



Totoket Times

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For Our Town From Our Town

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Volume 32 No 10 March 20, 2026



Hike RWA Big Gulph Trails

Join NBLCT hike leader Geoff Smith, for a unique opportunity to explore the RWA Trails at Big Gulph. These trails normally require a RWA permit, but the Land Trust will be allowed access for this event.

Located in North Branford, Big Gulph features more than six miles of trails, ranging from flat to very steep with a variety of wildlife habitats, including streams, meadows and forests. It is a good place to look for ducks, herons, and painted turtles.

When we leave the Pavilion, we will take a short walk onto RWA property, walk the Red Trail, passing the retention pond, cross the Farm River, and stop at the junction of the White Trail.

From here, there will be two options to hike:

1 - A fun, very pleasant walk in the woods. Out for an hour, then turn around and walk back.

2 - For the more adventurous - a 4.8 mile hike. We can estimate, maybe 3 hours, with the reward of some actual vista views, coming down the Vista Trail.

When: Saturday, March 28, 2026 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. (rain date Sunday).
Where: Meet at the Pavilion at Northford Park, 1827 Middletown Ave, Northford CT at 9:15am.

This walk is one of a number of events presented by the North Branford Land Conservation Trust for adults and families throughout the year.

The mission of the North Branford Land Conservation Trust is to acquire and maintain open space and to promote the conservation of land and natural resources within the Town of North Branford and environs.



VFW Breakfast

March 26, 7:30 - 10:00,

Parthenon Diner, Branford.

Free breakfast

to all Vietnam Veterans.

Sponsored by VFW Post 12106,



NORTH BRANFORD ROTARY

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY March 28, 2026

10:00AM

CONNECTICUT SPORTSPLEX DOME

216 FOXON ROAD

NORTH BRANFORD CT

PLEASE BRING A NON PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM TO SUPPORT
THE FOOD PANTRY OF NORTH BRANFORD AND/OR
A PACKAGE OF DIAPERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY DIAPER BANK



TOTOKET TIMES

Deadline		Publication Date	
March	27	April	3
April	10	April	17
April	24	May	1
May	8	May	15
June	4	June	11
June	18	June	25
July	2	July	9





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Dear Editor:

I was taught, we have certain rights: the right to have free speech, freedom of the press, peacefully protest, due process (innocent until proven guilty). I was taught, be a citizen if born here, freedom of religion and the right to vote. The goal of the institution and Declaration of Independence was to allow all Americans to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Immigrants were welcome. I have been disturbed by these rights being violated.

1. Freedom of speech. Currently reporters, Congressman, judges, protesters, public figures and others are being arrested, fired, removed, threatened and negatively labeled. Books are being banned in our schools and Libraries and teachers are being fired for teaching Afro-American history. Scientific and informational websites for our health are being removed. Funding for life-saving research has been cut. Universities are losing funding for allowing protest.
2. A democracy requires voting. I have always been proud of how careful Norford/North Branford runs their elections. As a senior, or someone who has lived out of state and with a mother in a wheelchair, mail in ballot with critical. All aspects spirits have denied any major fraud in voting and yet this is perpetuated.
3. Due process. The way ICE is just taking people off the street depriving those arrested of a phone call to process and shipping them off to unknown detention centers whose conditions are as bad as concentration camps is deplorable.
4. Removing protest, removing protections for healthcare the environment and education. Major cuts have been approved for Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid. I depend on Medicare and Social Security for my well-being. My mother needed Medicaid in her last three months



hair designs

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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

to stay in her nursing home. I want to breathe clean air and drink clean water. Funds to the CDC, Department of Education, VA and other important protective agencies have been cut. Environmental protections for National Parks, the Arctic wildlife refuge and others have been removed. It appears that oil and profits are more important.
Sincerely,
Ivy Cooley



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State Representative Vincent Candelora

Slow Down. Get It Right.



For much of my 20 years in the General Assembly, members of both chambers endeavored to get legislation right from the start. More often than not, that slowed things down. Debate over a seemingly simple bill could stretch across multiple sessions as we worked through questions and concerns raised by stakeholders. Many legislators found that frustrating, especially if it was their proposal, but there was a general agreement that moving

deliberately produced a better product. That was by design.

That tradition is crumbling.

