



# Totoket Times

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Volume 27 No 1, May 29, 2020



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Publication Date	Deadline
May 29	May 22
June 12	June 5
June 26	June 19
July 10	July 3
July 24	July 17
August 7	July 31
August 21	August 14



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# Honor our Military with a Flag

The Northford-North Branford Women's Club, GFWC is sponsoring Honor Them with a Flag, a salute to our country's military personnel, veterans, first responders, teachers or anyone else that you would like to honor.

The public is invited to participate. The flags will go on display on the island in the center of Northford from Flag Day, June 14<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>. This year, because of the Covid pandemic, the flags will not be labeled. There will be no charge for the flags, but donations are being graciously accepted.

Donations will benefit local charitable projects. This is normally our annual veterans' fundraiser. Last year donations were made to House of Heroes, Veteran's Rowing and Quilts of Valor.

To order, fill out a form and mail it to: The Northford-North Branford Women's Club, P.O. Box 264, Northford, CT 06472. Order forms are also available online at [www.northfordwomensclub.org](http://www.northfordwomensclub.org).

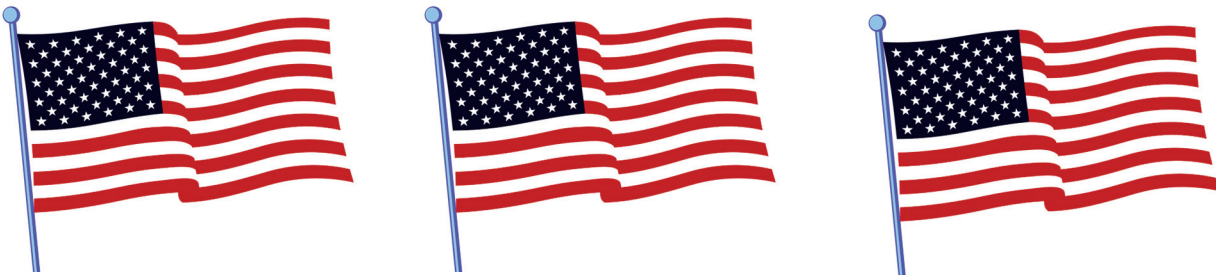
All forms must be received by June 12<sup>th</sup>. Optional free will donation checks should be made payable to Northford Women's Club. We will publish a list of the honorees in the newspaper. If you would like to supply a picture to us, we will put it with the listing on our Facebook page. Please email photos to [northford.nbwomensclubgfwc@gmail.com](mailto:northford.nbwomensclubgfwc@gmail.com).

For more information, contact Liz Boissard at 203-484-0708.

Please fill out the following information (optional free will donations accepted):  
 Northford-North Branford Women's Club. Mail to P.O. Box 264, Northford, CT 06472  
**Deadline: Friday, June 12, 2020**

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## State Representative Vincent Candelora Consultants Leading COVID Response Efforts from the Shadows?



In the world of sports, “the hairdryer treatment” is strongly-worded motivation launched by a coach who’s looking to trigger a response from players.

Last week, Governor Lamont received a version of the hairdryer treatment from salon owners and stylists statewide who were, perhaps, left confused by his short-lived ban on blowouts during “phase one,” and later irritated

by his decision to rescind the order allowing shops to open.

It’s a subject I broached in last issue’s column, so I figured I’d start with it now because those changes have garnered the most attention since then.

By now, you’ve heard that salons and barber shops, which were scheduled to open May 20, saw the governor push back that day to June 1. Understandably, the decision frustrated barbers and stylists who began booking appointments with the earlier date in mind. Conversely, the decision pleased stylists and barbers who weren’t ready for customer interaction.

Both camps gave the governor an earful before and after the reopen flip-flop, with concerns shared by those who wished to remain closed winning him over.

The open-closed boondoggle has placed even greater focus on the governor’s decision-making process, which had been driven by an off-the-books advisory group but now, it seems, consultants who stand to get paid \$2 million derived from federal and state sources.

It’s no wonder that residents feel adrift from their government, a sentiment furthered by more news from the capitol last week—the dissolution of the education-focused Partnership for Connecticut, a public-private initiative that teamed the state with philanthropists Ray and Barbara Dalio.

The well-intentioned Partnership, created without a public hearing, required a \$100 million commitment from the state. Yet it operated outside ethics and open records laws even though it used taxpayer money, a fact I’ve been critical of since it was created last June. Some legislative Democrats eventually grew wary of the FOI exemption too, even offering a proposal of their own to change that.

