



# Totoket Times

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Volume 29 No 11, December 16, 2022



## MERRY CHRISTMAS

### Keep the Home Fires Burning!

It's that time of year again. Postage and printing costs have gone up two (possibly three times, I've lost track) in 2022. Both are around a 13% increase. Many local businesses would rather go on social media and get 100 hits instead of the 6,500 they would get from the Totoket Times. They also don't see that by advertising they are also helping get information out to the community which supports them.

Through all this, the Times continues to print more than 85% information against less than 15% income through ad revenue, as well as countless FREE public service announcements.

**We can only continue with your help.** Once again I am asking our readers to support their local newspaper with a voluntary payment. Many of you were kind enough last year to send \$10.00 or \$25.00 (more if you would like). Nothing is too small, nothing is too big to help keep the presses running. Do what you can and I will continue to do what I can.

### Keep the Home Fires Burning!

For your convenience we also take VENMO. Frank-Mentone-1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Let's Be "Frank"

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 so 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

*continued on page 3*

#### TOTOKET TIMES

Deadline		Publication Date	
December	31	January	6
January	13	January	20
January	27	February	3
February	10	February	17
February	24	March	3
March	10	March	17
March	24	March	31

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#### Table of Contents

Editorial	Pages 2 - 4
School	Page 5
Christmas	Page 6
Park Rec	Page 7
Classified	Page 8





**Thank You Candelora Family**  
**Dear Editor:**

On behalf of Kingdom Builder Ministries, and the core event committee along with the amazing group of volunteers we would like to say Thank You to the Candelora Family and the Ct Sportsplex.

On Friday November 18<sup>th</sup>. 2022 we had the privilege to host a **“Hope for Tomorrow”** fundraiser in honor of Jeff DeFrancesco, in support of his Fiancé Kate and their 2 children Brody (8) and Kallie (3)

This event was a wonderful success. We were blessed to see over 500 people attend with an outpouring of support from families of various towns,

businesses and of course our amazing home town of North Branford. We could not have made this event the success it was, had it not been for the loving, caring, and giving people who attended.

We want to extend a special thank all our Sponsors for their relentless effort to share with us in bringing hope in the midst of sadness.

Having said that, this entire event was only made possible by the tremendous donation from the Candelora Family, and the use of the entire Ct Sportsplex. Your gift of kindness and generosity is not only appreciated but is also a staple of the kind of people you are, its people like you who keep us doing what we do for others who are hurting.

Thank You from the bottom of our hearts for

your support in making this event one that will forever touch the heart of Kate, Brody and Kallie.

**You are a blessing**  
**Sincerely**  
**Sam DeFrancesco**  
**President – Kingdom**  
**Builder Ministries.**



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## State Representative Vincent Candelora

### A Close Look at Public Safety and Judicial Policy Sorely Needed



Residents throughout Connecticut breathed a collective sigh of relief recently when law enforcement apprehended accused baby-killer Christopher Francisquini in Waterbury after a dogged two-week manhunt.

The headline-grabbing case involving Francisquini, alleged to have brutally killed his 11-month old daughter, Camilla, has again spotlighted the nooks and crannies of our criminal justice system

while also causing residents to ask why a man with a violent criminal record wasn't behind bars. According to published news reports, Naugatuck resident Francisquini was on special parole for a 2012 assault conviction and was also free on bonds totaling \$375,000 in connection with 2021 arrests on charges such as car-jacking and robbery. Before going on the run, Francisquini allegedly removed his GPS monitoring device.

The state's Office of the Child Advocate is investigating whether Francisquini was properly supervised as well as his release from prison. My colleagues in the General Assembly would also do well to ask questions in that vein.

Shortly after Francisquini's arrest, a television journalist asked me whether heinous crimes such as this should spur a conversation among legislators about reinstalling the death penalty, which was eliminated in 2012. Given that policies from the legislature have turned Connecticut's criminal justice system into a bit of a revolving door, I think that a discussion about deterrence should happen.

That conversation shouldn't stop there, though. The legislature should evaluate a host of policies surrounding public safety and judicial processes.

Recently, Waterbury police announced the arrests of several individuals tied to murders. The chief there, as reported by a local weekly paper, said it's time for the General Assembly to tackle loopholes in a criminal justice system that allows violent individuals to post bail and continue illegal behavior.

