan, Emma  
Cousino, Giulia  
Crane, Jackson  
DeMartino, Logan  
Estrada, Valentina  
Falcigno, Luciana  
Farotti, Jackson

Forsyth, McKayla  
Fusco-Cuneo, Gavin  
Garcia, Rose Anna  
Girardi, Taylor Sutton  
Gularte, Emma Victoria  
Horn, Aubrey Claire  
imenez, Skylah Idalis  
Longley, Preslie James  
Mazzucco, Jason  
Melillo, Anderson  
Page, Cody Robert  
Peterson, Tristan Davis  
Piekarski, Hayden Lee

Rapuano, Topanga  
Reding, Jacqueline  
Romano, Ella Marie  
Russo, Vada Lillian  
Salz, Hailey Marie  
Sciuto, Brooke Helen  
Sermabekian, Victoria  
Sherwood, Logan  
Shove, Carter  
Skinner, LilyAnn  
Smith, Mason Allan  
Sorrentino, Nicholas  
Stadolnik, Peter John  
Stavrides, Eva Taylor  
Tracz, Bennett Reide  
Tracz, Parker Weldon  
Verzi, Mitchell Allan  
Weld, Emmy Bree  
Wenzel, Isabella Sloane  
Wood, Fiona Elizabeth

Grade 6 High Honors

Allen, Reagan Mae  
Barrett, Keegan Jace

Broderick, Adeline Eve  
Camejo, Calia Kathryn  
Cerrone, Aviela Sandy  
Conway, Avery Belle  
DeFrancesco, Farah  
DiLungo, Ariana  
Dowson, Callie  
Fernandez, Lilliana  
Furtak, Caden Perry  
Gambardella, Grace  
Giannopoulos, Angelo  
Gregorio Diaz, Jenxiel  
Hewitt, Ada May  
Kavanaugh, Ryan Felix  
Knoob, Bryce Adrian  
Kundrath, Nathan  
Lovelace, Eden Rae  
Manner, Addison Mia  
Manning, Olive  
Maybury, Addie  
Mignosa, Paige  
Miller, Aubrey Rose  
Moroniti, Vincenzo  
Morrell, Natalie Grace  
Mothnna, Julie  
OGrady, Dylan  
Page, Hailey May  
Palladino, Ava Grace  
Paradis, Carmen  
Raza, Ahmed  
Reyes, Alexander  
Rivera, Estrella  
Rolston, Rylan  
Salvati, Luciano  
Salz, Violet Anne  
Scali, Daniel Joseph

Schreiner, Noah Finn  
Sorrell, Benjamin  
Swanson, Rowan e  
Toman, Connor  
Vongher, Cole Sosuke  
Vongher, Walter  
Wright, Penelope  
Grade 8 Honors  
Behrens, Annaliese  
Budd, Lillian Mary  
Carter, Liviana  
Casella, Matteo Gaetano  
Casteel, Jerimiah  
Cerrone, Santino  
Duggan, Cashel Sean  
Elliston, Aden John  
Esposito, Lily Amelia  
Gauvin, Presley Jude  
Guarderas Soto, Danna  
Mejia Vargas, Iker  
Muratti, Luciana  
Nocereto, Brooke  
Pizarro, Liangeliz  
Reding, Alexander  
Richardson, Breanna  
Rodriguez Robles,  
Sciuto, Abbey Lynn  
Walston, David  
Grade 7 Honors  
Amendola, Madelynn  
Arabolos, Isabella  
Bayusik, Hailey  
Beauchemin, Jackson  
Biron, Gabriella Lucia  
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Busetta, Gianna Marie  
Cabrera Puente,  
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Casteel, Jaire  
Cushen, Ace Phillip  
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Fortier, Daniel

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Guerra, Charlotte  
Karbowsk, Kaci  
Knowlton, Matthew  
Kokorus, Alexander  
Mastriano, Mila Paige  
Nunez, Liam Alexis  
Ranz, Anastasia Mae  
Reynolds, Kassidy  
Sampson, Giavanna  
Sommo, Louis Michael  
Soto, Annabella Grace  
Vitale, Michael Brandon  
Wilson, Payton Sophia  
Yanza-Rivera, Delilah  
Yarnall, Travis Kellan  
Grade 6 honros  
Apicella, Alexa Patricia  
Buffaloe, AmberRose  
Calvo, Taylor Emma  
Chamberlain, Asher  
Colafati, Xavier  
Conte, Paul Jeffery  
D Aria, Liliana  
Downes, Andrew Alan  
Forgione, Gabriellh  
Forsyth, Hailey Jean  
Giovanni, Penelope  
Hall, Catherine Rose  
Heon, Faye Victoria  
Jennings, Thomas  
Kelly, Charlie RYanne  
MacKenzie, Everett  
Miller, Hailey Madison  
Moalli, Giovanni  
Piche, Stella Viola  
Pinto, Camilo Alfredo  
Redman, Kathleen Mae  
Rodriguez, Noah  
Rondon, Leannie Nicole  
Urbina, Maximiliano  
Vizueta, Anjali Samara



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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!

