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Volume 27 No 16 January 22, 2021

## Offering Hope: One Stitch At A Time

Hope After Loss, Inc., a nonprofit organization who helps those who experience pregnancy and/or infant loss to find the inspiration of hope by providing connections, comfort, and care would like to thank North Branford residents Jan Ferraro and Marilou Ellis for their outstanding support and commitment to helping families who have experienced the unimaginable loss of their baby or babies. Jan Ferraro started collecting wedding gowns in 2015 and Marilou started turning these wedding gowns into burial gowns after hearing about the project through her church craft group at Zion Episcopal Church. The process starts with Jan collecting donated wedding gowns, then

giving them to Marilou, and Marilou creating the beautiful burial gowns. Several burial gowns can be made from one dress. Jan then offers the gowns to Hope After Loss who distributes them to local hospitals. Each gown even comes with a matching ornament for families to keep. Both women are described as women who always step up when they see a need and the kindest individuals who always give back to their communities. THANK YOU to these outstanding women from North Branford! For more information about Hope After Loss, Inc., please visit [hopeafterloss.org](http://hopeafterloss.org).

*Photos & info Compliments of Stephanie Byrd*



Marilou Ellis



Jan Ferraro

## North Branford Public Libraries

**Presents:**

### Jan Baltrush – Owner of: “Find Your Stuff”

Jan is a Residential Organizer who offers a variety of organizing services and techniques to her clients. She will assist her clients with the de-cluttering, organizing and better usage of their spaces. She has helped her clients tame their paper piles and organized a variety of closets, kitchens, garages and home offices.

Jan works side by side with her clients as they sort through their items, make those crucial decisions as to what they are keeping and will keep them on task to get the job done. She will also give helpful tips and innovative ideas for keeping her clients areas clutter free. She also works with clients that are downsizing. Jan believes in the 3 “R”s – recycle / reuse / repurpose.

Jan is a member of the National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO) National and the CT Chapter. She also has a Certificate in Residential Organizing.

Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> (6:30 pm)

Call (203) 484-0469 or

Email: [tholabird@nbranfordlibraries.org](mailto:tholabird@nbranfordlibraries.org)

To register.

A Zoom link will be sent to you on the day of the program.

## Candelora Begins New Term, Starts Post as House Republican Leader

HARTFORD—State Rep. Vincent Candelora on Jan. 6 began his eighth two-year term in the General Assembly, at the same time starting his new job as House Republican Leader.

“To be selected for this role by my peers is a tremendous honor, and I look forward to leading our collective effort to get Connecticut pointed in the right direction—to stabilize our finances and economy, and to make our state a more affordable place to live and run a business,” Candelora said. “It’s critical this session that all legislators come together in order to navigate our state through the pandemic, and to analyze and to work toward solutions posed by varied challenges such as inadequacies in distance learning, the damage caused by constraints in preventative health screenings, and growing rates of addiction.”

Candelora is the second person from the 86th District to serve as House Republican Leader. He follows former state representative Bob Ward, who held the legislative leadership position from 1994 to 2006. Candelora replaces former state representative Themis Klarides as the caucus leader, and the November decision from the group’s 54 members to choose him was unanimous.

“I’m proud to say that I’m a reflection of the House Republican caucus, a diverse group of individuals who bring a wealth of civic, community, and professional experience to their roles at the capitol,” Candelora said. “A critical part of the job here is to understand how the decisions we make in Hartford affect the people we were elected to serve, and that’s a long-held caucus tenet I’ll continue to emphasize among our membership over the next two years.”

Locally, Candelora’s civic involvement includes three terms on North Branford’s Town Council as well as one as deputy mayor. He’s volunteered for the town’s public school system, and he’s a past president of both North Branford’s Chamber of Commerce and its Rotary Club.

Outside the legislature, Candelora helps run two family-owned businesses—a manufacturing company and a sportsplex. He has also practiced municipal and transactional law at a New Haven-based firm.

He’s graduated from Connecticut College and the Dickinson School of Law at Penn State.

He is married with three children.

