



# Totoket Times

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For Our Town From Our Town

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Volume 32 No 9 March 6, 2026



## Saint Patrick

St. Patrick (flourished 5th century, Britain and Ireland; feast day March 17) is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. He is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland and was probably responsible in part for the Christianization of the Picts and Anglo-Saxons. He is known only from two short works, the Confessio, his spiritual autobiography, and his Letter to Coroticus, a denunciation of British mistreatment of Irish Christians.

Patrick was born in Britain of a Romanized family. When he was 16 years old, Irish raiders tore him from the villa of his father, Calpornius, a deacon and minor local official, and carried Patrick into slavery in Ireland. He spent six bleak years there as a herdsman, during which time he turned with fervor to his faith. Upon dreaming that the ship in which he was to escape was ready, he fled his enslaver and found passage to Britain. There he came near to starvation and suffered a second brief captivity before he was reunited with his family. Thereafter he may have paid a short visit to the Continent.

The best-known passage in the Confessio tells of a dream, after his return to Britain, in which one Victoricus delivered him a letter headed "The Voice of the Irish." As Patrick read it, he seemed to hear a certain company of Irish beseeching him to walk once more among them. "Deeply moved," he says, "I could read no more." Nevertheless, because of the shortcomings of his education, he was reluctant for a long time to respond to the call. Even on the eve of his reembarkation for Ireland, he was beset by doubts of his fitness for the task. Once in the field, however, his hesitations vanished. Utterly confident in the Lord, he journeyed far and wide, baptizing and confirming with untiring zeal. In diplomatic fashion he brought gifts to a chieftain here and a lawgiver there but accepted none from any. On at least one occasion, he was cast into chains. On another, he addressed with lyrical pathos a last farewell to his converts who had been slain or kidnapped by the soldiers of Coroticus.

Careful to deal fairly with the Celtic tribes, he nevertheless lived in constant danger of martyrdom. The evocation of such incidents of what he called his "laborious episcopate" was his reply to a charge—to his great grief, endorsed by his ecclesiastical superiors in Britain—that he had originally sought office for the sake of office. In fact, he was a humble-minded man, pouring forth a continuous paean of thanks to his Maker for having chosen him as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshipped "idols and unclean things" had become "the people of God."

The phenomenal success of Patrick's mission is not, however, the full measure of his personality. Since his writings have come to be better understood, it is increasingly recognized that, despite their occasional incoherence, they mirror a truth and a simplicity of the rarest quality. Not since St. Augustine of Hippo had any religious diarist bared his inmost soul as Patrick did in his writings. As D.A. Binchy, the most austere of Patrickian (i.e., of Patrick) scholars, put it, "The moral and spiritual greatness of the man shines through every stumbling sentence of his 'rustic' Latin."

Toward the end of Patrick's life, he retired to Saul (a village in the former county Down in Northern Ireland), where he may have written his Confessio. It is said that an angel conveyed to him that he was to die at Saul, the site of his first church, despite his wishes to die within the ecclesiastical metropolis of Ireland. His last rites were administered by St. Tussach (also spelled Tassach or Tassac).

### TOTOKET TIMES

Deadline	Publication Date
March 13	March 20
March 27	April 3
April 10	April 17
April 24	May 1
May 8	May 15
June 4	June 11
June 18	June 25



## Saint Joseph's Homemade Lasagna Supper

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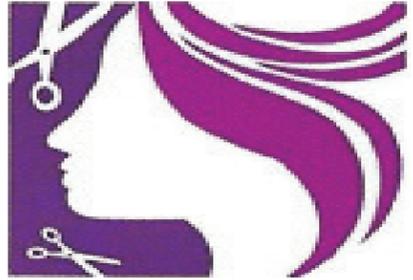
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**HELP OUR LOCAL ADVERTISERS CONTINUE TO GET THE WORD OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY RESIDENTS. CALL FRANK AT 203-410-4254 AND ASK ABOUT ADVERTISING TO BE A PART OF CONTINUING EFFORTS TO KEEP THE TOTOKET TIMES "YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER" IN ACTIVITY.**





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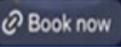
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## State Representative Vincent Candelora Democrats Call Trump a King, but Look Who's Wearing the Crown



Connecticut Democrats love getting in front of cameras to warn us that President Trump is acting like a king—dismantling democracy, rigging the system, ruling by fiat. It's been a popular rallying cry at the statehouse and a familiar refrain at progressive protests across the state.

Too bad they don't believe a word of it.

Recently, Democrats who control the legislature used an "emergency" designation to ram a sweeping, 120-page omnibus bill through the General Assembly, bypassing the committee process, shutting out public testimony, and resurrecting policies that either died in the legislature last year or never received proper scrutiny at all. When pressed to explain themselves, some Democrats pointed to Republican filibusters—instances they said happened last session, and ones they feared might happen again—as justification for bypassing the normal process entirely. It's a convenient story. It's also a dodge.

Democrats control both chambers of the Connecticut General Assembly by solid margins. They don't need a single Republican vote to pass anything. If bills stalled last session, Democrats controlled the calendar, the committees, and the votes. They had every tool available to push legislation through the proper process. Blaming the minority party for obstruction when you hold all the power isn't an explanation. It's an excuse. And using that excuse to justify stripping the public of its right to weigh in on legislation? That's gaslighting dressed up as pragmatism.

So, let's be clear about what actually happened. This wasn't a response to a flood, a public health crisis, or a fiscal emergency. Democrats invoked emergency powers for two reasons: convenience, and because they failed to manage the legislative calendar effectively last year. That's not an emergency. That's arrogance dressed up in parliamentary procedure.

