



# Totoket Times

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Volume 27 No 1, June 12, 2020



## CONGRATULATIONS “NBHS CLASS OF 2020 ...The Quarantine One”



*Check out our special centerfold pullout  
with photos and senior athlete bios!*



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#### Publication Date

June 12  
June 26  
July 10  
July 24  
August 7  
August 21  
September 4  
September 18

#### Deadline

June 5  
June 19  
July 3  
July 17  
July 31  
August 14  
August 28  
September 11

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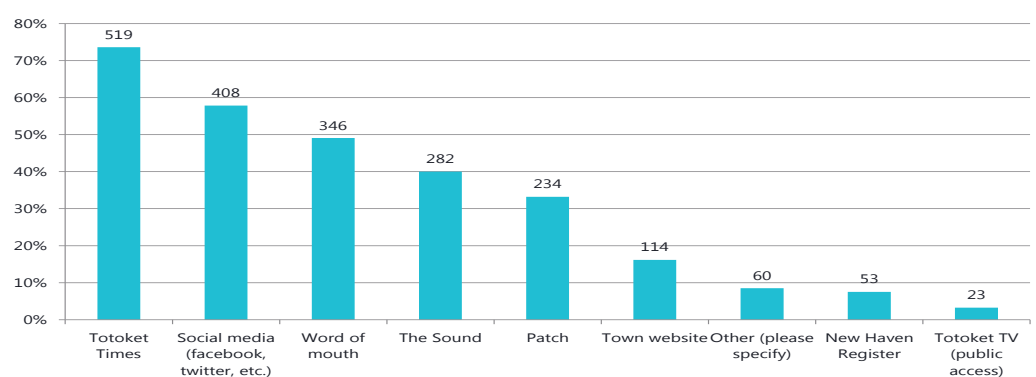
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**Town Survey is all you  
 need to see.**

**Totoket Times is the  
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### 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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## State Representative Vincent Candelora

### Hope, and the Ingredients of Change



Over the last few weeks, the topic of when and how to reopen our state dominated news media coverage and much of the conversation that occurs in social media roller rinks saturated with talk about government and politics.

But that collective focus, here and across the nation, flipped in an instant last week after the reprehensible killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. In every corner of our state, residents have endeavored to find their voice in the multi-faceted dialogue on racism, injustice and inequality. It seems as though protests here in Connecticut have been peaceful, and that's a good backdrop for eventual conversations among state lawmakers on these complex issues.

The House Majority Leader, a Democrat from Hartford, has so far indicated that developing concrete proposals can't happen without first listening. I agree, and I'm committed to do just that ahead of what I hope will be a deliberative process that includes as many perspectives as possible.

As it stands, it's unclear when we'll head back into Hartford for a special session. It's a necessity. At the very least, there are significant financial issues that must be addressed. The state's comptroller recently increased the current-year deficit projection to \$620 million, and it's imperative that the governor and legislature take action to quell the specter of much larger deficits in years to come.

Additionally, it's critical that members of the General Assembly weigh in on any plan to distribute the balance of federal aid that remains after the governor dispenses an initial \$75 million he's set aside to reimburse municipalities for their initial requests tied to COVID-related expenses. The remaining federal dollars, perhaps nearly \$1 billion, must be used by year's end.

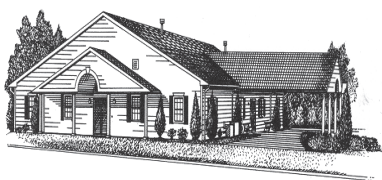
From unemployment compensation system struggles to the nursing home crisis, it's been a chaotic time for state government. As "phase 2" of the governor's reopening plan approaches—now three days earlier than originally planned—I can't help but wonder what impact all of this will have on young people.

This year's distance learning experiment has ended, and graduating seniors across the state, wondering whether social distancing policies will prevent commencement ceremonies, see scenes of tumult across the nation and large rallies locally on their town greens and main streets.

I'm trying to remain positive, trusting that through this turbulence they'll learn the value of community and civic involvement—that compassion, thoughtfulness, and perseverance are foundational ingredients to meaningful change.

There's little doubt that the problems of today, whether it's systemic inequality and injustice or unfunded pension liabilities, will linger for years to come.

Good luck to our graduating seniors—I hope to see you in the arena someday, chipping away at problems in an attempt to make life better for others.



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## Let's Be "Frank"

I watched a little more news than I am accustomed to this week and reflected on several memories. Some were good and some not so good but memories are the reality of life. Good or bad they are the history that has made us the people we are in the present.

Firstly, I viewed some of the "peaceful" demonstrations. I am all for "peaceful" demonstrations, when they are peaceful. Holding up traffic while marching through busy intersections, throwing Molotov cocktails and antagonizing police officers is not peaceful.

It brought back memories of the late sixties when New Yorkers literally came by busloads to New Haven to insight "peaceful" demonstrations. As a young child (not yet a teenager), I can see it as if it happened yesterday. The view out my bedroom window as I watched cars get overturned, houses getting lit on fire and men running through the streets with arms full of stolen items from my neighborhood stores. I remember you and dad timing a run to the car with me, Mary and mom. Once in the car you drove like a maniac to get us through the rioting and out to the suburbs to safety. I remember the look of hatred and determination in your eyes as your only goal was to protect our family at any cost and get us out of harms way. It didn't make me then and it doesn't make me now, feel empathy for the cause. As a pre-teen I shouldn't have had to fear for my life. Once again, I am all for peaceful demonstrations but the people who have their own agenda should be processed to the full extent of the law.

In frustration, I turned off the TV and decided to check some Facebook posts. The posts about graduation made me think even more. I felt for these young men and women who have thought about senior year for quite some time. Missed proms, missed athletic seasons, and missed graduation became an unfortunate reality I'm sure they didn't anticipate in September. Plans for senior field trips, school picnics and even senior skip day were rapidly thwarted as nightly news reports quickly eroded their hopes.

And yet, I thought of my own graduation (many years ago). I looked forward to the day for months. However, when it finally came it was over in a flash and I don't remember much of it at all. I just remember a brief stop at the Farm Shop (now I'm really dating myself), then off to work so I didn't miss my 11:00pm shift. Even on my graduation night, pop insisted that if you had a job, you had a responsibility.

The Quarantine Class of 2020 did not get the graduation they expected, but I think they got something they will always remember. Parades for the senior athletes and diploma deliveries with balloons, and specific times creating a day of socially distant ceremonies was something they will always remember. Led by Superintendent of Schools Scott Schoonmaker, administrators, family, friends and a most caring and supportive community, the Quarantine class of 2020 should have unique memories for a lifetime.

Turning back to TV I watched the famous Jimmy Valvano speech. Most of our high school students don't even know who Jimmy V was. As you know, he was a college basketball coach who was stricken with cancer at the age of 46. Two months before he died, with his body overtaken by tumors, Coach V delivered the most inspirational speech I have ever heard.

He advised us to do three things every day. "If you laugh, if you think and and if you cry, then that's a full a day. That's a heck of a day. You do that seven days a week you're going to have something special".

While listening to his speech I did all three of those things. I felt my day was complete. But he went on to talk talk about his vitality for life.

"No matter what business you are in, if you run in place, someone will pass you. To go from where you are to where you want to be, you have to

have an enthusiasm for life and you have to work for it. Don't give up. Don't ever give up".

This would be my advice to our quarantine class of 2020. Follow these guidelines and go out and make the world a better place for yourselves and for future generations.

With that my brother, I will sign off. Say hello to the gang and I'll see you soon.

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**PUBLISHER - FRANK MENTONE JR.**

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

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

## Letters to the editor...

This paper encourages all readers to voice their opinions and comments. The Totoket Times is not responsible for erroneous information or statements in letters to the editor. Letters should be as brief as possible.