The bottom really dropped out after COVID. The shift to Zoom meetings, with legislators and staff working from home or even from their cars, combined with a growing ideological impatience to score ideological points, has degraded the quality of what we pass. In too many cases, we've unfortunately seen a "pass it now, fix it later" approach. And some of those hasty decisions are now coming back to haunt us.

Here's one you may have missed. In 2022, my Democratic colleagues insisted on passing sweeping climate legislation they said would protect Connecticut's environment, with a focus on clean air. Republicans also want clean air. But laws have to be grounded in reality. Among the provisions of S.B. 4 was a requirement prohibiting the state from purchasing diesel-powered buses after January 1, 2024. So, few Republicans were surprised when a recent headline read: "CT DOT seeks permission to resume buying diesel buses." We said this was unrealistic. They didn't listen.

The school bus mandate in that same bill tells an even more troubling story. Under S.B. 4, school districts must transition their entire bus fleets to zero-emission vehicles by 2040, and districts in designated "environmental justice" communities—most distressed urban centers—must do so by 2030. The math alone should give anyone pause: a diesel bus costs roughly \$150,000; an electric bus runs \$400,000. Add at least \$20,000 per charging station, all on top of school budgets that communities are already struggling to pass. Taxpayers are maxed out.

During the floor debate, I argued that bus companies serving our communities would struggle with both the cost and the availability of the technology. Those companies testified to the same, pointing not just to the price of the buses, but to electricity costs, building and infrastructure buildout, and workforce training. Fuel, by contrast, had been purchased tax-free by school districts. I even predicted the state would eventually have to step in to cover the cost of these buses for towns.

I fear that day is approaching. Some of the same Democrats who championed this mandate are asking to give towns a reprieve. One co-sponsor of the school bus mandate acknowledged during a recent Transportation Committee hearing that his own local district has 79 buses and hasn't purchased a single electric replacement, and can't access what limited assistance funding that exists because the community isn't designated a distressed municipality.

The mandate isn't working. House Republicans have called for its repeal, and that is the right move.

But this is about more than one bad law. It's about how we got here.

The lesson of S.B. 4 isn't that clean energy goals are wrong. It's that rushing legislation to meet a political moment, without honestly reckoning with cost and real-world impact, produces bad outcomes for the very people we're supposed to serve. The stakeholders—in this case districts and bus companies—who expressed concern were right. The process failed them.

Connecticut's legislative process was built to be deliberate, to slow down, ask hard questions, and get it right before the bill is signed, not after it's already causing headaches. That tradition exists for good reason, and it's time we return to it. Citizens deserve laws that work, not ones that make good press releases but result in broken promises.

Rep. Vincent Candelora
House Republican Leader
86th Assembly District

North Branford, Durham, East Haven, Guilford

Let's Be "Frank"

Well brother, this is the last letter you will get from me before I go into the next decade as I always teased, you and Mary were my much older brother and sister. Well once you finish this letter, I will be hitting the big 70.

I remember when I hit sixty, the kids had a surprise birthday party (of course I found out about it but it was too late to cancel) When I mentioned to Frank III that normally big parties are when you hit sixty five, not sixty, he quickly resounded "None of us think you'll make it to sixty five."

Well, here I am approaching seventy. I'd like to say "and still going strong" but I'm not sure that's the case. I guess "still going would be more appropriate."

At this time you would be eighty and Mary would be seventy four. I always wondered what you two would be like that old but you were pretty much always that old in my eyes.

I always hated it when people would say, "When I was a kid", but I now find myself saying that quite often. I now wonder what our parents were thinking as they watched us grow up with all new fads compared to them.

When we were young, we ate what was served to us or we didn't eat. Now the kids are asked what they want for meals and the meals are prepared to their specifications.

When we were young we never heard of peanut allergies, gluten allergies or dairy allergies. If something bothered our system we were fed more of it until our system adjusted and no more allergies.

When we were young our parents friends were called MR. & Mrs. and teachers were called Mr. & Mrs. as well. Today teachers are called by nick names and friends parents are called by their first names. Till the day they died (some of them are still alive), I always called mom and dad's friends Mr. and Mrs.

When I was a kid, when our parents volunteered at Church or school, we did as well. There was no backing out to play with our friends or watch TV.

When I was a kid, my older brother was like a second parent. (Of course you were so much older than I was), but dad always said listen to your brother. At times I was more worried about disappointing you than I was about disappointing mom and dad.