I couldn't agree more, though I'm skeptical that will happen. Many of my majority party colleagues are focused on bail reform aimed at keeping criminals out of a cell. That approach is a continuation from the overall philosophy from Democrats who exhibit little desire to change course from their years' long effort to make Connecticut a full-blown slap-on-the-wrist state.

Not long ago, Democrats adopted "Clean Slate" legislation to automatically erase convictions for a wide variety of misdemeanors and felonies after 7 to 10 years. Last week, as Gov. Lamont celebrated the erasure of thousands of marijuana convictions, state Judicial officials had significant questions about how to apply Clean Slate to other convictions. It was reported that the questions covered clerical matters to more complex concerns, such as how looming erasures could impact registration requirements for deadly weapon offenders or sex offenders.

Talk about delaying the full implementation of Clean Slate ensued. The first reaction from Democrats wasn't to talk about the importance of making sure their program didn't cause unintended problems, but that a delay would generate distrust among those expecting their criminal histories to evaporate.

Republicans, meanwhile, said discussion and even legislative action to provide the needed clarity was warranted during the 2023 session that starts Jan. 4.

I hope so. At some point, the legislature must rebalance the policy work to ensure its basic responsibility of making sure our communities are safe is given equal attention to the effort to help people who have broken the law.

### Frank continued

coffee and we had so much fun that for a while it became a tradition and she would call them every year to help us prepare.

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".

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**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.**

## Senator Cristine Cohen



For the second column in a row, I am happy to bring you more great news about Connecticut's financial situation and what the legislature is doing to make life even better for our residents!

As a member of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, I just attended a meeting releasing and reviewing Connecticut's 2022 "Fiscal Accountability Report". This report shows that Connecticut's budget is fully balanced through the 2025-26 fiscal year, with the current 2022-23 year

having a projected budget surplus of \$932 million in the General Fund and \$348 million in the Special Transportation Fund.

Additionally, our state budget reserve, also known as the Rainy Day Fund is fully funded to the 15% limit as required by law. We will make an additional \$2.7 billion payment toward legacy debt at the end of this fiscal year -- in addition to the \$4 billion in legacy pension payments already made this year -- and our long-term liabilities have been reduced by \$7.1 billion since the last report. Meanwhile, Connecticut's budget has not only *not grown* since 2012 when adjusted for inflation, it's actually 30% *below* where it should be if accounting for inflation over the past decade.

Spending is down and savings are up. Comments like that from the Republican Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Craig Miner indicating, "This is probably one of the best fiscal presentations I think I've heard", resonated throughout and following the meeting.

Meanwhile, the legislature just wrapped up a mostly bipartisan special session where we extended important cost-saving measures to a majority of state residents in the coming months. I took four specific votes late last month:

- I voted to retain the state's gas tax holiday -- which has saved residents 25 cents per gallon of fuel purchased since April 1 -- into the spring. This extension will save Connecticut motorists \$90 million through May 2023.

- Matching the gas tax holiday continuation, I voted to keep free bus fare available to state residents through April 1, 2023. This will save riders another \$10.8 million.

- I voted for an additional \$75 million to be put in the state's pandemic worker bonus fund, which will pay out bonuses of up to \$1,000 to more than 130,000 residents who worked in essential in-person roles from 2020 to 2021 during the pandemic.

- I voted for an additional \$30 million to the state's Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), on top of the \$97 million in state and federal aid already dedicated to supporting Connecticut residents struggling with heating costs.

I've also written the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) asking it to hold a joint hearing with Massachusetts and New Hampshire regulators -- the additional states where Eversource operates - regarding Eversource's proposed electric rate increase. I hope such a hearing can shine some light on Eversource's energy procurement strategies.

All of this is great news as we head into the holiday season. I hope it provides you with some peace of mind about Connecticut and our great quality of life here as we prepare to spend some precious time with family, friends and loved ones.

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 to 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 all 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 neighbor-

*continued on page 5*

### 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





## For the Health of It...

### My Holiday Gift to You!



One Sunday morning in October, I went to visit a friend who loves anything “pumpkin spice” so I brought some homemade pumpkin spice muffins and pumpkin chocolate chip cookies. There were three of us enjoying a really nice visit and a few laughs. I mentioned it was my first time making the muffins (since then, I’ve improved the recipe). My friend took one bite, looked at me in complete surprise and said it was delicious. She then admitted she was hesitant to try one because she thought it would “taste healthy.” She tried it anyway as a polite gesture and was glad she did. I laughed because it wasn’t the first time I’ve heard that. In many

ways we’ve been conditioned to think healthy means sacrificing taste and pleasure - that healthy is no fun! I respectfully disagree. “Healthy” *can* be delicious and something to look forward to!