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

This paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

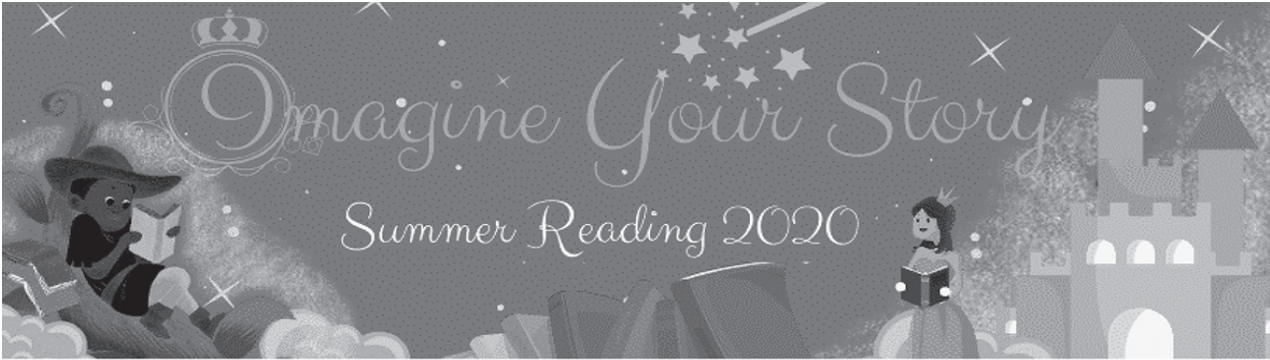
All letters should be addressed to :

**The Editor**

P.O. Box 313, Northford, CT 06472







North Branford Public Libraries Summer Reading Program

Once upon a time in the Kingdom of North Branford, there were two great Libraries of knowledge and creativity. All the townspeople of North Branford traveled to the Royal Libraries for answers to their questions, guidance on their quests, and stories to share with their families. These great Libraries were the heart of their kingdom! But one day, a terrible sickness threatened their kingdom, and the citizens retreated into their homes. The King of North Branford was forced to close the beloved Library doors. Her Majesty, Lady Lauren of the Royal Atwater and Smith Libraries, knew that summer was upon them. Such a marvelous time for the Libraries to celebrate reading with festivals and gatherings. However, with the sickness looming, she feared that summer at the Royal Libraries wouldn't be the same. The summer proclamation "Imagine Your Story" inspired the queen to call upon the Duchesses of the Atwater and Smith Libraries, valiant librarians who would bring magic to the kingdom once more. And now, the Royal Librarians have developed a golden opportunity to inspire each and every citizen to participate in the Imagine Your Story Reading Quest for the summer of 2020. Though the townspeople cannot view them in person, the talented summer bards will host virtual "Imagine It" programs by sharing them on Facebook throughout the week. Young squires in K-2nd grade can pick up weekly crafts at the Library and join our Facebook "Imagine It" Adventures for craft demos and STEAM projects with Duchess Donna of the Atwater Library and Duchess Debbie of the Smith Library. These Readers will aspire to complete reading quests on the "Stuck in Our Castle" BINGO sheet for raffle tickets and prizes specific to our community. All the noble children and families of the North Branford Kingdom are invited to view the summer scrolls beginning June 24th on our website. Though things seem different this year, all of us at the Royal Libraries hope you will join us this summer in imagining a great story!

(Adapted from the works of Alyssa Larue at the Royal Derby Library in Kansas)



North Branford Public Libraries Summer Reading Program

Registration begins June 24th. Email [childrensroom@nbranfordlibraries.org](mailto:childrensroom@nbranfordlibraries.org) to sign up

# STUCK IN OUR CASTLE BINGO

- Be sure you have a library card or call the Library to sign up for one.
- Use the BINGO sheet available on our website at [nbranfordlibraries.org](http://nbranfordlibraries.org)
- Complete BINGO horizontally, vertically or diagonally by completing a row of quests. X each square that you complete.
- Finish 5 quests in a row for BINGO and we'll add your name to the weekly prize drawing and receive an entry for one of the GRAND PRIZES!

**Stuck in Our Castle Grand Prize Drawing:**  
**Thursday, August 10th, 2020**

Take pictures of you and your family enjoying the quests and post them on our Library's Facebook page @NBPublicLibraries or email your pictures to [childrensroom@nbranfordlibraries.org](mailto:childrensroom@nbranfordlibraries.org) and write Quests in the subject line.

For each completed quest (5 per BINGO), or photo shared, we will add 5 hearts to our rainbow in the large windows at both of our Royal Libraries!



## Recycling News

Simple Recycling Weekly Curbside Collection Program restarted.  
Our town's pink bag pickup program June 1st.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### Next Electronics Recycling

Saturday July 11, 2020

9:00 AM - Noon

**North Branford Recycling Center**  
(Public Works - Rte 22)

*Please do not leave e-waste (including TVs, computers, printers) curbside; it will not get picked up!*

**\*\*\*Mattress and Box Spring collection & recycling\*\*\***

Drop off your old mattresses and box springs at **no charge**; items should not be wet or excessively soiled.

All Items for drop off need to be accessible in vehicle trunk or truck bed. Please remain in vehicle while at the recycling event. Keep safe distance between vehicles.

Call for more info at recycling hotline: 203-484-4091

\*\*\*\*\*

### HazWaste Central Open for the Season

- All HazWaste Central participants are required to pre-register online. Paper forms will not be available.
- Household hazardous waste items must be accessible in the trunk or truck bed of your vehicle.
- Participants are asked to wear a face mask while at the HazWaste Central facility and to stay in their vehicles.
- Containers used to transport waste items will not be returned. Please bring items in disposable containers.

For more information go to [www.rwater.com](http://www.rwater.com), call 203-401-2712 or email [ask.hazwaste@rwater.com](mailto:ask.hazwaste@rwater.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Due to Health Crisis, Plastic Film Drop Off Suspended**

**Please save plastic film at home until further notice.**

**Updates soon on program restart.**  
**Thank You!**

\*\*\*\*\*

### NEXT BULKY WASTE PICKUP

(TWICE A YEAR)

**Week of November 9th, on your scheduled pickup day.**  
**\*No Home Cleanouts\***



# North Branford High School Class of 2020

## VALEDICTORIAN



Ava Galdenzi is a very accomplished student at NBHS and her academic resume is extensive and includes several Advance Placement level courses (AP) and Honors level courses. During her senior year, her coursework included: AP Spanish, AP Biology, AP/ECE Literature and Composition, Calculus and Human Anatomy and Physiology Honors. She is a member of the National Honor Society and a member of the Spanish National Honor Society. Ava has also been very successful on the athletic fields as a Captain of the NBHS Field Hockey Team and a member of the NBHS Varsity Tennis Team. Ava was named to the CIAC All State Field Hockey Team, the All Shoreline Field Hockey Team, and the All New

Haven County Field Hockey Team. She was recognized for her academic and athletic accomplishments by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association. She has volunteered during the annual North Branford Corn and Potato Festival, youth field hockey camps and clinics, and at local churches. . Ava is attending Wesleyan University in Middletown Connecticut this fall and plans on majoring in the field of psychology.

## 2020 The Top Three ESSAYIST



Jenna Gall is a very accomplished student at NBHS and her academic resume and several Advance Placement level courses (AP) and Honors level courses. During her senior year, her coursework included: AP Spanish, AP Biology, AP/ECE Literature and Composition, AP Calculus and Human Anatomy and Physiology Honors. She is a member of the National Honor Society and a member of the Spanish National Honor Society. Jenna has been very successful beyond the classroom also. She is a member of the NBHS Drama Club, a member of the NBHS Varsity Volleyball Team, and a Captain for the NBHS Ultimate Frisbee Team. She has taken coursework at Yale University on Saturdays and has volunteered with the NBIS Spotlight Players, during the NBHS TBIRD Grade 8 Fair, as a National Honor Society tutor, and with the NBHS GSA Club. Jenna is attending the University of Connecticut this fall and plans on majoring in biomedical engineering.



Jennifer Cirivello is a very accomplished student at NBHS and her academic resume is extensive and includes several Advance Placement level courses (AP) and Honors level courses. During her senior year, her coursework included: AP Physiology, ECE/UCONN Seminar in Academic Writing, Creative Writing, Calculus and Human Anatomy and Physiology Honors. Jennifer has been a successful student beyond the classroom in the area of the performing arts. She has been a member of the NBHS Chamber Choir and has been featured during several NBHS Drama Club Productions. Jennifer has volunteered for the NBHS Art Club and has volunteered at local libraries. Jennifer is attending the University of New Haven this fall and plans on majoring in forensic psychology.

