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Volume 30 No 1 August 18, 2023



Patti Schaeffer Recognized for 31 Years of Service

NORTH BRANFORD – Town Manager Michael Downes and the North Branford Town Council recognized the service of Patti Schaefer to the Town at their August 1st meeting. Schaefer was presented a plaque honoring her for her dedicated service of 31 years upon the occasion of her retirement.

Schaefer served for 15 years in the Town's Finance Department handling Accounts Payable. Prior to this post, she was hired in 1992 by the Board of Education and managed the Stanley T. Williams cafeteria, then the NBIS cafeteria until 2000. That year she took on the post of dispatcher with the North Branford Police Department where she remained until 2008 when she took on the Finance position.

Schaefer lived in Town for 20 years, and with her husband raised their children who are all graduates of the North Branford school system. Patti has been a positive and energetic member of the Town Hall family, and will be missed by all as we wish her a happy retirement.

PHOTO: North Branford Town Manager Michael Downes, Mayor Jeffery Macmillen and the North Branford Town Council present a plaque to Patti Schaefer recognizing her 31 years of service to the Town upon her retirement. Photo by Anthony Esposito.



Caruso-Bode Family Hosts 25th Annual Fundraiser to Benefit the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance on September 14

Join as we celebrate "Living a Courageous Life"

Tickets Available Online at give.curefa.org/Courageouslife

\$100 and must be purchased in advance

(North Branford, CT, August 2, 2023) — The Caruso-Bode family will host their signature dinner event Thursday, September 14 to raise funds for The Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA). The first fundraiser was held in 1998, when Mary Caruso's children, Sam and Alex Bode, were first diagnosed with Friedreich's Ataxia (FA)—a progressive neuromuscular disease. Now, 25 years later, a treatment to slow the progression of this disease has finally received FDA approval, yet the family continues with the same determination and optimism to find more treatments and, ultimately, a cure for FA.

With great excitement, they will return to the Owenego Inn, 40 Linden Avenue, Branford. The event will begin at 6 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres followed by dinner and a cash bar. There will be a raffle, as well as silent and live auctions. Attendees will be offered various disciplines of holistic practitioners, all of which Sam and Alex utilize in their lives. "We are grateful to our practitioners offering their services to our guests. We hope someone will try something new that can help them in their life," says Alex. "Most of the holistic work we get helps us find our courage to succeed."

Many obstacles that Sam and Alex faced this year helped develop the theme of Living a Courageous Life. As Caruso explains, "Sam and Alex find their way to the level of courage they need and we know everyone struggles in life and each person has to find their level of courage also. We are hoping this year's theme and the take-home gifts we have for our attendees will help anyone who needs to find their courage."

The event, organized by a strong and dedicated committee, always promises to give back in gratitude and love. The committee came together naturally, made up of friends and family, and each person holds a unique and strong bond that shines the night of the event. Committee Chairs Michael and Ann Marshal state, "Our event is a testament to the perseverance and courage of a relatively small committee of people who refuse to give up. They continue to fight to improve the lives of everyone who is impacted by FA. We welcome anyone and everyone to join us in our quest to find an end to FA."

Caruso adds, "The committee is our lifeline; we all work very hard for months to bring people a loving, magical evening."

Longtime employee and someone who now is considered family, Melanie DeCaprio, is an integral part of this event and the Caruso-Bode family. "I can't think of anything more courageous than living life with a progressive illness. Despite obstacles Sam, Alex and Mary live their lives with strength and resilience every

single day. They make it their mission to not only live life to the fullest but also share that positivity and hope with everyone they come across," says DeCaprio. "This event is a chance for all of us to come together and raise money for an amazing cause and celebrate living life courageously!"

This year promises the same love and attention to the donors and attendees, as the event celebrates all that supporters have helped FARA accomplish as well as the renewed commitment to the pursuit of treatments and cures for FA. Please join us in Living a Courageous Life on September 14. Tickets available at: give.curefa.org/Courageouslife

About FA

Friedreich's ataxia (FA) is a debilitating, life-shortening, degenerative neuromuscular disorder. About one in 50,000 people in the United States has FA, with most having onset of symptoms between the ages of 5 and 18. Adult, or late-onset, FA is less common (less than 25 percent of diagnosed individuals) and can occur anytime during adulthood.

The signs and symptoms of Friedreich's ataxia are:

- loss of coordination (ataxia) in the arms and legs
- fatigue, energy deprivation and muscle loss
- vision impairment, hearing loss, and slurred speech
- aggressive scoliosis (curvature of the spine)
- diabetes mellitus (insulin-dependent, in most cases)
- serious heart conditions, including hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and arrhythmias

The progressive loss of coordination and muscle strength leads to motor incapacitation and the full-time use of a wheelchair. Most young people diagnosed with FA require mobility aids such as a cane, walker or wheelchair by their teens or early 20s.

