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Volume 27 No 13 December 11, 2020



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I am humbled by the support I have gotten from the voluntary payment request. The funds were greatly appreciate as they will help us to continue our communications, and sharing of information and hopefully the entertainment the readers are accustomed to.

What was more inspiring were the many comments people took the time to offer. They were inspiring and welcomed (even the negative ones). They too help me to understand your viewpoints and what you are looking for in your hometown newspaper.

To many who might have gotten caught up in the pandemic, holiday stress or life's other interferences, I have decided to run this request one more time. Also, by the advice and urging of more than one reader, I have opened both a Venmo and PayPal account to make it easier to send a payment.

Payments can be made to Venmo@Frank-Mentone-1 or [PayPal.me/Totokettimes](https://www.paypal.com/US/mx/venmo/Frank-Mentone-1).

You can still do it the old fashion way by returning the attached form to: **Totoket Times, PO Box 313, Northford, Ct. 06472.**

Thank you for your support. Don't hesitate to call 203-410-4254 or e-mail me at totokettimes@comcast.net if you have any questions.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # (Optional) _____

Amt. _____

Comments _____

Next week is the Last Issue of the Year!

Due to Christmas and New Year's Holidays, the Totoket Times final edition for the year will be Friday, December 18. That issue will cover both Christmas & New Years and the deadline is TODAY, Friday December 11th.

The next issue of the Totoket Times will then come out on January 8th, 2021. The deadline for that issue will be December 31st.

This change was not to cause confusion but to make it easier and give us all time to relax during the holidays.



Publication Date

December 18
January 8
January 22
February 5
February 19
March 5
March 19

Deadline

December 11
December 31
January 15
January 29
February 12
February 26
March 12

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Call store for interview.

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Give the gift of "GOOD VIBES" This Holiday Season.

*Come in Today and grab a
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Also, don't forget that Santa's Elves
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State Representative Vincent Candelora Legislature Must Focus on All Issues Related to Pandemic

Much of the conversation about the pandemic understandably focuses on the state budget, our economy, and the obvious public health concerns that have gripped our state.

But not enough is said about other problems driven by the COVID crisis, such as daily challenges and perhaps long-term damage inflicted upon thousands of Connecticut children who remain adrift from online learning initiatives. Substance abuse is on the rise as more and more people feel increasingly isolated from friends and family, or even depressed because of strained finances as they see no tangible evidence of economic recovery on the horizon. Visits for preventative health measures have fallen by the wayside. Domestic violence calls have increased since March, and shelters are over capacity.

These are among several issues I broached at a news conference I held outside the state capitol recently, when I urged my colleagues who serve in the majority party to backburner their recurring policy pushes and target these critical problems when the next legislative session begins early next month. Instead of moving heaven and earth to legalize sports betting, how about we figure how to get New Haven students back into the classroom for the first time since March? Shouldn't we focus on helping people kick drugs during this challenging time rather than pushing to legalize marijuana? For too many legislators, it's like there's no pandemic at all—it's simply business as usual.

Our state legislature must pivot and do it quickly. Otherwise, Connecticut could be left worse off than it feels for so many of its residents right now.

With all of that said, the essence of one of life's familiar refrains feels particularly timely these days: you never know what's going on in the lives of your friends and neighbors. The holiday season, as an example, can bring stress for some while others celebrate. Parents' challenge of balancing working from home with helping their kids navigate online schoolwork can be frustrating, to put it mildly.

If you have a sense that someone you know is having a difficult time

or feeling a little overwhelmed, please remind them that there are resources that can provide advice if not more significant help.

The best place to start is United Way's 2-1-1 service. It's a free, confidential referral service that connects Connecticut residents with essential health and human services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, either by phone (dial 211) or online (uwc.211ct.org.)

I look forward to keeping you informed about what actions the legislature takes on these types of issues in the coming months. As always, feel free to contact my office if you think you've got a situation where you believe state government could be helpful: 860-240-8700, or vincent.candelora@housegop.ct.gov.

Let's Be "Frank"

Well brother, I lost another close companion. Although we've only been together for seven years, I don't remember ever being separated. When we met, we were both long in the tooth but it didn't stop us from making a connection.

I was always comfortable with my little buddy. We traveled a lot together. I guess you can say I never traveled without my companion.

There were countless trips that I couldn't have made alone. There were many times we were warned that we were both too old to make the trek. However, we never let it stop us. At our ages we defied the odds and forged ahead for some great times. We got lost together, we broke down together and sometimes we even ran out of steam together, But we always found our way out of trouble and you brought me home safely.

Yes, brother, this was a special companion. Whenever I came to visit you guys at the cemetery, I was never alone. In fact most times I even had help delivering palm crosses and cemetery blankets. Something I couldn't do by myself.

We laughed together. We cried together. We listened to many Yankee games, Giant games and Mets games, as well as classical music and even my audio bible.

When we lost power my companion was also there to give me warmth as we sat together and charged the cell phone.

We ate together often. New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts were only a few of the places where we shared a meal.

Those times when I needed to meditate in a calm setting and maybe even shed a tear, I was never alone. This comrade would quietly wait until I expressed my feelings in a patient manner, only coming to life when my feelings were made known.

As I got older and my back started giving out, my amigo was always there to help me get stuff from the garage to the shed. Always carrying the bulk of the load and easing my mind and my body as we got the work done.

We all age at our own pace. This friend of mine aged with grace. I am convinced my buddy had a few good years left, but it wasn't fair for me to push. For more than seven years we were constant companions and we started to run out of gas more that we did when we first met. My old friend was tired and it started to show. He was slowly breaking down and was struggling to finish the day to day responsibilities.

So with tears in my eyes, I said goodbye to my long time companion. My 2005 Chevy Blazer has gone to the junk yard in the sky. We had some great times together that I'll never forget. All I can say is "rest in peace my buddy. It's been a helluva ride.

As for you my brother. Take care, say hi to the family and I'll see you soon.

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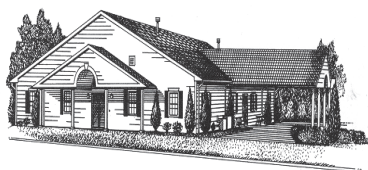
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founders - Bert Bunnell Jr. & Anthony Esposito Jr.

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



Worldly Christmas Traditions

ITALY- One of the most important ways of celebrating Christmas in Italy is the [Nativity crib scene](#). Using a Nativity scene to help tell the Christmas story was made very popular by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223 (Assisi is in mid-Italy). The previous year he had visited Bethlehem and saw where it was thought that Jesus was born. A lot of Italian families have a Nativity scene in their homes.