### Sofia Cavalier - Girls Tennis



As a junior I was runner-up in the Shoreline Tournament and named to First Team All Shoreline. I qualified for the State Tournament in both my sophomore and junior years. This year I would have been one of the captains of the team. I love tennis and am looking forward to continuing playing in college. I am attending Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts and will be on the women's team there. I learned so much from all of my coaches and am so grateful for all of the encouragement and confidence they have given me.

**Words from her Coach:** Three words describe Sofia; tenacity, dedication and competitor. From the time she stepped on the court for NBHS Tennis, Sofia has been dedicated to be the best player she can be. She desires to always keep improving and is a great example for her teammates. She is a fierce competitor and has had great success as a player.

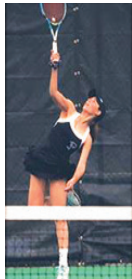
### Briana Dautaj - Girls Tennis



I am a senior and I play number one doubles for NB girls tennis. I was fortunate enough to be captain for the tennis team two years in a row and captain this year for basketball. I've played basketball for 13 years and tennis for 4 years now. After highschool, I will be attending Quinnipiac University as a nursing major.

**Words from her Coach:** Briana is someone that every player looks up to. Her positive outlook, work ethic, sense of humor and dedication are all things that makes her the heart of this team. She and Ava Galdenzi have been outstanding as our number one doubles team. We wish her all the best at Quinnipiac University next year.

### Janessa Pompano - Girls Tennis



I stepped onto the court my freshman year, never picking up a racquet. With a lot of help and support from my coaches, I not only learned to play a better game but it helped me be more confident, not only on the court but off the court as well. These 4 years have made me fall in love with the sport and make friendships. **Words from her Coach:** Janessa is someone who goes on the court with determination, grit and a smile. She is always positive and sets a great example for the team. Janessa has always been very coachable, and brings 100% to all she does.

## On the Field

### Ava Galdenzi - Girls Tennis



I've been playing tennis since my sophomore year and play at number 1 doubles. Tennis has taught me how to deal with putting a lot of pressure on myself and how important technique is in sports. I also play field hockey in the fall. I will be attending Wesleyan University and playing field hockey.

**Words from her Coach:** Ava has incredible athletic ability, she joined the tennis team in her sophomore year and became an immediate standout. Ava and Briana Dautaj have been formidable in the Shoreline Conference as our number one doubles. Ava has great energy and always brings her best to the court and the team. Best of Luck next year at Wesleyan.

### Sean Lucibello - Baseball



Started playing baseball at 4 years old and have loved it ever since. I am an honor student. I'm going to the University of Rhode Island to study civil engineering.

**Words from his Coach:** I can't emphasize enough how much respect I have for Sean as a player, person, and student. He overcame an injury and would have been a starter and major player for us this year. Sean is what makes coaching all worthwhile for me. He will be greatly missed.

### Stephen Adamezyk - Baseball



I'm a senior at North Branford high school and played baseball all 4 years. Made Great friends throughout my baseball years. As I step out of high school I will be attending the U.S. Navy in July. I will be studying fire/engineering.

**Words from his Coach:** It has been a pleasure to coach Steve for 4 years. He is a hard worker and great teammate. I wish him all the best in the future.

### Ariana Malavasi - Girls Tennis



I'm a senior at North Branford high school and have been playing for the NB tennis team since my junior year. I plan to attend Albertus Magnus college this coming fall and will continue playing tennis for their team.

**Words from her coach:** Ariana has been a most welcome addition to our team. The first thing you notice is her intensity and desire to learn. She is a fierce yet humble competitor and sets a great example for our team.

### Enrique Diaz - Baseball



I have been playing many sports since I was little, such as baseball, football, soccer and most recently, track. I have always liked being part of a team and spending time with friends while playing a sport I have fun being part of. I am glad I played baseball in high school because that is where I met most of my close friends. It's sad that our senior year was cut short but I look forward to continuing my education while playing.

**Words from his Coach:** Enrique will be sorely missed next year. I consider him one of the best all around infielders in the shoreline as well as a tremendous student and great young man. I wish him luck next year playing baseball at UCONN/Avery Point.

### John Pollock - Baseball



I am a senior at North Branford High School who loved to work hard on and off the field. I also enjoyed how playing baseball gave me time to be with friends. Next year I will play baseball at UCONN/EVERY POINT

**Words from his Coach:** John, a captain, was a three year starter and all-state pitcher last year. He is one of the hardest workers that I have ever had. No doubt he would have garnished many awards this year. You couldn't find a better person and it was an honor to coach him these past four years. He will be greatly missed.

### Bret Fee - Baseball



I Represented North Branford on the diamond with pride. I Finished my junior year with a 1.57 era and 68 strikeouts through 53 and 2/3 innings. Next year I will be playing at Bryant and Stratton College in Virginia, but I plan on giving back to this program through the years.

**Words from his Coach:** Bret is the ultimate teammate. He is always thinking of everyone else before himself. As a captain he leads by example. He was known as one of the most feared pitchers in the shoreline. I would be hard pressed to think of someone more dedicated, respectful, hard working and truly caring for his teammates other than Bret. As a coach I would say he is the ultimate all around player and person. I am proud to have coached him and he will be sorely missed.

### Tyler Capasso - Baseball



I enjoyed my time with the team. I will be attending SCSU in the fall.

**Words from his Coach:** Tyler rejoined us in his junior year and I was looking forward to coaching him this year. You could not meet a more respectful and nice young man.