When I was a kid, if we did something wrong at school or even in the neighborhood, the teachers and the neighbors would reprimand us. Now teachers have to be guarded with what they say for fear of parent's repercussions. Parents should be happy that teachers care enough to discipline their children. Don't complain, and be grateful and set the child on the right path. Imagine, with all the teachers have to put up with, tax payers are complaining about their salaries when they come out in the budget. These people spend more times with your kids than you do and they hold the future of our planet in their hands. My kids are out of school close to twenty years but I still think the BOE budget should be approved with added funding. If we can afford a new police department and a very costly gazebo at the park, we should figure out how to control these costs and take care of our children and our schools.

When I was a kid (being the youngest) I didn't know about the birds and the bees till I was in high school. Now the kids know more about sex and reproduction at the age of five, than I know at the age of seventy.. Can't imagine how I got through all these years without knowing this stuff.

When I was a kid we played outside. We rode in cars with no seat belts, sat on the tail gate of uncle Rudy's station wagon and rode our bikes with no helmets. Now kids can't sit in the front seat of a car until they're thirteen years old. When the old man was thirteen he was driving a panel truck in the morning delivering bread to help with the family bills.

Well, I don't know if we were better or they are better now. What I do know is that it is much different. The kids haven't changed, the parents have changed. Many of the standards have been abandoned and kids get away with much more than we did.

I can tell you one thing. I am so grateful that we were raised the way we were. When I turn eighty (yes that's right, I said eighty), I'll look back on this letter and see how things have changed again.

I miss you guys and still wonder why you are all gone and I am still here. But, as long as I am, I will live life to the fullest the way you and our parents taught me. Take care and 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





Totoket Valley Elementary

Hosts Successful 2026 Invention Convention

On March 5, 2026, students at Totoket Valley Elementary School showcased their creativity, curiosity, and problem-solving skills during the school's annual Invention Convention. This year's event featured more than 60 student inventors who presented original inventions designed to address everyday challenges and improve the world around them.

Students worked for weeks, developing their ideas identifying problems, designing solutions, building prototypes and preparing presentations to explain their thinking. The convention gave inventors an opportunity to share their work with judges, staff members and families while demonstrating the creativity and perseverance that drive innovation.

After careful review by a panel of judges, seven inventions representing 10 student inventors were selected to advance to the state level competition which will take place at the university of Connecticut. These students will have the opportunity to represent Totoket Valley while continuing to refine and present their inventions among other young innovators from across the state. Congratulations to our top inventors and their inventions.

Blake Bannon - Tatt Racker

Eva Czajkowski - Cats OFF!

Kennedy Seldon & Logan Crismale - Backmate

Desi Giannopolous & addie Esposito - Page Saver

Preston Hill - Shade Keepers

Owen Soernson & Mia Judd - The Book Hook

Bella O'Bryan - Pick-a-Palooza

This year's invention was coordinated by TVES Lead Teacher, Mrs. Kelly Sobocinski, whose leadership and dedication made the event possible. Her thoughtful planning and organization helped create a meaningful experience that celebrated student creativity, and encouraged young inventors to think boldly and solve problems. We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to judges who generously volunteered their time and expertise to evaluate student inventions and provide thoughtful feedback. Their support played an important role in making the event both meaningful and authentic for our young innovators.

Mrs. Marjorie Bonadies - Board of Education Chair, Dr. Carter Welch - Director of Curriculum, Mr. Joseph Amodio - TVES Principal, Mrs. Tricia Michna - TVES Library Media Specialist, Mrs. Shelly Thompson, - NBPS ELL Teacher, Mr. Frank Angeloni - Community Member/TVES Substitute and Mr. John Westefeld, - North Branford High School Senior.

Totoket Valley would also like to extend sincere thanks to the families for the support throughout the invention process from brainstorming ideas at home to helping students test, prototypes and practice presentations. Parent involvement played an important role in helping the students bring their ideas to life. Events like the Invention Convention highlight the importance of innovation, creativity, critical thinking, and education. Totoket Valley Elementary is proud of all the students who participated and look forward to cheering on our State Finalist as they continue their journey as young inventors.

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North Branford Scholarship Association

The North Branford Scholarship Association announces that applications for scholarship awards are available at the town libraries and the North Branford High School Guidance Office beginning March 1st. Graduating high school seniors living in North Branford regardless of what school they graduate from are eligible. Applications must be in by March 30th, 2026. Our fund drive is also being run at this time. For donations please call Lars at 203 483-1311.