This visit with friends inspired my holiday gift to you, a few recipes and a challenge (more on that later)! You’ll find these recipes range from something that will help you stay fueled through the season’s hustle & bustle, to a quick and easy main course, something sweet, and a mocktail/cocktail - the choice is yours. In most cases I have done some tweaking of a basic recipe to make it my own, either to get a good balance going or to simplify it. As far as I’m concerned, simple is the key, especially this time of year.

#### Tuscan Shrimp With White Beans and Tomatoes Over Arugula

*This delicious meal is easy, makes a great presentation and is big on flavor! My niece once served it minus the shrimp as a warm salad choice at a buffet dinner and I was an immediate fan. The addition of the shrimp makes it a complete meal.*

Sauté 2 cloves of crushed garlic in a medium skillet with 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Add in a 15 oz can of no salt added diced tomatoes, 1 tsp of dried sage, 1 tsp of dried thyme, 3 tablespoons of white wine and simmer for 2-3 minutes. Stir in a well rinsed can of organic low sodium navy beans with 3 tablespoons chopped fresh basil. Simmer 3-4 more minutes. Add in raw shrimp and simmer for an additional 5-7 minutes. Serve over a bed of arugula. Optional: can top with shaved Parmesan cheese.

#### Dark Chocolate Pomegranate Bites

*Simple and festive! Pomegranate seeds are packed with antioxidants but don’t let that fool you, they are delicious! I like to seed a pomegranate myself but seeds are sold separately for a time saving option. These measurements are not exact (I take after my mom in that regard) but have no fear, the recipe is forgiving so adjust accordingly. Leftover pomegranate seeds make a good snack, oatmeal*

*topping or yogurt add-in.*

2 cups pomegranate seeds - 8 oz dark chocolate chips

Mini cupcake papers (parchment type if possible) Line a muffin tin with cupcake papers and fill ½ with pomegranate seeds. Melt chocolate chips in the microwave at 30 second intervals, stirring in between. Use a small spoon to pour chocolate over seeds. Refrigerate for at least one hour before serving. After removing from the fridge, serve immediately. I found they keep well in the fridge for up to a week if in an airtight container, can also be frozen.

**Cranberry Margarita Spritzer** *A version of this festive drink was the “Bride’s Signature Cocktail” at my daughter’s wedding.*

1.5 oz Silver Tequila (can substitute with vodka or leave out the alcohol all together)

A quick pour of Cranberry Juice

Cranberry-Lime flavored seltzer

Squeeze of fresh lime juice

Muddled mint leaves

Pour over ice in a tall glass

Garnish with more mint leaves and fresh cranberries-enjoy!

#### Chocolate Mint Protein Shake

*I’ll be honest, I left this recipe for last for a good reason - I didn’t think it would hold your interest if I listed it first. But, when we’re out shopping all day or running around checking off “to do” list items, we might forget a very important thing to do - eat! Having something portable and nutritious on hand is important. It serves the body well and helps to keep blood sugar balanced. This tasty shake can be enjoyed hot or cold and is a perfect “grab & go” option. Use a personal size blender and mix the following ingredients:*

1 cup non dairy milk (I use almond milk)

1 serving of your favorite chocolate protein powder

¼-½ tsp peppermint extract

½ of a banana (optional)

1 tablespoon of almond or peanut butter

3 ice cubes

Blend and pour into a to-go bottle. If going with the hot option, make sure it’s a thermal bottle and that the shake is safely heated in the microwave after blending.

So now for the challenge! Give a recipe a makeover. Take a recipe that you might consider to be “off limits” at those times when you’re trying to be more mindful of food choices, and modify it into a healthier version. It’s easier than it may sound. Usually it just takes some minor adjustments but the finished product needs to be big on flavor. Email your recipe to joann@wellnessfusion.net to be eligible for a drawing. Please put “Recipe Makeover” in the subject line. The winner of the drawing will get to choose one of three prizes. All who submit recipes will receive a participation prize.

What do you think? Are you up for the challenge?

Wishing you and yours a very happy and healthy holiday!