# CLASS OF 2020



Peter Taylor-Ablondi



Steven Adamczyk



Cameron Afanador



Mairead Aiken



Gabriella Alfveby



Attilio Avallone



Alexandra Barrett



Lily Blomster



Nicholas Bonaldo



Joshua Brigido



Thomas Budiet



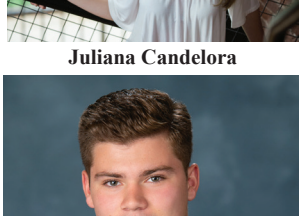
Karlee Bureau



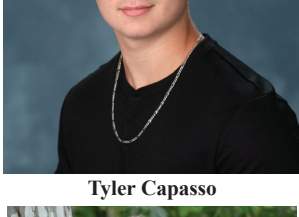
Gerald Camp



Juliana Candelora



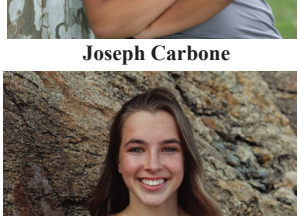
Tyler Capasso



Joseph Carbone



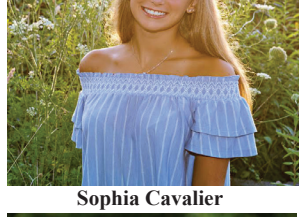
Julia Cassista



Sophia Cavalier



Charles DeBarros



Joseph DeLucia



Emily Cirivello



Isabella DeSisto



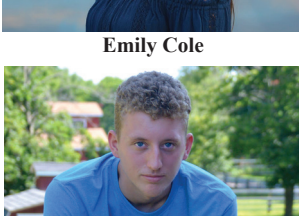
Jennifer Cirivello



Xavier Cognata



Emily Cole



Seth Cove



Madeline Criscuolo



Sally Cucinotta



Bianca D'Onofrio



Vincenzo D'Aria



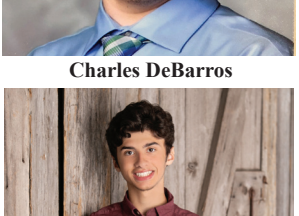
Briana Dautaj



Cameron Fisco



Ava Galdenzi



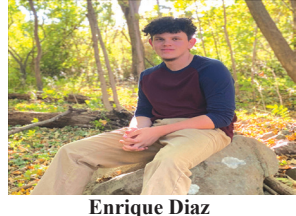
Jenna Gall



Jesse Gargano



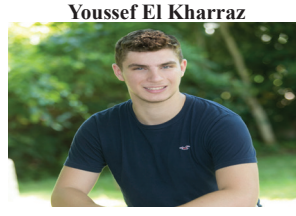
Britney Gildersleeve



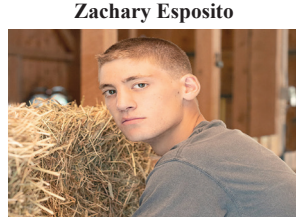
Enrique Diaz



Youssef El Kharraz



Zachary Esposito



Spencer Farrell



Connor Fassett



Bret Fee



Gianni Ferraiolo



Aiden Ferrucci



Brian Lawson



Avonlea LeBeau



Frederick Little



Ronnie Longo



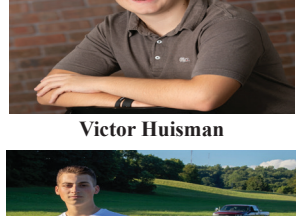
Luke Lucibelli



Mackenzie Glenn



Marisa Helff



Victor Huisman



Connor Jarmie



Maximus Johnson



Katherine Klemme



Rachel Kwalek



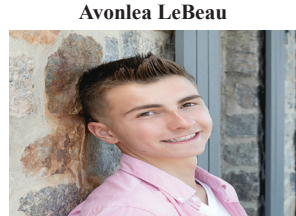
Amanda Lavorgna



Jonathan Michonski



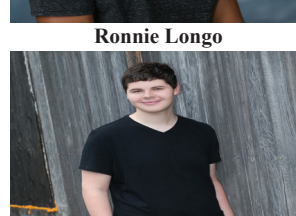
Evan Milo



Dylan Mitchell



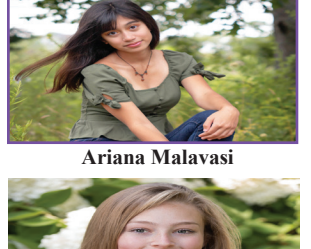
Sabrina Mone



Alexa Mongillo



Sean Lucibello



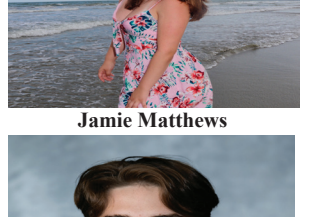
Ariana Malavasi



Kailey Marcarelli



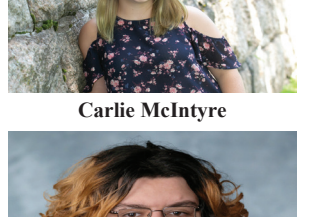
Andrea Mastroianni



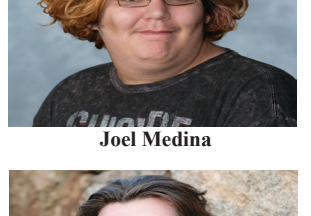
Jamie Matthews



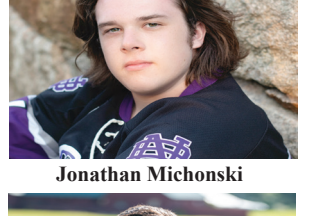
Giovanni Mauriello



Carlie McIntyre



Joel Medina



Jonathan Michonski



Evan Milo



Dylan Mitchell



Sabrina Mone



Alexa Mongillo



CLASS OF 2020



Marissa Montesanto



Izabella Mott



Ryan Munck



Megan Muzyka



Melanie Norton



Colin Nugent



Emily Olsen



Nicholas Olsen



Teresa Palmieri



Jordan Pappolla



Krish Patel



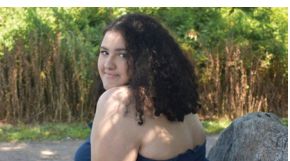
Annika Pearson



Katy Pedersen



Jordan Peralta



Alysha Perez



John Pollack



Janessa Pompano



Jetta Powers



Juliana Proestakis



Anthony Puglisi



Nathaniel Raymond



Julia Ricardo



Tanner Richardson



Sophie Rienzo



Hanna Rispoli



Eli Roessler



Erika Roof



Alexie Rosado



Madison Rosiak



Tyler Roth



Aaron Sadlon



Samantha Saengsuwan



Jadon Sargent



Gabriella Sarmento



Isabella Schanz



Kara Schimelfanek



Christopher Schneidt



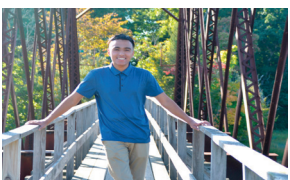
Emma Schreiber



Dustin Shea



Emma Sheehan



Joseph Sicignano



Grace Singer



Mike Sitro



Ava Smola



Drew Sommo



Carly Sorrentino



Jenna Spayd



Paul Stoddard



Stephanie Sudusky



Gianna Sullo



Amanda Teodoro



Christian Tomasso



Dakota Torres



Alliyah Tropicano



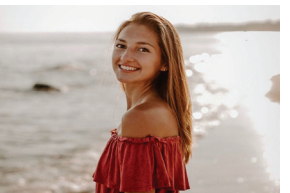
Noah Vanacore



Michael Vaspasiano



Rachel Vitorisi



Alyssa Waligroski



Allison Wang



Christopher Wheeler



Kyle Williams



Gianna Wulff

Alyssa Waligroski - Girls Lacrosse



I started lacrosse my freshman year of high school and quickly fell in love with the sport. I played defense the last two years. I also played field hockey for 5 years and played defense as well. I will be continuing my education at Quinnipiac University and I will be majoring in Nursing. I'm so lucky to have been a part of these two amazing, successful teams. I wish all of the seniors the best of luck, I miss everyone already.

Words from her coach:

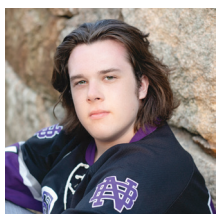
Alyssa grew from an unconfident freshman who was new to the sport, to one of our top defenders and someone that we could count on in key situations. She worked exceptionally hard at skill development and defensive footwork everyday at practice until she was a top varsity defender. Her ability to bring a smile to everyone's face was countered by her tenacious, in your face, play on defense.

Melanie Norton - Words from her coach:

Melanie came into the lacrosse program with high expectations and exceeded all of them. Her lock down defense and her skill both on and off the ball made her a strong asset to our team. Her versatility made her someone we could count on in any situation. We could seamlessly shift her from defense to midfield when we needed her and she stepped into every role that her team needed her successfully.





**Jack Michonski - Baseball**

I started playing baseball very young around 4-5 years old, and immediately fell in love with the sport. These past 4 years have been some of the best. I am undecided on my college decision but plan on making my decision very soon.

**Words from his Coach:** Jack worked hard to improve his baseball skills and would have seen significant varsity playing time this year. He is a tremendous and respectful young man who will be missed by everyone. I wish him success in the future.

**Xavior Cognata - Boys Lacrosse**

I started playing lacrosse in 7th grade, and was able to give back to the program by completing my capstone project through coaching the youth. I was a two time team captain, 2019 1st team all conference, and 2018 Team MVP. I will be going on to play lacrosse at Southern Connecticut State University.

**Words from his Coach:** I can't say enough about how he has grow through these four years. He has dealt with more than an 18 year old should and has still proven to be a leader and make the right decisions on and off the field.

**Britny Gildersleeve (right) - Ultimate Frisbee**

**Words from her coach:** This year would have been her 4th year on the team. Last year she was the team manager due to an injury, but this year would have been her 3rd season playing for us. Britny enjoys trying new things, in which Frisbee was something she tried her freshman

year and ended up enjoying very much. She loves the feeling of family the team has and has made various friends due to being a part of this team. She is very upset that she could not finish out her final year, but cherishes all of the memories she has made on the team in the last years!

**Noah Vanacore - Ultimate Frisbee**

I played for 3 years with the team. It was always a blast to be around everyone and it is sad for the season to end like this, but I know the rest of our team will come back even stronger from this. Thanks to everyone that made this a great 3 years.