TOTOKET TIMES

Deadline	Publication Date
August 25	September 1
September 15	September 23
September 29	October 7
October 14	October 21
October 28	November 4
November 11	November 18

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"I was Sickened"
Dear Editor,

As an American, Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother I was sickened to the core when I saw on the news the President (Biden/Obama) nibble on the shoulder of a little girl and then try to kiss her on the forehead. She cringed.

This is not the first time he has done similar actions toward young females.

In my opinion he should be removed from office.

He totally embarrassed this country.

Sincerely,
Alice Lehr

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State Representative Vincent Candelora



Police respond to a reported broad daylight carjacking and use road spikes to stop the fleeing vehicle. It eventually crashes and one of the two suspects flees to a nearby auto tire business, fights with an employee inside a vehicle as he tries to steal it. The employee flees and an officer deploys his K-9 into car, and when the officer gets inside to retrieve the police dog and arrest the perpetrator, the man ignores commands to stop and takes off with the cop and K-9 along for the ride. The owner of a detail shop nearby hears screeching tires and runs out of his business to see a car barreling through piles of tires as bystanders scurry. The shop owner hears shots and hits the ground before the vehicle crashes into a telephone pole. The suspect dies, while his partner in crime, a convicted felon with 30 arrests to his name, is taken into custody.

No, this isn't an excerpt from a movie script. It isn't Los Angeles, or even Chicago—this harrowing scene exploded in West Hartford, and I don't blame Connecticut residents who fear that it is emblematic of the new normal in the Nutmeg State.

Who could blame them?
Hours earlier, a man already out on bond after allegedly shooting an innocent bystander in a retaliatory attack in 2021, allegedly killed one person in Hartford and injured another. Before that, a child was shot outside a hospital in New Haven. And as I type this, news is surfacing of a 48-hour crime spree that ended in Meriden with a crashed police cruiser and suspects who torched one of three stolen vehicles.

These crimes, and many others, have occurred on the heels of an article in the progressive publication Slate, which had many of my Democratic colleagues crowing that Connecticut had done something remarkable—policy-wise—to mothball several of its prisons.

Tell that to the family of the man allegedly killed in Hartford by the guy who was roaming around free on bonds totaling more than \$800,000.

By and large, my Democratic colleagues in the legislature have brushed off all these headline-grabbing crimes that have the rest of Connecticut talking.

Crime, they say, will always exist. It's a part of life. Our majority party friends have even taken to figure-pointing Republicans, criticizing my caucus colleagues for voting against a measure to amend the constitution to allow a judge to hold the most dangerous individuals, like the Hartford shooter, without bail. Conveniently, they neglect to mention their proposed amendment would likely lead to the elimination of cash bail altogether, meaning just about everyone else—plenty of bad apples included—would be roaming the streets pretrial.

Expect to hear a lot more about New York City-style "bail reform" in the coming months.

In the meantime, continue to lock the doors to your houses and vehicles. Kids are still breaking into and stealing vehicles, like the 12-year-old and two 13-year-olds who made headlines in Trumbull two weeks ago. After their failed attempt to steal a woman's vehicle—of course, they damaged it—the preparators were released to the custody of their parents. The youngest of the three was already on probation on car theft-related charges.

Between Jan. 1 and June 30, there have been a staggering number of juvenile arrests related to motor vehicle theft—604 minors were charged, compared to 269 over the same six-month period last year and the overall 628 in 2022. The 2020 record of 888 is, unfortunately, in sight.

Juvenile "justice" advocates, loathe to admit there's a problem, point to police doing a better job keeping statistics rather than an increase in crime. For them, this is normal.

Yet the rest of us can see it with our own eyes, hear it in the experiences from our friends and neighbors, and read about it in the media.

For us, this isn't normal, and we shouldn't settle for it.
Rep. Vincent Candelora
House Republican Leader
86th District
North Branford, East Haven, Durham, Guilford

"Seek Other Viewpoints"

Dear Editor;

My father always had these "proverbs" he would tell me and my siblings when we were young. I always knew there was a message in there somewhere that was supposed to give us advice about life in growing up. Some I can't remember and some I just can't repeat in a public forum.

"Believe half of what you see and none of what you hear." That's one that stuck with me after all these years. As I grew into adulthood, that advice faded in and out of my consciousness. I never really applied that advice to the media or anyone in a position of authority or even our elected officials.

I used to watch the local news faithfully every day without fail. I always believed whatever the local station told us to be true. Why would they lie? I was taught in school that we have a free and fair press, but somewhere along the way, I was losing my trust in the media and I started to question everything.

I guess my belief in the free and fair press began to diminish at the time of the Iraq war. They kept insisting that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. We sent our soldiers over there, and when all is said and done, we didn't even find a water pistol.