**JoAnn Begley is a Certified Health & Nutrition Coach who has practiced holistic therapies for more than 20 years. She and her husband Jerry have two children and live in North Branford.**



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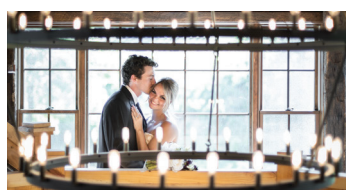
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## NBEF Breakfast with Santa

Santa and his elves (NBIS Honor Society students) were a big help at the recent North Branford Education Foundation Breakfast with Santa. The

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district music departments performed for the attendees and close to 300 people enjoyed a morning of music and a tremendous breakfast by chef Michael Augur.

The event is one of several, run by the NBEF to raise money for grants for teaching projects that don’t fall into the BOE budget.

Anyone interested in joining the organization or making a donation is asked to call Frank Mentone at 203-410-4254.



LEGAL NOTICE  
OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR  
TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

Taxpayers, residents and non-residents of the Town of North Branford are hereby notified that the second installment of Real Estate, Motor Vehicle, and Personal Property taxes on the October 1, 2021 Grand List for the Town of North Branford, are due and payable on January 1, 2023. Payments will be received up to and including February 1, 2023 without interest. Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills pursuant to Section 12-71B will be due and payable in one installment on January 1, 2023. Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax includes vehicles registered between October 2, 2021 and July 31, 2022. Taxes are considered delinquent as of February 2, 2023, unless POSTMARKED FEBRUARY 1, 2023, and will be charged 1½ % interest per month, from the due date, or a minimum of \$2.00. All delinquent Motor Vehicle files will be sent to the DMV for non-renewal of their registrations. You may pay your tax bill in person at the Tax Collector’s Office at the North Branford Town Hall, 909 Foxon Road, North Branford. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tax Payments on Real Estate, Personal Property, Motor Vehicle and Supplemental MV can also be made with credit card, debit card or an electronic fund transfer from your checking account by going to the Town of North Branford’s website, [www.townofnorthbranfordct.com](http://www.townofnorthbranfordct.com), and go to the link for online services or in the tax office. There is a fee for this service. If payments are made by mail and a receipt is required, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope along with the tax bill and check made payable to the Tax Collector, Town of North Branford. Mail must be postmarked no later than midnight February 1, 2023. **Postmarks after February 1, 2023 are considered late and will be charged interest from January 1, 2023.** If you have misplaced your tax bill, call the Tax Collector’s Office at 203-484-6011. Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or any interest that may accrue per State Statutes 12-130 and 12-145.

**Michael Downes Town Manager**  
**Dated at North Branford December 16, 2022**

(Frank continued)

hood 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.

It still starts with the Mass. I still sing my “O Holy Night Solo”, (the vocie is one of the few things that still works) and then it’s on to family dinner. The presents have gone back to being like the old days and we try to limit them. It gives us more time to sit around the table and celebrate. The food is limited (see a prior letter on family diets) but the love is still strong. We still visit some of the family but most of them are at All Saints.

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. *I’ll see you soon.*



999 Foxon Road, North Branford  
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**2022 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 fille with cannoli cream, then frosted with whipped cream.

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**Assorted Italian Pastry**

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**Full Stuffed Bread Menu is also available to order.**

*To ensure availability, please place orders by **December 21st.***

**Store Hours**

Tuesday December 20th, Wednesday, December 21st,  
Thursday December 22nd 7:30 - 3:00  
Friday, December 23rd 7:30 - 3:00  
Saturday, December 24th 8:00 - 3:00  
Sunday, December 25th - Wednesday December 28th - CLOSED



**Shifting Gears and Exploring New Possibilities**

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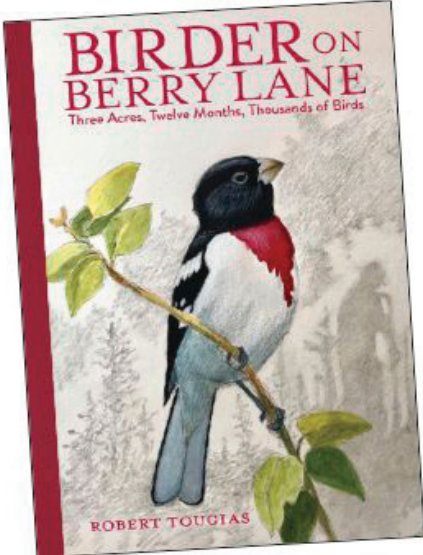
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The pandemic changed our economic and social tapestry in previously unforeseen ways. Shifting old ways of thinking and behaving is necessary as we adjust to these new realities. This webinar presents steps which help transform uncertainty into fulfillment — through cognitive theory, perception formation, and action motivation. Question and answer session to follow.