**Connor Fassett - Ultimate Frisbee**

**Words from his coach:** Connor is a player who was shaping up to be one of the team's leaders on the field. His ability to make quick decisions and be in the right spot at the right time made him an ideal cutter. Conner was a fierce competitor, and made frisbee his home.

**Sally Cucinotta - Girls Lacrosse**

I would have been playing lacrosse for five years this year. I started playing lacrosse in eighth grade and fell in love with it. I've played attack for years and would not change a thing. I wish the best for the rest of my team that will be able to play next year and the seniors that are playing in college next year. Playing for North Branford has been such a good experience and has made me better as a player. The girls that I've played with have so much talent and are the best in the shoreline, I'm going to miss it so much.

**Words from her Coach:** Sally has been a hard worker from day one and every year she grew as a player. Her speed was a true asset to the team, but what I will miss most is her smile. She always knew how to cheer anybody up and was always so positive no matter what. I will always cherish the memory of her nascar races around the net :)

**Ali Barrett - Girls Lacrosse**

I am a senior midfielder for the girls lax. I was also on the field hockey team and have been playing field hockey for 6 years. I was lucky enough to be the captain of both of these teams for my last year. After high school, I will be continuing my lacrosse career at Eastern connecticut State University and majoring in health sciences.

**Words from her Coach:** Ali is an extremely talented athlete whose speed is unsurpassed. She has a fiery spark to her that makes her hard to stop. I loved to joke around with her. All we had to do was make her mad and we would be sure to get a lot of goals out of her. Most of all though, I will miss how she could make us all feel better with her beautiful smile.

# More on the Field

**JJ Gargano - Boys Lacrosse**

I started playing lacrosse in 8th grade so I wouldn't be brand new coming into high school. I've gone back and forth between playing close defense and LSM, but mainly close. I have also played football and basketball throughout my high school career as well. I am planning on attending Southern Connecticut State University in the fall but am currently going in undecided.

**Words from his Coach:** Has been one of those athletes that came out of nowhere and became a starter quickly for a conference championship team. He worked hard in the classroom and on the field and it paid off. He represents North Branford boys lacrosse the way it should be.

**Kayla Despres - Softball**

I've been on varsity for NBHS softball for the past 4 years as the catcher and would've been captain this season. I've always been a leader for the girls and kept them positive in the dugout as well as on the field. My sophomore year I made second team all conference, my junior year I made first team all conference, with 3 shoreline championships, a state championship finalist, and a state quarter finalist under my belt for my high school career.

Next year I'm attending Albertus Magnus College to major in Education and minor in Biology. I am also playing for their softball team.

**Katy Pedersen - Softball**

I started playing softball in 1st grade for the town of North Branford and in 4th grade I started playing travel ball. My freshman year I played second base and both sophomore and junior year I played shortstop. Throughout high school I played volleyball as well. I will be attending the University of New England this fall to study marine biology.

**Avonlea LeBeau - Girls Lacrosse**

I began playing lacrosse in second grade and immediately fell in love with the sport. I played midfield all throughout youth and high school, except sophomore year when I played defense. I also played field hockey and basketball throughout high school as well. I will be attending Wheaton College in the fall where I'll be playing lacrosse and studying in the field of sciences.

**Words from her coach:** Avonlea transitioned seamlessly from one of our top defenders into a key midfield role. She always did everything asked of her and always put the team first. Her skills as both a player and leader blossomed over the course of her career. Her winning attitude, aggressive play, and her ability to find her open teammates will be sorely missed.

**Lily Blomster - Girls Lacrosse**

I am a senior defender for nb girls lax and I have been playing lacrosse for 6 years. I was also the captain of the volleyball team my senior year and basketball team my junior and senior year. I have been playing basketball for 13 years and volleyball for 6. After high-school I will be attending Penn State and studying within the college of health and human development

**Words from her coach:**

Lily maintained a positive attitude at all times throughout her lacrosse career despite dealing with injury during her junior year. She was a strong and aggressive defender and someone the team could count on when we needed a defensive stop. Her positive attitude and ability to lift up her teammates are character traits all players should strive for.

**Calley Marcarelli - Girls Lacrosse**

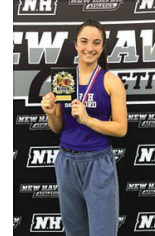
I have been playing lacrosse for 6 years and play low attack. Being an athlete made me in love with being a part of something bigger than myself. I will be attending Salve Regina in the fall in hopes to pursue a career in Special Education, working with high school students. **Words from her coach:**

Calley grew in every possible way over the course of her lacrosse career. Her skills as a player grew immensely, but more importantly, her self confidence increased. She went from being a shy freshman to the kind of leader that earned her the role of team captain for her senior year.

**Mairead Aiken - Softball**

I have been a part of the NBHS softball team for four years, and I have made some amazing friendships and memories that will always be remembered. Being an athlete, student and huge advocate in extracurricular activities, I have fully embraced/encompassed all CIRCLE values and morals. Being a Thunderbird has been such a privilege and I will always remember the excitement of stepping onto the field for a home game with all my teammates.

I will be attending Sacred Heart University in the fall and will be majoring in speech and language pathology!

**Mackenzie Glenn - Track**

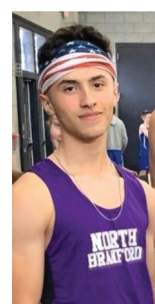
I have participated in Indoor and Outdoor Track as a sprinter/jumper. I have won many conference titles, broke many school records and competed at the state and regional level. I have also served as a captain in both sports as a junior and a senior. I am also involved in Best Buddies, Unified Sports, Dream Team, Environmental Club and Prom Committee. I plan on going to Sacred Heart University to continue both my academic and athletic career.

**Words from her Coach:** Mackenzie has the ability to cheer everyone up even on the tough training days. She's a great captain who inspired the team every day by leading by example.

**Freddie Little - Track**

I am a senior at North Branford High School and over my four years here, I ran indoor/outdoor track as a hurdler. Aside from track, I have also participated in Cross Country, Environmental Science Club, Garden Club, Prom Committee, Renaissance Club, Best Buddies, Dream Team, and lastly Student Council where I serve as Secretary of my class. After high school, I am attending college at Central Connecticut State University.

**Words from his Coach:** Freddie is a great captain to have on the team. He connects both the sprinters and longer distance groups and makes everyone feel like an important part of the team. There's never a meet where Freddie isn't cheering on North Branford!

**Joe DeLucia - Track**

I am a senior at North Branford High School and I have run both cross country and indoor/outdoor track for all four years. I was also a captain of the cross country team and track team.

**Words from his coach:** Joe is such a coachable athlete. He's a hard worker and leads by example. He's earned the respect of the team and as a senior captain he is able to take direction well and execute perfectly.

**Izabella Mott - Girls Lacrosse**

I have been playing lacrosse since freshman year on attack. I plan to attend SCSU in the fall where I will pursue a career in the medical field.

**Words from her coach:** Izzy worked on her skills relentlessly on and off the field to become a formidable player on attack. She was willing to step up and play any position that we asked without any complaint in order to help the team.

**Bianca D'Onofrio - Girls Lacrosse**

I have been playing lacrosse for 6 years, I am a low defender, and I also have played field hockey for the past 5 years. I will be attending Salve Regina University with a major in Psychology.

**Words from her coach:**

Bianca was a rock solid defender and someone we could count on to lock down the opposing team's top players. Her ability to control the defense and communicate with her teammates was unsurpassed.

**Sabrina Mone - Field Hockey**

I've been playing lacrosse since seventh grade, my position is attack. I will be attending SCSU, I'm going in undecided, but I think I might go into teaching or social work.

**Words from her coach:**

Sabrina was one of the most aggressive players that we have ever coached. If there was a loose ball, we could be confident that she would come away with it. Her coachability and ability to make the changes asked of her will be sorely missed.





## Marisa Helff gets Company 2 Scholarship

Marisa Helff was presented with the Company 2 Scholarship on 05-12-2020. Marisa’s father is a 20 year member of Company 2.