The city of Naples in Italy is world famous for its Nativity scenes. These are known as ‘Presepe Napoletano’ (meaning Neapolitan Nativity/cribs scenes). The first Nativity scene in Naples is thought to go back to 1025 and was in the Church of S. Maria del presepe (Saint Mary of the Nativity), this was even before St. Francis of Assisi had made Nativity scenes very popular!

Having Nativity scenes in your own home became popular in the 16th century and it’s still popular today (before that only churches and monasteries had scenes). Nativity scenes are traditionally put out on the 8th December. But the figure of the baby Jesus isn’t put into the crib/manger until the evening/night of December 24th!

Sometimes the Nativity scene is displayed in the shape of pyramid which can be meters tall! It’s made of several tiers of shelves and is decorated with colored paper, gold covered pinecones and small candles. A small star is often hung inside the top of the pyramid/triangle. The shelves above the manger scene might also contain fruit, candy and presents.

One special thing about Neapolitan Nativity scenes, is that they always have extra ‘every day’ people and objects (such as houses, waterfalls, food, animals and even figures of famous people and politicians!). Naples is also the home to the largest Nativity scene in the world, which has over 600 objects on it!

In Naples there is a still a street of nativity scene makers called the ‘Via San Gregorio Armeno’. In the street you can buy wonderful hand made Nativity scene decorations and figures - and of course whole scenes!

You can see some pictures of nativity scenes and figures from Naples on: www.foto.portanapoli.com/presepe.html

One old Italian custom is that children go out Carol singing and playing songs on shepherds pipes, wearing shepherds sandals and hats.

On Christmas Eve, it’s common that no meat (and also sometimes no dairy) is eaten. Often a light seafood meal is eaten and then people go to the Midnight Mass service. The types of fish and how they are served vary between different regions in Italy.

When people return from Mass, if it’s cold, you might have a slice of Italian Christmas Cake called ‘Panettone’ which is like a dry fruity sponge cake and a cup of hot chocolate! [Here’s a recipe for panettone](#). You can find out more about [Christmas in Italy and Italian Christmas Recipes on this site](#).

For many Italian-American families a big Christmas Eve meal of different fish dishes is now a very popular tradition! It’s known as The Feast of the Seven Fishes (‘Esta dei Sette Pesci’ in Italian). The feast seems to have its root in southern Italy and was brought over to the USA by Italian immigrants in the 1800s. It now seems more popular in American than it is in Italy!

Common types of fish eaten in the feast include Baccala (salted Cod), Clams, Calamari, Sardines and Eel.

There are different theories as to why there are

seven fish dishes eaten. Some think that seven represents the seven days of creation in the Bible, other say it represents the seven holy sacraments of the Catholic Church. But some families have more than seven dishes! You might have nine (to represent the Christian trinity times three), 13 (to represent Jesus and his 12 disciples) or 11 (for the 11 disciples without Jesus or Judas!)

The Christmas celebrations start eight days before Christmas with special ‘Novenas’ or a series of prayers and church services.

In Ireland, people celebrate Christmas in much the same way as people in the [UK](#) and the [USA](#), but they also have many of their own Christmas traditions and customs.

Christmas for Irish people, who are Catholics, lasts from Christmas Eve to the feast of [Epiphany](#) on January 6th, which some Irish people call ‘Little Christmas’. Epiphany isn’t now widely celebrated in Ireland.

In Irish (or Gaelic) Christmas is ‘Nollaig’, Santa Claus is known as ‘San Níoclás’ (Saint Nicholas) or ‘Daidí na Nollag’ (Father Christmas) and Happy/Merry Christmas is ‘Nollaig Shona Dhuit’. [Happy/Merry Christmas in lots more languages](#).

Children hope that Santa will visit on Christmas Eve and leave presents for them.

The day after Christmas Day, St. Stephen’s Day (known as [Boxing Day](#) in the UK and some other countries), is also very important in Ireland. Like in the UK, football matches and horse racing meetings are traditionally held on St. Stephen’s Day.

One very old tradition is the Wren Boys Procession that takes place on St. Stephen’s Day.

This goes back to ancient times when a real wren was killed and carried around in a holly bush. Some processions still take place, but no wren is hunted or used.

Young men and women dress up in home made costumes and go from house to house carrying a long pole with a holly bush tied to its top and singing a rhyme about a wren bird. Sometimes they are accompanied of violins, accordions, harmonicas and horns. The rhyme that is often used is: *‘The wren, the wren, the king of all birds On St. Stephen’s day was caught in the furze.’*

People also ask for money ‘for the starving wren’!

Canada is a very large country and people of many different cultural backgrounds live there. Because of this, there are lots of different Christmas traditions in Canada. Many of the traditions and celebrations come from [French](#), [English](#), [Irish](#), [Scottish](#), [German](#), [Norwegian](#), [Ukrainian](#) and native/first nation influences.

People in Canada send [Christmas Cards](#) to their friends and family.

Many Canadians open their gifts on Christmas Eve. Some only open their stocking on Christmas Eve. Others choose one gift to open, then save the rest until Christmas Day.

Canadians like to decorate their houses with Christmas Trees, lights and other decorations. There’s often Christmas stockings hung by the fireplace, ready for Santa!

The main Christmas meal is often roast turkey with vegetables and ‘all the trimmings’ like mashed potatoes and vegetables. Traditional favorite Christmas desserts include Christmas/plum puddings and mincemeat tarts. Christmas crackers are popular with many people in Canada as well. A rich fruit Christmas Cake is also normally eaten

around Christmas time!

However, people from different backgrounds and cultures have their own favorite foods at Christmas.

Going skiing, skating and tobogganing are also popular if there’s snow at Christmas!

Canadian children also believe in [Santa Claus](#). Canadians are especially proud to say that their country is the home of Santa Claus. (Although I’m sure the people in [Finland](#) would disagree!)

The Santa Claus Parade in Toronto is one of the oldest and largest Santa parades in the world! It started in 1913 when Santa was pulled through the streets of Toronto. Children along the route followed Santa and marched along with him. It’s been taking place for over 100 years and now is a huge event with over 25 animated floats and 2000 people taking part! It’s broadcast on TV around the world.

“Sinck Tuck” is a festival started by the Inuit that is celebrated in some provinces of Canada. This celebration consists of dancing and gift exchanging.

The Eastern Canadian province of Nova Scotia is known all over the world for its fir and pine [Christmas Trees](#), so most families in Canada have a fir or pine Christmas Tree. One Canadian tradition is to send the biggest, best fir tree (grown in Nova Scotia) to Boston, [USA](#) because of the assistance given during the disaster, known worldwide, as the Halifax Explosion. This tradition has carried on for many years. Bostonians always love and appreciate the Nova Scotian Christmas Tree. They place this tree in the city and then light it during a ceremony to begin the Christmas season.