The 98-section bill reads like a creation from Doctor Frankenstein's lab, stuffed with warehouse labor mandates, earmarks for select organizations and nonprofits, significant revisions to election law, and a moratorium extension on racial imbalance enforcement. We even got curriculum for Islamic and Arab studies. As one media outlet noted, there was no unifying theme. But there was a clear pattern: policies that couldn't survive the full democratic process were being resurrected under the cover of manufactured urgency. Over the years, majority parties have slipped a few dead ideas into budget bills in the dying embers of session. But this? They weren't even bothering to hide it.

The timing makes it worse. Connecticut is under the shadow of an ongoing federal probe into the misuse of funding awarded for community nonprofit organizations, a school construction bribery scandal, a looming Medicaid fraud trial, and the wanton abuse of taxpayer-funded spending privileges by the former chancellor of our colleges and universities system. Rather than pause and reflect on what that pattern says about how this state is being run, Democrats doubled down, rushing through the same type of budgetary earmarks that have drawn scrutiny since last year's budget debate—remember the Jeep Enthusiasts of Connecticut, or Black Girls Get Legal Tee?

Democracy is about more than elections. It's about the process: public hearings, committee debate, transparency. When you've stripped all of that away because the calendar isn't working in your favor, you're not protecting democracy. You've undermined it. And when you blame Republican obstruction, real or imagined, for forcing your hand, when you control everything and could have done this the right way all along, you're taking Connecticut voters for fools.

Our Democratic colleagues should take a long look in the mirror before their next press conference casting Trump as a threat to democracy. The crown fits them a little better than they'd like to admit.

**Rep. Vincent Candelora**

**House Republican Leader, 86<sup>th</sup> General Assembly District  
North Branford, Durham, East Haven, Guilford**

## Let's Be "Frank"

Sticking to my philosophy of "it can only happen to me", hang onto your hat. About five months ago I received information on a "Tribute to Lou Monte" by his son. I have seen similar tributes like this by Frank Sinatra Junior and Louie Prima's son. They performed all their dad's songs. It was very nostalgic and heartwarming.

As you know many years ago, I spent parts of a few summers with Lou Monte and we became buds. He even warmed up to our pop. So when I saw this notice, I had no trouble quickly purchasing two tickets, I had no reservations about making the trip to Staten Island

Then I had my fall and this became a game time decision. Six weeks to the day of my hospital visit, I set the course and began the trip. Arriving at the hotel we were informed that the elevator was out of order and we would have to walk up to our third floor room. I have always had trouble with steps but with this recent injury it was outright troublesome. But I did it. That's how much I wanted to see this show. It was disappointing that with this announcement, the hotel did not provide busboys to bring our luggage to the room. They were completely clueless and uncooperative. Only staying one night, we managed that hurdle. I should say SueAnn managed the hurdle as I negotiated the stairs making sure not to fall.

Now it's off to the venue for the dinner show. When we reached the destination the receptionist did not have our reservation even though I had my tickets with me. It took her fifteen minutes to figure out that because I purchased through the Sons & Daughters of Italy, I was on a different list.

Now it was time for our dinner. The menu was very small. Burratta on a small bed of greens, choice of five main courses and a cannoli for dessert. Being a Friday during Lent, I opted to take a bit more insulin and ordered the rigatoni with clams, and shrimp. Unfortunately, I was hard pressed to find a piece of fish and the taste was quite bland. After a ton of grated cheese and crushed red pepper it was palatable. It didn't matter. I was psyched and ready to hear the old songs of my pal Lou Monte, performed by his son.

The show began on time but started with the owners of the venue delivering a 20 minute introduction. In the intro they patted themselves on the back and introduced all their friends who were in attendance. "Who cares" I suggested to the lady at our table who knew the owners. She wholeheartedly agreed. She informed me "they love to hear themselves talk."

The show began and I'm not embarrassed to say, I was giddy with anticipation. Well, close to an hour and a half into the show, they only sang three Lou Monte songs. His son with an at best an average voice did Sinatra, Bobby Darin, Dean Martin and Tony Bennett. But very little Sinatra. I soon realized that we were doped. Under the guise of a tribute to his dad, this man used his father's fame to do his own thing. The Lou Monte I knew must be rolling over in his grave. What a gross misrepresentation to carry out his own agenda. Being in the newspaper business for many years I can only say it was false advertising at its best.

The good news is that the following day we traveled over to the Enoteca Maria restaurant which was made famous by the Nonna's show on Netflix. We had to make reservations a month in advance. They have three different seating times and the restaurant doesn't hold more than fifty people at a time. The tiny restaurant has been made famous by the movie.

The food was the best I have had in a long time. The waitress explained everything and re-enforced that the meals were "sharable". We started out with a delicious spinach salad with tomato, cucumbers and radishes. The unique taste was a simple olive oil and fruit infused vinegar.

For an appetizer I ordered a Japanese mixture (I don't recall ever eating anything Japanese before). It was grilled eggplant and squash, rice noodles pickled onions and peppers and a beet dip with vegetable.

That set the tone for the most delicious lasagna I have ever eaten (apologies to my wife). It was homemade noodles, homemade ricotta and mozzarella and the sauce was to die for.

I topped it off with a homemade salted caramel gelato with black garlic.

Thanks to the restaurant, it set the tone to make it a most enjoyable weekend. We got home late Saturday afternoon and I finished the day listening to three hours of Lou Monte.

Give my regards to all my "Angels in Heaven" 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



## For the Health of it...

### Wake Up Call: The Link Between Sleep and Hormonal Balance

#### Greetings Health Enthusiasts!



I have been intrigued by the topic of sleep and why it matters since choosing “sleep” as a topic for a high school biology assignment. I remember being a bit discouraged and feeling I was left with more questions than answers. In recent years, I’ve continued to dig deeper and in doing so, found that hormonal imbalance was at the root of something I thought was a flaw in my personal health! I think the most important fact to embrace is that sleep isn’t a luxury, it’s a biological reset button. Let’s move backwards from there.