Then Donald Trump came along and they accused him of Russian collusion and all sorts of other ridiculous stuff. Then came Covid, mask mandates, shutting down businesses and vaccines. I knew from elementary school health class that masks and lockdowns were going to be absolutely useless in trying to contain a virus that was already out of control.

Covid was a wake up call for me I went looking for other news sources and outlets. I found them. The Federalist Breitbart News, the Gateway Pundit, Newsmax and the Epoch Times to name a few. There are even a few good podcasts out there. My favorite podcast is Dan Bongino. He is a former Secret Service agent and former New York City police officer. You can listen on Spotify or watch him live on rumble at 11 AM every weekday. Needless to say, I don't trust the local media anymore. The media is nothing more than propaganda.

Don't believe me?
Here's a couple of things you can go research.

Joe Biden, and his son's laptop. Miranda Devine wrote about this in her book "the Laptop from Hell". Miranda also writes for the New York Post. Is the current president compromised by China, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine, Russia? Is he slowly walking into World War III?

How about the Twitter Files? They expose the DOJ, FBI and just about every government agency colluding with Twitter, Facebook, Google, U-Tube and the rest of big tech, to suppress free-speech and opinions that were different than theirs. They even suggested the CIA probably had a hand in the Kennedy assassination.

Go to Substack and look up the name Seymour Hersh.. It's a strong possibility of the United States destroyed the north stream pipe line. They even have Joe Biden, and members of his cabinet saying it would be destroyed. If Russia invaded Ukraine. That would be an act of espionage against Russia. You think that might give cause to Putin to be pissed off at us ,

Let's not forget the mask and vaccines. There's more stories coming out every day that tell you how useless masks have been in the fight against Covid. The vaccines don't work and are not safe. Research Dr. Robert Malone, he's the person that helped develop the MRNA technology used in the vaccine. He's on Rumble and Substack .

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again expecting a different outcome. So if you want to go around, believing everything you hear from the media good luck to you. To all the other people I encourage you to seek other viewpoints. In today's day and age it is not a hard thing to do. Just about everyone has a computer. I think as citizens of this country we deserve the truth. I'm tired of the government, and media urinating on me and telling me it's raining.

Sincerely,
David Hall.

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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



Estate Planning for Everyone: Now Is a Good Time to Review Your Estate Plan By Attorney Marc

As the summer winds down and we round the final corner of 2023, now is a good time to review your estate plan and make sure it still meets your needs and goals. I recommend to my clients that they review their plans at least once a year. Fall will be here sooner than most of us would like, and will be quickly followed by the busiest season of the year for many of us— the holidays. So, if changes to your plan are necessary, now is a good time to make them.

I encourage you to find an hour of time and a quiet space *in the next few weeks* to review your estate planning documents. These might include Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney, Healthcare Directives and Living Wills, life insurance policies, financial records and any other important documents.

When you're reading through them, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Do I understand what these documents do/mean?
2. Do the documents still represent my wishes?
3. Are the beneficiaries correct? Has there been a recent birth or death in my family that requires an update or change to my documents?
4. Are the people I have put in positions of power (executor/guardian/trustee/power of attorney) still the right people for the job? Are they still alive? Are the right back-up people in place?
5. Are these Wills (or other documents) so old that they should be in a museum?

Asking yourself these questions as you review your estate planning documents will help you determine if it's time to make changes to them. If your plan and/or documents no longer conform to your wishes, then it's time to make an appointment with your attorney or other trusted professional to make the necessary updates. And if you have questions about what's in your documents or what they do or mean, now is a good time to reach out to your advisor to get those answers.

If you would like to talk with me about updating your plan- I offer a free consultation. Please call 203-500-0201 or email Marc@attorneymarc.com to schedule a complimentary consultation.

Marc Guertin is the principal at Marc Guertin, Attorney at Law, LLC. Located at 222 Rimmon Road, North Haven, Connecticut. Visit Attorneymarc.com Call: 203-500-0201 or email Marc@attorneymarc.com to schedule a complimentary consultation.

North Branford Awards East Haven Animal Shelter Contract

PRESS RELEASE: The Towns of North Branford and East Haven are pleased to announce the merger between North Branford and The East Haven Animal Shelter. North Branford does not have its own shelter and had previously contracted with the Town of Branford for these services. The North Branford Town Council voted to approve the agreement at their July 18th meeting. This move signifies a promising collaboration between the two municipalities.

The agreement sets the cost of services to North Branford at \$135,000 annually for the first two years and increases by 4% annually thereafter. Additionally, the two towns agree to review call volume to North Branford after the first year of the agreement and assess if the services are accurately reflected in the charges. East Haven will take over ACO services for North Branford effective September 1, 2023.