Quilters Club

NORTH BRANFORD: Those who enjoy quilting are invited to meet at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Rd., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, March 20 (and every Friday). Newcomers welcome; bring your own materials. To register, go to northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-315-6020.

Tots and Tunes

NORTHFORD: Young children ages 18 months and up and their siblings can enjoy 30 minutes of songs, stories and movement at Edward Smith Library, 3 Old Post Rd., from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Fridays, March 20, and March 27. Parent or guardian must attend. Registration not required.

Movie Matinee, "Hamnet"

NORTHFORD: Join us from 1 to 3:30 p.m., Friday, March 20, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Rd., for this month's movie, "Hamnet," the 2025 period-drama. "After losing their son Hamnet to plague, Agnes and William Shakespeare grapple with grief in 16th-century England. A healer, Agnes must find strength to care for her surviving children while processing her devastating loss" - IMDB. Starring Jessie Buckley, Paul Mescal and Zac Wishart. Light refreshments served. Register at northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Spring Into Action: Downsizing, Decluttering, and Organizing Made Easy

NORTH BRANFORD: Ready for spring cleaning or selling your home? Come to Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Rd., on Saturday, March 21, from 10 a.m. to noon. Home organizer Declutter by Lani and real estate agent Susan Warner-Lambert of Carbutti & Co. will share simple, stress-free, proven strategies to help you let go of clutter, downsize with confidence, and create organized systems that last. Register at northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-315-6020.

Read to a Therapy Dog

NORTHFORD: Children in grades 3-5 are invited to take turns reading to Libby, a trained therapy dog, on Monday, March 23, from 5 to 6 p.m. at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Rd. Reading to a therapy dog can boost reading skills in children, and develop emotional and social skills. Bring a favorite book or pick one from the library before the event. Registration required. To register, email Mary Wilhelm at mwillhelm@nbranfordlibraries.org.

Monday Night Mah-Jongg

NORTHFORD: Those interested in playing Mah-Jongg are invited to the Smith Library, 3 Old Post Rd., from 6 to 8 p.m., Monday, March 23 (and every Monday night). Participants should bring their Mah Jongg sets. To register, go to northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Little Makers

NORTHFORD: Come to Smith Library, 3 Old Post Rd., from 10:30 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays, March 24, and March 31, for a Little Makers session - a simple craft activity that we do together. Recommended for ages 2-6. Registration required; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Drop-In Tech Help

NORTHFORD: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 25, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Rd. Free drop-in sessions of personal tech help. First come, first serve. Limited to 30 minutes each. Bring a device that you need help with. No registration required.

Needle Arts

NORTH BRANFORD: Those who like to knit, crochet, embroider, quilt, etc. are invited to Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Rd., from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 25, (and every Wednesday). For more information, go to northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-315-6020.

Scrapbooking Class

NORTHFORD: Bring your own projects or blank pages along with pictures and supplies to Smith Library, 3 Old Post Rd., on Thursday, March 26, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.. We'll provide stickers as well as paper and decorative scrapbook scissors, to create different types of cuts. Registration required; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Dance Mode

NORTH BRANFORD: Get ready to dance, sing, and play instruments on Monday, March 30, from 10:30 to 11 a.m., in this family-oriented program at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Rd. Recommended for ages 18 months and up. Siblings are welcome. Registration not required.

Afternoon Little Makers

NORTHFORD: Come to Smith Library, 3 Old Post Rd., from 4:30 to 5 p.m. on Monday, March 30, for a Little Makers session - a simple craft activity that we do together. Recommended for ages 2-6. Registration required; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

Lego Robotics

NORTH BRANFORD: Join us at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Rd., from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 31, to build with Legos and learn simple coding, using Lego Education Spike Essentials Kits. Recommended for ages 6-12. Registration required; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-315-6020.

Bowties And Books

NORTH BRANFORD: Put on your most elegant bowties and fanciest tutus (or whatever you find comfortable), and join us on Thursday, April 2, from 10:30 to 11 a.m., for songs, stories, and silliness at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Rd. Recommended for ages 6 months to 4 years with a parent or caregiver. Registration not required.