The study of sleep and its benefits dates back to ancient Greece, 460BC. According to the American Academy of Sleep, Hippocrates (who is also credited with stating the importance of food as medicine) identified sleep as one of the six prerequisites to maintain health. Ancient findings that modern medicine confirms; while asleep, the body is doing some of its most important work, especially when it comes to hormones. While we know that important work of any kind is best accomplished in a distraction free, supportive environment, we expect the body to take care of automatic functions like sleep on its own. After all, we’ve been sleeping since day one, right? Without creating the proper environment for sleep, we unknowingly set ourselves and our hormones up for a rollercoaster ride that presents itself in a variety of ways.

Hormones act as the body’s chemical messengers, even small disruptions in sleep can affect mood, energy, metabolism, and stress levels. So let’s identify some of those hormones that depend on consistent quality sleep and what happens when they’re out of whack.

Cortisol- often referred to as the stress hormone. A rise in cortisol is notorious for aiding in the storage of belly fat. An overabundance of cortisol raises blood sugar, causes cravings, and increases appetite. Cortisol is supposed to rise in the morning to help us feel alert and gradually fall at night so we can rest. When we’re sleep-deprived, that rhythm is disrupted. Cortisol can stay elevated, leaving us feeling anxious, or “exhausted-but-can’t-sleep” tired.

Melatonin- the hormone that signals it’s time for bed. Exposure to late-night light (especially from screens) can suppress melatonin production, affect our quality of sleep or make it harder to fall asleep. Side note: melatonin supplements when taken regularly can be counterproductive by interfering with the body’s natural ability to produce melatonin.

Leptin and ghrelin- these two go hand in hand and I can personally attest for the power an imbalance in these hormones can have. Leptin signals the body to know when it’s full and ghrelin signals hunger. When we don’t sleep enough, leptin decreases and ghrelin increases. This results in being hungrier, less satisfied and craving quick carbs! As mentioned earlier, because I never heard anyone else describe that happening to them, I thought it was just me. Learning otherwise was empowering, helping me to avoid that awful feeling by making better “sleep routine” choices.

Insulin- studies show that lack of sleep may result in insulin resistance. It is reported that even one short night of sleep can make the body less sensitive to insulin, which may lead to energy crashes and stronger sugar cravings the next day.

As we sleep, we enter in and out of 90 minute cycles designed in a perfect rhythm to restore the body and refresh the mind. When we set the proper setting for this to happen, these hormones are balanced, can communicate properly and serve us well! Poor sleep doesn’t just make us tired. It can affect mood and resilience, cravings and appetite, focus and productivity, stress tolerance, and weight regulation. Poor sleep habits can be what’s sabotaging your health goals even if it seems everything else is on point. When sleep is off, everything is off. If you’re working on your health, drinking more water, managing stress, improving nutrition, but ignoring sleep, you are actually skipping the foundation!

Here comes the silver lining...sleep is incredibly responsive to small changes. The body runs on a 24-hour internal clock influenced largely by light and consistency. The more regular your sleep-wake pattern, the more stable your hormones become. You don’t need a perfect routine, just a predictable one. With a predictable routine, it is possible to reset your rhythm! Are you ready for a reset? If so, reply “ready” to [joann@wellnessfusion.net](mailto:joann@wellnessfusion.net) to receive some helpful tips to get started!

JoAnn Begley is a Nutritionist, Holistic Wellness Practitioner & Health & Lifestyle Coach. Questions and comments are always welcome. Remember this monthly article is here for you- For the Health of it

### North Branford Rotary Seeking Nominations for 2026 Service Above Self Awards



Pictured Left to Right 2023, 2024 & 2025 Honorees: Dave Palumbo, Steve Torino, Al Rose, Mary-Ellen Dilella, Ashley McClain, Kerry Haynes, William DellaCamera, Randall Chittendon, Daniel Armin.

The North Branford Rotary Club is proud to recognize individuals who make a meaningful difference in the North Branford community through our Service Above Self Award.

This award honors individuals who actively help others, demonstrate meaningful humanitarian service, and whose efforts have had a positive impact on our community and beyond.

Nominations are now open.

Community members may submit individual nominations by visiting [NorthBranfordRotary.org](http://NorthBranfordRotary.org) or through the Service Above Self post on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/northbranfordrotaryclub](https://facebook.com/northbranfordrotaryclub). Nominations are submitted online using a form that requests basic information about the nominee, along with detailed examples of how the individual exemplifies the Rotary motto, *Service Above Self*. To be considered, nominations should include specific and thorough descriptions of the nominee’s service and contributions.

The deadline to submit a nomination is April 24, 2026, so please act quickly.

Each year, the Rotary Club receives many strong nominations, making the selection process challenging. If you nominated someone in a previous year who was not selected, we encourage you to nominate them again for consideration.

We look forward to learning more about the remarkable individuals in our magnificent town who consistently go above and beyond to make the Town of North Branford—and the world—a better place.

Questions?

For more information about the award or nomination process, please contact:

- [NorthBranfordRotary@gmail.com](mailto:NorthBranfordRotary@gmail.com)
- Committee Chairperson Melinda Fonda at 203-988-0883
- Club President Anne Merola at 203-988-2898

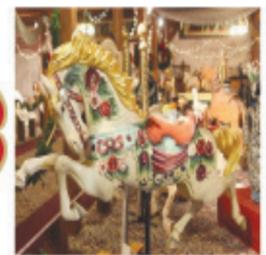
Save the Date: The Service Above Self Award Dinner honoring our 2026 recipients will take place on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM at The Woodwinds.

Tickets will be available beginning May 5, 2026 through our website, Facebook page, or directly from any North Branford Rotarian.