**Wednesday, January 18, 2023 • 6:30-7:15 PM**

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WRITER, BIRDER, NATURALIST  
**Robert Tougias**  
AUTHOR OF BIRDER ON BERRY LANE

Robert Tougias has been a birder since he was a small boy. After earning a degree in natural resources, he worked for the Massachusetts Audubon Society and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Now he’s a nature writer in southeastern Connecticut, where he’s president of a local wildlife club.

Join us as Tougias discusses the wonders of bird migration, the sensitive interaction of birds with their habitat, and the hidden meaning of their call notes and songs.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL **FREE ZOOM EVENT**

**Wednesday, January 11, 2023 • 6:30 PM**

Stream the ZOOM virtual program from home or view the livestream in Atwater Memorial Library’s Community Room.  
**Registration required. Call 203-315-6020 or visit [nbranfordlibraries.org](http://nbranfordlibraries.org).**

**NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARIES**



Death Notice - Marcia Lynne Haley Davis



The family of Marcia Lynne Haley Davis is sad to report her death on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 24, 2022 at her apartment in West Hartford, CT, after a long illness.

She was the daughter of Dr. Edward E. and Mrs. Evangeline R. Haley and was born on Jan.8, 1955. She was the former wife of Paul Davis of Granby, CT for eighteen years. Her formative years were in CT homes in East Haven, Guilford, and primarily Northford and she attended North Branford and Northford schools, graduating from North Branford High School with the Class of '73. She was proud of her ten years studying ballet, tap, and jazz at Miss Rita's School of Dance in East Haven.

She was employed for a year or two as a child caregiver with Kindercare of Branford. She spent most of her adult life volunteering as a faithful member of Northford Congregational Church, U.C.C., where she sang Alto in the Senior Choir for about forty years. She was an advisor for the Church's Youth Fellowship in the late 70's. For several years she was a Delegate for the Church to Connecticut Conference, U.C.C. Annual Meetings and also served on other Church committees.

Marcia enjoyed reading, journaling, and creative writing all of her adult life, aspiring one day to have some of her work published. She also enjoyed singing in concerts with the Farmington Valley Chorale. Marcia supported Paul and his Pit Crew when he worked at the NASCAR Modified Series races throughout New England. She especially enjoyed being a daughter-in-law and an aunt as part of the extended Davis Family.

Marcia will be fondly remembered by her family and friends as gentle, humble, and a caring friend, with a sweet smile and easy laughter or ready tears. She is survived by her brother David (Pat) of Bennington, VT; her brother Malcolm (Ellen) of Forest, VA; and her stepmother Jean Babbitt Haley, of Wallingford, CT. Her family requests that Memorial Donations be sent to Northford Congregational Church, P.O. Box 191, 4 Old Post Road, Northford CT 06472.

A Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance for Marcia will be held at Northford Congregational Church on Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022 at 11:00 a.m., preceded by a time to greet the family at 10:00 a.m.,also at the Church. Burial at the Northford Cemetery will immediately follow the Service. The Havens Family North Haven Funeral Home, 36 Washington Avenue have been entrusted with the arrangements. [www.northhavenfuneral.com](http://www.northhavenfuneral.com)

Recycling News

- Here are some tips for this gift giving season. 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.

Holiday Donations

For items that still have some life in them, consider posting them on the Facebook page: [North Branford & Northford Free Items](#). Help someone else out, unclutter your house and help the environment at the same time. For a larger audience check out Freecycle.org in East Haven or New Haven.

You can also look up your item in the New Haven Downsizing Donation Guide. It lists multiple organizations that want your stuff! Just search for 'New Haven Downsizing Donation Guide'.

Christmas Tree Pickup – January 2 - 13, 2023

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. [The Solid/Hazardous Waste and Recycling Committee is looking for new members.](#) Please call the Town Manager if you are interested.

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 by the Keating family at Totoket Tree Farm in North Branford. When Mrs. Keating learned about our Transition program, she was more than happy to donate! The Christmas tree has not only put us in a festive spirit, but has taught the students several invaluable life skills. 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. Thank you Totoket Tree Farm for putting smiles on our students' faces and lighting up the Augur House!