The Dalios’ decision last week to jettison the Partnership came just days after a news report uncovering its governing board’s move to terminate the CEO less than two months after she was hired to the nearly \$250,000 job. Understandably, perhaps to everyone but the governor and the Dalios, the news renewed conversation about the Partnership’s ability to work behind closed doors. In newspaper reports, Barbara Dalio criticized me and a colleague for the consistent stance we took.

When it comes to the use of taxpayer dollars, transparency is critical. I’m happy to deliver a hairdryer on that any time.

### Coming in our Next Edition

With the cooperation of our High School  
administration,  
we will have special pages  
recognizing our

**North Branford High School  
Class of 2020.**



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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.**

## Let’s Be “Frank”

I’m telling you my brother. I was sitting here on this very different Memorial Day, feeling a little blue as we had decided not to have Frankie and his fiancée visit from New York. I’m just a little frightened by this virus and didn’t want to expose the rest of us to a New York state of mind. As I was trying to figure out what to talk about, your wife sent an e-mail with a copy of a post from the very son I was thinking about.

I knew nothing of this story as he never mentioned it to any of us. But as I read the post, I decided I couldn’t do anything better myself. So I decided that this column would be a copy of the post from Frank Mentone III.

“On the eve of Memorial Day, I felt compelled to write this because it’s something I think about every so often and if it’s profound enough to resonate as a memory after 10 years then maybe it’s profound enough to share.

There are few things on this earth I love more than baseball. I could earn some brownie points by acknowledging what those few things are but this story isn’t about me. However it does need a back story.

My entire life I wanted to be the short stop of the New York Yankees. I still do! There’s probably a million people out there that have a similar dream. One issue was that at 16 I injured my shoulder so badly that after 2 surgeries I was left with what one coach called a “throwing impediment.” That was the nice way of putting it. This should have stopped me but it wasn’t in me to give up. With an arm that was like a wet noodle I continued working tirelessly on all the other areas of my game to over compensate for my throwing ability.

In 2007, the American Legion baseball team I played for had a pretty modest regular season but caught fire in the playoffs. We won the State Championship, the Regional Championship and were 1 of 8 teams to punch a ticket to the National Championship in Oklahoma. We won game one and lost game two, both in dramatic fashion. Game 3 was now an elimination game and we were told that the pitcher from Tucson, Arizona was drafted by the Braves. It was obvious why, he threw harder than any pitcher I had ever faced and he was 17. He also hit 4 homeruns during the game! We lost by 10 or 11 runs. Little kids, as well as adults, were asking him for his autograph after the game. I had never seen a high school kid get asked for an autograph before. The player’s name was Chris Moon. His name even has that star powered ring to it.

For a few years after that game I would Google him every so often to see how he was doing in the minor leagues but I couldn’t find his stats anywhere. For reference, that’s what crazy sports fans do, they constantly Google statistics. I thought maybe he was injured, it happens all the time early in an athlete’s career. He could have had Tommy John surgery and took the year off. But the next year I couldn’t find anything either. Finally, in the summer of 2010 I searched his name to discover something beyond my wildest imagination. Chris Moon had turned down his offer from the Braves and walked away from a scholarship to play at the University of Arizona so that he could enlist in the US Army. At 20 years old he was killed by a bomb in Afghanistan.

I never officially met Chris outside of standing in the batter box as he threw pitches I could barely see or the 4 times he jogged by me at 1st base when he hit a home run. What always stuck with me was that a kid with light years more talent than me, drafted to play professional ball and given a full scholarship to one of the best baseball schools on the planet, decided to pass up a dream that I would have done anything for to serve his country in the US Army. Maybe he thought his talents were of better use to protect those that couldn’t defend themselves rather than to simply play a game. In any regard, I think about how selfless of a decision that was and how he passed up potential wealth and fame to put his life on the line so others didn’t have to. I didn’t know him but if he made a lasting imprint on me after just one brief encounter, something tells me he impacted countless others too.”

I hope you and the rest of my readers enjoyed it. It speaks volumes about what we should be contemplating on Memorial Day and volumes of why I am so proud of my namesake.

Keep things hopping up there and I’ll see you soon. By the way, I figured out that the length of 12 Hummels hotdogs put together, are the proper distance for social distancing.

### 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**

PO. Box 313, Northford, CT 06472



## NBHS Softball 2020!



Dear editor;

My wife & I do not know where to begin!

That parade on May 14, 2020 for the three Senior Captains was INCREDIBLE! Not only the numbers but the enthusiasm that each vehicle provided continued to feed the celebration for the Seniors! The memories that all of

you helped provide to our daughters was unforgettable!