### Publication Date

February	5
February	19
March	5
March	19
April	2
April	16
April	30
May	14

### Deadline

January	29
February	12
February	26
March	12
March	26
April	9
April	23
May	7



**Drivers &  
Inside Help Needed.  
Call Dave.**

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## "I Have a Dream"

*On Monday we celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Below is text from the end of his "I have a Dream Speech"*

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of "interposition" and "nullification" one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day, this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning: "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountain-side, let freedom ring!"

And if America is to be a great nation this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that: Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountain-side let freedom ring.

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom. When we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics (Yes), will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "Free at last! Free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

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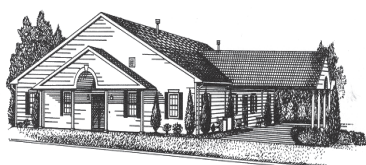
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## State Representative Vincent Candelora Legislative Conversation Needed on How to Improve Distance Learning for the Future



Managing the education of Connecticut students has been among the most challenging aspects of our collective response to the pandemic.

Really—perhaps most difficult, given that the process of teaching kids touches so many components of our society. While we may have accepted that the fact there will be turbulence, 10 months into this pandemic it's clear that many parents, students and educators statewide are no

less frustrated by their varied experiences during this public health crisis.

Last week, I joined one of my colleagues, Rep. Kathleen McCarty from Waterford, in talking about an issue that concerns both of us. We've proposed legislation that would have the state establish minimum guidelines for remote learning because we're worried about unacceptable levels of absenteeism—New Haven, for example—that many of us have read so much about, and because we've heard the concerns of parents and advocates who justifiably worry that students are falling behind.

Our pursuit might not help right now but given the uncertainty over how long we'll be dealing with this virus, we believe it's critical to do what we can to improve virtual education for the future. Chances are that remote learning will continue to be used in the future in some form or another given the time and energy that's been invested into its structure, and whether that's because of COVID or some other unforeseen circumstance, we should be ready.

### Our legislation would require:

- \* Uniform minimum requirements for distance learning that would require online classroom participation by students, while also requiring virtual settings to feature the same amount of teacher instruction time as classroom settings;

- \* Minimum standards for students and educators for classwork as well as assigning grades for completed work;

- \* State-supported teacher training in remote/distance learning;

- \* In-person education for special needs students unless the school can demonstrate that their educational requirements can be met through distance learning;

At the very least, it's my hope that our proposal will start a broad discussion at the capitol—one that should include teachers, whose first-hand experience will prove invaluable, as well as parents and experts in the field of remote learning.

I think everyone looks forward to the day when all Connecticut students are back in classrooms full time, and it's why I urged the governor's Vaccine Advisory Group to include teachers in Phase 1b of the vaccine rollout. Doing what we can to make educators and the parents of students feel more confident about classroom safety is a critical step forward.

Are there additional education-related concerns tied to the pandemic? Absolutely, and I understand the reasoning behind many of them. However, this topic, improving the experience and efficacy of remote learning, is tailor made for our General Assembly's deliberative process.

As always, feel free to contact my office if you have questions, ideas, or concerns about issues related to state government. 860-240-8700 or [vincent.candelora@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:vincent.candelora@housegop.ct.gov)

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

By Attorney Marc P. Guertin

When I ask my clients if they think they will spend any time in a nursing home, most say no. In fact, most people never think that they will ever end up in a Nursing Home. Unfortunately, the sad reality is that almost half of the population will spend some time in a skilled nursing facility during their lifetime. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the average time spent in a nursing home is 864 days (nearly two and half years).

A long term stay at a nursing home can be financially devastating for you and your family. Nursing home care rates of \$15,000-\$20,000 per month can quickly eliminate a lifetime's worth of hard work. Long term care in a nursing home can devour your savings and force your home, business and other assets to be sold at a "fire sale" price to pay for your care.

When people are faced with choosing between preserving their assets and paying for care, there really is no choice. Unless the costs of long term care in a nursing home are planned for, a stay in a skilled nursing facility can be a financial disaster.