## THEY MAKE US PROUD

Catherine Sobask was named to the University of Mississippi Chancellor’s Honor Roll. Nicole Bruno, Jordan Regan and Ashley Slubowski were named to the Dean’s List at Assumption College in Worcester, MA. Bella Trotta was named to the Dean’s List at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA.

NBHS AP Course Scholars

Student	Number of AP Classes & Exams During High School Career at NBHS
Bonaldo, Nicholas	3
D’Aria, Vincenzo	4
Galendzi, Ava	7
Gall, Jenna	8
Helff, Marissa	3
Kwalek, Rachel	3
LeBeau, Avonlea	4
McIntyre, Carlie	5
Mott, Izabella	3
Olsen, Emily	3
Pappolla, Jordan	3
Patel, Krish	5
Pearson, Annika	4
Pedersen, Katy	6
Powers, Jetta	4
Roof, Erika	8
Sudusky, Stephanie	4
Vitarisi, Rachel	4

### Student

Aiken, Mairead  
Baldwin, Daniel  
Blomster, Lily  
Bonaldo, Nicholas  
Bureau, Karlee  
Camp, Daniel  
Candelora, Juliana  
Capasso, Tyler  
Cassista, Julia  
Cole, Emily  
D’Aria, Vincenzo  
D’Onofrio, Bianca  
Dautaj, Briana  
Delucia, Joseph  
DeSisto, Isabella  
Despres, Kayla  
Diaz, Enrique  
Ferrucci, Aiden  
Galdenzi, Ava  
Gall, Jenna  
Gargano, Jesse  
Gildersleeve, Britny  
Glenn, Mackenzie  
Helff, Marisa  
Huisman, Victor  
Lawson, Brian  
LeBeau, Avonlea  
Lucibelli, Luke  
Lucibello, Sean  
Malavasi, Ariana  
Marcarelli, Calley  
McIntyre, Carlie  
Montesanto, Marissa  
Mott, Izabella  
Muzyka, Megan  
Norton, Melanie  
Olsen, Emily  
Pappolla, Jordan  
Patel, Krish  
Pearson, Annika  
Pedersen, Katy  
Pompano, Janessa  
Powers, Jetta  
Ricardo, Julia  
Roof, Erika  
Sarmiento,Gabriella  
Schanz, Isabella  
Schimelfanick, Kara  
Schreiber, Emma  
Sellers, Robert  
Singer, Grace  
Sorrentino, Carly  
Spayd, Jenna  
Sudusky, Stephanie  
Teodoro, Amanda  
Vitarisi, Rachel  
Waligroski, Alyssa

Wang Allison

### School Attending HS

Undecided NBHS  
Keene State Sound Sch  
Undecided NBHS  
Undecided NBHS  
Franklin Pierce NBHS  
Univ. of New Haven NBHS  
Undecided NBHS  
SCSU NBHS  
Barry Univ NBHS  
SCSU NBHS  
UCONN NBHS  
Salve Regina NBHS  
Undecided NBHS  
UCONN NBHS  
Undecided NBHS  
Albertus Magnus NBHS  
Undecided NBHS  
Univ. Rhode Island NBHS  
Wesleyan NBHS  
Rensslear NBHS  
SCSU NBHS  
SCSU NBHS  
Sacred Heart NBHS  
Sarah Lawrence NBHS  
Univ. of New Haven NBHS  
Univ. of New Haven NBHS  
Wheaton NBHS  
Life Skills NBHS  
Univ. Rhode Island NBHS  
Albertus Magnus NBHS  
Undecided NBHS  
Westfield State NBHS  
Univ. Of Bridgeport NBHS  
Undecided NBHS  
ECSU NBHS  
UCONN NBHS  
UCONN NBHS  
New England Inst NBHS  
UCONN NBHS  
CCSU NBHS  
New England Univ NBHS  
UCONN NBHS  
Undecided NBHS  
Quinnipiac Univ NBHS  
Bryant Univ NBHS  
Sacred Heart Univ NBHS  
SCSU NBHS  
Univ of Hartford NBHS  
UCONN NBHS  
Fordham Univ. Sound Sch  
Rhode Island Univ. NBHS  
Sewanee NBHS  
Undecided NBHS  
UCONN NBHS  
SCSU NBHS  
Bryant Univ NBHS  
Quinnipiac Univ. NBHS

Univ. of New Haven

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### Award

Judy Bannon Award  
Arthur F & Astrid Hansen Wolfe Mem  
NB Women’s Club Irene Talburtt Mem  
Anthony Cibelli Mem  
Jaxen Byrd Mem  
Alan Davis Memorial  
Jaxen Byrd Mem  
Carmelo Arena Mem  
T. Jerry Juliano Mem  
NB Fed Of Teachers-Beatrice Coler Mem  
Jose Manuel Calvo Mem  
NBHS Girls Lacrosse  
Leonard Rogers Mem  
Tom Tracy Award  
Jeff Kraft Award  
Theresa Sansevero Jensen Mem  
Kyle Carpentre Mem  
NBHS 1979 Football State Champs  
Ralph F. & Anne C. Solimini Mem  
Ralph F. & Anne C. Solimini Mem  
NB Youth Lacrosse/Brian Lindsey Mem  
Joanne Castlevetro Mem  
Jeff Johnson Mem  
Northford Vol Fire Co #2/Wentworth Mem.  
Van Wilgens Garden Center  
Dan Purcell Mem  
Tom Tracy Award  
Eleanor & Frank Doody Mem  
Joe Stone Award  
Bankwell  
NB Youth Lacrosse  
Carol Sue Lupoli Papa Mem  
John’s Refuse  
Tilcon-Jerry Wall Mem  
Ken Currie Scholarship  
Branford Lions Club  
Edwin & Yolande Ahlberg Mem  
Kelly Tinker-Newbury Award  
2019 Project Graduation  
John & Maureen Bozzuto Award  
NB Rotary Club Award  
Northford North Branford Women’s Club  
Michael Ney Mem  
Ct Sportsplex  
NB Rotary Club Award  
NBHS Girls Soccer  
Roslyn Langer Doman Mem  
Roy Wentworth Mem  
Linda Humphrey-Excellence In Music  
Aquatic Pool & Spa Award  
NB BOE Custodial & Maint Staff  
Chris Cossette Mem  
John Griffin Mem  
Lifelong Dental Care Of Northford  
NB Dental  
Louis & Angelina Nunzianto Mem  
John & Kathleen Harrison Mem  
William & Virginia Lovelace Mem  
Frank & Brenda Karsmarski Awd

# Get Outside and Say Hello to Your Neighbors



It’s time to get back outside. Get some fresh air and say hello to your neighbors, including our local merchants. The June 24, 2020 issue of the Totoket Times will not be mailed. It will be dropped off at some of our local advertisers. enjoy the fresh summer air and pick up the paper at one of the following locations.

- North Branford  
North Branford Post Office  
Town Line Wines  
RV Variety & Cafe  
Patco Service Station  
Cumberland Farms  
Atwater Library
- Northford  
Rte 22 Chat n Chew  
Northford Post Office  
Town Line Wines  
Patco Service Station  
T & J Launderette  
Smith Library



**EXTRA -EXTRA- EXTRA**  
*If you are still having a hard time getting out, enjoy the entire issue at*  
**www.totokettimes.com**





# 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



Dear North Branford Community,

On June 1st new guidance addressing some recreation activities was released by the State. We are following this guidance and working closely with our local health department to continue to move forward in opening the state back up. We have gotten several inquiries about some specific sports such as little league and basketball and we want to assure you that we want all activities to be available as soon as possible. Our first priority, however, is the health of our entire community. The next benchmark date is June 20 and we are already making plans for expanded opportunities with the hopes that some more organized play and further opening of parks will be advised at that time. As soon as we get the “all clear” we will get playing again.

By this time, you may have heard that the town hall is partially open for the public to make appointments to conduct business in person. You must make an appointment to visit town hall. Please call 203-484-6000 or the specific department you need to visit to make the appointment. You are still encouraged to conduct as much business remotely as possible and you will be asked to wear and mask and to sanitize your hands before entering the building.