Holiday Closing

Atwater Library in North Branford and Smith Library in Northford both will be closed on Friday, April 3, in observance of Good Friday. Both libraries will reopen on Saturday, April 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Northford-North Branford Women’s Club, GFWC
Military Whist Card Party**



The Northford-North Branford Women’s Club, GFWC is sponsoring a Military Whist Card Party on Friday, April 17th at Totoket Valley Elementary School, 1388 Middletown Avenue, Northford. CT. Doors open at 5:45PM and games start at 6:30 PM. We are collecting canned goods for the food pantry. Anyone bringing a canned food item will receive one free ticket towards our raffle. There will be fun door prizes and the club will raffle off beautiful gift baskets and other donated prizes. Refreshments, including delicious appetizers and desserts, will be served. Entry is \$12 per person. Proceeds benefit various charitable organizations in the local area. For tickets or more information, contact Elissa at 203-231-8240 or Venmo at NorthfordWomens-Club. The Northford-North Branford Women’s Club is a civic organization dedicated to promoting deeper friendships among women of our town and surrounding areas, participating in community service, and cooperating with the club work of the Connecticut State Federation of Women’s Clubs. Check us out on Facebook: Northford North Branford Women’s Club, GFWC.



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2026 Easter Menu

PIES

Italian Cream Pie - Italian short crust filled with chocolate and vanilla Italian cream with chopped maraschino cherries. \$28.25

Ricotta Pie - Italian short crust filled with ricotta custard. \$30.00

Rice Pie - Italian short crust filled with cooked rice and ricotta custard. \$30.00

Wheat Pie - Italian short crust filled with cooked wheat and ricotta custard. \$30.00

Ham Pie - Made with imported ham, prosciutto, provolone, hard salami, and basket cheese 8” \$55.00 10”\$ 75.00

Chocolate lemon Pie - \$17.50

Assorted Italian Pastrry

Cookie Trays

Breads

Italian sweet bread with a sugar frosting \$14.00
Chicola Bread \$10.00

Assorted Stuffed Breads

Antipasta	\$17.50	Spinach & Cheese	\$16.00
Pepperoni & Cheese	\$16.00	Spinach, sausage & cheese	\$17.50
Eggplant Parmesan	\$16.00	Broccoli sausage & cheese	\$17.50
Chicken Parmesan	\$17.50	The Veggie	\$16.00
Buffalo Chicken	\$17.50	Kielbasa & Sauerkraut	\$17.50

Full Stuffed Bread menu is also available to order!

**To ensure availability, please place orders by
Wednesday, April 1st**

Holiday Hours Hours

Friday, April 3rd, 7:30 - 3:00
Saturday April 4th 8:00 - 3:00

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, April 5th, 6th & 7th Closed

Recycling News

The Leaf Drop-off will be opening on Saturday April 4th.

The drop-off is located around the field to the left of the police station. Be aware that it is Spring and it may be muddy. The leaf drop off will also be open on April 11th, 18th and 25th.

There will be curbside pickup of leaves in untapped biodegradable paper bags the week of April 27th to May 8th.

Scrap Metal Pickup will be the week of April 6th – 10th on your normal trash day.

Scrap Metal includes: Small and large appliances, metal lawn furniture, hot water tanks, tools, metal fencing, furnaces, non-riding lawn mowers with gas removed, outdoor grills, small machines, air conditioners and dehumidifiers.

The Electronics Waste Drop-off will be on Saturday April 18th Public Works 290 Forest Road – 9am – noon

Take2Recycling is collecting electronics including TVs, computers, small appliances and almost anything that has a plug. We cannot accept smoke detectors, A/C’s or dehumidifiers.

We will also be taking mattresses and box springs (clean and dry), most propane tanks and used clean oil for free.

When you bring us your mattress or box spring, you are creating jobs for those who take them apart to recycle the components.

There is now NO FEE for propane tanks 20 lbs. and smaller. Also, we can now take helium, butane and other gas cylinders 20 lbs. and smaller.

Bulky Waste will be the week of April 20th – 24th on your normal trash day.

Bulky Waste includes rugs and tree branches (no thicker than 4”) if less than 4’ long and tied into bundles. Also included are couches, mattresses, wooden furniture and most items that won’t fit in your tote. These large items are only taken during bulky waste which is twice a year. For a complete list, see your 2025 blue Recycling/Trash card.

Bulky Waste will NOT take:

Electronics including TVs and computers, construction waste, grass clippings, tires, hazardous materials or scrap vehicle parts. It is also not meant for total home cleanouts.

The next Bulky Waste will be in November.

Earth Day – Friday, April 17th at 5pm

For Earth Day, the NB Recycling Committee will be having an event at Wall Field on April 17th during Little League opening day.