I meet with a lot of people who are considering giving their assets away before they need care. At one time, this was the preferred method of avoiding nursing home costs. Giving away your money (to a child, for example) before needing long-term care may sound like a good idea, but it can be risky. Be careful when gifting assets that you need to your children. Children get divorced, sued, have creditor issues, make bad financial decisions or can become catastrophically ill. The assets gifted to your child could be lost through divorce, lawsuits, etc. and would not be available to you. One time I had a client give her house to her son (through another lawyer). What she did not know is that her son had not paid his federal income tax in over 10 years. Shortly after the transfer the IRS placed a lien on the house because of the back taxes owed. That unintended consequence could have been avoided with proper planning.

The best option at insulating your estate from the ravages of long term care in a nursing home is through the use of an irrevocable trust. An Irrevocable Asset Protection Trust (IAPT) provides an opportunity for individuals, both single and married to protect their assets long term. These assets could be available to you at sometime in the future to pay for things that Medicaid does not, or for an individual's spouse or as a legacy for future generations, without the risks associated with giving these assets away to another individual.

An IAPT is a legal entity separate from the person who creates it. It is created by signing a Trust agreement where the Grantor irrevocably transfers assets to the trust which is supervised by a third person called a Trustee (often the Grantor's children or other relative) who holds and manages that property in Trust for the benefit of the people who are named as beneficiaries.

Timing is extremely important when establishing an IAPT. "Beat the Clock" is the name of the game. In order for an IAPT to work it must be set up well in advance of anticipated nursing home care (currently 5 years). After the passage of enough time the assets held by the IAPT will be insulated from the ravages of a long term stay in a nursing home, as well as creditor issues, and lawsuits.

At this time in the world, during the pandemic, it is more important than ever to have a plan in place. Your planning should at least contemplate what would happen if you needed long term care in a skilled nursing facility. Most people cannot financially withstand a long stay in a nursing home. If you fall into that category an Irrevocable Asset Protection Trust may be right for you.

If you are interested in learning more about how an Irrevocable Asset Protection Trust can help your family, Guertin and Guertin, LLC offers no cost estate planning consultations.

If you would like a no cost estate planning consultation please call our office at 203-234-7400 for an appointment. In this new age of social distancing we can meet over the phone or even over video conference. Old fashioned in person meetings are also available.

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This publication is published bi-weekly by

Doss Enterprises LLC

PO Box 313 Northford, CT. 06472

Tel: 203-410-4254 Fax 203-484-4729

email: [totokettimes@comcast.net](mailto:totokettimes@comcast.net)

**PUBLISHER - FRANK MENTONE JR.**

*founders - Bert Bunnell Jr. & Anthony Esposito Jr.*

The publisher assumes no responsibility for typographical errors. In the event of an error, the publisher will issue a credit adjustment on only the incorrect portion of the advertisement, as well as a retraction in the next issue.

### Letters to the editor...

This paper encourages all readers to voice their opinions and comments.

The Totoket Times is not responsible for erroneous information or statements in letters to the editor. Letters should be as brief as possible.

All letters must be signed. A telephone number should be included and no personal attacks.

This paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

All letters should be addressed to :

**The Editor**

P.O. Box 313, Northford, CT 06472





PRESS RELEASE

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Scott Schoonmaker, Superintendent of North Branford Public Schools, announces that Kindergarten registration for North Branford residents with children eligible to enter school in the fall of 2021 will be held as follows:

This year due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are having staggered registration times in order to limit the number of people in the building. We will be registering students at specific times based on the 1<sup>st</sup> letter of their last name. Please adhere to these times.

Jerome Harrison Elementary School

335 Foxon Road - North Branford, CT

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

A-E 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. F-J 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. K-O 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 4, 2021

P – T 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. U-Z 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

In order to facilitate registration, we ask that you begin the process online by following the directions on our website <https://jerome.northbranfordschools.org/> Click on the “**Kindergarten Registration**” button. Here you will see directions on starting the enrollment process and the downloadable forms that are required by the district. Your child does not need to be present at the time of registration.

In order for a child to be registered in Kindergarten, the following requirements must be met:

- 1. Child must be five (5) years of age on or before January 1, 2022.
- 2. The birth record or other evidence of the child’s age has been examined by the principal or designee.
- 3. Your child must have a current physical exam date; one that was completed after September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. The physician and the parent must complete the blue Health Assessment Record provided by the school. The form must be filed with the school prior to the first day of Kindergarten unless alternative arrangements have been made with the building principal.
- 4. Proof of residence has been examined and approved by principal or designee such as: deed to home or dated rental agreement, escrow papers or signed mortgage commitment, current utility or telephone bill, and/or notarized letter from landlord or owner acknowledging parent/guardian’s and student’s residence.