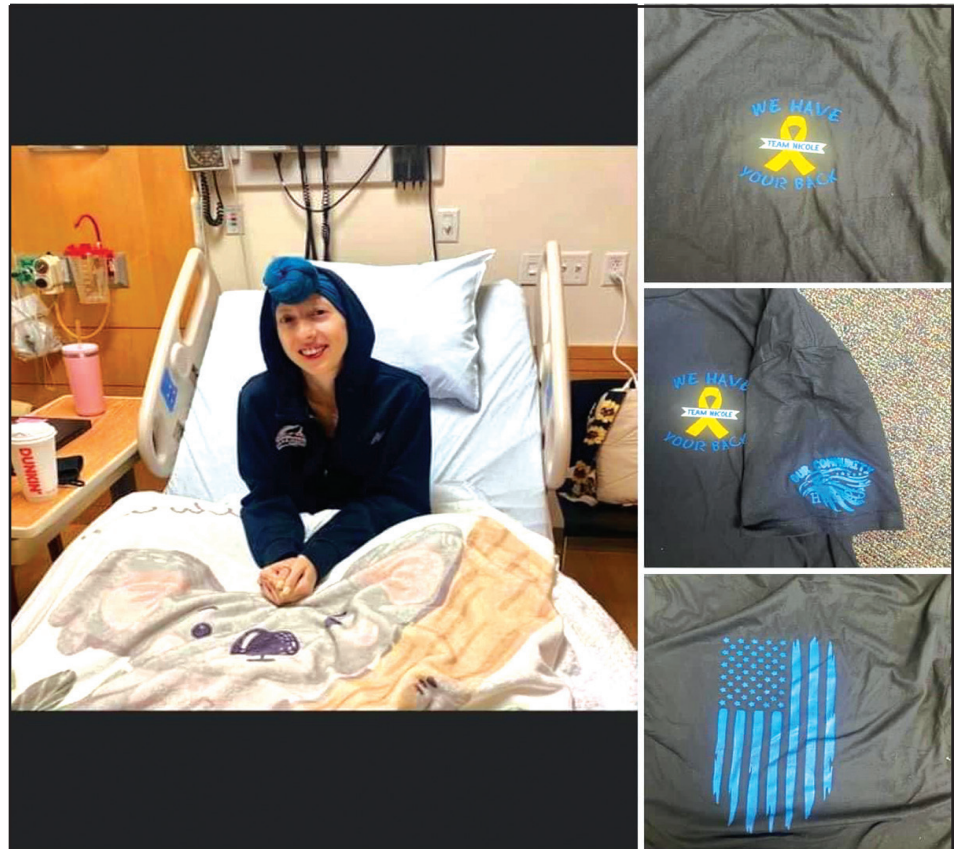
Under the terms of the previous animal control agreement with Branford, North Branford was set to spend \$175,000 on service with an additional outlay of over \$1 million in capital funds for the facility in Branford.

"This move will keep North Branford in the hands of a top-notch, professional animal control operation that highly values animal welfare and care," said North Branford Town Manager Michael Downes. "The North Branford Town Council's approval of this agreement will save North Branford taxpayers over \$40,000 per year and eliminate the need for any capital expenditure."

East Haven's Animal Control Officer Emily Higgins commented, "This collaboration represents a leap forward in animal welfare and community development for both towns. By centralizing animal care services, we can better allocate resources, enhance adoption programs, expand access to affordable veterinary care and most importantly, conduct educational outreach to raise awareness about responsible pet ownership."

North Branford council member Nick Palladino referred to his previous work with East Haven's beloved Animal Control Officer Owen Little by saying, "I know how East Haven operates and I know how Owen Little operates, he (Owen) has such ties to the shelter, that he retired and still works part time."

Little appreciated the sentiment saying, "I'm humbled by the kind words from the North Branford Town Council and look forward to actively engaging with their residents as well." **Michael P. Downes - Town Manager**



Tee Shirt Sales Supporting Nicole Community Heroes Fundraiser

Our Community Heros Inc. has begun a T-shirt fundraiser (see shirt above) for our close friend from North Branford- Nicole Ferrucci. As most of you know, last fall Nicole was diagnosed with Stage 4 Rhabdomyosarcoma. These T-shirts are for sale for \$20.00 and ALL (not just the profits) of the money raised will be going directly to Nicole.

