



Totoket Times

www.totokettimes.com

For Our Town From Our Town

PRST/STD
U.S. POSTAGE
Paid
Branford, CT 06405
Permit # 131
Car-Rt-Sort

Postal Customer

Volume 32 No 5 December 19, 2025



MERRY CHRISTMAS - HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Thank you for your support
for your Hometown Newspaper**

IF YOU FORGOT, THERE IS STILL TIME to help support the



“Your Town newspaper by making a voluntary payment. The postage is \$1,200. per issue and the printing is close to \$1,000.

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

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

Totoket Times, PO Box 313, Northford, CT 06472
or VENMO Frank-Mentone-1

Name _____

Address _____

Amt _____



**KEEP THE HOME FIRES
BURNING**

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



Amic Willhite, Owner

1179 Foxon Rd. (Rt. 80/22)
North Branford, CT 06471
(203) 484-7474

New and Used Guns • Bought • Sold • Traded

Table of Contents

Editorial	Pages	2 - 3
School	Page	4
Sports	Page	4
Community	Page	5
Church	Page	6
Recreation	Page	7
Classified	Page	8

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

Vincent J. Mase, Sr.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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

999 Foxon Road
Unit 10
North Branford, Ct
Tel: 203-484-4403
Fax 203-484-4404
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!

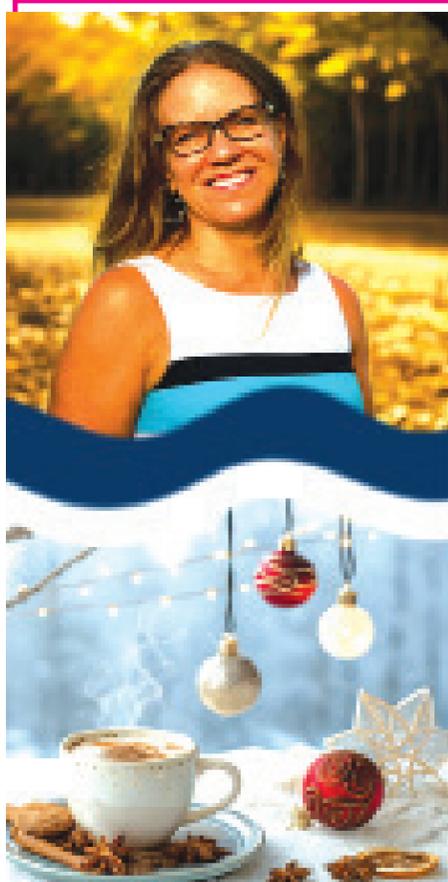
Sincerely,
Geoffrey Acampora
Dichello Distributors.



Hair Care for Men & Women!



Hours of Operation
Tuesday 1-5 PM
Wednesday - Friday 9AM - 5PM
Saturday 9AM - 3PM
1717 Foxon Rd. (Rte 80) - North Branford (in The Keybank Plaza)
203-488-6959



YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE EXPERT



Home feels different this time of year.

If a change has been on your mind, let's map out what makes the most sense for you.

Call or text Kim Dawson for your next move.

KIM DAWSON

203.481.4605

Kim@CoastalCTHomes.com

Real Broker CT, LLC
646.859.2368

real Military



MARC GUERTIN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

WILLS & TRUSTS
ASSET PROTECTION
ESTATE PLANNING

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

Sit & Stay
Dog Grooming, LLC



\$5.00 Off \$45. Service One per Family Expires 1-31-26

1387 Middletown Ave.
Northford, Ct 06472
Phone: 203-484-PAWS - (203-484-7297)

GPM HOME SERVICES
QUALITY - HONESTY - INTEGRITY

RESIDENTIAL REMODELING
KITCHENS - BATHROOMS - WINDOWS - DOORS

Gregg Muzyka
Northford, CT
HIC: 0636143

(203) 410-9261
www.gpmhomeservices.com



MILLPOND GATHERINGS

GRILL & CHILL

PATIO PARTY EVERY THURSDAY
\$29 All you can eat Cookout!

Gather at Millpond



BIRTHDAYS
SHOWERS
GRADUATIONS
MEETINGS
& MORE!