The girls were very surprised & overwhelmed with such happiness, especially during this crazy pandemic time. To see their smiles & joy for the nearly 10 minute parade was a moment that we will never forget!

*"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."* Maya Angelou

This statement holds true about this event. As you, your daughters, family members & friends made the Seniors FEEL sooooo.... special yesterday - as all of you honored them for their dedication to NBHS Softball, commitment to the TEAM, inspiration of camaradery, inclusion of all players & representatives of our school & Town. How all of you made them feel was extremely touching for my wife & I to observe.

It continues to ring true that a chapter is closing for our daughter Mairead, but that one is also opening towards the future. We have always taught our daughters to never forget about where it is that they come from, & I know that we, Aimee & I, were never more PROUD to be a North Branford resident! As we were all saying afterwards, ONLY in a small, tight knit, town could this have occurred due to the dedication of all parents, family & friends!

*We wish to express a sincere & heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the members of the Nbfd who selflessly gave of their time to support this amazing event & to shed some sunshine on our daughters during these trying times of social distancing! The outpouring of all the Fire personnel & trucks was shocking as we were hoping for 1-2 trucks that would participate. To have the numbers of trucks that Chief Seward & Dep. Chief Esposito provided for this event, was utterly amazing! It seemed as if 8-10 trucks were involved with exuberant Town spirit!*

Our hope is that we may have stumbled across something here... When we heard last evening from Mairead how this made her feel & how excited she was that all of the people took the time to come & celebrate her with her other teammates, she was "blown away". As parents in their last year of a high school sport, we will tell you that we always wanted our daughter to be successful & proud of her role as a teammate & to always try with her best effort! It is our hope that this celebration last evening, will become an annual type of gathering for years to come so all Seniors can be recognized in a similar manner!

We thank all you from the bottom of our hearts for being a part of this SPECIAL celebration for these three players & amazing young ladies who shall succeed in all of their future endeavors!

Photo above:(NBHS 2020 Senior Softball Captains - Mairead Aiken, Kayla Despres & Katy Pedersen)

Sincerely, Brent & Aimee Aiken

## Not Happy with Senator's Recommendation

To The Editor:

People from our towns and cities who have been subject to business closures have been anxiously waiting to reopen their businesses to begin paying bills and put their employees back to work. Other people, however, feel it is too soon to open up the state.

Our governor recently released metrics that the state is achieving, thus triggering a Phase 1 reopen for May 20 under strict guidelines.

I was, therefore, surprised to see publicity of our State Senator Christine Cohen signing a letter recommending that the Governor keep the state closed. We all have been advised to "listen to the experts" throughout this crisis. Senator Cohen has also been advised by members of the public, since she was recently elected, that she is responsible to the people in her electorate and not people ranked above her. Sadly, our Senator has chosen to ignore both advisories.

Adding insult to injury, she continues to keep her own business in operation, selling bagels in Madison! If she really is so concerned about her constituents and businesses that should remained closed, then she should stop being a hypocrite and close her own business. She should impose the same restrictions, that she is demanding of the people she represents, on herself.

Sincerely, Louis C. Hardy

## A CRISIS

Throw up our hands, give up our rights and obey government's commands! I can't do this without some reasonable justification for a "crisis!" Can you?

For at least three decades we've been told to expect 30 to 60 thousand Influenza deaths every year. We didn't bat an eye when 80,000 died in our 2017-18-flu season because we were told it was normal. On January 6, 2020, Dr. Fauci told us to expect another deadly flu season of 60 to 80 thousand Influenza deaths... par for the course. But then, when the Chicken Little Media began screeching about tens of thousands of Coronavirus deaths we were supposed to panic. Some of us - uncomfortable with panic on command - did some research.

On 5/4/20, the CDC's latest official statistics revealed just 5,886 flu deaths this year. Chock it up to "social distancing?" The calendar shows social distancing didn't start until nine weeks into the flu's acceleration phase, so that wasn't responsible for the drastic reduction in Influenza mortality. What was? Did Coronavirus deaths somehow supplant the expected flu deaths?

On May 4th the CDC also told us there were only 38,576 Coronavirus deaths. (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid19/index.htm>). But the Corporate Media reported an alarming 80,000! The CDC told us that medical "experts" couldn't figure out why people were dying, so they combined Coronavirus, flu and pneumonia deaths into a single "provisional" tally of 92,615?

Do Coronavirus deaths have some connection to economics and politics? A provider who diagnoses a Medicare patient with Influenza gets a lump sum payment of \$5,000; change that diagnosis to COVID-19-related pneumonia and get \$13,000; put that COVID-19 patient on a ventilator and get \$39,000. Why would anyone inflate these numbers? Blue versus Red politics in an election year? As of May 17, New York Coronavirus deaths were an astronomical 32% of the U.S. total (28,097 of 88,709)!