In addition, if you have specific concerns about your preschool child’s development, please call (203)484-1235.

*In the event of a school cancellation due to inclement weather, registration will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 and Thursday, February 11, 2021 at the same times noted above.*

*The North Branford Board of Education policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability (including pregnancy), or gender identity or expression, or against homeless children and youth.*



NBHS Young Artists

Two NBHS Seniors, Brianna Iuteri (see above) and Mia DeLoughery (artwork below) have been recognized along with 86 other students throughout New England as Emerging Young Artists and their work will be included in the Emerging Young Artists Show! Nearly 500 (488) high school students submitted work throughout New England.

*Submitted by NBHS Principal Todd Stoeffler*



THEY MAKE US PROUD

**Kaitlin Parker** was named to the Dean’s List at Curry College in Milton, MA.

**Bella Crotta** was named to the Dean’s List at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA.

**Jordan Regan** was named to the Dean’s List at Assumption University in Worcester, MA

**Elisa Palmieri** was named to the Dean’s List at the University of Scranton in Scranton, PA.



### Wee Care of North Branford, Inc. Daycare and Preschool

At Wee Care of North Branford, Inc. all day preschool is available for children ages 3-6 from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Some of the highlights of the program are:

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- Teacher directed learning centers
- Morning lessons reinforced by afternoon activities
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The Northford Women’s Club

Is Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Connecticut Federation of Women’s Clubs has announced two scholarships that are available to Connecticut women pursuing advanced courses of study at Institutions of higher learning. Awards are granted on the basis of future promise, scholastic ability and financial need.

The Dorothy E. Schoelzel memorial scholarship has a maximum award of \$2,000. Candidates must have completed three or more years of undergraduate work in an accredited institution with a 3.0 average or higher in the field of Education.

The Phipps scholarship has a maximum award of \$1,000. Candidates must have completed two or more years on undergraduate work in an accredited institution with a 3.0 average or higher toward a Bachelor’s or post graduate degree.

Completed applications, including general and personal information, a financial statement, instructor/employer references, official transcript of at least the most recent two years of undergraduate or graduate work must be received by February 10, 2021.

The application may be obtained by visiting the Northford Women’s Club website at [www.northfordwomensclub.org](http://www.northfordwomensclub.org). For further information, contact Rose Lynch at 203-483-8395.





## Recycling News

Simple Recycling Pink Bag Weekly Curbside Collection  
Will End on April 6, 2021

Residents must call and schedule curbside pickups at  
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or email [Info@SimpleRecycling.com](mailto:Info@SimpleRecycling.com) now through end date  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Reduce Contamination and Wisecycling

Help our town reduce the 2% to 5% contamination of our recycling to  
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- Do not mix designated recyclables with trash
- Leave metal caps and lids on glass jars and bottles
- Empty and rinse all containers
- **Reduce** the single-use items you bring into your home and try to reuse or donate them where they can be used.
- Learn what can and cannot be recycled.

If in doubt, "*check before you chuck*" using the  
RecycleCT Wizard: <https://www.recyclect.com>

Type in the name of an item to learn how to recycle or  
dispose of it properly.

Thank you for recycling responsibly

\*\*\*\*\*

Got new or reusable unwanted items? Please consider:

North Branford & Northford free items – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1647630532048934>

Children's books: Read to Grow <https://readtogrow.org>

Professional attire: Save a Suit <https://saveasuit.org>

Winter coats: Button Up Connecticut [www.buttonupconnecticut.org](http://www.buttonupconnecticut.org)

Musical instruments: Horns for Kids [www.hornsforkids.org](http://www.hornsforkids.org)

Medical equipment: Charlie's Closet <https://givct.org/charlies-closet>

\*\*\*\*\*

### RECYCLE & REUSE GOODS and USED BUILDING MATERIALS

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**Next pickup is week of April 19, 2021**