Many Brazilian Christmas traditions come from Portugal as Portugal ruled Brazil for many years. [Nativity Scenes](#), known as Presépio are very popular. They are set-up in churches and homes all through December.

Christmas plays called ‘Os Pastores’ (The Shepherds), like the plays in [Mexico](#), are also popular. In the Brazilian versions of the play, there’s also traditionally a shepherdess and also a woman who tries to steal the baby Jesus!

Most people, especially Catholics, will go to a Midnight Mass service or Missa do Galo (Mass of the Roster). The mass normally finishes about 1.00am. On Christmas day, people might go to church again, but this time the services are often in the afternoon.

After the Missa do Gallo there are often big firework displays and in big towns and cities there are big Christmas Tree shaped displays of electric lights.

In Brazil, [Santa Claus](#) is called Papai Noel & Bom Velhinho (Good Old Man).

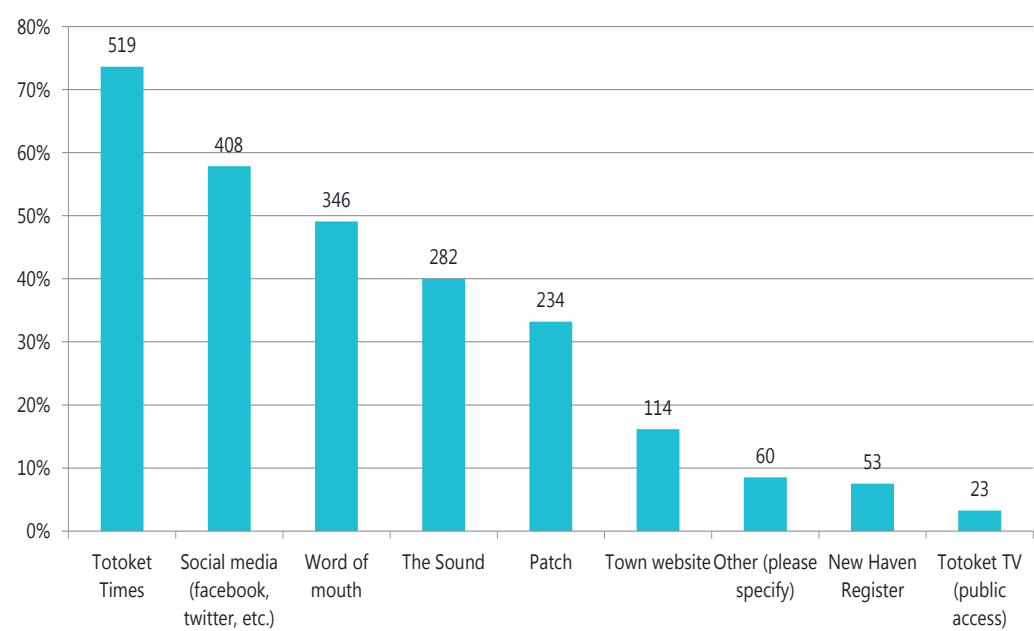
Many Christmas customs are similar to ones in the [USA](#) or [UK](#) even though it’s summer and very hot at Christmas time in Brazil. Many people like to go to the beach.

Sometimes children leave a sock near a window. If Papai Noel finds your sock, he’ll exchange it for a present!

Taking part in a ‘Secret Santa’, known as ‘amigo secreto’ (secret friend) is popular in Brazil at Christmas. It is traditional to give small gifts all through December using a pretend name (apelidos). On Christmas Day, people reveal who their amigo secreto was!

The most popular Christmas song in Brazil is ‘Noite Feliz’ (Silent Night). ***Continued on Page 8***
Information on Christmas Traditions
is taken from WhyChristmas.com

HOW DO YOU FIND OUT ABOUT COMMUNITY EVENTS?



- Totoket Times is the most popular source for community events
- Respondents also specified school announcements and direct emails

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Q28

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This month features a video biographies on famous Italians, recipes, trivia contests and much more about your Italian heritage. Go to northhavenlodge2805.club



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Stuffed Sole	\$4.00 each	
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Full Trays Serve Approximately 20 - 22 People

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MERRY CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
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Make a Difference Month at TVES

For the past 30 years the North Branford school community celebrated Make a Difference Day by holding a food drive on the last Saturday of October. This year, due to the pandemic, Make a Difference Day was changed to Make a Difference MONTH. The TVES community embraced this challenge by making it a friendly competition amongst classrooms to see who could collect the most non-perishable food and gift cards to benefit the Food Pantry of North Branford. Classes were competing for extra recess time, extra gym time, and the grand prize - DQ gift certificates graciously donated by Jim DeMaio from the NB Dairy Queen. The grand prize was won by Mrs. Robinson's fourth grade classroom.

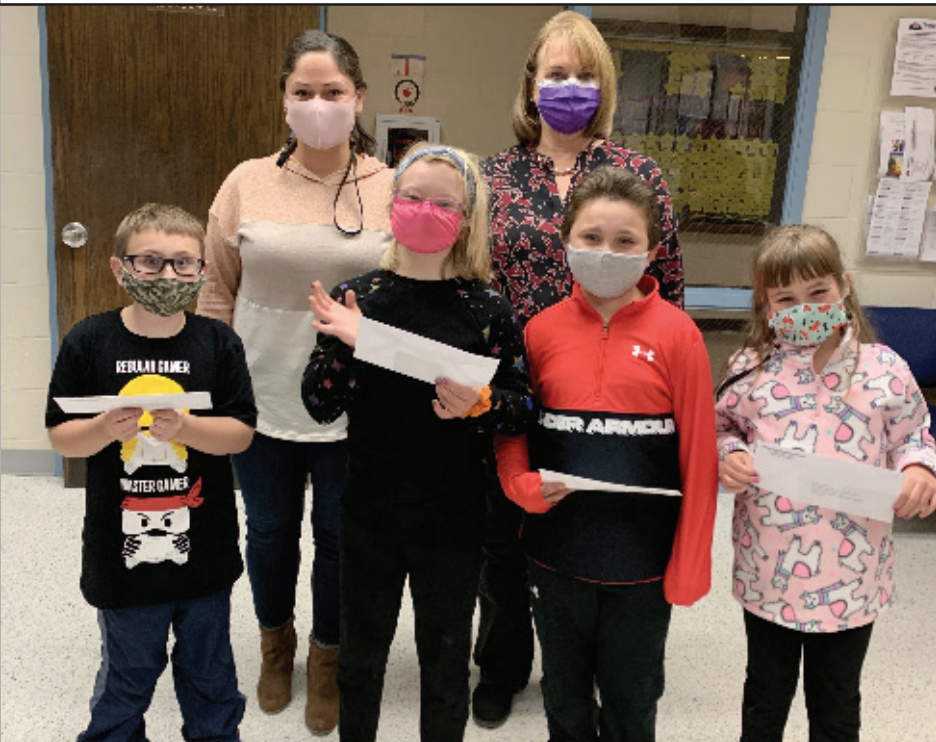
The staff and students came together to show their support for the Food Pantry and knocked it out of the park! We collected \$550 in gift cards and a total of 2,823 lbs. of food which will provide over 2,000 meals! A special thank you to our Life Skills program for collecting, counting, and tracking class totals and to the School to Work program for delivering, weighing, sorting, and stocking shelves for the Food Pantry.