### ALL THE KING'S HORSES EQUINE RESCUE

501c3 non-profit Connecticut Horse Rescue

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Sunday, March 15, 2026

11:30a-2:30p

Connecticut Carousel Museum

95 Riverside Ave, Bristol CT

\$60 Adult/\$30 Child Ticket price includes:

- ★ A Delicious Brunch (Served at 12:30)
- ★ Silent Auction & Raffles
- ★ Admission to explore the Carousel Museum
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For More Information & to Purchase Tickets

See our Facebook Page or use link below



# Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner



Saturday, March 21, 2026  
 North Haven  
 Congregational Church  
 28 Church Street,  
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**Featuring Irish Step Dancers.**

\$20 for Members  
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Bring a friend and sign them up  
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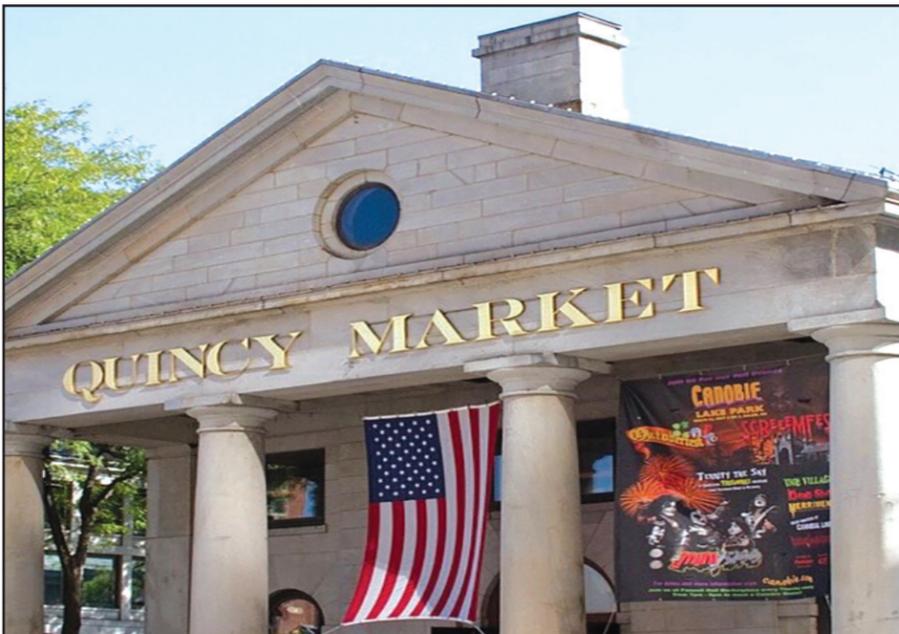
For Tickets  
 call Frank at 203-410-4254  
 Dinner Begins at 6:00.



*North Haven Sons & Daughters of Italy  
 Deliver a Carload of food to  
 the NorthHaven Community Services*

The North Haven Sons and Daughters of Italy delivered a carload of nonperishable food items to the North Haven Community Services food pantry on February 26th. These items were donated by the members of Lodge 2805 and delivered by its Community Outreach Committee. For more information about the Lodge, visit northhavenlodge2805.club.

*Photo: Rob Snurkowski of North Haven Community Services accepts a delivery of nonperishable food items from North Haven Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge members for the town food pantry. Pictured from L-R are Rob Snurkowski, Lodge members Denise Krause, Georgianna Hull, Regina Najarian and Diane Barone.*



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## Tentative 2026 Events North Haven Sons & Daughters of Italy

### Corned Beef & Cabbage

Saturday 3-21-26

### Movie Night

Friday 4-10-25

### Bus Trip Quincy Market

Saturday 4-11-26

### Distinguished Citizen Dinner

Wednesday, 5-20-26

### Memorial Day Parade

Saturday, 5-23-26

### Game & Music Night

Saturday, 6-20-26

### Horse Racing

Saturday 6-27-26

### Car Show

Saturday 8-8-26

### Golf Outing

Sunday 9-20-26

### Maganini Winery Bus Trip

Sunday, October 4, 2026

### Fashion Show

Sunday October 11, 2026

### Christmas Party

Sunday 12-6-26

October is Heritage Month  
 with various activities.

For more information contact  
 Susan: Velleca snoozie321@outlook.com  
 or Frank Mentone: Fmentonejr@comcast.net

*For just \$45.00 a year you can join this outstanding organization  
 by sending the application on left to:  
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 PO Box 193, North Haven, CT 06473  
 Attention SueAnn*

### Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America Membership Application



CHECK ONE BOX:  New Member  Transfer from Lodge # \_\_\_\_\_ to # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reinstatement  New Information

MEMBER TYPE:  Regular  Social  Student  At Large

Local Lodge Name and Number : North Haven Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge 2805

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I.: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Italian Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Marital Status: Married \_\_\_ or Single \_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Applicants Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the applicant is fully eligible for the above membership and recommend membership approval

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date Accepted By Local Lodge \_\_\_\_\_



# A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear North Branford Community,

As we look ahead to the 2026-2027 school year, the North Branford Board of Education remains committed to providing a high-quality education while remaining mindful of our fiscal responsibility to you, the taxpayers. Our proposed budget of \$36,520,142 represents a 7.09% increase over the current year. While we understand this is a notable step up, we want to be transparent about what is driving these costs.

What is Driving the Increase?

The vast majority of our budget—roughly 77%—is dedicated to the people who work with our students every day through salaries and benefits. Over 98% of the total budget increase comes from just three areas:

- Salaries (51.28% of the increase): Driven by contractual obligations, including a 4% increase for teachers and a 4.7% increase for paraprofessionals.
- Transportation (26.88% of the increase): The transportation contract reflects a 4% increase. In the current fiscal year, over \$600,000 in transportation expenses are supported by the non-lapsing account (Fund 25) due to insufficient General Fund resources, even after staffing reductions implemented for FY 25/26. Beginning in FY 26/27, the full cost of transportation is correctly budgeted within the General Fund.
- Benefits (20.24% of the increase): This is primarily due to a 9% increase in health insurance premiums and rising dental and vision costs.