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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Branford Bible Chapel.** 212 Branford Rd., corner of Twin Lakes Rd. 203-488-3586. Sunday morning : 9:15 - 10:30 Worship & Lord’s Supper, 11:00 -12:15 Ministering of God’s Word & Sunday School. . Nursery provided. Awana for kids, vacation Bible School, missions & outreach programs. [www.branfordbiblechapel.org](http://www.branfordbiblechapel.org)

**Hope Christian Church “A Place to Belong”.** 211 Montowese Ave., North Haven, CT. [www.hopeag.com](http://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 Rd., North Branford, CT, 203-488-8456 or nobfdcong@sbcglobal.net or [www.northbranfordcongregational.org](http://www.northbranfordcongregational.org). Office Hours: Wednesday through Friday, 9:00 - 1:00pm. We worship every Sunday at 10:00am. Nursery care available. Get to know us by joining us for Coffee Hour following Services. The second Sunday of every month is Family Sunday when the children remain with their parents during the Service. This is followed by our second Sunday Brunch. Holy Communion is on the first Sunday of every month. Church School through grade 8 meets during worship. All are welcome no matter who you are, no matter where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.

**Northford Congregational Church. United Church of Christ.** 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. Rev. Robin Blundon, Acting 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](http://www.northfordcongregational.church)

**St. Ambrose Parish is a Roman Catholic Parish** in the Archdiocese of Hartford comprised of two church locations; St. Augustine, 30 Caputo Rd. North Branford and St. Monica, 1331 Middletown Ave. Northford. The Pastor is Rev. Robert L. Turner. Temporarily all Masses are being held at St. Augustine during the pandemic to accommodate as many parishioners at each Mass as capacity allows. Weekday Masses are celebrated at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Weekend Masses are celebrated on Saturday at 5:00 P.M. (English Ordinary, no incense) and on Sunday at 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (Latin Ordinary with use of incense). The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered 30 minutes prior to all daily Masses and by appointment by calling the parish office. The parish office is located at 30 Caputo Rd. in the parish center and is open M – F from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Mass is live streamed each Sunday morning on our St. Ambrose Facebook page. You can access the parish bulletin and staff emails on our website at [NBcatholics.org](http://NBcatholics.org). If you are new to the area and are looking for a parish family to join, please visit us!

**St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church,** 1382 Middletown Avenue, Northford (at the intersection of Rts. 17 & 22). “The White Church On The Hill In The Heart Of Northford.” St. Andrew’s is a member of the Middlesex Area Cluster Ministry (MACM) Network, along with Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Killingworth and St. James Episcopal Church in Higganum. Rev. Jim Bradley is Interim Priest-In-Charge. Due to the COVID pandemic, Sunday services currently are on-line via Zoom, and may also be viewed on St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church of Northford, CT Facebook page. St. Andrew’s is also the proud home of the Food Pantry of North Branford, located on the lower level of the church’s parish hall. And, the Community Dining Room, which serves South Central shoreline CT, utilizes St. Andrew’s kitchen and parish hall to prepare and deliver meals for the homebound. Two vital community resources serving families in need in Northford and North Branford. Like us on Facebook: St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church of Northford, CT. For more information contact Nan Monde, Sr. Warden, at 203-710-7005, or MACM Network office at 860-345-0058.

**United Methodist Church, Branford** 811 East Main St, Branford (Route 1, across from Bill Miller’s Castle). [www.umcbranford.org](http://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. In June we begin with single summer service of Holy Eucharist at 9 a.m.. The first Sunday in September we return to two services of Holy Eucharist at 8 & 10 a.m. Music and two safe church certified babysitters are available for childcare during the 9 a.m. service and at the latter service September – May. Healing prayer is offered after each service on the second Sunday of each month. Please visit our Facebook page or our website [www.zionepiscopalchurch.org](http://www.zionepiscopalchurch.org). Zion is a registered Integrity Episcopal Believe Outloud Congregation, a designation earmarking Zion as an open and affirming congregation for those seeking a safe place to worship and grow in Christ

## St. Andrew’s Reopens Donation Shed

The clothing donation shed at St Andrew’s Episcopal Church, the White Church On The Hill In The Heart Of Northford, which was temporarily closed due to global effects of the pandemic, has now been reopened to the public.