Mrs. Robinson's Class - Winner of the Grand Prize of DQ Certificates



School to Work Program working at the Food Pantry with the TVES donations



TVES student helpers receiving DQ certificates for their hard work

New name, same great programs. ERACE is now Shoreline Adult Education.

(BRANFORD, CT) - After 20 years serving the communities of Branford, Clinton, Guilford, and North Branford, East Shore Region Adult & Continuing Education (ERACE) has changed its name to **Shoreline Adult Education**. As part of an extensive rebranding initiative, the adult education provider has also unveiled a new logo and website. "We're thrilled to reintroduce ourselves," said Christine Bjork, Program Facilitator. "Our new website clearly showcases all of our program offerings and seamlessly connects students to dozens of free resources to help them succeed in their personal and professional lives."

Overview of free academic programs: free to adult residents of Branford, Clinton, Guilford, and North Branford.

High School Diploma / GED®: three program options are available for individuals interested in earning their high school diploma.

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages): non-English speakers from over 50 countries learn to better comprehend, speak, write and use English at work and in their daily lives. Courses for families with young and school-aged children, as well as technology certification programs are also offered.

Citizenship Preparation: a comprehensive two-semester class designed to support adults in their pathway to U.S. citizenship.

Overview of affordable enrichment classes: highly affordable classes, taught by local instructors are offered to the public. Courses range in topic, including computers, arts, crafts, cooking, writing, CPR/first aid, fitness, music, and more.

For more information, visit us online at shorelineadulted.org or call (203) 488-5693.

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. For further information, contact Rose Lynch at 203-483-8395.

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TUES. 8:30 - 5:30 WED. 8:30 - 5:30
THUR. 8:30 - 5:30. FRI. 8:30-5:30
SAT. 8:30-3:30 CLOSED SUN. & MON.
~ WALK-INS ONLY ~

OWNER- ROBERT VIGLIONE
1179 FOXON RD, NORTH BRANFORD | (203) 484-6789

NBIS PERIOD I HONORS

Grade 8 High Honors

Albrecht, Noelle
Allen, Noah Patrick
Amendola, Ashley
Aneiro, Christina
Ardito, Lily
Artaiz, Mercedes
Battista, Isabella
Brezicki, Adrianna
Cahill, OliviaChopus,
Justin Blake
Colantonio, Cassidy
Danner, Nathan
DeLucia, Ryan
Dievert, Larson
Dion, Gabrielle Marie
Durkin, Kaleigh Rae
Esposito, Benjamin
Esposito, Shane
Falcioni, Alexa Jai
Famiglietti, Nico
Ferraro, Samantha
Frost, Kevin Charles
Galasso, Gregory
Godoy, Noah Tomas
Graver, Kara Ellen
Higgins, Joshua
Hills, Adriana Marie
Izzo, Tanner James
Kamienski, Daytona
Krebs, Marley Mae
Lamot, Joanna
Mann, Julia Rose
Manske, Griffin
McCullough, Giana
McMillen, Erin Shea
Melillo, Karma Angel
Melillo, Samantha
Mercuriano, Edmund
Merry, Natalie
Monde, Jack Robert

Montesanto, John Paul
Nuzzo, Megan
O’Connor, Jason
Onofrio, Julianna
Ozoria, Arianna May
Papa, Anthony
Patel, Preet Chirag
Riggione, Michael
Rizzuti, Aaliyah
Scalia, Matthew Ryan
Schmidt, Alivia Gina
Segui, Gioia Cipriana
Sinski, Kyla Lynn
Spanier, Sofia Bean
V a n D e r M a e l e n ,
Sophia Sun Wei
Vongher, Miles

Grade 7 High Honors

Aiken, Bree Addyson
Albrecht, Danielle
Beecher, Zachary
Bliven, Alyssa Jean
Bliven, Gary Taylor
Brezicki, Jayden Cody
Brittell, Avery
Brustman, Leah
Burke, Madelyn
Carusone, Justin
Cioffi-Smith, Chase
Connelly, Tyler John
Crane, Abigail Keep
Cucchiarelli, Jack
DePino, Payton Hope
DiStefano, Madison
Evans, Ariana Ann
Falcigno, Nico Matteo
Falconi, Jair
Fries, Alana Danielle
Gage, Sebastian
Gage, Skylar Lynn
Gildersleeve, Damien

Haeckel, Jason
Heffernan, Tyler John
Iamunno, Benicio
Klouman, Matthew
Kuczynski, Madison
Lacroix, Cameron
Longo, Brandon John
Marino, Alyssa Charla
Nastri, Jamie Love
Navarrete, Cassidy
O’Brien, Charles
Papa, Samantha Marie
Pienkosz, Olivia
Poston, Jacob Logan
Raymond, Caleb
Riordan, Zachary
Ryszczyk, Ava Diana
Saulino, Luca Aniello
Savo, Myrissa Avery
Sherman, Aiden
Sigel, Anthony
Sorrell, Sophia
Traill, Gavin Ian
Vitarisi, Lauren
Westefeld, John

Grade 6 High Honors

Anderson, Matteo
Angiollo, Luca
Aucapina, Isabella
Balliu, Jayden
Blotney, Cole Hunter
Caffalette, Talan
Cameron, Peyton
Carbone, Armani
Cassella, Anthony
Chasanoff, Ella Rose
Cinquegrana, Jonathan
Dolzani, Steven
Dowson, Marina
Esposito, Mason
Forgione, Matthew