Context and Efficiency

North Branford has operated with extreme efficiency, with a 10-year average budget increase of only 1.16%, significantly lower than our regional neighbors. For example, towns like Guilford and Clinton have seen average increases between 4% and 4.7% over recent years.

It is important to remember that these fiscal challenges are not new. Over the past several years, we have already made difficult and meaningful sacrifices to manage rising costs. During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, we eliminated the curriculum coach positions and the greeter positions. We also had to discontinue the late bus. For the 2025–2026 school year, the district was forced to reduce 10 staff positions, including both certified and non-certified employees, as well as reduce our security staff. In addition to these staffing reductions, we implemented participation fees for student clubs and athletics and established tuition fees for preschool peer students. Each of these decisions were made thoughtfully and reluctantly, but they were necessary to address ongoing financial pressures.

Our Goal

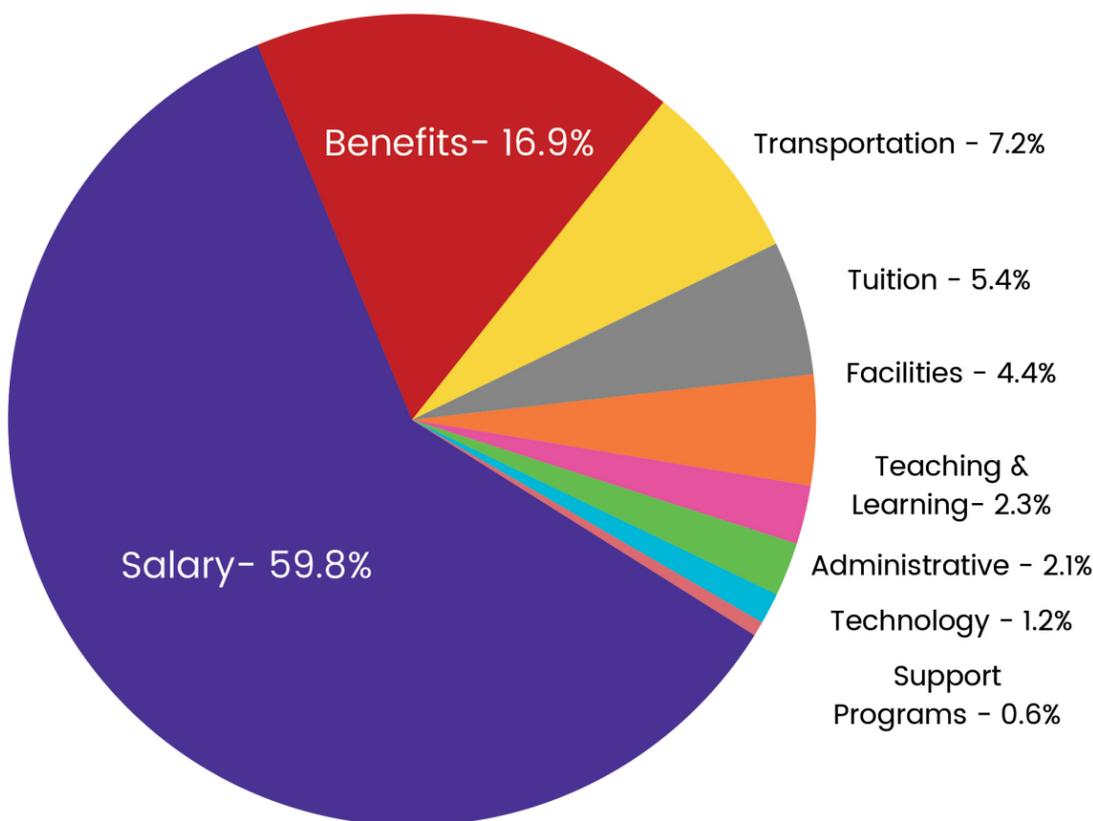
This budget is designed to maintain the academic standards our families expect while managing the external economic pressures—like insurance and fuel—that affect us all. We are not just investing in a "system"; we are investing in the more than 1,500 young people who represent the future of North Branford and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and our students.

Sincerely,

Scott Schoonmaker

## BUDGET ALLOCATION BY CATEGORY



Salary	\$ 21,857,202.00
Benefit	\$ 6,186,200.00
Transportation	\$ 2,616,793.00
Tuition	\$ 1,954,755.00
Facilities	\$ 1,604,875.00
Teaching & Learning	\$ 852,549.00
Administrative	\$ 781,902.00
Technology	\$ 452,877.00
Support Programs	\$ 212,989.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 36,520,142.00</b>

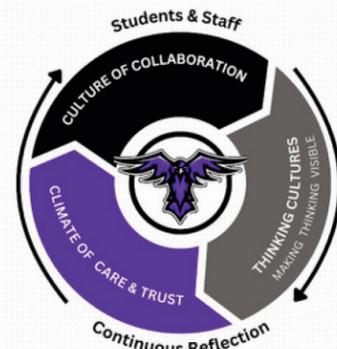
## REGIONAL BUDGET COMPARISON

Town	2025-2026	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023	Average
North Branford	0.59%	1.50%	2.03%	0.92%	1.26%
Madison	1.87%	3.85%	2.52%	1.66%	2.48%
Branford	5.70%	1.70%	3.25%	1.71%	3.09%
Region 18	7.39%	3.00%	2.91%	-0.13%	3.29%
Region 13	4.07%	3.68%	3.98%	2.41%	3.54%
Wallingford	3.14%	5.59%	3.29%	2.98%	3.75%
Clinton	6.10%	6.78%	2.15%	1.89%	4.23%
Guilford	3.98%	4.99%	4.63%	5.18%	4.70%

\*Please note there is variation between towns with what is included in Board of Education budget requests. For example, some towns include debt service and health insurance while others do not.