Despite virus-related mortality rates well within our previous anticipated statistical norms and in spite of the above uncertainties, inconsistencies and unsubstantiated predicates for this "crisis," the Corporate Media and our local, state and federal governments have used the Coronavirus to suspend our Constitutional rights and justify worldwide economic suicide. Thus far, we've been fed a saga that has scared a majority of us into submission to social changes that we wouldn't consider let alone tolerate. I suggest we reject this blundering and inconsistent claim of "crisis" as untenable and demand that our federal, state and local governments provide consistent statistics and sound scientific explanations before they take away our Constitutional rights and refashion our entire society.

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## "...Live Your Lives..."

Dear Editor:

I am responding the person who believes that if someone is not wearing a mask that they are in eminent danger of death. The levels of fear that some people are experiencing is not entirely consistent with the facts and may be counterproductive. Covid 19 was certainly circulating before the middle of March before the lock down. If the disease was as contagious and deadly as predicted many thousands of people, especially those working in high volume retail environment, would be dead. The current number of deaths is around 3600. We know that 68% of people that died in CT were in nursing homes. We also know that the number of deaths are being inflated by including hospice patients, cancer patients and end stage or simply people who test positive for the Corona virus like the infant that

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## Call Her Doctor!



Melina Proto, formerly Melina Raucci, graduated from Fairfield University on May 16, with a Doctorate in Nursing Practice.

She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Dr. Proto graduated from North Branford High School in 2011 before attending Southern Connecticut State University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Dr. Proto has worked as a Registered Nurse at Yale-New Haven Hospital for the past five years. Upon obtaining state licensure, she will work as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

## North Branford Recognizing NBIS & NBHS Departures

The traditional recognition ceremonies for eighth graders moving on to High School and High School graduations is an impossibility this year. But for both schools, there will be programs put together to congratulate the deserving students.

In a letter to the Superintendent, NBIS Principal Keith O'Rourke addressed the issue. "Given the circumstances we have been dealt, we believe the best option to recognize our outgoing 8th graders is by having a combination of experiences, that will include the *NBIS Virtual Promotion Ceremony*, and the *NBIS Promotion Car Processional*. This combination of events was included as recommendations in the most recent guidance regarding graduations provided by the CSDE and the State of Connecticut Health Department. Further, the NBIS plan is consistent with or exceeds current plans for middle schools from several school districts we have reached out to." He then went on to describe the plans for the eighth grade students.

### NBIS Virtual Promotion Ceremony

Our goal will be to air the NBIS Virtual Promotion Ceremony on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 6PM. To avoid any unforeseen glitches that commonly occur during "live" virtual platforms and gatherings, as well as to ensure the overall audio/visual quality of the ceremony, the NBIS Virtual Promotion will be pre-recorded. The NBIS Virtual Promotion will follow the same format typical of a live NBIS Promotion, including speeches (Principal's Welcome, BOE Chair's Speech, Superintendent's Address, etc.), recognition of special school and team level awards, the presentation of the 8th grade class, etc. These segments will be pre-recorded and edited to make the 2020 NBIS Virtual Promotion. For the presentation of our 8th grade class, we will recognize each student with their yearbook picture photo (their name will be displayed) to recognize their promotion from NBIS. Current NBHS teacher Nick DeLizio (*The Davis Way, NBPD Lip Sync Challenge*) has generously agreed to help us produce this virtual experience, and we are very excited for the final product.

### NBIS Promotion Car Processional

We will distribute Promotion certificates, awards, and yearbooks to our students the day after the virtual ceremony, on Wednesday, June 10th, between 3PM - 6PM. The Promotion Car Processional will establish a drive through station at the NBIS student pickup/drop-off area. Promotion certificates, awards, a special 8th grade tee-shirt, and yearbooks will be distributed one car at a time. Face coverings/masks will be expected of car passengers and NBIS staff. As each car approaches (the approach will be decorated for the occasion), the name of the student in the car will be read aloud on our megaphone, and as students drive away, they will be cheered by socially distanced staff members. The processional will be recorded and uploaded for our students to view at a later time.

At the High School, Principal Todd Stoeffler also sent his thoughts to Superintendent Schoonmaker. "Given the current directives provided by the state, the predicted requirements of any sort of gathering for the near future, and the wishes of our current seniors, we have developed a conceptual plan that is a *hybrid of a virtual experience and a live experience*. In addition, we have some additional ideas included below unique to our plan when reviewing the state's directives and other school district's plans." The Principal then explained his program.