If you’re not familiar with the clothing donation shed, it’s designed to give community members a uniquely clean, convenient, and well-cared-for option to donate their used clothing to. St. Pauly Textile Inc., the company that has provided the shed, partners with businesses and various organizations to distribute donated items both here in the U.S. and worldwide, where they’re ultimately re-worn by people who need them. St. Andrew’s receives funding for donated clothing, and additionally has the option to use donations to serve community needs.

With over 1,300 clothing drop-off sheds in place, St. Pauly Textile Inc. collects over 90,000 pounds of clothing every day and **Clothing donation shed at ST. ANDREW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH reopens!**

Estimates that this clothing ends up in 44 different countries (including the U.S.) yearly. In 2019, the company was able to help keep over 20 million articles of clothing out of landfills, which clothed an estimated 2.5 million people worldwide. The company was founded in 1996 and is an A+ rated member of the Better Business Bureau.

Accepted items: clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, curtains, pillowcases, and stuffed animals.



## Lenten Walk-The Way of the Cross

Join us as we pray, reflect and walk *The Way of the Cross* at All Saint Cemetery at 3:00 pm (the hour of Mercy) beginning every other Tuesday during Lent. Mark your calendar for the following dates:

**Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> (week Lent begins), March 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup>, March 30<sup>th</sup>**

All are welcome to meet by the Mausoleum main entrance located at 700 Middletown Ave. CDC guidelines safe distancing will be followed. Please dress accordingly for the weather. If inclement weather, we will cancel. Please check our website often for scheduling updates or call our Outreach Coordinator, Barbara at 203 780-8418 or email her: [bgode@ccacem.org](mailto:bgode@ccacem.org).

## Bereavement Support Group

Grief is a normal part of loss, but it can become complicated. Has it been at least 3 months since the loss of your beloved friend, relative, Spouse? Are you having a really difficult time coping? Perhaps our small-sized adult support group can help you. Our group can provide the right amount of connection, understanding, emotional and spiritual support in an atmosphere that is non-judgmental and confidential. Our 10-week **Bereavement Group begins on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021** (Tuesday evenings) from 6:00pm until 8:00 pm and ends in June.

All are welcome. *Seating is limited.* Please register by going to our website or contacting our Facilitator, Barbara at 203 780-8418 or emailing her: [bgode@ccacem.org](mailto:bgode@ccacem.org). This program is sponsored by Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford. CDC guidelines will be practiced at all meetings.

## Sons & Daughters of Italy Website!

Check out the newly designed website for the North Haven Sons & Daughters Of Italy. You don’t have to be a member. The site is filled with Italian cultural items, videos, columns, Italian trivia, biographies and recipes.

Go to [northhavenlodge2805.club](http://northhavenlodge2805.club)



## Tax Deferment for Some Residents

**Town of North Branford Press Release:**The Town of North Branford has adopted Governor Lamont’s Executive Order 9R that allows municipalities to offer a 90-day tax deferment for residents negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The deferment program is available for real estate, personal property, motor vehicle, and supplemental motor vehicle tax bills that came due January 1, 2021. A deferral form will need to be submitted to the Tax Department before February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 in order to qualify for the extension. The form can be found on the town website ([townofnorthbranfordct.com](http://townofnorthbranfordct.com) under “Latest News”) or you can request one be sent to you by calling the office at (203) 484-6011. If you apply for a deferral you will have until April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to pay your taxes without interest. Any tax paid after April 1<sup>st</sup>, will be subject to interest of 1 ½ % beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Interest will continue to accrue until payment is made. If you have any questions, please contact the Tax Department at (203) 484-6011.





## North Branford Parks & Recreation and Senior Center

STW Community Center 1332 Middletown Ave Northford

[www.nbrecreation.com](http://www.nbrecreation.com) • call (203) 484-6017

Follow us on Facebook! @NBParksandRecreation



# Sweets for your Sweet

Since you can't mail a hug, this is the next best thing!  
Send a sweet treat to your "Sweet" during  
the month of February.