## NORTH BRANFORD HISTORICAL INCREASES

Town	25-26	24-25	23-24	22-23	21-22	20-21	19-20	18-19	17-18	16-17	Average
North Branford	0.59%	1.50%	2.03%	0.92%	0.00%	0.78%	1.70%	2.09%	1.01%	0.99%	1.16%



## PER PUPIL EXPENDITURE 2023-2024

District	Total PPE 2023-2024
Regional School District 13	\$28,300
Madison School District	\$25,829
Branford School District	\$25,027
Clinton School District	\$24,911
Regional School District 18	\$24,634
Wallingford School District	\$23,520
North Branford School District	\$23,080
Guilford School District	\$22,568

\*Please note that the 2023-2024 data is the most recent available from the Connecticut Department of Education.

## 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 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Our fund drive is also being run at this time.



**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

If anyone would like to make a donation or help us raise monies for the students please call Lars at 203-483-1311.

### THEY MAKE US PROUD

Cassidy Colantonio, Felicia Hortillo and Madison Montanaro were named the the Dean's List at the College of Holy Cross in Worcester, MA.

Gianna Fico was named to the Dean's List at Southern Connecticut State University.

Crystal Cham and Christian Perrotti were named to the Dean's List at Goodwin University in East Hartford.



## LIBRARY NEWS

### Quilters Club

NORTH BRANFORD: Those who enjoy quilting are invited to meet at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, March 6 (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 Road, from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Friday, March 6. Parent or guardian must attend. Registration not required.

### Dance Mode

NORTH BRANFORD: Get ready to dance, sing, and play instruments on Monday, March 9, from 10:30 to 11 a.m., in this family-oriented program at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. Recommended for ages 18 months and up. Siblings are welcome. Registration not required.

### Monday Night Mah-Jong

NORTHFORD: Those interested in playing Mah-Jongg are invited to the Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road, from 6 to 8 p.m., Monday, March 9 (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 Road, from 10:30 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10, for a Little Makers session - a simple craft activity that we do together. Today we will make a pigeon craft inspired by Mo Willems' Pigeon series. Recommended for ages 2-6. Registration required; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

### Wacky Wildlife - Frogs

NORTH BRANFORD: Calling all animal lovers! Learn about frogs and make your own frog craft to take home. Come to the Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road, on Tuesday, March 10, from 5:30 to 6 p.m. Recommended for ages 6-11 years. Registration required; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com/ or call 203-315-6020.

### Drop-In Tech Help

NORTHFORD: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road. 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 Road, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, (and every Wednesday). For more information, go to northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-315-6020.

### Support Group For Dementia & Alzheimer's Caregivers

NORTHFORD: Caregiving is challenging. Join facilitator Karen LaBanca for our monthly Drop-In Caregiving Support Group from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road. Caregiver support groups are a way for you and others to share information, insight, advice, or words of encouragement in a safe and supporting space. To register, go to northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

### Bowties And Books

NORTH BRANFORD: Put on your most elegant bowties and fanciest tutus (or whatever you find comfortable), and join us on Thursday, March 12, from 10:30 to 11 a.m., for songs, stories, and silliness at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. Recommended for ages 6 months to 4 years with a parent or caregiver. Registration not required.

### Pat's Picks Movie Club - "Rear Window"

NORTH BRANFORD: Join us from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12 (and the second Thursday of each month), at Atwater Library, 1720 Foxon Road. Hosted by our local movie expert Patricia Cochrane. This month's movie is "Rear Window," the 1954 psychological-thriller directed by Alfred Hitchcock. "A bored photographer recovering from a broken leg passes the time by watching his neighbors and begins to suspect one of them of murder." - IMDB. Starring James Stewart, Grace Kelly and Wendell Corey. To register, visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-315-6020.

### Drop-In Tech Help

NORTHFORD: 2 to 5 p.m., Thursday, March 12, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road. 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.

### Library Teen Advisory Board

NORTHFORD: Students in grades 7-12 can join the North Branford Public Libraries Teen Advisory Board (T.A.B.) from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., Thursday, March 12, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road. Give back to your community and have a say in what your library offers teens. Earn community service hours for each meeting you attend. To register, visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

### Mario Kart Tournament

NORTHFORD: Youths aged 10-14 are invited to take turns playing rounds of Mario Kart with their peers from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 12, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road. Registration required; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

### Secure Your Future: Retirement Planning

NORTHFORD: 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, March 12, at Smith Library, 3 Old Post Road. Join the father/daughter team of Lou and Jessica Pelletier for a comprehensive retirement planning workshop. Uncover all Social Security selection options. Learn how recent government changes impact non-spouse beneficiaries and learn strategies for drawing income from your assets in a volatile market. Plus, discover the legal documents every retiree should have. Registration required; visit northbranford.librarycalendar.com or call 203-484-0469.

NBHS PROJECT GRADUATION 2026 PRESENTS:

# Drag Queen BINGO



**\$35 / PERSON** FEATURING THE DARLING DIVAS!  
SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH @ 4PM  
The Italian American Club  
40 Hamre Ln, Branford, CT, 06405  
50/50 Raffle & Gift Card Prizes!  
Daubers & Light refreshments available for purchase  
\*\* MUST BE 18 OR OLDER \*\*  
All proceeds benefit NBHS Project Graduation 2026

Scan here for tickets

## 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

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## Help my Friend Stephen McGovern

Hello to all those caring people out there in the world who would consider becoming a (live liver donor). The purpose is for helping people like my longtime friend (Stephen McGovern), this is so he can work his way back to good health and go on living a productive life. We thank you for this opportunity to express a very personal and very important matter for a true family man and great friend to everyone!