### Live aspects of the plan

Graduates and families would be scheduled to be on site during one hour increments on June 4 or June 5 between the hours of 10am - 2pm. Graduates and families are in staging areas along the Green House area, the ticket booth area up to the concession stand area. Upon the graduate being announced, the graduate and family walk into the Stadium and across to the center of the field. The graduate is provided his/her diploma and then exit the area via the opposite end of the stadium field. Upon departing the stadium, families would be directed to depart via the student parking lot. Approximately 16 families would be scheduled during each hour increment and determined by alpha order. With a staging area from the Green House up to the Concession stand area, we can keep social distancing requirements in place and also readily adhere to the schedule.

School photographers will be on site to capture each graduate as they receive their diploma, images to be included in digital products.

The evening of June 11th, all graduates and families (one car per family) would complete a parade drive thru and lap of the campus at 5pm with NBHS staff lining the driveway areas to offer congratulations -

### **Virtual, digital experiences and products for the Class of 2020**

A video would be produced and provided to Totoket TV/Facebook, posted on NBHS Twitter and uploaded to YouTube by NBHS Video /TV Production Class. Video would include:

- Virtual speeches provided by Class President, Valedictorian, District and Building Administrators

- The images captured during the aforementioned diploma distribution on 6/4, 6/5

- The NBHS Teacher Message Video for Students (already completed)
- The Graduate Walk/Tribute Video Message from JHS, TVES, and NBIS
- The NBHS Class Historian Senior Slide Show video (usually provided the morning of graduation)

Graduates and families would have permanent access to the video via various platforms with no need to purchase a produced dvd

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Graduates Address – Street and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Note to Graduate (limit 3 lines) \_\_\_\_\_

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With the health and safety of our community being of the utmost importance, it is with heavy hearts that we cancel the 2020 North Branford Potato & Corn Festival. While this was a sad decision to make, we know it is the correct one during these unprecedented times and with the uncertainty due to COVID-19.

Thank you to the Recreation Commission and the North Branford Town Council for their ongoing support; thank you to the PoCo committee and the amazing volunteers, who have already spent so much time in planning the 2020 festival; thank you to our vendors who have supported us more than 18 years; and thank you to the community for loving this event as much as we do!

We look forward to coming back in 2021 and know it will mean so much more when we are all able to come together to celebrate with fun, music, rides, games, fireworks, delicious food, and our community. Stay well!

~Jenn  
 Potato and Corn Festival Coordinator



Dear North Branford Families,

If this is what it's like to live in historic times, we're not impressed. We suspect you are probably feeling the same way, but we are nothing, if not adaptable. As you might imagine, we are sad we will not get to spend time with all of you at the Potato and Corn (Corn and Potato?) Festival this year. The choice to cancel though seems obvious. We will always err on the side of making sure our entire community is healthy and safe and a gathering like POCO seems more dangerous than fun for now. Really, it gives us more time for a more fantastic festival in 2021!

We continue to carefully watch park, court and field use. The parks are open for you to enjoy, always remembering to practice social-distancing. Tennis and pickle ball courts are at your disposal, again, as long as people are being smart about it. Basketball courts remain closed due to the close contact nature of the sport. We would like to remind people that rollerblades are not allowed on tennis or basketball courts. The court in front of STW community center IS available for rollerblading or roller hockey. There are even goals on the court.

The Community Center, Senior Center and Fitness Center remain closed at this time. We must wait until we have guidance from the state on safe procedures for opening before we will consider it. In the meantime though, we are carefully considering ways that we might be able to do it so that we are prepared when the time comes.

Finally, we are working on ways that we can safely get together and have some fun even with our restrictions! Look for news soon about some options that will be available.

Thank you all for your kind patience in the face of a potentially grueling time. We really are all in this together and the more kindness we give, the more we get and we can all use more kindness in our lives.

Please stay healthy by following social-distancing practices,

Patrick Rossiter  
 Interim Parks and Recreation Director

### CRAFTY CORNER

#### COFFEE FILTER BUTTERFLIES

Coffee Filter Butterflies are a fun and easy craft project to do with the kids. These butterflies are so colorful!

What You Need:

1. Coffee filter
2. Markers
3. Clothes pin
4. Pipe cleaners
5. Water
6. Paper towels

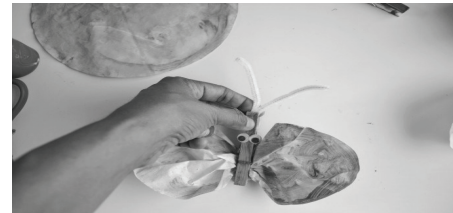
Instructions:

Take the coffee filter and draw lines all over it with the markers. Wet the coffee filter and let it dry on a piece of paper towel.