We would like to invite any organizations/businesses/hobbyists in town that can offer information about protecting our environment, conservation or recycling to be part of our Earth Day event. For more information or to reserve a table, you can email us at NBEarthday@gmail.com or call Bill Savastano at 203-484-2784.

There will be tables, displays, handouts and we will be available to answer your recycling questions.

On Earth Day, we encourage everyone to do a little to help mother nature. Do a cleanup around your neighborhood. Clean up a hiking trail on your next hike. Teach others not to litter. Learn how to recycle one new thing this week.

The North Branford’s Solid/Hazardous Waste and Recycling Committee is looking for new members.

We are an advisory committee to the Town Manager. Our goal is to develop and implement environmentally sound solutions and best practices for solid waste disposal and recycling management on behalf of our town. We are always looking for people with fresh ideas to join us.

Please call the Town Manager if you are interested.

For more information about recycling in North Branford you can check out North Branford’s Recycling Committee’s website: townofnorthbranfordct.com/government/boards-commissions/hazardous-wasterecycling-committee.aspx or our Facebook page: North Branford CT Hazardous Waste & Recycling Committee

Thank You for Your Participation

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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! Northford Community Church. Church is located on Old Post Rd. (Corner of Rte 17 and Rte 22), PO Box 191 Northford. Phone (203)-484-0795, Fax (203)-484-9916. Email: northfordcc@gmail.com. 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.com.

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!

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

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

DEATH NOTICE



Ron Norman, cherished husband, father, grandfather and friend passed away on November 28, 2025 at the age of 67. Ron was born in New Haven, grew up in North Haven and raised his children in the village of Norford Connecticut. Ron, his wife in two of their children relocated to Palm Bay Florida in 2005.

Ron and Ruth met in 1980 working for McDonald's and were married in 1981, enjoying their love for one another and raising their children together, as Ron

would say his children were his finest work.

Ron and his father worked for many years as father and son painting contractors, eventually leading to work in the insurance restoration field.

Sports was a passion of Ron's and he spent many years coaching, his children's sports teams from soccer to baseball in basketball and as a spectator too many others, always on the sidelines cheering his children on. He had a love of baseball and card collecting was a past time he enjoyed sharing with his grandchildren.

Ron was preceded in death by his father, Ronald Dean Norman. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Griffin, Norman, daughter Victoria Norman Lanza of Northford, son, Patrick Norman, and his husband, Sean Elliott of Orlando, Florida, and daughter Samantha (Norman) Frahm and her spouse Derek Frahm of Cumming, Georgia and son Ronald Norman Junior of Palm Beach, Florida. He adored and was adored by seven beautiful grandchildren, Fiona Wood, Vera Bea Lanza, and Bennett Lanza, Austin and Colin Frahm and Joel and Riley Norman. Ron is also survived by his brothers Art Norman of North Carolina and Angelo Norman and his mother Ann Derrico Norman of North Haven

HOLY WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, the White Church on the Hill in the Heart of Northford,

invites you to its Holy Week services:

Palm Sunday, March 29th, 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, 6 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3rd, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 5th, 10 a.m.

Please join us - All Are Welcome!!

1382 Middletown Ave., Northford

EGG HUNT

SATURDAY 3/28/2026

1:00pm

Donations Accepted for our Beautification Project

North Branford Congregational Church
1640 Foxen Road, North Branford
NBCCEvents2@gmail.com

Easter Bake Sale

April 4, 2026, 9:00 to 11:00 am

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
1382 Middletown Avenue, Northford CT

Monetary and Non-Monetary Donations Accepted
Public Welcome

www.northfordcommunitychurch.com



NORTH BRANFORD PARKS, RECREATION, AND SENIOR CENTER

STW COMMUNITY CENTER • 1332 MIDDLETOWN AVE NORTHFORD

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

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**NORTH BRANFORD
SPRING SIBSHOP**
SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH • 10:00AM - 12:00PM
STW COMMUNITY CENTER

SIBSHOPS ARE A PLACE FOR CHILDREN AGE 8-13 WHO HAVE A SIBLING WITH A DISABILITY AND/OR HEALTH CONCERN

JOIN US FOR A FUN SPRING CRAFT, ACTIVITIES, SNACKS AND THE CHANCE TO CONNECT WITH OTHER SIBS!