Custom menus available for your Special Occasion!
(203) 714-4700

1565 MIDDLETOWN AVE., NORTHFORD | MILLPONDGATHERINGS.COM

PORTO FUNERAL HOME



234 Foxon Road (RT. 80) | East Haven
203-467-3000

info@portofuneralhomes.net
www.portofuneralhomes.net

Offering assistance with:
Pre-Planning • Pre-Financing • Burials • Cremation
Directors: Clement L. DeLucia | Albert M. DeLucia

ESTABLISHED 1931

SERVING NEW HAVEN COUNTY SINCE 1931

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.

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.

Varsha Salani D.M.D., LLC

State of the Art Dentistry
Emphasizing Cosmetics in a
Therapeutic Environment

**Don't wait any longer.
Call for an appointment today**
Let us show you what our all female
state-of-the-art cosmetic dentistry
can do for you.

- Whitening - Smile Design
- Painless Gentle Dentistry

Come see us at our new location!
185 Maple Ave., North Haven, CT
Varsha Salani, D.M.D., LLC
(203) 234-1901

This publication is published bi-weekly by
Doss Enterprises LLC
PO Box 313 Northford, CT. 06472
Tel; 203-410-4254
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.

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, Mariachiara
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, Julianna
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
Mothna, Julie
O'Grady, 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
Bradley, Aubrey Mae
Busetta, Gianna Marie
Cabrera Puente,
Antonella Jamilett
Caffalette, Preston
Casteel, Jaire
Cushen, Ace Phillip
Dotson, Natalie
Fortier, Daniel

Fryer, Avery Caro
Guerra, Charlotte
Karbowski, Kaci
Knowlton, Matthew
Kokorus, Alexander
Mastriano, Mila Paige
Nunez, Liam Alexis
Ranz, Anastasia Mae
Reynolds, Cassidy
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, Gabrielh
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



State of the Art Dentistry
Emphasizing Cosmetics in a
Therapeutic Environment



**Don't wait any longer.
Call for an appointment today**
Let us show you what our all female
state-of-the-art cosmetic dentistry
can do for you.

- Whitening - Smile Design
- Painless Gentle Dentistry

Come see us at our new location!
185 Maple Ave., North Haven, CT
Varsha Salani, D.M.D., LLC
(203) 234-1901



**NORTH BRANFORD
BARBERSHOP**

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

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

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



Connecticut Sportsplex®

FIELDHOUSE FAMILY FUN CENTER

LASER TAG BIRTHDAY PARTIES
LASER TAG GROUP OUTINGS

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

203-484-4383
www.ctsportsplex.com




HOLIDAY SHOPPING?

Gift Certificates Available

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



Glass Dance Studio
1999 Foxon Road, North Branford
glassdancestudio.com
860-614-4816

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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**



**SUPER BOWL STUFFED
BREADS FUNDRAISER**

TO ORDER SEND US A MESSAGE 

Scan to connect with our Facebook Page 

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.

11 Today 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."

13 Suddenly 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.

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

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

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

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!

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



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.



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 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

ELECTRICIAN

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

PLUMBING

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

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

Home Improvements - Ceiling & wall repairs. Water damage repairs. Drywall - Doors - Trim - Windows - Winter Rates. Free Estimates. Insured. Call Bill at 203-901-2126.

Deck & Porch Work - Decks - Porches - Railings - Stairs - Columns - Concrete Piers - New or repairs. Wood or composite decking. Winter rates. Insured. Call Bill at 203-901-2126..



Order Christmas Desserts Early!
Featuring Our Rudolph Cake!

www.j-cakes.com • 203-488-2800
5 Foxon Road, North Branford (Farm River Plaza)



CELEBRATE Life!
Keenan Funeral Home, Inc.
238 Elm Street West Haven, CT 06516
330 Notch Hill Rd North Branford, CT 06471
Every life is unique. Every goodbye, special.

Cremation Burial
Veteran Services

PREPLAN AND SAVE!! CALL NOW: (203) 933-1217
EMAIL US: WeCare@KeenanFuneralHome.com

★★★★★
"Keenan Funeral Home was truly amazing and very attentive to all of our needs. Thank you Keenan, for being there in our most painful time."
"I truly cannot say enough how grateful my family and I are to Keenan for their exceptional service. From the moment we met to make arrangements to the actual service, they were great. There was no financial pressures, our limits were respected, and everything was said outright."
"Beautiful and peaceful space, staff was very kind and sympathetic... Their kindness will not be forgotten."

Scan below to visit our website!!



999 Foxon Road, North 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
Raspberry Swirl Cheesecake 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 available 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