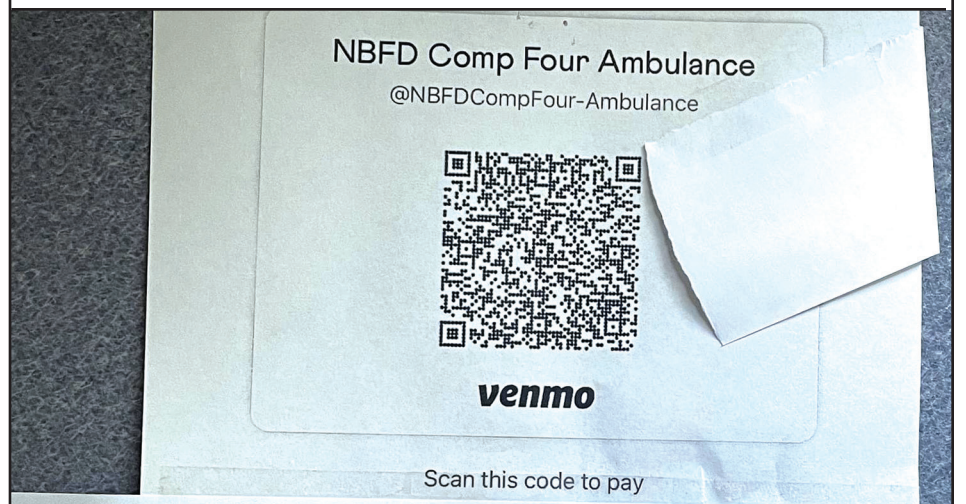
Contact our organization Director/Founder Rob Deco to obtain your shirts. sizes are Youth medium to Adult 5XL.

Contact Mr. Deco @203-996-0835

NBFD Fundraiser for Nicole in Recognition of Cancer Awareness

These are the breast cancer awareness t-shirts (below) that NBFD Co. 4 will be selling. All proceeds will be going to the Ferrucci family. Deadline to purchase is September 11th. Children sizes xs-xl \$20 and Adult sizes xs- 5xl \$25.

Please use the Venmo attached and give us your name phone number quantity of shirts and sizes as well as whether you want to pick them up or have them dropped off IN TOWN ONLY (include your address). As always thank you for your support.



Freshman Orientation to be Held at North Branford High School

An orientation to welcome our Freshman Class of 2027 and new students will be held on **Tuesday, August 22, from 9:30 - 12:00.** Both parents and students are invited and encouraged to attend.

The program is intended to help your child make a successful transistion to North Branford High School. During orientation, students and parents will receive important information about school policies and procedures, learn how to get involved in our school community, tour our brand new building, and hear directly from current NBHS student leaders about their own high school experiences.

In addition, all attendees will have the opportunity to pick up their school-issued Chromebook early (with a parent/guardian signature) and enjoy lunch-at no cost - in our new cafeteria. A schedule of events is provided below.

Freshman Orientation Schedule			
Time	Attendee	Activity	Location
9:30 - 10:00	Students/Parents	Check-In	Auditorium Lobby
10:00 - 10:15	Students/Parents	Welcome	Auditorium
10:15 - 11:15	Students	Student Orientation with NBHS Student Leaders and Building Tour	NBHS
	Parents	Parent Orientation with School Staff and Building Tour	Auditorium
11:15 - 12:00	Students/Parents	Chromebook Distribution and Verification Form Signoff	NBHS Lobby
		Lunch	NBHS Cafeteria

All parents/guardians of incoming freshman students will be mailed additional information.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION



CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

Hope Christian Church “A Place to Belong”. 211 Montowese Ave., North Haven, CT. www.hopeag.com Sunday services 10AM. Coffee served every Sunday 9:00 am. Church open for prayer Tuesdays noon to One. Thursday Bible study 7:00 PM. Like us on facebook.

North Branford Congregational Church, UCC, 1680 Foxon Road, North Branford, CT Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM. On the first Sunday of each month please attend and share communion with us.

Nursery Care is available.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 Remember, all are welcome no matter who you are, no matter where you are on life’s journey; you will always be welcome here.

Northford Congregational 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 . Jane K. Leschuk Minister of Music. 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.northfordcongregational.church

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

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!

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 1382 Middletown Avenue - The White Church On The Hill In The Heart Of Northford (at the intersection of Rtes. 17 & 22). Sunday worship at 10:00 a.m. Coffee and fellowship always follows. The Rev. Bryan Spinks is Priest-In-Charge. St.Andrew’s is a member of the Middlesex Area Cluster Ministry Network (MACM Network), along with St. James (Higganum) and Emmanuel (Killingworth). Please join us - we’d love to get to know you! All are welcome! St. Andrew’s is the proud home of the Food Pantry of North Branford - a vital community resource serving families in need in Northford and North Branford. St. Andrew’s also partners with St. Pauly Textile in a broad outreach program to help people in need here in the U.S. and around the world. Donations of usable clothing, shoes, boots, belts, purses, sheets, blankets, curtains and stuffed animals may be made at the donation shed in the church parking lot, available 24x7. Visit our website at <https://www.saintandrewsnorthford.org> Like us on Facebook - St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church of Northford, CT. For more information contact us at 203-484-0895; Nan Monde, Sr. Warden, 203-710-7005; Rev. Spinks, 860-304-5266; or MACM office, 860-345-0058.