— SENIOR CENTER —

PINOCHLE PARTY
Wednesday, March 25th
10:00am-2:00pm
STW Senior Room
Please register by 3/20

In the Kitchen with Kathy
Let's get together to create simple, yummy snacks.
Pretzel Shamrocks
Wednesday, March 18th
12:30-2:00pm • \$5
STW Gym/Cafe Please register by 3/13

BUNNY TAILS & TREATS

Join us for a sensory friendly Easter event!
Crafts • Egg Hunt • Bunny Pictures

MARCH 28, 2026 - 10AM - 12PM

STW Community Center - Register by 3/23



The ServSafe Manager Certification Class & Exam will be lead by Brittany Nappi, Lead Sanitarian at East Shore District Health Department.

March 30, 2026 - 9am - 4pm

STW Community Center

(registration starts 8:30AM)

The ServSafe Manager Certification verifies that a manager or person-in-charge has sufficient food safety knowledge to protect the public from foodborne illness. Individuals that successfully pass the 90-question, multiple choice exam will receive a ServSafe Manager Certification, which is accredited by the American National Accreditation Board (ANAB) under the Conference for Food Protection Standards.

Fees: \$125 - If you work in Branford, East Haven, North Branford
\$150 - If you work outside of the above listed Towns

Please note: Exam re-take fee \$50.00 (exam only) or \$75.00 (with class).

Pre-registration required: Please download the form on our website.

MARY'S CULINARY APRIL BREAK HALF DAY CAMP

Explore, create, and learn basic cooking techniques with Mary Amter during April vacation! This unique, hands on Culinary experience will engage children in preparing their own delicious creations.

Ages 5-14 at STW Community Center

April 6, 7, & 8, 2026 - 11:00am - 1:30pm

\$90res / \$95nr

4/6 - April Fool's Meatball "Cupcake" and Candy Sushi

4/7 - Creamy Garlic Parmesan Gnocchi and Chocolate Lava Cake

4/8 - Taco Stack and Oreo Bombs



Herbal Lotion Bar
Thursday, March 26th
1:00-2:00pm - \$25

Learn about some skin benefiting herbs, how to infuse them in oil, and make a lotion bar that is solid and easy to apply. Program presented by Amy from Bloom Where Planted.

STW Senior Room Please register by 3/4



Senior Center Appreciation Breakfast at NBHS

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

9:00 a.m. at North Branford High School

Cost: \$5 per person cash - paid at NBHS

Registration required. Please call the Senior Center at 203-484-6017 by Tuesday, March 24, 2025 if you plan to attend.

The Totoket Chapter of the National Honor Society of North Branford High School would like to invite you to join us for breakfast. After breakfast we will be treated to some musical numbers!

MUSIC BINGO

Music bingo is an interactive game blending traditional bingo with a music quiz, the numbered balls are replaced by 30-60 second snippets of popular songs.

March 24, 2026

STW Senior Room 1:00-2:00pm Please register by 3/20

MOHEGAN SUN BUS TRIP

Monday, March 23 - 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 2/17



Driver Safety



Wednesday April 15, 2026

9:00am - 1:00pm

No lunch break.

Pre-registration is required

Pasquale Castaldo, a certified Instructor with AARP, will conduct the Smart Driver Program. During this program you will learn preventative measures to use when driving. You will also learn how aging affects reaction time, hear tips to sharpen driving skills, review the new state laws and regulations, refine existing skills, and develop safe defensive driving techniques that save lives.

Participants, age 60 and older are eligible for a two-year, insurance discount on liability, collision and personal protection on insurance premiums.

SCRCOG working with CT DOT, is pleased to offer the offer the class at no cost to the Seniors!

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 203-901-2136.

Deck & Porch Work - Decks - Porches - Railings - Stairs - Columns - Concrete Piers - New or repairs. Wood or composite decking. Winter rates. Insured. Call Bill at 203-901-2136..

HEATING & COOLING

Avallone Heating and Cooling. Heating & air conditioning repair, maintenance or installation. call 203-530-9324

North Branford Public Schools Vacancies

Special Education Instructional Paraprofessionals

QUALIFICATIONS: Previous work in a school setting is preferred.

SALARY: As per paraprofessionals' contract.



JOB DESCRIPTION: Support instruction in a special education and regular education classrooms; maintain and report student records; communicate with classroom teachers regarding student progress.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Applicants should go to the Employment tab on www.northbranfordschools.org to complete an on-line application.

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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."

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