My name is Danny Maggione, a longtime good friend to a great man, (Stephen McGovern) only (56) years old The (GOVERNOR), a nickname we all call him, due to the fact he helps everyone with his big heart to help organize their lives, whether its life rolls, parties/reunions or just getting people together to secure donations to help others. (With Stephen no one is left behind). He is the true definition of that good man who actually does take his shirt off his back to help you.

(STEPHEN NEEDS OUR HELP NOW)!!! He needs a (live liver donor) for a liver transplant, the donor must be (18-65 yrs. old in good health and must have an (O- blood type)). To those considering this will of course have to be evaluated for compatibility. This alongside surgery or any procedure will be at (NO) cost to the donor. It will be paid for by the Transplant Center. After consulting his medical team it was agreed upon that Stephen would need to have a liver transplant, due to an Autoimmune disease called (PSC) (Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis.) that has severely complicated Stephens health, it keeps him from enjoying his family and all the normal things in our daily lives, most of us take for granted.

In addition, Stephens's wife also a great friend to many had to undergo her own liver transplant 11 yrs ago. But by the grace of God she received the help she needed and is back to good health. Stephen was right by her side doing all he can like he does for everyone. The chances of 2 people in the same house hold needing a liver transplant under different diagnosis is extremely rare. They have both been through a great deal of challenges with their health. The fact is they are both great people and simply do not deserve what they've gone through. Now its Stephens turn to get the help he needs. They have hung in there, kept their faith intact, and I am so proud of them for that. My heart goes out to both of them. Stephen SR. supports his wife of many years and 2 wonderful children, Stephen JR. and Jordan. In fact Stephen JR. will be getting married soon.

(so please help my buddy live). Help Stephen with his journey back to good health with your live liver donation, so he can go on in good health, enjoy life/family/seeing his children get married and bring to fruition some grandchildren. This is a dream we all have in our lives as parents.

So once again I ask for that special person to come forward and become Stephens's live liver donor. That great angelic donor that helps Stephen with the repair of his liver with their donation for his liver transplant, so again he can live on as that productive person he has always been.

They will receive great karma in return, first healing very quickly from their liver donation in approximately (3 months) as it immediately grows back to full size and just simply feeling great about oneself due to the fact they are helping a very worthy and kind person return back to good health, this is such a great feeling in and of itself. WOW! it's amazing; the liver is the only organ in our body that grows back. The liver being the filter for the human body, makes it much harder needy/important when debilitated to live on in good health and bring to fruition all the good things GOD intended us to do. AMEN! On that.

GOD bless you all and again please spread the word in all conversations you partake in. This helps us in finding that compatible person for Stephens liver transplant that is so urgently needed. Please tell them, (that a good man needs our help!) We appreciate your consideration in becoming a (live liver donor) for (Stephen McGovern), we also appreciate those who want to help but are unable to participate. And please, we ask for you all to keep Stephen and his family in your thoughts and prayers, as they will keep you in theirs.

If you or anyone you know has an interest in becoming a (live liver donor) for my good friend (Stephen McGovern) and would like to learn more about this matter, please contact the (YALE LIVER DONOR REFERRAL LINE) @ (1-866-925-3897) OR CALL STEPHEN DIRECTLY @ (203-500-1218).

Thank you all for your time and consideration; again we appreciate the opportunity to express this very important and very personal matter. We can only imagine how extremely important and time sensitive this matter is. (Peace to you all!) Happy holidays.

## Recycling News

### Upcoming events

Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> - Leaf Drop-Off opens – bring us your leaves  
 Week of April 6<sup>th</sup> - Scrap Metal Pick up – large appliance, grills, tools, A/C units  
 Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> - Electronic Waste Drop-Off - TVs, computers, almost anything with a cord  
 Also, on this day we collect mattresses (FREE) and empty propane tanks.  
 Week of April 20<sup>th</sup> - Bulky Waste pick up – almost everything else

### North Branford's Plastic Bag Recycling Program

The town's drop off locations are:

**The Northford Store, The Food Pantry of NB, Country Paint and Hardware, T.J.'s Launderette and ...**

our new Recycling Station at Public Works

which takes Plastic Film, printer ink cartridges, eye glasses, used cell phones and used clothing and shoes.



**ACCEPTED:** grocery bags, newspaper sleeves, produce bags, bread bags, dry cleaning bags, ice bags, wood pellet bags, salt bags, zipper bags, plastic wraps from water bottle cases, diapers, bathroom tissue, and paper towels, as well as bubble wrap and shipping pillows. Plastic bags with recycling symbols Number 2 or Number 4 are accepted.

**NOT ACCEPTED:** **Food, Plastic Water Bottles, pet food bags,** plastic bags with recycling symbols Number 5 or Number 7 (i.e., salad and grape bags), snack bags (potato chips, popcorn, and candy), frozen food bags, and any bags with food residue.

### Regional Water Authority Rain Barrel Sale

For a limited time and while supplies last, you can purchase a 50-gallon Ivy Rain Barrel at a discounted price from RWA. The price is \$80 each, discounted from \$162.99.



Rain barrels are a great way for homeowners to use water wisely and manage water costs. They also help reduce stormwater pollution by keeping water out of storm drains that can carry contaminants from the street into water sources.

The deadline to place your order is Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>

Or when products run out.

<https://www.rainwatersolutions.com/products/rwater>

Pickup is Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> – 9am to 12pm  
 at RWA, 90 Sargent Dr. New Haven

### 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](http://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](http://NBcatholics.org). If you are new to the area and looking for a wonderful parish or homeschool co-op to join, please visit us or give us a call! Northford Community Church. Church is located on Old Post Rd. (Corner of Rte 17 and Rte 22), PO Box 191 Northford. Phone (203)-484-0795, Fax (203)-484-9916. Email: [northfordcc@gmail.com](mailto:northfordcc@gmail.com). Office Hours: Tuesday 9am-1pm; Other days by appointment. John Vigneri, Pastor. 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](http://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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday brunch, charity work, book club, praise team, men's fellowship and more. To contact our church: Office hours are Wednesday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Phone: 203.488.8456, email: [nobdcong@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nobdcong@sbcglobal.net), website: [www.northbranfordcongregational.org](http://www.northbranfordcongregational.org) Come grow in faith with us!