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

Zion Episcopal Church 326 Notch Hill Road, North Branford. 203-488-7395. Rev. Lucy LaRocca, Vicar.Sunday Worship at 9:15, coffee and fellowship follow. Masks are required in worship while North Branford is in the ‘red’ zone for COVID positivity. Worship is also accessible through Facebook Live. ALL are invited. Zion is an open and affirming congregation for those seeking a safe place to worship and grow in Christ. www.zionepiscopal.org

Pray the Rosary for World Peace

All are welcome to pray the Rosary for World Peace and all of our dearly departed loved ones at **All Saints Cemetery located at 700 Middletown Avenue.**

Tuesday evenings beginning at 6pm. Join us as we gather in front of the main building by the Crucifix.

For **inclement weather**, please meet by the entrance to the Mausoleum on the cemetery property. If you are walking, please wear comfortable shoes and bring your rosary. Programs with prayers will be provided.

There is NO need to register for this event as it meets every Tuesday until the Fall (until the time changes). Keep checking our website for scheduling and time changes. If you have any questions or would like to forward us your prayer intentions, please contact our Outreach Coordinator, Barbara Gode at (203) 507-9213 or email her bgode@ccacem.org. Call if you would like to receive the Rosary Walk Newsletter as a reminder and to stay connected. God bless you.

Visit our new website at www.ccacem.org for more information about other events. Our Lady Queen of Peace...pray for us!

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church

Ice Cream Social

September 5, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Please join us for this fun-and tasty!!-event

Make you own Ice Cream Sundaes

Only \$4 per person

Bring friends and family

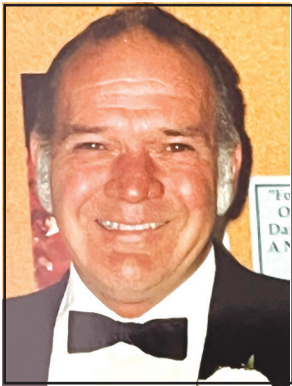
St. Andrew’s Church Hall,

The White Church on the Hill in the Heart of Northford
1382 Middletown Avenue, Northford, CT 06472

Blessing of the Backpacks

The North Branford Congregational Church (1680 Foxon Rd) invites all families and educators to join us for “The Blessing of the Backpacks” at our Sunday service at 10 am on August 27, for students heading back to school.

DEATH NOTICES



Henry (Butch) Gagne, age 82, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at Middlesex Hospital after a long illness. He is survived by his loving wife Patty and his daughters, “his girls”, Jan Martin (Michael Augur), Kristy Agro and stepson Vernon Stoup, (Michelle). Butch leaves three grandchildren, Daniel Henry Martin (Dr. Demitria Estrada), Melissa Lynn Agro, and Laynee Marie Stoup. Butch was born in Middletown to the late Arthur and Nellie Gagne and soon after the family moved to Northford to a home that is now known as “Natureworks” where he grew up with 11 brothers and sisters- Joseph, David, Joan Vollono, Diane Martin and the late Albert Gagne, Betty Clark, Shirley LeHerrisier, Arthur, Lenny, and Bobby Gagne. Butch was a very skilled mason and talented auto mechanic. He loved his work and was well known in New England for his masonry. He worked for many years for Hamden Masons. When the construction market crashed in the 80’s, he worked for Rose Transportation in Northford as the shop foreman and where he was in-charge of a fleet of school buses. All who knew him said the same thing – he was fun and a happy-go-lucky guy. Butch was a lover of animals. It is our hope that his beloved dog, Lucky, was waiting to meet him on the other side. Butch was a vintage car enthusiast and enjoyed going to car shows. The family would like to especially thank his caregivers at Midstate Medical Center, Gaylord Rehabilitation Center, and Middlesex Hospital for their incredible care and support.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter, 749 E Main Street, Branford, CT 06405. www.northhavenfuneral.com



Valerie Ann Trotta 1958 to 2023. On April 17, 2023 Valerie Ann Trotta a single mother with two horses, one mule, four ponies and a dog, passed away at the age of 64. Valerie served the community as a registered nurse, working many years at Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown, Connecticut and at Wexford Health in Duffield Virginia.

Valerie was born on August 19, 1958 in New Haven Connecticut. Her dire wish was to own a farm in the country where she could spend time with her son Jahi and her animals. With hardwork, determination and stubbornness, she made that dire wish come true.She was able to live that dream for 15 months before receiving the pancreatic cancer diagnosis. Chemo proved to be too extreme and intolerable and with her doctor, it was decided against. Sadly, she passed away at a home on her farm in Jonesville Virginia. She loved the farm life and spent much of her free time in the Pennsylvania Amish country side. She had made many Amish friends going to the horse auctions and patronizing their stores.