When it is dry, put the coffee filter on the clothes pin.

Wrap a small piece of pipe cleaner around the "head" of the butterfly to make antennae.

Draw a face on the clothes pin, and you are done!



### MAGIC

#### MAGIC SQUARES

What You Need:

1. Paper
2. Pencil or pen
3. Your brain

Instructions:

Draw 2 lines going horizontal and 2 lines going vertical to make what looks like a tic tac toe board.

Then, use your brain to remember your addition facts.

Fill in each square with numbers 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8, or 9. You can only use each number once.

Then add each column, row, and diagonal and they should each equal 15.

If they equal something else, keep trying.

When you get it right, reward yourself with something.

Tell your parents about the magic squares and challenge them.

HAVE FUN!

### JOKES!

Q: What do you call a slow skier?

A: A slope-poke!

Q: Why did the farmer wear one boot to town?

A: Because he heard there would be a 50% chance of snow!

Q: Where does a polarbear keep its money?

A: In a snow bank!

Q: What do you call a snowman in the desert?

A: A puddle!

Q: How does an Eskimo stick his house together?

A: With igloo!

Q: What is a snowman's favorite breakfast?

A: Frosted Flakes!

## Connecticut Sportsplex

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PIZZA • BURGERS • HOT DOGS • FRIES • NACHOS  
 SOFT SERVE - ICE CREAM • FOXON PARK SODA

\*\*\*AND A WHOLE LOT MORE\*\*\*

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 LASER TAG • PLAYScape • SPORTS PARTY

For more information  
 Call 203-484-4383 or visit [www.ctsportsplex.com](http://www.ctsportsplex.com)



## 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](http://www.weecarenb.com)



*live your lives continued from page 4*

died of suffocation. It is reasonable to estimate that at least 50% of the deaths from Covid 19 are false. So, 50% of 3600 = 1800 ( minus the 68% in extremely high risk nursing homes) = 576 deaths out of a population of 3,300,000 equals a very low death rate.

It was reasonable to close the state temporarily to access the disease and not overwhelm the healthcare system. It appears that those most vulnerable were not properly protected while young healthy people who statistically are resilient, were locked down which unfortunately prevented the development of herd immunity. Scientists have unsuccessfully tried to develop a vaccine for Corona viruses for 30 years. In the last attempt the animals who received the vaccine all developed a robust immunity, however, when exposed to the virus they developed massive inflammation and all of them died. Now I hear talk of skipping animal trials and rushing Covid 19 vaccines to the market? CDC recommending Flu shots even though studies have shown in increases a persons chance of getting a Corona virus by 36%. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31607599/> [https://www.disabledveterans.org/2020/03/11/flu-vaccine-increases-coronavirus-risk/?inf\\_contact\\_key=84dcdfa640a11097e34fc4cbf2b73a0e680f8914173f9191b1c0223e68310bb1&fbclid=IwAR1fiX2OBwXYJ0q1Z4IVbR4jn1eWcAOiDYQB-L1eQyATpJQFioqFhVKDHzg](https://www.disabledveterans.org/2020/03/11/flu-vaccine-increases-coronavirus-risk/?inf_contact_key=84dcdfa640a11097e34fc4cbf2b73a0e680f8914173f9191b1c0223e68310bb1&fbclid=IwAR1fiX2OBwXYJ0q1Z4IVbR4jn1eWcAOiDYQB-L1eQyATpJQFioqFhVKDHzg)

In CT over 7000 people die each year from cardiovascular death. I think the stress of the constant daily death announcements and isolation coupled with loss of jobs and homes is going to exacerbate strokes and heart attacks. I can't imagine every single day extensive news coverage with the Governor reporting more cardiovascular deaths and each of us wondering if that headache, or indigestion or pain in our left shoulder means impending doom like so many who are now obsessing about Covid 19. I am horrified to learn that hospitals weren't properly prepared to treat patients and that so many died because of using ventilators. It seems we didn't learn anything from the 1918 Spanish Flu which exacerbated the situation by overprescribing aspirin which made the disease worse and hastened death. It is not in our best interest to rely on potential vaccines but rather sharpen skills and treatment protocols in anticipation of new diseases. Best advice is to have proper humidity to keep mucous membranes moist to protect against pathogens, get enough sleep rest, exercise and avoid white flour and white sugar products that compromise your immune system and stay positive as fear short-circuits your immune system. If you are at risk then self-quarantine. Otherwise, live your lives. **Sincerely, Kathryn Farnsworth**

**North Branford Fire Department**

North Branford Fire Department is reminding everyone to follow basic grilling safety precautions during our summer festivities.