Frost, Adrienne Olivia
Fusco-Cuneo, Aden
Gauvin, Cameron
Gierla, Gavin Anthony
Gildersleeve, Daerik
Graham, James
Guerrero, Gabriel
Harper, Mallory James
Harper, Mia Katherine
Havens, Myles
Ianniello, William
Jerew, Abigail Luz
Johnson, Samantha
Kleckner, Kayla Anne
LeBeau, Autumn Rae
LeMay, Peyton
Martin, Jake Tyler
Martone, Alia Jo-Ann
Masella, Izabella
McCullough, Joseph
Meizies, Tyler James
Meneo, Makayla
Miller, Craig Clyde
Montero, Justin Joel
Page, Ava Leigh
Paolini, Natalia Faith
Park, Adam Jong
Patel, Vedi Nilesh
Pearson, Luciano
Peterson, Leif Morgan
Podzikowski, Siena
Ramage, Mae
Rish, Aesop Orion
Sharkey, Robert Jude
Sheridan, Evan
Sigal, Alexandra
Small, William James
Stewart, Savanah Rae
Trudeau, Camden Paul
Wang, Natalee
Weld, Aubrey

Wojciechowski Emma
Wright, Carly Evaline
Zulawski, Katheryn
Grade 8 Honors
Cosgrove, Jason
D’Albero, Matthew
DeFrancesco, Alexa
Dell’ Aquila, Vincent
Giardina, Jayden
Hannan, Catherine
Hannan, Mary Susan
Keil, Jordan Paul
Kundrath, Kyle Mark
LaCerva, Giuseppe
Levison, Brandon
Lin, Tina
Meneo, Jeremy
Minnocci, Brody
Onofrio, Isabella
Piccirillo, Gennaro
Proto, Natalia Grace
Regino, Nicolette
Rodican, Andrew
S a l a n i - B a t h i j a ,
Sameer
Sullivan, Anthony
Tagliatela Potts,
Torok, Caitlin Mary
Tropiano, Dante
Grade 7 Honors
Apuzzo,Joseph
Bernstein Lily Marie
Brockett, Jack
Budd, Michael
Cantore, Taylor Lynn
Connelly, Ariana
DeFelice, Madelyn
DeFrancesco, William
Dodge, Tyler Daniel
Foley, Caden Joseph
Gonzalez, Christian

Goodmaster, Michael
Knowlton, Jack Wyatt
Krista, Christopher
Landino, Luca Joseph
Leone, Gavin Philip
Mansi, Giavana
Morehead, Logan
Sarenas, Benjamin
Schreiner, Jakub
Tam, Loretta Harriana
Urbina, Mateo
Valente, Jonna Nicole
Venturini, Leo Patrick
Grade 6 Honors
Ahmed, Afran Biehler,
Aiden Louis
Brown, William
Ercolani, Jacob
Famiglietti, Gabriela
Francisco, Connor
Jacobs, Jonathan Paul
Juniver, Tyler Wayne
Keil, Brianna Rae
Kundrath, Brianna
Kwalek, Mia
Landau, Brian
Magazzi, Marcus
Maher, Lillian
Pancak, Skye
Pereira, Alexander
Pinette, Eliza
Plano, Matteo
Salvati, Nicolas
Spinelli, Valentina
Stakaj, Daniella
Troche, Gian Josee
Urbano, Mario
Wright, Christian
Yarnall, Dylan Parker



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:

- Two licensed Preschool Teachers
- Curriculum and disciplinary procedures aligned with local kindergarten classes
- Teacher directed learning centers
- Morning lessons reinforced by afternoon activities
- Extracurricular activities at no extra cost including Yoga, Music, Library visits, and Science classes

Openings currently available.

1680 Foxon Road (Rt. 80)
North Branford, CT
203-481-3909
www.weecarenb.com



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**LASER TAG • CYBER SPORT
PLAYSCAPE • ARCADE**

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SOFT SERVE - ICE CREAM • FOXON PARK SODA**

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HOLIDAY SPECIAL

\$50.00 OFF

Any Purchase of more than \$300.00

Good until 12-31-2020

*Stop in and let our family
help your family.*

Guilford Texaco North Inc.
2049 Foxon Rd. North Branford

Christmas Continued

In England, most people start with Christmas decorations early, that is as early as mid of November. Many families decorate their houses with lots of fairy lights and sparkling displays.

Often the house owners collect donations from visitors to their displays in aid of local charities. So remember if you like a display place some spare coins into the honesty boxes and help the good causes.

Christmas is celebrated on Christmas Day, the 25th of December. 26 December is a bank holiday as well. On Boxing Day, the 26th of December, friends and family are usually visited to exchange gifts.

In Germany, in the weeks leading up to Christmas, festive Christmas markets are set up on main squares in many cities.

Houses are often decorated with fairy lights and festive ornaments in December, however, in Germany the Christmas tree is usually only put up and decorated at the homes in the morning of the 24th of December.

Festive Christmas celebrations in Germany begin on the 24th of December, on Christmas Eve. Shops close early on Christmas eve, so remember that you have to get your Christmas shopping done until lunchtime. The 26th of December is a public holiday in Germany too and many families celebrate on this day together, go to Church or enjoy a little excursion to a nearby park.

The Yule Goat has been a Swedish Christmas symbol dating back to ancient pagan festivals. However, in 1966, the tradition got a whole new life after someone came up with the idea to make a giant straw goat, now referred to as the Gävle Goat.

According to the official website, the goat is more than 42 feet high, 23 feet wide, and weighs 3.6 tons. Each year, the massive goat is constructed in the same spot.

Fans can even watch a livestream from the first Sunday of Advent until after the New Year when it's taken down.

Recycling News

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

Residents must call and schedule curbside pickups at
1-866-835-5068
or email Info@SimpleRecycling.com now through end date

Christmas Tree Pick-Up for 2 weeks in January

January 4th – 15th on your scheduled trash day

“Please Don’t Feed the Storm Drain”

Storm drains are designed to only carry rainfall runoff from our streets into our local waterways. Anything but water can contribute to water pollution and drainage issues.

Help avoid potential flooding by clearing leaves, snow and ice in the fall and winter months from around storm drains. Snow, ice and debris can interfere with drainage and clog storm drains causing hazardous street flooding and freezing.

Remember: Only Rain in the Drain!

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

Musical instruments: Horns for Kids www.hornsforkids.org

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

Keep Your Neighborhood Cleaner and Safer

Please store totes away from street and sidewalks after pickup.

Unacceptable Curbside Waste Reminder

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.

**Bulk Pickup is twice a year
(no longer weekly)**

**Next pickup is week of April 19, 2021
Please do not place curbside until that week
-No home cleanouts-**

Due to Health Crisis

Plastic Film Drop Off Still Suspended

Please save plastic film at home until further notice.