Hope Christian Church (we are an Assemblies of God affiliated church) 211 Montowese Ave., North Haven C T [www.hopeag.com](http://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@cbcbbranford.org](mailto:info@cbcbbranford.org); [www.cbcbbranford.org](http://www.cbcbbranford.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](mailto: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.northfordcommunity.church](http://www.northfordcommunity.church).

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday brunch, charity work, book club, praise team, men’s fellowship and more. To contact our church: Office hours are Wednesday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Phone: 203.488.8456, email: [nobdcong@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nobdcong@sbcglobal.net), website: [www.northbranfordcongregational.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.saintjohnsguilford.org)

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 . 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](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

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

St. Ambrose & St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parishes  
invite you to join us to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior!

Christmas Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE , DECEMBER 24

4:00 PM | Prelude music begins at 3:30

St. Augustine Church | 30 Caputo Rd. North Branford  
St. Barnabas Church | 44 Washington Ave. North Haven  
St. Therese Church | 555 Middletown Ave. North Haven

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

8:00 AM | St. Barnabas Church | 44 Washington Ave. North Haven  
9:00 AM St. Therese Church | 555 Middletown Ave. North Haven  
10:00a | St. Monica | 1321 Middletown Ave. Northford



NORTH BRANFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT



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TO ORDER SEND  
US A MESSAGE



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*The Birth of Jesus Luke 2:1-20*

1. In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

2. (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

3. And everyone went to their own town to register.

4. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

6. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,

7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

9. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

11Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

12. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14. “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

15. When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

17. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,

18. and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

20. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



**To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of North Branford, Connecticut.**

**Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State Election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on January 7, 2026, 6 PM at Stanley T. Williams Community Center, 1332 Middletown Avenue, Northford to endorse candidates for the Democratic Town Committee and to transact other business as may be proper to come before such caucus.**

**Democratic Town Committee of North Branford:**

**Judy Bannon - Chairperson,**

**Elisabeth Caplan - Treasurer**

**Recycling News**

**Christmas Day and New Year’s Day are Trash Holidays**

**Pickups will be delayed 1 day after the holiday for these 2 weeks.**

**Christmas Tree Pickup – January 5-16, 2026**

**On your scheduled pickup day.**

**The 2026 Recycling/Trash Information Card will be in your January Totoket Times. Please look for it and save it for a reference to all the trash/recycling events all year.**

**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.**

**Can I recycle it?**

**Connecticut has a website to help with recycling questions: [www.recyclect.com](http://www.recyclect.com).**

**They also have an app.**

**For more information about recycling in North Branford you can check out North Branford’s Recycling Committee’s website: <https://www.northbranfordct.gov/245/SolidHazardous-Waste-Recycling-Committee>**

**or our Facebook page: North Branford CT Hazardous Waste & Recycling Committee**

**Thank You for Your Participation**





# NORTH BRANFORD PARKS, RECREATION, AND SENIOR CENTER

STW COMMUNITY CENTER • 1332 MIDDLETOWN AVE NORTHFORD

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*Thank you to our Fireworks Sponsors!*

Your contribution made this years Tree Lighting extra magical!



We would also like to thank the North Branford Public Works department, North Branford Rotary Club, North Branford Police Department, North Branford Fire Department, Cliff Potter for the Hay Rides, Ice Matters, The North Branford High School Choir, the food trucks, Pyrotecnico for another amazing Fireworks display, Beyond the Horizon, Will Dellacamera, our MC for the evening – Mike Prodoti, and of course... Santa and Mrs. Claus!

## Winter Break PARK & REC DAYS

Winter Break just got a little bit COOLER! Come join us for 2 days of fun! Each day will offer a different theme with corresponding games, activities and crafts! Full details on our website!