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 [zionepiscopalchurch.org](http://zionepiscopalchurch.org). Zion is an open and affirming congregation for those seeking a safe place to worship and grow in Christ. 203-488-7395



## SAINT JOSEPH

St. Joseph (flourished 1st century CE, Nazareth, Galilee, region of Palestine; principal feast day March 19, Feast of St. Joseph the Worker May 1) was, in the New Testament, Jesus' earthly father and the Virgin Mary's husband. St. Joseph is the patron of the universal church in Roman Catholicism, and his life is recorded in the Gospels, particularly Matthew and Luke.

Joseph was a descendant of the house of King David. After marrying Mary, he found her already pregnant and, "being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace" (Matthew 1:19), decided to divorce her quietly, but an angel told him that the child was the Son of God and was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Obeying the angel, Joseph took Mary as his wife. After Jesus' birth at Bethlehem in Judaea, where the Holy Family received the Magi, an angel warned Joseph and Mary about the impending violence against the child by King Herod the Great of Judaea, whereupon they fled to Egypt. There the angel again appeared to Joseph, informing him of Herod's death and instructing him to return to the Holy Land.

Avoiding Bethlehem out of fear of Herod's successor, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus settled in Nazareth (Matthew 2:22-23) in Galilee, where Joseph taught his craft of carpentry to Jesus. Joseph is last mentioned in the Gospels when he and Mary frantically searched for the lost young Jesus in Jerusalem, where they found him in the Temple (Luke 2:41-49). Like Mary, Joseph failed to comprehend Jesus' ironic question, " 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' " The circumstances of Joseph's death are unknown, except that he probably died before Jesus' public ministry began and was certainly dead before the Crucifixion (John 19:26-27).

All are welcome to a free  
Community Breakfast the last  
Saturday of every month  
9 – 10 a.m.  
Beginning October 25

Zion Episcopal Church  
326 Notch Hill Road, North Branford

**BRANFORD**  
Compassion Club

# Easter Bake Sale

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

Stanley T. Williams Community Center  
1332 Middletown Avenue, Northford CT

Homemade baked goods for sale  
Crafts and Easter Baskets for sale  
Coffee  
Roulette wheel game

KEEP CALM  
and  
NO DIET

Proceeds benefit Branford Compassion Club's Feline Rescue & Adoption Center



# 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! @NBPAK.REC.SENIOR

JOIN US FOR

## Dinner

*Come Share Good Food,  
Good Company, And Connection*

**FRIDAY MARCH 20, 2026**  
5:30-7:00PM  
STW COMMUNITY CENTER  
1332 Middletown Ave. Northford

You are warmly invited to join us for a delicious home-cooked meal  
Stuffed Shells, side of Meatballs, salad, garlic bread & dessert

Durante's Pasta prepared by Montowese




**Suggested donation: \$5/per person**  
(or whatever feels right to you, just reach out to us)  
All proceeds go toward food and future dinners.  
**Kindly RSVP!**  
nbrecreation.com or call the office (203)484-6017

## — SENIOR CENTER —

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON

**Thursday, March 12th**  
\$10 dine in \$12 takeout  
Lunch served at 12:00pm

**Registration opens on 2/2  
and closes on 3/6**

O' Fashion Corned Beef, Cabbage  
Potatoes & Carrots, Irish Soda Bread, and  
Dessert!

\*Take out meals are limited- please speak to the staff if you are in need of a meal to go\*



### 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!

### 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

### 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

## DINER DASH

**Crazy Toast House, Target and Ferraro's**  
**March 11, 2026**  
Departs STW at 11:00am Returns 2:00pm  
Come for a meal on your own at the Crazy Toast House then we will head over to Target and Ferraro's. Please register by 3/9.

## 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

### 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!




### 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

## REC & READ

Join our Parks and Rec staff for a monthly story time and activity geared towards children ages 0-4 years. This 45 minute program will include a short story read out loud and an activity to match. *Each child will get to take home a copy of the book!*

March 18, 2026 - 10:15 - 11:00am - \$5  
STW Art Room - Ages 4 and under  
Please register by 2/16/26

## TAI CHI

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

**March 10 - April 28**  
Ages 18+ STW Classroom Tuesdays 6:00-7:00pm  
\$70 res/\$75 nr

### 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..

**BRANFORD COMPASSION CLUB AND THE GREATER NEW HAVEN CAT PROJECT**  
**INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR "PURR-ONI DINNER"**

**Wednesday, March 25, 2026**  
**Christ & The Epiphany Church**  
**39 Park Place, East Haven**  
 Doors open at 5:30pm  
 Dinner served at 6:30pm

**CATERED BY WHAT'S COOKIN'**  
**MENU : PASTA MARINARA, PASTA PRIMAVERA, MEATBALLS, SALAD, BREAD, SODA, COFFEE & DESSERT**  
**TICKETS \$30/PERSON (TABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GROUPS OF 4+)**  
**VISIT GNHCP.ORG/DINNER TO PURCHASE THROUGH MARCH 22, 2026 (ADVANCED TICKET PURCHASE REQUIRED)**

**RAFFLE BASKETS & DOOR PRIZES!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: CHRISKAT32@AOL.COM

*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!!



**"Security Systems are best when installed by a Professional not the Internet"**

**NETWORK**  
 ELECTRIC & SECURITY SYSTEMS

**203-288-1000**  
**355 Sacket Point Rd. North Haven, Ct 06473**

*Did you know:*  
**The Brooklyn Bridge was the first bridge powered by electricity**

**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](http://www.northbranfordschools.org) to complete an on-line application.