**Safety Tips for Outdoor Grilling:**

- Gas and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors. If used indoors, or in any enclosed spaces, such as tents, they pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to toxic gases and potential asphyxiation.
- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area: declare a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill.
- Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when flipping burgers.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended when in use.

**Charcoal Grills**

- Purchase the proper starter fluid and store the can out of reach of children, and away from heat sources.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.

**Gas Grills**

Check the gas cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will quickly reveal escaping propane by releasing bubbles. If you determine your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame:

- Turn off the gas tank and grill.
- If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
- If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while cooking, **immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.**
- **Use only equipment bearing the mark of an independent testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturers' instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.**
- Never store propane gas cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Northford Clothing Drop Off Project**

Cleaning out your closets? We have a place for you to drop them off!! St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Northford has teamed up with St. Pauly Textile Inc., to collect used clothing. The company works with non-profit organizations, like St. Andrew's Episcopal, to set up used clothing drop off sheds designed to give community members a clean, attractive, and well-monitored place to donate gently used textile items, which are then distributed both here in the U.S. and worldwide to people who need them. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church receives funding for clothing collected, and additionally has the option to use any of this clothing to serve local community needs. St. Pauly Textile, Inc. collects over 120,000 pounds of clothing every day and estimates that this clothing ends up in 44 different countries (including the United States) yearly. All of the usable clothing is worn by someone, somewhere in the world. In 2017, the company was able to help keep over 20 million articles of clothing out of landfills. The company was founded 22 years ago in Rochester, NY and is an A+ rated member of the Better Business Bureau.

Accepted items include clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, drapes, linens, pillowcases and stuffed animals. Donors are asked to donate items in a plastic bag to protect against dirt and the elements. There is a small box on the shed that contains receipts to help donors take a tax deduction.

Consider donating your used clothing items today at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, "The White Church On The Hill In The Heart of Northford", 1382 Middletown Avenue, Northford, CT 06472 Contact information: Nan Monde, Sr. Warden, St. Andrew's. Cell # 203-710-7005.

**Join NBCC for Sunday Services**

The North Branford Congregational Church invites you to join us for our 10:00 AM Sunday Service by going onto <http://www.facebook.com/CTNBCC> for all other information regarding our church please check out our web page [north-branfordcongregational.org](http://north-branfordcongregational.org)

**Raffle Tickets Still on Sale**

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the St. Anthony Society Card Party/Night of Prizes, St. Anthony Church, New Haven, CT was canceled on April 24, 2020. Our BIG Raffle was extended to June 26, 2020. Since it is our major fundraiser for the year, we are in need of your support. We have books of raffle tickets (5 tickets in each book) for \$5. For raffle tickets please call the Parish Office between 9 am - 12 noon 203-624-1418 or Anna Simeone 203-710-5004. We can even mail them to you. Thanks to our generous donors the prizes are: 50" TV, Chrome Book, \$200 Envisions Sunglasses, \$150 ShopRite, \$100 Lorenzo's Rest., \$100 Abate's of Wooster St., \$100 Allusion Salad, \$100 Brazi's Rest., \$100 Libero's Jewelers, Ambiano Wine Cooler. Let's make this Raffle

**Recycling News**

**Simple Recycling Weekly Curbside Collection Program to restart our town's pink bag pickup program June 1st.**

*Thank you for your continued support of this program!*

\*\*\*\*\*

**CT Bottle Redemption**

**Retailers to resume full operations of bottle redemption by June 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Check for details posted at retail locations.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**HazWaste Central 2020**

HWC collections have been temporarily suspended. It is not yet certain when collections will be resumed.

Please reach out to HWC with questions at 203-401-2712, or email [ask.hazwaste@rwater.com](mailto:ask.hazwaste@rwater.com)

HWC will also be sharing helpful tips on household hazardous waste management on

RWA's Facebook page: [facebook.com/scctrwa](https://www.facebook.com/scctrwa)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Due to Health Crisis**

**Plastic Film Drop Off Suspended**

**Please save plastic film at home until further notice when program resumes.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEXT BULKY WASTE PICKUP (TWICE A YEAR)  
Week of November 9th on your scheduled pickup day**

**\*No home cleanouts\***

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## Community Forestry at the Harrison Farm Preserve - An Exciting Success Story

Please join the North Branford Land Conservation Trust for their **2020 Annual Meeting** on Wednesday June 3 at 7 pm. A short business meeting will be followed by the presentation:

“Community Forestry at the Harrison Farm Preserve- An Exciting Success Story”

Your neighbors, the volunteers of the NBLCT, will share the wonderful story of “Community Forestry at the Harrison Farm Preserve”. The story starts with the Harrison family’s desire to protect their land and have their life’s work shared with the people of North Branford. Join the **Zoom meeting** to learn how Dudley and Vicky Harrison worked with the land trust, their donation of part of their land to create the Harrison Farm Preserve, and the work done since then by hundreds of volunteers who have helped to restore the trails and are working to manage the land.