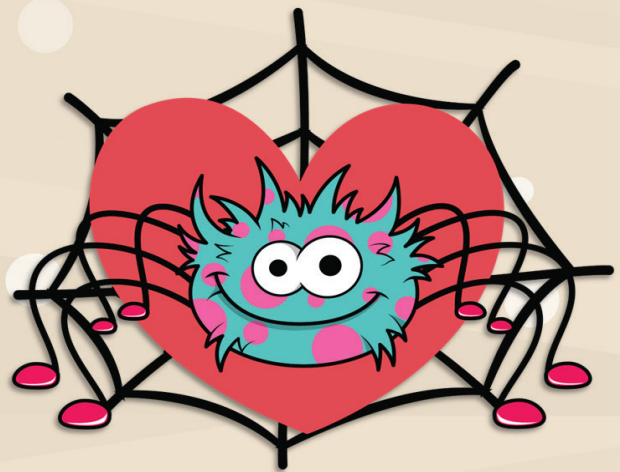
For \$5 you get 3 fresh baked chocolate  
chip cookies with a personalized note  
wrapped and delivered with love  
by our *Love Bus*  
Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm.  
Please give us 48 hours notice.

Register on our website [nbrecreation.com](http://nbrecreation.com)  
Deliveries are limited to North Branford  
and Northford addresses

## The Valentine DoodleBug

FOR ALL NORTH BRANFORD BOYS AND GIRLS  
IN KINDERGARTEN THRU FIFTH GRADE.

Roses are red, violets are blue.  
The *DoodleBug* has something special for you!  
He's doodled everywhere— from coast to coast,  
but our town is the one he loves the most!  
The *DoodleBug* will soon be coming your way  
with a craft for you this Valentine's Day!  
Keep it for yourself or give it to someone dear.  
Help the *DoodleBug* spread love and cheer!



To register your child to receive a Valentine's Day  
craft in the mail, please register by February 8th at  
[www.nbrecreation.com](http://www.nbrecreation.com)

## MULTI-SPORTTOTS

Ages 2 - 5 - STW Community Center

Saturday, February 20 - March 13

Rookies 2-3 yrs: 10-10:45 a.m.

All-Stars 4-5 yrs: 11-11:45 a.m.

\$70 res/ \$75 nr



**Instructor:** SuperTots Sports Academy

Introduce your little superstar to sports in our most popular program! This baseball and basketball class uses age-appropriate games and activities to explore balance, hand/eye coordination, fitness, sport skills and child development. Parent participation required for ages 2-3.5 years.

## SOC CERTTOTS

Ages 2 - 5 - STW Community Center

Tuesday, March 16 - April 6

Cubs 2-3 yrs: 4-4:45 p.m.

Bears 4-5 yrs: 5-5:45 p.m.

\$70 res/ \$75 nr



**Instructor:** SuperTots Sports Academy

SoccerTots is our flagship program! These soccer-themed motor skill classes are very easy for youngsters to get into. Younger age groups focus on developing motor skills and self-confidence; older classes focus more on developing core soccer skills and personal focus, and introduce an element of light competition. Instructor-to-student ratio is kept small to maximize individual development, and above all else we promote fun, fun, fun! Parent participation required for ages 2-3.5 years.

## ARCHERY

Grades 4 - 8 - STW Community Center

Wednesday, February 3 - March 10, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

\$50 res/ \$55 nr

Learn the basic skills using a classic recurve bow. Practice great shooting habits and learn to put your arrow in the bullseye every time, all in a safe and supportive environment.

## VIRTUAL FAMILY TRIVIA

Friday January 29th

7:00 - 8:30pm - **FREE**

Play as a family from the comfort of  
your own home!

**EACH HOUSEHOLD MUST REGISTER  
IN ADVANCE**

[www.nbrecreation.com](http://www.nbrecreation.com)

You will need two devices to play, a  
smartphone and a tablet or computer.  
Please visit our website for more details.

Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 households!

## IMAGINATION STATION

Ages 2 - 3 — STW Community Center

Monday, February 22 - April 19, 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

No Class 4/12

**Instructor:** Sharon DiCrosta, Owner of The Dancer's Studio

\$35 res / \$40 nr

Imagination Station is a creative movement class that introduces children to the joy of movement and music. Basic motor skills will be challenged as we develop rhythm and imagination in an atmosphere of fun!