**Monday December 29, 2025**

**Friday December 30, 2025**

**8:30am - 4:30pm**

STW Community Center

**\$35 per day**

Lunch included! Register by 12/19



## INDOOR FIELD HOCKEY WINTER CLINIC

**STW COMMUNITY CENTER GYM/CAFE - JAN 07 - 28**  
**GRADES 1-5 - 5:30-6:30PM - \$40 RES/\$45 NR**

Instructor: Cheryl Canada, Connecticut Field Hockey Hall of Fame recipient, Former Division I Associate Head Coach, USA Field Hockey Level II Accreditation, CPR and First Aid Certified

Description: Join us for small games and scrimmage play! Open to boys and girls of all skill levels that are new to the sport or looking to enhance their skill level. This clinic is designed to develop the basic skills each athlete has by focusing on tactical game awareness, 1v1 defense, elevated passing, elimination and shooting skills. This clinic is fun, exciting, and creates player synergy no matter what age or skill level. Equipment needed: Stick, mouth guard, shin guards. Sticks can be provided if necessary - Please let us know at time of registration.



## A SENSORY FRIENDLY SANTA EVENT

This event is in partnership with Beyond the Horizon for individuals in our special needs community and Kimberly Inglis Photography.

**Saturday December, 20th**  
**10:00-11:30am**

STW Classroom - FREE

Please register for a photo time slot.

Pictures with Santa will be emailed to each participant.

This is a free event, however cash donations will be kindly accepted for Beyond the Horizon.

Register by 12/11



## — SENIOR CENTER —

### SENIOR CENTER NOON YEAR'S EVE LUNCH

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

**January 6, 2025 \$5 (register by 1/2)**

### FUNCTIONAL FITNESS (NEW!)

**Thursdays Jan 8- Feb 12**

**1:00 - 2:00pm - STW Yoga Room - \$30res / \$35nr**

Instructor: Adrienne Patrella

This class will focus on strength building, flexibility, coordination, agility, balance and brain exercises.

### MOHEGAN SUN BUS TRIP

**Monday, January 12 - 8:00am - 4:00pm**

**\$20 res / \$25 nr**

If you are meeting at the STW Community Center, we will be leaving at 8:00 a.m. Departs Mohegan at 2:30pm

Please register by 1/9

### COFFEE TALK

Join us for coffee and catch up with friends. Learn about what we've been doing at the Senior Center and offer suggestions for trips or programs. This is a casual, fun social activity for all.

**January 7, 2026**

STW Senior Room 11:00-11:30pm Register by 1/5



### SENIOR CENTER VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE

**FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

**1:30 - 3:30PM - \$5**

Departs STW at 12:30pm  
Approximate return 4:30pm.

Lauralton Hall Key Club Valentine's Day Dance for the senior center community! Featuring lively music entertainment by DJ Buddha, light refreshments, and an opportunity to tour Lauralton's Victorian Gothic Pond-Taylor mansion. A student choreographer will be offer free dance lessons!  
Register by 1/30



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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"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 Brnaford  
203-484-0330 CT lic # 0011402  
**2025 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.  
**Cannoli Cake -** Vanilla cake filled with Cannoli cream, then frosted with whipped cream.  
**Assorted Italian Holiday Cookie Platters -** \$19.25 per pound.  
**Assorted Italian Pastry**  
**Pies \$18.00 -** Apple, Chocolate Lemon, Chocolate Cream  
**Cheesecakes 8" \$35.00 10" \$45.00**

**New Your Style Cheesecake w/strawberries or cherries**  
**Rasberry Swirl Cheeseckae drizzled with chocolate ganache**  
**Chocolate Ganache Cheesecake - Plain New York style cheesecake drizzled with chocolate ganache and topped with Chocolate Mousse.**  
**Breads -** Snowflake Dinner Rolls \$7.50/dz., Italian Bread, \$2.50 Chicola Bread \$10.00  
**Ciabatta Antipasto - only available December 23rd & 24th Pickup**  
A Stunning Holiday centerpce wih an assortment of cheeses, meats, marinated vegetables and olives, all served on fresh baked ciabatta bread.  
**Store Made Lasagna only available for December 23rd & 24th Pickup**  
Layers of fresh pasta, ricotta cheese, mozzarella and house made meat sauce. Full pan \$95. Half Pan \$65  
**Store Made Manicotti only available for December 23rd & 24th Pickup.**  
Fresh Pasta stuffed with ricotta cheese and mozzarella then topped with house made tomato sauce. Full Pan \$75. Half Pan \$55.00  
**Assorted Stuffed Breads**  
Pepperoni & Cheese, Eggplant Parmesan, Buffalo Chicken, Spinach & Cheese \$16.00  
Chicken Parmesan, Spinach, Sausage & Cheese, Broccoli, Sausage & Cheese, Antipasta Bread \$17.50  
Full Stuffed Bread menu is also avaiable to order!  
**To ensure availability, please place orders by 12/21**  
**Store Hours -** Monday, 12-22, Tuesday, 12-23 7:30 - 3:00  
Wednesday December 24th - 8:00 - 3:00  
Thursday December 25th - Monday, December 29th Closed



**Order Christmas Desserts Early!**  
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