We miss her kind and generous heart, and she always thought of others, and let them know of her concern for them. Valerie is survived by her beloved son. Jahi Duggins.(Jessie Rogers), brother, Paul Trotta (Virginia Woods), and sister, Sandi Trotta (Gene DeNeutte). Animals were all placed in loving homes. We are so grateful for the time laughter and love we’ve shared with Val. We warmly invite for family and friends to celebrate her life on Monday, August 21 in a memorial service at Saint Augustine, church of Saint Ambrose Parish in North Branford. Memorial contributions in memory of Valerie may be made to Saint Ambrose Parish, 30 Caputo Rd. North Branford.

NORTH BRANFORD PARKS AND RECREATION & SENIOR 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! @NBPARK.REC.SENIOR



HALF DAY COOKING CAMP

You'll make your own snack while learning all about food, playing games and exploring nutrition with a nutritionist.

Each child will make their own portion, and all recipes are nut free but may contain dairy and eggs.

ITALIAN BAKING CAMP

August 21st - August 25th

2:30pm - 5:30pm - STW Kitchen \$140 - Ages 5-11

AFTER SCHOOL R.E.C Crew

Recreation • Education • Creativity

The after school program will offer after school care until 5:30pm at the STW Community Center on Mondays and Wednesdays for grades K-5.

Fee: \$100/monthly

Our program provides a safe environment where kids can...



- Receive homework support
- Engage in recreational activities
- Enhance social/emotional development
- Most importantly **HAVE FUN!**

FALL TENNIS AT NORTHFORD PARK

Join us for a 6 week introduction to Tennis program at Northford Park! Lessons will be offered with Guilford Racquet & Swim Club Pros once a week for 45 minutes and includes age appropriate skills and drills! Lessons include a Racquet!

FALL TENNIS

(Ages 11-13)

Wednesdays

Sept. 13 - Oct. 26

4:30-5:15pm

\$75



(Ages 5-10)

Wednesdays

Sept 13. - Oct. 26

5:30-6:15pm

(Ages 5-10)

Wednesdays

Sept 13. - Oct. 26

6:30-7:15pm

★ ARY'S ALL-STARS ★

We know that you and your little athlete will love Ary's All-Stars! Her programs are for ALL children, ages 18 months to 5 years and are designed to introduce basic sports skills, aid in fine and gross motor development and foster social & emotional growth through promoting self-confidence, teamwork and a positive coaching experience.

STW Community Center Gym/Cafe

Saturdays, Sept 23 - Oct 21

Tiny Allstars (18mos - 2.5 years) - 9:00 - 9:45am

Mini Allstars (3 - 4 years) - 10:00 - 10:45am

Cost \$50 res/ \$55 non-res

NEW YEAR. NEW YOU.

SENIOR
MEMBERSHIPS
AS LOW AS

**\$100
YEAR**

COLLEGE
STUDENT
STARTING AT
\$100/YR

FAMILY
MEMBERSHIPS
STARTING AT

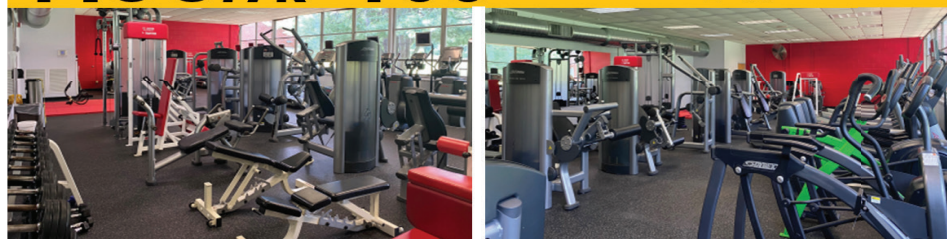
**\$250
YEAR**

MONTH TO
MONTH
STARTING AT
\$35

VETERAN,
NB FIRE &
NB POLICE

FREE

DAILY
DROP-IN
STARTING AT
\$5



DILUNGO FITNESS ROOM

MONDAY—THURSDAY: 5:30AM—8:00PM • FRIDAY: 5:30AM—4:30PM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 7:30AM—12PM

— SENIOR CENTER —

ICE CREAM SUNDAE SOCIAL

Aug 21 - 12:30pm - STW Gym/Cafe

Celebrate National Senior Citizens Day at STW Community Center Gym/Cafe
Register for this
FREE event by 8/17



GLENWOOD & WENTWORTH'S

Glenwood Drive In & Wentworth's
Ice Cream in Hamden

August 22, 2023 - 10:30-2:00pm

Join us for lunch at Glenwood Drive In & ice cream at Wentworth's in Hamden!
Register by Aug 17th - Lunch costs on own