St. Ambrose Parish invites you to join us to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior!

Christmas Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE , December 24

4:00p | St. Augustine | 30 Caputo Rd. North Branford

CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25

9:00a | St. Monica | 1321 Middletown Ave. Northford

11:00a | St. Augustine | 30 Caputo Rd., North Branford

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LASER TAG GROUP OUTINGS

WALK-IN LASER TAG OFFERED

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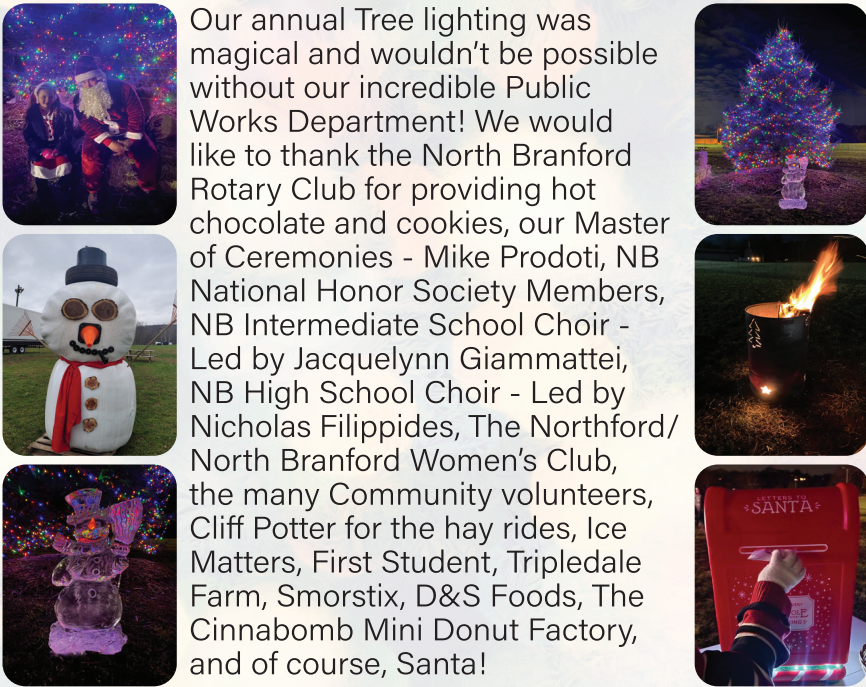


# NORTH BRANFORD PARKS AND RECREATION & SENIOR CENTER

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

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



Our annual Tree lighting was magical and wouldn't be possible without our incredible Public Works Department! We would like to thank the North Branford Rotary Club for providing hot chocolate and cookies, our Master of Ceremonies - Mike Prodoti, NB National Honor Society Members, NB Intermediate School Choir - Led by Jacquelyn Giammattei, NB High School Choir - Led by Nicholas Filippides, The Northford/ North Branford Women's Club, the many Community volunteers, Cliff Potter for the hay rides, Ice Matters, First Student, Tripledale Farm, Smorstix, D&S Foods, The Cinnabomb Mini Donut Factory, and of course, Santa!

### Senior Center Gifting Tree



The community support for last season was nothing less than amazing! With your help we can make the holiday season a little bit brighter for our seniors.

Remove an ornament tag from a tree and purchase a gift card to either Big Y, Rite Aid, or Dollar General. Return the tag with the gift card taped to it to one of our Gifting Tree Locations as soon as possible!

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

## — SENIOR CENTER — MOHEGAN SUN BUS TRIP

Monday, December 19 - 8:00am - 4:00pm

\$15 res / \$20 nr

If you are meeting at the STW Community Center, we will be leaving at 8:00 a.m. Per Mohegan Sun, the buses are not being greeted by staff and no packages are being issued out. Please register by 12/16

## Holiday Mingle w/ NBHS Student Council & Chamber Choir

December 20, 2022 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 12/16

## SENIOR CENTER HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 21, 2022 \$5 RES \$7 NR

Join us for a traditional holiday luncheon and a special visit from Santa!

Lunch served at 12:00 pm Kindly register by 12/16

Holiday Menu Includes: Salad, pasta, choice of pork loin or stuffed sole, & dessert

## SENIOR CENTER NOON YEAR'S EVE PARTY

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

January 3, 2023 after lunch (register by 12/27)

### Senior Center Winter Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather, we strongly advise that you stay home and stay safe. Typically, we follow the North Branford Public Schools closings, delays, and early dismissals and there are different protocols for each situation.