Updates soon on program restart.

Thank You!

THIS YEAR GIVE THE GIFT OF READING

BRANFORD, Conn. [November 23, 2020] Shower your friends and family with books for the holidays and at the same time benefit the Blackstone Library. The Friends of the Blackstone has launched its new **‘Virtual Book Cart’**, an easy way to obtain ‘newish’ books, mostly fiction – in both hardcover and trade paperback format, at nominal prices (\$3 for hardcover and \$2 for trade paperback). Also included will be some limited newer non-fiction and some popular fiction titles for your wish list. Best sellers include *All the Light We Cannot See*, *The Splendid & the Vile*, and *Great Alone*. Choose among popular authors like Stephen King, Sandra Brown, Lee Child, and David Baldacci for your leisurely reading.

Go to this site: <https://cloud.collectorz.com/510742/books> to browse the books currently for sale. Search by author or title. Books will be added frequently so check the inventory often.

Found something you would like to buy? Send an email to JBMLFriendsBookCart@gmail.com to place an order.

A reply will be sent if the book (s) are available, letting you know the total cost as well when the books will be available for pick up. Payment must be exact change or by check made payable to Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library (FJBML). Books must be picked up within a week. After that time, they will be returned to inventory. Quantities of specific titles are limited, so books will be made available to the first person making the request.

Books can be picked up in the new back entrance lobby of the library. Volunteers will be staffing the Virtual Book Cart table only during the following days and times: Monday morning: 10:30 AM to noon, Wednesday evening: 4:30 PM to 6 PM, Saturday morning: 9:30 to 11:00 AM.

Questions or to be included in the email mailing list, please send an email to JBMLFriendsBookCart@gmail.com.

Proceeds benefit the Friends of Blackstone Library by providing funds for special programming, museum passes, furniture and equipment, and decorative plantings for the grounds. Your membership will help continue our efforts to sponsor these throughout the year, host the popular September book sale and be an advocate for the needs of the library. Additional benefits as a member include receiving the quarterly Marble Columns as well as early entrance into the annual autumn book sale. Applications are available in the library or contact friendsofjbml@gmail.com

Toys for North Branford Tots

This Office of Social Service will collect toys at the drop off point at the North Branford Police Department from Friday 11/13/2020 to Sunday 12/6/2020. We will accept new toys only. The requirements to participate in the program as a recipient are that you reside in the community, that you are in need and you are not participating in any other toy distribution program. Please be prepared to show proof of residency, such as a utility bill, lease, mortgage statement, tax bill. Drivers license is NOT proof of residency. The

Program Schedule is as follows:

Parents only: Wednesday 12/9/2020 (9 am to 12:30 pm)

Parents and Grandparents: 12/10/2020 (9am to 12:30 pm)

NBCC Holly Fair Donations

We will unfortunately not be hosting the “HOLLY FAIR” this year because of the pandemic we are all facing. We did not want to ignore this very long and loving tradition of the church without reaching out to our friends and neighbors to wish you all a blessed and wonderful Christmas! The fair has always been our biggest fundraiser and are asking in friendship and love for a donation of any kind. Checks can be mailed to the church: NBCC 1680 Foxon Road P.O. Box 410 North Branford, Ct 06471 Attn: Holly Fair

Or can be sent through PayPal by going onto our churches Facebook page and follow the directions.

Let us take the time to rejoice the holiday season in the birth of our Lord.

Women’s Club, GFWC Pals Socks Fundraiser

The Northford-North Branford Women’s Club, GFWC is holding a Pals Socks Fundraiser. These socks are unique, cozy and fun mis-matched socks. This is the perfect holiday gift for your kids or that special hard-to-buy-for person. All proceeds go towards our charity budget which helps to support local programs. With your help we can continue to give back to our community as we have done for the past 59 years. Go to <https://palssocks.rallyup.com/nnbwc> to link to the fundraising page. The fundraiser runs until December 9th. Visit our Facebook page at Northford-North Branford Women’s Club, GFWC.

Death Notices



Oliver W. Helmrich (CORKY), was born on November 7, 1942 in Williamsport, PA. He passed away peacefully on November 19, 2020, after a valiant battle with cancer.

Cars, trucks, boats and anything else with a motor and steering wheel. Since he was a little boy Corky took apart and rebuilt everything he got his hands on.

Corky graduated from Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven (we won’t mention the year just note he attended Wilbur Cross because North Branford did not yet have a high school). Pursuing his love of engines, Corky and his father purchased an old gas station on Route 80 in North Branford. Over half a century later Midway Auto Body thrives in the same spot. With the help and guidance of his longtime partner, Rhonda Levine, they turned the small gas station into a complex garage, towing and repairing everything from small cars to large truck cabins. Corky has two sons; Patrick Michael is a retired Air Force mechanic living in Florida and Timothy Robert followed in his father’s footsteps at Midway in North Branford.

Corky never met a favor or friend in need he turned down. An old trucking colleague once remarked Corky would give you the shirt off his back and could find you anything you needed, you just had to remind him once or twice. But inevitably, the rare engine part or left-handed fishing rod found its way to Midway where Corky could be found at the front desk. He greeted all who walked through the door with a laugh and grin, making you feel like an old friend – perhaps it was the fumes from the auto body paint but most were none the wiser. Corky held court from his spot, King Arthur at his roundtable. His audience, a handful of regulars and the unsuspecting customer perhaps wondering if someone was in the back fixing their car, dutifully serving as his knights. Topics of conversation included his many interests: the greatest player in UCONN basketball history (it’s Svet), geopolitical tensions in the South Asian mountainous region, his favorite sibling (his sister or maybe his brother but definitely his sister), his granddaughters writing, and his many other family members (some of whom he even admitted to).

As all great storytellers do Corky also loved to fish. On the small chance one did not find him at Midway you could assume he was with his other love, a fishing pole. Corky joyfully cast his reel for all manner of fish, from the tiny perch at his home on West Lake to big game fish off the coasts of South America. If you were lucky enough you could enjoy his catch along with the story of it.

Throughout his life Corky dabbled in restaurants, home building, flying airplanes, and building fire trucks. Pursuits he chose no doubt to supplement his story collection and for which we his listeners are grateful.

In honor of Corky his family asks you go catch a fish or kick your tires.