Bring your questions about this amazing story to the Zoom meeting, or email them in advance to [hpetroskey@yahoo.com](mailto:hpetroskey@yahoo.com).

You can find Zoom meeting details at [nblandtrust.org](http://nblandtrust.org) and on our Facebook page.

### HELP WANTED

**Local college students looking for summer work.** Call Lou at Lawn Care Services. 203-641-2283.

**Program Coordinator/Van Driver**– The Town of North Branford is accepting applications from qualified individuals for the position of Program Coordinator/Van Driver to work at the Community Center/ Senior Center.

Seeking a creative, energetic individual to join the Senior Center and Recreation Department team. This person is primarily responsible for coordinating daily senior activities & trips. Working closely with senior center members the candidate will advance current offerings as well as work to develop new opportunities for the senior community of North Branford. Further, they will participate in community outreach and Recreation Department special events.

This position also includes providing transportation for daily activities and trips.

Three (3) years of experience in recreation or senior activity programming preferred; graduation from high school or GED equivalent; Class C-CDL with F & P endorsements preferred. Eligibility for Service Bus license with Passenger endorsement required. Wage of \$22.00 per hour with benefits; 27.5 hrs/wk.

Application are available on-line at [www.townofnorthbranfordct.com](http://www.townofnorthbranfordct.com).

Applications can be mailed to Town of North Branford, Town Manager’s Office, 909 Foxon Rd, North Branford CT 06471 or email your application to [executivesecretary@townofnorthbranfordct.com](mailto:executivesecretary@townofnorthbranfordct.com) due to the Town Manager’s Office by, Friday, June 5, 2020 **no later than 4:00 p.m.** (No faxes). EEO/AA

**Ice Cream Servers and workers. Several people needed to fill hours Sunay through Saturday from noon to 7:00PM.**

**Flexible hours. Call Lee at chat n Chew, 203-208-0097.**

The East Shore Region Adult Continuing Education (ERACE) is seeking to hire instructors for its fall semester of enrichment classes. Courses cover a wide variety of topics including technology, health, fine arts & crafts, cooking, pets, world languages, literature, writing, fitness, and spirituality.

The fall semester runs from September through December. Courses may be offered Monday through Thursday from 5:30 - 9:00 PM. The majority of classes are held at Branford High School, North Branford High School, Jared Eliot Middle School and Guilford High School, but local businesses

## 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.

### HOUSE CLEANING

**Free Estimates to clean your home.** Reliable, experienced & affordable. Call D & D Cleaners at 203-484-7847

### PET SERVICES

**Wagging Good time Pet Sitting Services.** Overnights, dog walks, potty breaks. Extremely flexible. Call me at 203-494-9925.

### 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. Winter Snow plowing.

Vet & Senior discount. For a free quote call John ( 860 ) 349-8135.

**Lawn Care Services** - Mowing, Weed Whacking, Mulching, Spring & Fall Cleanups. call Lou at 203-641-2283 for a quote

**Mone Landscaping LLC.** We are now accepting new accounts for lawn mowing, trimming, edging, mulching and other lawn maintenance. we are licensed and fully insured. Call Mike at 203-640-5317 or Joe at 475-201-7041 for a free estimate.

### PLUMBING

**John DiMaggio Plumbing** - Residential/Commercial repairs/remodeling. Big or small. Water Heater Specials! Licensed & Insured.

Call 203 - 627 - 6826. References available.

### TREE SERVICE



**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

may also hold courses off-site.

The ability to offer a class virtually via Zoom or a comparable software program is highly preferred.

Those interested should contact ERACE’s Enrichment and Communications Coordinator, Cara MacDonald at [cmacdonald@branfordschools.org](mailto:cmacdonald@branfordschools.org). For more information about East Shore Region Adult Continuing Education, visit ERACE online at [erace-adulted.org](http://erace-adulted.org) or email [erace@branfordschools.org](mailto:erace@branfordschools.org).