#### IF THE NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED:

- Morning programs cancelled; afternoon programs may be cancelled on a case-by-case bases, please be sure to pre-register to be contacted about cancellations.
- No daily transportation
- Lunch will still be offered -please call after 8:30am to cancel.
- Medical transportation and trips may be rescheduled; individuals will be contacted as needed.

#### IF THE NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE DELAYED:

- No daily transportation
- Programs may be cancelled on a case-by-case bases please be sure to pre-register to be contacted about cancellations.
- Senior Center- Lunch will still be offered -please call after 8:30am to cancel.
- Senior Center- Medical transportation and trips may be rescheduled; individuals will be contacted as needed.

#### IF THE NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE EARLY DISMISSAL:

- Afternoon programs are cancelled.
- Medical transportation and trips may be rescheduled; individuals will be contacted as needed.



## Light Up North Branford

### HOLIDAY LIGHT DECORATING CONTEST

Tuesday, December 20th  
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 12/16 [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! Full details to come on our website!

**December 27- 29, 2022**  
**8:30am - 4:30pm**  
STW Community Center

**\$30 per day or \$75 for all 3 days** Grades: K-6  
Lunch available for an additional \$3/per day



## JOIN OUR ESPORTS LEAGUE

MADDEN

MONDAYS  
PS4 & XBOX

MARIOKART  
DELUXE

MONDAYS  
Nintendo Switch

FORTNITE

TUESDAYS (Solos)  
FRIDAYS (Duos)

ROCKET  
LEAGUE

WEDNESDAYS  
(1v1 & 3v3)

SUPER  
SMASH BROS.  
ULTIMATE

THURSDAYS  
Nintendo Switch

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

[app.ggleagues.com/clubs/north-branford-parks-recreation](http://app.ggleagues.com/clubs/north-branford-parks-recreation)





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HELP WANTED

**Holiday Help Wanted.** Drivers must have own car. Apply at Petals 2 Go 280 Branford Road in North Branford or call Dave At 203-484-7800.



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*The North Branford Fire Department, wish to extend our Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.*

Use Common Sense During the Holiday's

Home fires increase during this time of year. Heating devices, fireplaces, holiday lighting, candles, and decorations, all contribute to the increased risk.

North Branford Fire Department Recommends:

1. Use only UL listed lights and extension cords.
2. Keep extension cord use to a minimum. Do not overload your electrical system. If you are blowing fuses, find out why. Check for frayed wires. If the lights do not work when you test them, toss them. Do not take the chance.
3. Keep decorations away from open flame and heating sources.
4. If you have a live tree, keep it watered and dispose of as soon it starts to dry out.
5. Keep your means of escape clear. Do not block a door with the tree or other decorations.
6. Use candles correctly. Keep away from any decorations, curtains, and paper tablecloths.
7. Do not leave home without turning off all lights, extinguishing all candles and any portable heating units. At night check to make sure that your house is safe before you go to bed.
8. Make sure you have at least one operating smoke detector on every floor.

Fireplace and Stove Safety:

More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves, and other fuel – fired appliances to heat their homes. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks associated with wood and other fuels.

North Branford Fire Department encourages you to practice the following fire safety steps:

1. Have your chimney or wood stove cleaned and inspected annually
2. Keep the area around your fireplace or stove clear of flammable decorations or materials
3. Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces, and keep your glass doors open
4. Never use flammable liquids to start a fire
5. Use only seasoned hardwood
6. Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke
7. Never burn cardboard, trash or other debris in your fireplace or wood stove
8. **Never leave a fire unattended** and extinguish before going to bed or leaving the house
9. Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container *outside and away* from your house

Facts of the Month

Heating Equipment fires account for 16 % of all home fires and 22 % of all home fire deaths. Most of these fires occur during December and January. Cooking equipment was the leading cause of home fires and fire injuries, causing 46% of home fires that resulted in 19% of the home fire deaths and 44% of the injuries

**What better gift for a loved one this year,** new smoke, and carbon monoxide detectors. And offer to install it too.

**NBFD has a limited supply of new battery-operated Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide detectors. We also have replacement 9-volt batteries. If you do not have a working alarm, call, or email us @ 203-484-6016 or [deputyfiremarshal@townofnorthbranfordct.com](mailto:deputyfiremarshal@townofnorthbranfordct.com)**