Joseph C. Rusconi, 67, of Northford passed away on Friday, November 27, 2020 at his home. He was the beloved husband of 24 years to Lori Olsen Rusconi. Joseph was born in Meriden on April 1, 1953 and was the son of Rose Delniero Rusconi and the late Louis Rusconi. A member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local #478 for 43 years and for ten years had worked as an Operating Engineer for Camputaro

and Son Excavating. Joseph was a member of NRA, he enjoyed fishing, hunting, fixing motors and machines. He had a great sense of humor and would do anything for you. Father of Lisa Rusconi and Joseph C. Rusconi, Jr. Brother of Scott Rusconi, Gail Pearson and the late Mark Rusconi. Also survived by his two special nephews Scottie and Jimmy, his nieces Tammy and Linda, and his black lab Rascal. Predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law David and Eleanor Howe. The family would like to extend a special thank you to the North Branford Police Department, the EMT’s and Smilow Cancer Hospital/Yale-New Haven.

Services will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, PO Box 50, Memphis, TN 38101-9929. The Havens Family, North Haven Funeral Home, 36 Washington Avenue has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Last call for Churches to send in their Holiday Schedules.

They must be in by today. Friday. December 11.

Totokettimes@comcast.net

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

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 Rd., North Branford, CT, 203-488-8456 or nobfdcong@sbcglobal.net or 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 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

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. 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 - the white church on the hill in the heart of Northford (at the intersection of Rtes. 17 & 22). We celebrate the Holy Eucharist every Sunday at 10:00am. Coffee and fellowship always follows. All are welcome. Please join us - we’d love to get to know you! 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, belts, purses, sheets, blankets and stuffed animals may be made at the donation shed in the church parking lot. We are a member of the Middlesex Area Cluster Ministry. The Rev. Jim Bradley is Missioner In Charge and we have rotating clergy serving the parishes of St. Andrew’s as well as Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Killingworth and St. James Episcopal Church, Higganum. Visit our website at <http://standrewsnorthford.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; MACM office, 860-345-0058; or Rev. Bradley, 203-525-6846.

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. 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. 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.

United Methodist Church Remote Worship

The **United Methodist Church, Branford** has announced that, at the request of the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, all in-person worship has been suspended until the end of 2020.

UMCBranford will continue to offer **remote worship services** with a live stream of their 9:30am Sunday service, which can be accessed on the church’s YouTube channel (look for the UMCB channel with our red door as the profile pic). Past services can be accessed through the church’s website (www.umcbranford.org) and on YouTube. For those without access to the internet, an audio recording of the most recent service can also be accessed via Dial My Calls at (959) 202-4862

During the Advent season, a virtual **Lighting of the Candles of the Advent Wreath** will take place each Sunday at 10:15am via a Zoom session (<https://zoom.us/j/95843922273>). As **Pastor Kent Jackson** leads a short liturgy and lights the candles in the UMCBranford sanctuary, viewers are invited to light the appropriate candles on their own wreath at home. Once the liturgy has concluded, pour a cup of coffee and join your fellow Zoomers for Fellowship Time – a chance for conversation and social interaction.

Christmas Services will be held on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24 at 5:00pm and Christmas Day, Friday, December 25 at 9:30 am. Both services will be held virtually and can be accessed at the church’s website.

For more information: (203) 488-0549 umcbranford1966@gmail.com



Restoration Work at Northford Congregational Church

After the March 15 closure of Northford Congregational Church, “A Little Church with a Big Heart,” due to COVID-19, a number of improvements and repairs have been accomplished at the church.

The new bell tower and steeple had been replaced at the end of February just before everything was shut down. A bronze plaque on the front of the building honors the major donors and the architect.

The Honduras mahogany front doors of the church were removed, stripped, sanded, and given six coats of varnish. The job was able to be accomplished inside the social hall since the room was not being used.

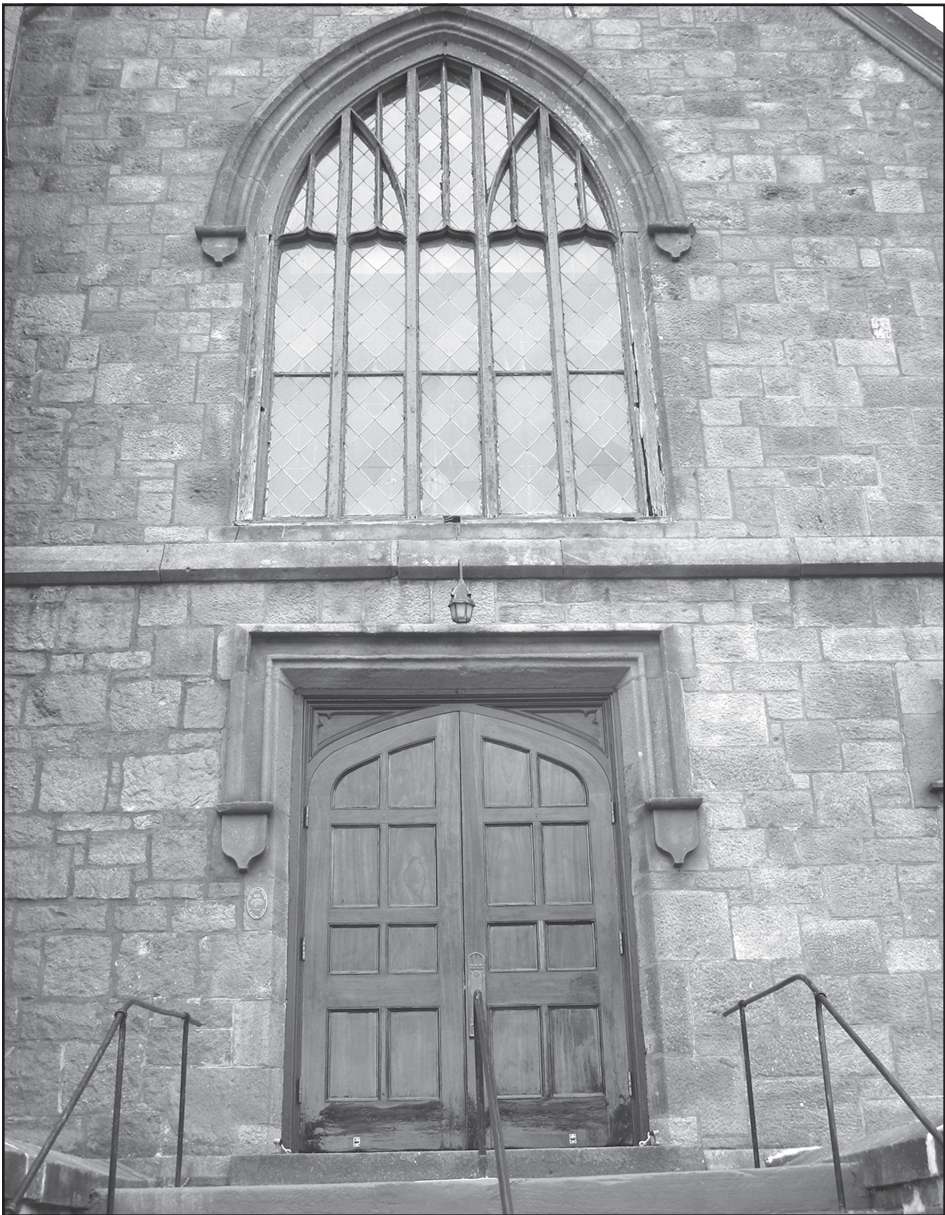
The large Gothic window above the front doors, which was ready to collapse, was replaced by Vogel Glass in Branford. The new window mimics the design of the original, is double-paned and argon filled for insulation, and blocks ultra violet rays.