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


ELECTRICIANS

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

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

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

TREE SERVICES



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

LANDSCAPING

J & M Landscapes LLC.Complete Lawn Care { Mowing , Edging , Weed whacking & Blow off } Tree, hedge & shrub Pruning - Property cleaning & debris removal - Landscape Design { Mulch, shrubs & flower beds} - Stone, Gravel & Mulch delivery -Install Stone shed foundations - Small Backho { excavation work } - Driveway sealing - Power washing - Spring & Fall Yard clean-ups. Gutter Cleaning. Winter Snow plowing. Vet & Senior discount. For a free quote call John ( 860 ) 349-8135.

PAINTING

WINTER SAVINGS! Banish those winter blues with a freshly painted room or two. Sole proprietor so NO worries about a house full of strangers! Celebrating 36 years. BBB A+ rated!  
Trimworks Painting, Lic. #0619599 (203) 484-9181

PLUMBING

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

HELP WANTED

Drivers & indoor help positions available at Petals 2 Go in North Branford. Call Dave at 203-484-7800.  
Cleaning/Maintenance Position for St. Ambrose Parish in North Branford. 20 hours per wk. Duties include vacuuming, mopping floors, dusting, general cleaning including pews, kitchens and restrooms, light window washing, and various tasks as required including occasional deep cleaning projects. Must be highly trustworthy. Must have the ability to work with a flexible schedule around parish events and be available for several hours on the weekends. Position requires physical exertion to manually move, lift, carry, pull, or push objects and materials. Stooping, bending, reaching, and occasionally climbing ladders. Please email your letter of interest and resume to [joe.marena@nbcatholics.org](mailto:joe.marena@nbcatholics.org) or mail to St. Ambrose Parish, 30 Caputo Rd., North Branford, CT 06471

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Day, Evening & Weekend Appointments

54 Deforest Drive North Branford, Ct 06471  
email - [selzholz@snet.net](mailto:selzholz@snet.net)  
203-488-8649 (FAX) 203-488-1970

North Branford Fire Department  
2020 Statistics

North Branford Fire Department continues to provide the highest quality of emergency and non-emergency life safety services to the citizens and visitors in our community. Through the department's commitment to continuous improvement, staff development and implementing new and innovative programs to create greater economic efficiencies and improve emergency service effectiveness to North Branford residents. In compliance with National Fire Protection Standards (NFPA) 1720, Standards for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments, the North Branford Fire Department exceeds the national consensus standard, on scene within 7 minutes after dispatch.

During 2020 North Branford fire department personnel answered 1866 calls for service. The dollar loss related to fire damaged property during this period was \$665900. Property saved was in excess of 8 million dollars.

Types of Calls:

Fire	36
Emergency Medical	1244
Motor Vehicle Accidents	84
Lock In/Search/Extrication	4
Hazardous Conditions	82
Public Service/Good Intent	212
False Alarms	165
Weather/Other	39

As a cooperative and collaborative partner with our contiguous jurisdictions, North Branford Fire Department provided and or received mutual aid for 25 Fire/EMS incidents during the year, including the towns of East Haven, Branford, Guilford, North Haven, Durham, Wallingford and the City of New Haven.



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WAITLIST OPEN  
Efficiency Units Only



The North Branford Housing Authority hereby announces they are accepting applications for the State Elderly/Disabled Complex Hillside Terrace, Efficiency/Single Occupancy units only. To qualify you must be at least 62 years old or 18 and disabled. Income limits as published by HUD cannot exceed \$54,950 (one person). Households must meet the required minimum income of \$17,316 to afford the minimum Base Rent of \$577.00/utilities not included. Interested parties may pick up an application at Hillside Terrace, 167 Branford Road, North Branford, call 203-481-5632 ext. 202 or email: [info@merit-properties.net](mailto:info@merit-properties.net) to request an application be mailed. Completed applications should be mailed directly to: Merit Properties, Inc. 1224 Mill St. Bldg. A Suite 102 East Berlin CT 06023.