The STW Community Center REMAINS CLOSED.

Once again, thank you for your patience and please continue to practice safe-distancing practices. It’s working! And that’s because you are doing your part.

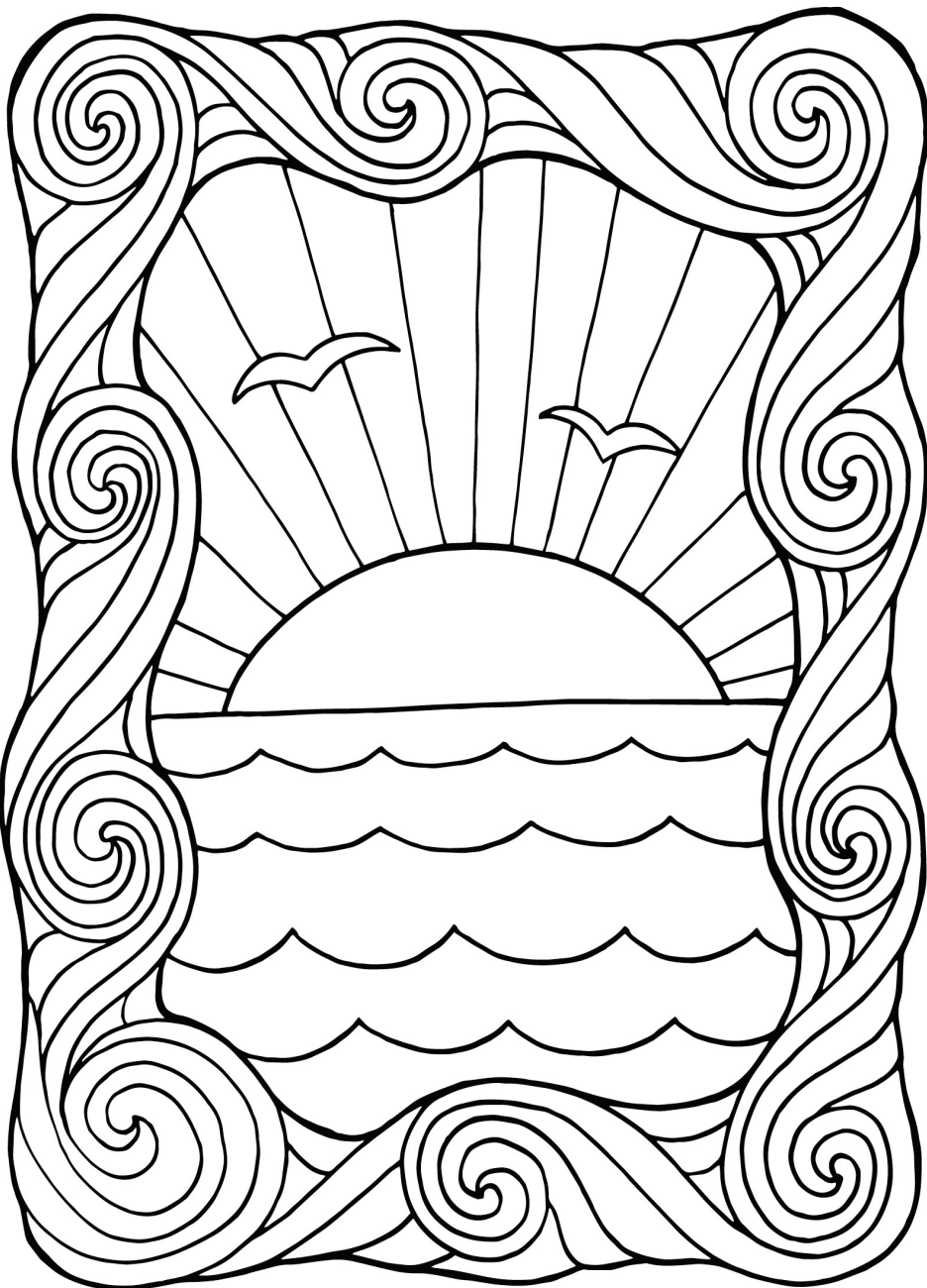
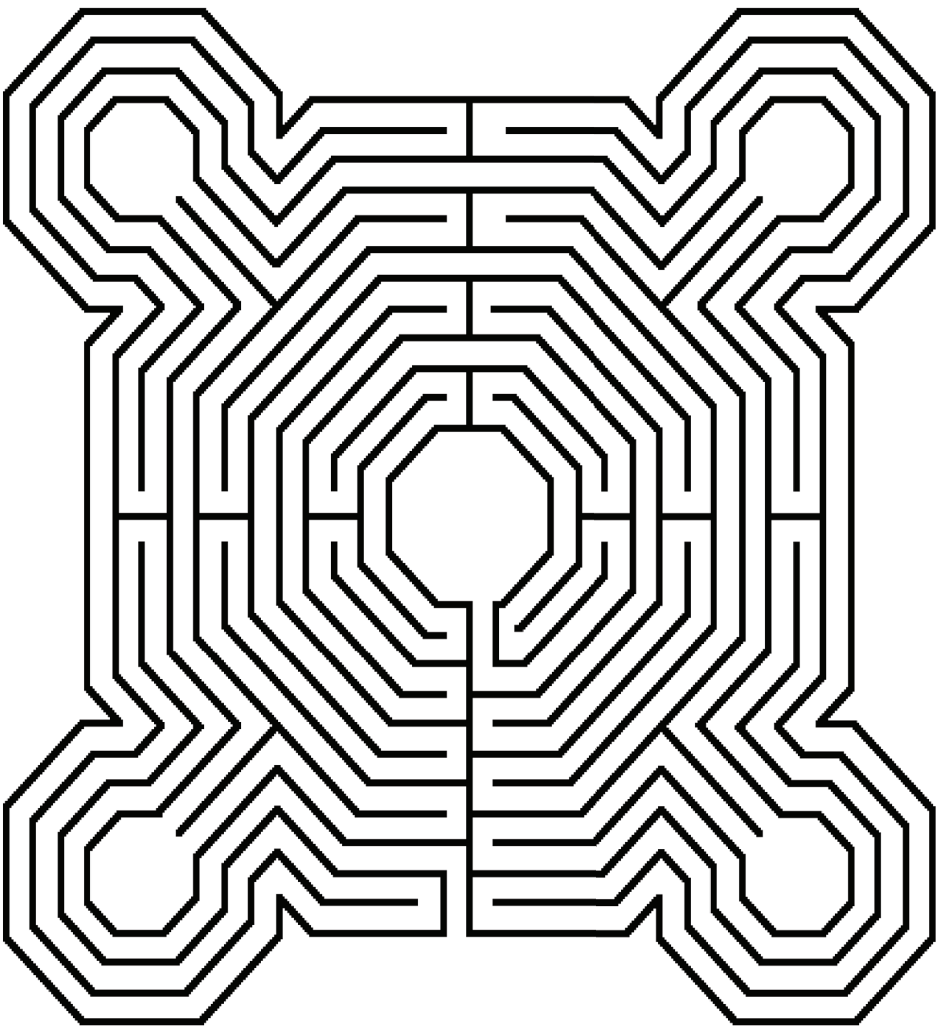
Patrick Rossiter  
Interim Parks and Recreation Director

**COVID-19 GUIDELINES UPDATE**  
**Executive Order 7TT (#2) Released on 6/1/2020**  
**effects recreation in the following ways:**

- 1. Indoor gatherings to no more than 10 people
- 2. Outdoor gatherings to no more than 25 people
- 3. Prohibits sports which use shared handling of objects  
*“No contact sports or sports that include shared handling of objects such as balls or frisbees are allowed.”*

However, Outdoor Recreation activities that **are allowed** are defined as the following:

- |                                                                   |                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| • Equestrian (subject to Dept. of Agriculture)                    | • 1:1 Training, outdoors maintain 6 feet                  |
| • Mountain Biking                                                 | • Race Tracks (practice only, no spectators)              |
| • Camping                                                         | • Campgrounds (subject to <u>DPH rules</u> )              |
| • Boat Tours (subject to 5 passengers)                            | • Outdoor Shooting Range                                  |
| • Charter Fishing (subject to 5 passengers)                       | • Kayaking, Sailing, Canoeing and Stand-up paddleboarding |
| • Sport Fishing (subject to 5 passengers)                         | • Dirt Biking (practice only)                             |
| • Go Kart Race Tracks, practice only (bring your own, no rentals) | • Mini Golf                                               |
| • Golf                                                            | • Batting Cages                                           |
| • Driving Ranges                                                  | • Archery                                                 |
| • Tennis                                                          | • Rope Courses                                            |
|                                                                   | • Ziplines                                                |
|                                                                   | • Volleyball (2 vs. 2 only)                               |





# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

**North Branford Congregational Church, UCC.** 1680 Foxon Rd., North Branford, CT, 203-488-8456 or nobfdcong@sbcglobal.net or [www.northbranfordcongregational.org](http://www.northbranfordcongregational.org). Office Hours: Wednesday through Friday, 9:00 - 1:00pm. We worship every Sunday at 10:00am. Nursery care available. Get to know us by joining us for Coffee Hour following Services. The second Sunday of every month is Family Sunday when the children remain with their parents during the Service. This is followed by our second Sunday Brunch. Holy Communion is on the first Sunday of every month. Church School through grade 8 meets during worship. All are welcome no matter who you are, no matter where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.

**Northford Congregational Church. United Church of Christ.** Church is located on Old Post Rd., (corner of Rte 17 and Rte 22), PO Box 191 Northford. Phone 203-484-0795, Fax 203-484-9916.. email; [northfordcc@gmail.com](mailto:northfordcc@gmail.com) Office Hours: Tuesday 9am - 1pm; other days by appointment. Rev. Robin Blundon, Acting Pastor. Jane K. Leschuk Minister of Music. Worship Service 10am. Join us for coffee hour following worship. Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Like us on Facebook. Our website is [www.northfordcongregational.church](http://www.northfordcongregational.church)

**St. Ambrose Parish** is a Roman Catholic Parish in the Archdiocese of Hartford comprised of two church locations; St. Augustine Church located at 30 Caputo Rd in North Branford and St. Monica Church located at 1321 Middletown Ave. in Northford. The Pastor is Reverend Robert Turner. Weekday Masses are celebrated on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday at 9:00am at St. Monica Church, Weekend Masses are celebrated on Saturday at 4pm at St. Augustine Church and 5:30pm at St. Monica Church and on Sunday at 9am at St. Monica Church and 11am at St. Augustine Church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated every Saturday afternoon from 3:00 to 3:30 at St. Augustine Church or by appointment by calling the parish office at 203-484-0403. If you are new to the area and are looking for a parish family to join, please visit us! The office is open M-F from 9am-1pm at 30 Caputo Road in North Branford.

**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.

**Zion Episcopal Church,** 326 Notch Hill Road, North Branford. 203-488-7395 Rev. Lucy LaRocca, Vicar. In June we begin with single summer service of Holy Eucharist at 9 a.m.. The first Sunday in September we return to two services of Holy Eucharist at 8 & 10 a.m. Music and two safe church certified babysitters are available for childcare during the 9 a.m. service and at the latter service September – May. Healing prayer is offered after each service on the second Sunday of each month. Please visit our Facebook page or our website [www.zionepiscopalchurch.org](http://www.zionepiscopalchurch.org). Zion is a registered Integrity Episcopal Believe Outloud Congregation, a designation earmarking Zion as an open and affirming congregation for those seeking a safe place to worship and grow in Christ.

## St. Andrew’s 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 BBB.

Accepted items include clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, drapes, linens, pillowcases and stuffed animals. Donors are asked to donate tems 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.



## Town & Churches Honored Covid -19 Victims

The Town of North Branford, in cooperation with local churches, honored residents who have died or have fallen ill from COVID-19, in a memorial ceremony held on the lawn in front of Town Hall. “Our churches and our town have today united to show our support and our love for all those who have been affected by this tragedy, not only here in North Branford, but throughout our state, nation and world”, according to North Branford Mayor Bob Viglione and Town Manager Michael Paulhus. “This virus has hit especially close to home for me”, added Viglione, who had tested positive and is now recovering. “But its impact has been felt by so many in so many different ways, which is why we decided to have a second Memorial Day of sorts, to remember and to honor anyone and everyone, near and far, whose lives have either ended or been forever changed by this pandemic.”

Viglione and Paulhus pointed out that 80 local residents have thus far tested positive, and 4 have succumbed to the illness. “We pause to remember our friends and families here in North Branford, but we also pause to remember the over 100,000 people here in the US whose lives were cut short, to remember their families who now mourn the loss of loved ones, and also, to remember the tremendous self-sacrificing spirit of the countless medical workers and other first responders who have demonstrated their commitment to help others. To all these, we now pay our deep respects and gratitude, and express our deep love.” Viglione read a proclamation from the town in observance of this memorial event, and together with Paulhus, laid a wreath in front of Town Hall, nearby to the one placed to observe Memorial Day last week.

Clergy in attendance representing North Branford’s faith community included The Rev. Lucy LaRocca of Zion Episcopal, The Rev. Robin Blundon of the Northford Congregational Church, and The Rev. Vance Taylor of the North Branford Congregational Church. “It’s been sad that thus far there has been no national expression of mourning or loss, even though the number of people who have died here in the US as a result now exceeds 100,000. I pray that through our moment of remembrance here today, we not only each reflect on the incalculable losses, but that our words and actions may encourage others to act as well”, said LaRocca. Blundon added that for her, the moment today “serves as a stark reminder of the reality of the loss and of its size, and that this is not some exaggerated or fabricated situation as some would want us to believe.” Taylor observed how the day was chosen, both as the number of US deaths surpassed 100,000, but also that the day is Pentecost when, according to scripture, the Holy Spirit descended upon the followers of Jesus gathered in Jerusalem, and equipped them to go forth to share good news and to serve others. “May this Pentecost be like no other in the way we reach out in the name of God to our sisters and brothers in need, offering words of comfort and assurance for these troubling times”, said Taylor. “People of faith are always called upon both to remember and to act, and that’s exactly what we’re doing here today.”

At the conclusion of the ceremony, local officials and clergy began placing small red flags on the Town Hall lawn and the lawns in front of the respective churches, “as a reminder to continue remembering and continue acting.” To remember or honor a specific person, town residents and church members may contact any of the participants, who will write a name on a flag and have it placed on the requested lawn. A flag may also be placed without a particular name, “as a way for someone simply to pay honor and respect during this tragedy,” the clergy explained. “Red is the color of the Holy Spirit, who is also referred to in scripture as ‘The Comforter’. We together pray that this moment of remembrance brings comfort to all those who have faced loss and all those who have served well.”

**Photo above; The red memorial flags on the lawn at North Branford Congregational Church, arranged in the shape of a heart. Photo and information courtesy of Reverend Vance Taylor.**



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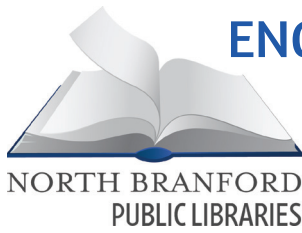
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Adult Department

Curbside Pickup is Here!


- Beginning June 8th, patrons will be able to participate in our Curbside Pickup service.
- You may place requests via: phone, through our Online Catalog, or by email: [requests@nbranfordlibraries.org](mailto:requests@nbranfordlibraries.org)
- Please be sure to include which location you will pick up your requests.
- When your requests are ready, the Library will notify you. Items may be picked up during the designated hours.
- Pickup hours: M-Th 10a-4p, Friday 9a-12p
- Only items owned by North Branford Public Libraries may be requested.
- If an item is available at Atwater, it must be picked up and returned to Atwater; same for Smith.
- Please call the Library when you have arrived to pick up your requests. If you do not have a cellphone, call when you leave your house.
- Staff will place your bagged items on a table outside the Library's front entrance.

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