The parking lot was re-paved and striped along with the sidewalk to the handicap ramp; work was done by Maisano Brothers in Northford

Mission projects are continuing; keep your eyes on the signs.

Services are being conducted via Zoom on computer/tablet/ phone, while masked in-person services are taking place with limited and socially-distanced seating.

The historic church (203-484-0795) is located at 4 Old Post Road at the corner of Route 22 and Route 17 in the Northford village in North Branford. Church website: www.northfordcongregational.church. Email: northfordcc@gmail.com. Like us on Facebook.





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

Light Up North Branford

HOLIDAY LIGHT DECORATING CONTEST

Monday, December 21st
6:00 – 10:00 p.m. ↑NEW DATE!
FREE

Get into the holiday spirit with a fun and festive competition!

REGISTER TO GET YOUR HOUSE ON THE MAP!
A map of display locations will be available on our website on December 21st.

PRIZES
\$100 – Best Overall Display
\$50 – Brightest Display
\$50 – Most Original Display

Winners determined by a panel of judges

Registration required by 12/10
www.nbrecreation.com

NORTH BRANFORD
PARKS AND RECREATION
STW Community Center 1332 Middletown Ave. Northford, CT 06472
www.nbrecreation.com | 203-484-6017

HOLIDAY menu

December 23, 2020 • Pickup 11:30 - 12:30
\$6.00

MUST PRE-REGISTER BY DECEMBER 11th

- Antipasta Salad**
An assortment of cheeses, olives, and meats
- Honey Glazed Carrots**
Carrots glazed with butter, honey, and fresh dill
- Roasted Cornish Game Hen**
Whole oven roasted Cornish Game Hen
- Red Roasted Potatoes**
Roasted red potatoes seasoned with thyme
- Dessert**
New York-style Cheesecake



The North Branford Senior Center is partnering with students from the High School to start a pen-pal program called Pen-Friends, scheduled to begin this January! During these digital times this is a great opportunity to help students learn to write old fashioned letters!

COVID-19 has impacted people of all ages. Participating in a program such as Pen-Friends has benefits such as increased connection, an opportunity for intergenerational learning, as well as boosted mood, physical health and overall brain function.

Having someone to exchange written correspondence with can also help ease anxiety, loneliness and stress - all of which can be the result of facing adversity such as a pandemic.

If you have any questions or are interested in participating in this exciting new partnership please call (203)484-6017.

HOW TO USE ZOOM

All you need is a computer with a web camera, a tablet, or a smartphone!

ZOOM TUTORIAL: <https://youtu.be/9isp3qPeQOE>

Enter the web address above in to your web browser for simple steps to getting started!

Our January newsletter will offer ZOOM programming, get ready!

More helpful links: Zoom Basics Part 1- What is Zoom?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wVVbAICM-w>

Zoom Basics Part 2- How to join a meeting
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0maD5d28Spq>

Zoom Basics Part 3- Navigating a Zoom Meeting & Etiquette
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZitOyokqsQ>

Shared by Groton Library

GINGERBREAD BABY



Ages 3 - 4— Virtual
\$15



Wednesday, December 16, 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Instructor: Elena Bigio, Kidscapades

Based on the classic story Gingerbread Baby by Jan Brett we will take a quick story walk to familiarize the children with the Gingerbread Baby, if they have not already met the little rascal. The rest of class will be spent engaging in gingerbread baby centered activities . A Zoom link and materials list will be emailed.

GRINCH DAY

Ages 5 - 8— Virtual
\$15



Wednesday, December 16, 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Instructor: Elena Bigio, Kidscapades

Don't let the Grinch steal Christmas. Kidscapades will lead this fun filled class of Grinch activities! Each child will pour and mix their own bag of magic Grinch dust! Complete with directions on where and when to sprinkle the magic dust to keep the Grinch away. We then stir up a cup of exploding Grinch punch to help keep the Christmas magic in the air! A Zoom link and materials list will be emailed.

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
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Payment MUST accompany all ads. The advertiser must notify this
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HELP WANTED

Holiday Drivers and Compute Help. Call Dave at Petals2Go.
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An Ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain!

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December Holiday Programs

Over the years many community members, religious and civic
organizations as well as businesses, large and small have been in-
tegral members of the community through their time, donations
and generosity. Some participate just one year or through one pro-
gram. Others participate each year. Every effort is appreciated.
If you are interested in assisting someone, family or a child in the North
Branford/Northford Community, we encourage you to do so through a
variety of programs. The extent of your participation is entirely yours; no
involvement is too small. This year has been unique and we are planning
events step by step. Thank you for your patience and bearing with us at
this difficult time

The December Holiday Basket Share Program will take place on Thursday,
December 17,2020.For those that need some assistance with their Holiday
dinner and /or gifts for children, you only need to call the Office of Social
Service and request to be a recipient in the December Holiday Basket Share.
The only requirement is that you are in need and that you reside in either
Northford or North Branford. Your information is protected, and your name
will not be disclosed. You must be able to pick-up your basket or arrange
for someone to pick it up for you. We are unable to deliver.

For those wishing to donate a basket, you only need to call the Office of
Social Service and express your desire to donate a Holiday Dinner Basket
with or without toys. You may choose the family size you would like to
adopt. You may choose to do this alone, or as a group, with neighbors or
co-workers. For those donors that wish to include children's gifts, this Of-
fice will provide you with the children's wish list.

Although names are not disclosed, a number will be given to both the
recipient and the donor. This is used to identify which family is the recipi-
ent. All commitments by the donor and the recipients will receive written
confirmation. The Program Schedule is as follows:

Donor Drop Off: Thursday, December 17, 2020 (9:30 – 11:00 AM)

Recipient Pick-up: Thursday, December 17, 2020 (11:30 AM– 1:00

PM). Last Day to be part of the Program: Friday, November 20, 2020