MOHEGAN SUN BUS TRIP

Monday, August 28 - 8:00am - 4:00pm

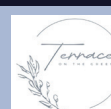
\$20 res / \$25 nr

If you are meeting at the STW Community Center, we will be leaving at 8:00 a.m. Per Mohegan Sun, the buses are not being greeted by staff and no packages are being issued out. Please register by 8/21

SUMMER TIME SUPPER CLUB

August 30th - 4:30 pm

Join us for dinner (pay on your own) at Terrace on the Green at Traditions Golf Course in Wallingford at 4:30 pm.
Register by August 24th



SENIOR DINER DASH

Green Olive Diner in Meriden
and Townline Square shops

September 6, 2023 Lunch Costs on own

Departs STW at 10:00am Returns 2:00pm

Register by August 30th

Join us for lunch on your own at Green Olive Diner. After lunch we will go shopping at Townline Square shops.

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


CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Southern CT Restoration. Insurance restoration and general contracting services. New construction, remodeling, kitchens, baths, roofing, siding, windows, doors, decks and painting. Call 203-239-9600.

PLUMBING

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

TREE SERVICES

 **Tree Service - A Better Cut, Tree Service** - Local, full service tree company - we provide tree removal, chipping, and grinding. Please call 203-945-1808 for a free estimate.

Recycling News

Thank You for your Recycling efforts at the POCO Fest!

Hazwaste Central is Open

Located right behind the Regional Water Authority’s headquarters, 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven

Hours are 9am to noon - Saturdays through October 28th.
Gather your household chemicals so they can be disposed of properly.

Accepted: Waste oil, antifreeze, cleaners, pool chemicals, oil-based paints, pesticides, compact fluorescent light bulbs and much more.

The water company collects these items so they don’t go into the trash and pollute your local drinking water.

To find the complete list and the registration form go to Hazwaste at rwater.com or call 203-401-2712.

Not Accepted at HazWaste Central: Asbestos, Commercial Waste, Electronics, Fire Extinguishers, Gas-Grill Size Propane Tanks, Medicine, Needles, Smoke Detectors.

Please visit <https://www.rwater.com/in-the-community/hazwaste-central> for a complete list of what is accepted along with the online registration form. You can also call 203-401-2712 or email ask.hazwaste@rwater.com.

Plastic Film Reminder

Please remember to empty your plastic bags of food and liquids before placing in the collection bin. The best way to do this is to turn the bags inside out. It may just be water to you, but mixed with other things it becomes a sticky mess. Also, if you are putting the bags in another bag, please pack them loosely. Tightly packed bags tend to get smelly.

Live streaming available at no additional cost



Burials ~ Cremation ~ Pre Planning



Philip M. Appell
Funeral Director & Managing Partner
phil.appell@carriageservices.com



Sarah L. Rivera
Funeral Director
sarah.rivera@keenanfuneralhome.com

At Keenan Funeral Home we work with every family’s budget to give your loved one the dignified memorial they deserve.

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www.keenanfuneralhome.com

Why Am I Getting a Bill If You Didn’t Transport Me?

The State Department of Public Health sets the rate schedule for all Connecticut ambulances to abide by. In June 2021, they enacted a provision that allows ambulance services to bill patients for a “treat and non-transport” situation. We have held off implementing this in North Branford.

It is important to know that in our town, every dollar to fund the ambulance operation that doesn’t come in from billing, must come from taxpayers. To that end, the “treat and non-transport” provision was recently started with our billing company – Comstar. As you can imagine, the enhancement to staff the second Paramedic ambulance - which has proven very beneficial – comes with a large financial commitment. Also, it is not uncommon for us to encounter a patient who requires us to use supplies, medications etc. and then decides to refuse transportation. These medications are costly and sometimes we have limited supplies.

If you receive one of the “treat without transport” invoices, we ask you to forward it to your insurance company for payment. If anyone has questions, please send them to firechief@townofnorthbranfordct.com

As a reminder, the town’s drop off locations are:
[Atwater and Smith Libraries, Northford Store, STW Community Center, The Food Pantry of NB, Country Paint and Hardware, T.J.’s Launderette](#)

Helpful Hints for Plastic Recycling

You can keep the caps on the bottles when putting them into the blue bin. Black plastic, as in plant pots and take-out containers, are not recyclable. The sorting machines don’t work on the black plastic. All other colors work fine.

Please don’t put your bulky waste out at the curb
The next bulky waste pickup isn’t until November!

Construction debris (such as toilets, concrete blocks, roofing material), propane tanks, TVs, monitors, printers, home cleanouts may not be placed curbside. These items will not get picked up; please dispose/ recycle properly.

You can post useful items on the Facebook page: [North Branford & Northford Free Items.](#)

There is also Freecycle.org in East Haven or New Haven. You can look up your item in the **New Haven Downsizing Donation Guide**. It lists multiple organizations that want your stuff! Just Google ‘New Haven Downsizing Donation Guide’. Some places even pick up large items.