



Totoket Times

www.totokettimes.com

For Our Town From Our Town

PRST/STD
U.S. POSTAGE
Paid
Branford, CT 06405
Permit # 131
Car-Rt-Sort

Postal Customer

Volume 27 No 2, June 26, 2020



531 Forest Rd., Northford.
Open 6AM - 3PM
*Open Noon - 8:00 for
Ice Cream*

203-208-0097

WE ARE OPEN FOR TAKEOUT & INDOOR, OUTDOOR OR PICKUP FOR COVID SAFETY DINING!

BREAKFAST SPECIALS!

Blueberry Lemon Zest Pancakes with bacon or sausage & Coffee \$7.75

Blueberry, Raspberry Pancakes with bacon or sausage & Coffee \$7.75

Italian Stallion Omelette

3 Scrambled Eggs, Italian Sausage (hot or sweet), Red Peppers, Onions, American Cheese, & Toast \$8.75



LUNCH SPECIALS



Sausage & Peppers Parm Sub \$8.75

Philly Cheese Steak Sub *mushrooms, onions & red peppers* \$8.75

Chicken Parm Sub \$8.75

Lobster Rolls are Back. Tail Meat Only! Market Price

2 Hotdogs, Fries & a Can of Soda \$6.50

IT'S ICE CREAM SEASON!

Best soft serve around!

Cups & Cones - \$3.25, \$3.75, \$4.50

Sundaes - \$4.00, \$5.00, \$6.00 one topping, whipped cream & Cherry.
Extra topping .65



Shakes - Van., Choc., or Strawberry \$6.50. **BIG BANANNA SPLIT \$8.75**

LOOK TO NEXT TOTOKET TIMES FOR SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Publication Date	Deadline
June 26	June 19
July 10	July 3
July 24	July 17
August 7	July 31
August 21	August 14
September 4	August 28
September 18	September 11
October 2	September 25

Let your friends know you're back in business.
Call Frank at 203-410-4254.
Totokettimes.com

<u>CONTENTS</u>	
Editorial	Page 3 & 4
School	Page 5 & ^
Recreation	Page 7
Classified	Page 8

NBLCT to Benefit from Big Y Community Bag Program



The North Branford Land Conservation Trust has been selected by our local Big Y store leadership as the benefiting non-profit in the Community Bag Program for the month of July!

The NBLCT will receive a \$1 donation from the purchase of each \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Big Y store located at 1289 Foxon Rd. Rte 80, North Branford CT.

If you can, please help support your Land Trust by purchasing Big Y Community Bags during the month of July.

The mission of the North Branford Land Conservation Trust is to acquire and maintain open space and to promote the conservation of land and natural resources within the Town of North Branford and environs.



Happy to be seeing my friends again!
Call for an appointment.
Please wear a mask when entering the Salon.
Interested in renting a Chair?
Call today!



1717 Foxon Rd. (Rte 80) - North Branford (in The Keybank Plaza) 488-6959

Varsha Salani, D.M.D., LLC
State of the Art Dentistry
Emphasizing Cosmetics in a Therapeutic Environment

Don't wait any longer. Call for an appointment today
Let us show you what our all female state-of-the-art cosmetic dentistry can do for you.

- Whitening - Smile Design
- Painless Gentle Dentistry

Varsha Salani, D.M.D., LLC
 10 Broadway, North Haven, CT
 (203) 234-1901

KEENAN FUNERAL HOME INC.

238 Elm Street West Haven (203) 933-1217 | 330 Notch Hill Rd. North Branford (203) 481-3217

Providing a full-spectrum of products and services, both traditional and alternative, preneed and at-need.

Our professional staff is a group of compassionate and dedicated funeral directors experienced in discussing customized options with families. We are available to assist families at the time of immediate need or to help families make prearrangements.

Philip M. Appell, Funeral Director
 Phil.Appell@carriageservices.com
 www.keenanfuneralhome.com

Connecticut Sporting Arms, LLC

Amie Willhite, Owner
 1179 Foxon Rd. (Rt. 80/22) North Branford, CT 06471 (203) 484-7474

New and Used Guns • Bought • Sold • Traded

The Dancer's Studio
 855 Forest Road - PO Box 536 Northford, CT 06472
484-2100

Ballet - Tap Jazz - Modern Lyrical - AcroGym Hip Hop and more!

Toddlers - Pre School Children - Teens Adults
 Recreational or Competitive

VISIT OUR WEBSITE - WWW.THEDANCERSSTUDIO.COM

Sit & Stay Dog Grooming, LLC

\$5.00 OFF \$40. Service Expires 7-31-20

1387 Middletown Ave. Northford, Ct 06472
 Phone: 203-484-PAWS - (203-484-7297)

GUERTIN AND GUERTIN, LLC
 Attorneys and Counselors

ESTATE PLANNING, PROBATE, ELDER LAW
 26 Broadway North Haven, Ct. 06473
 203-234-7400
 WWW.GuertinandGuertin.com

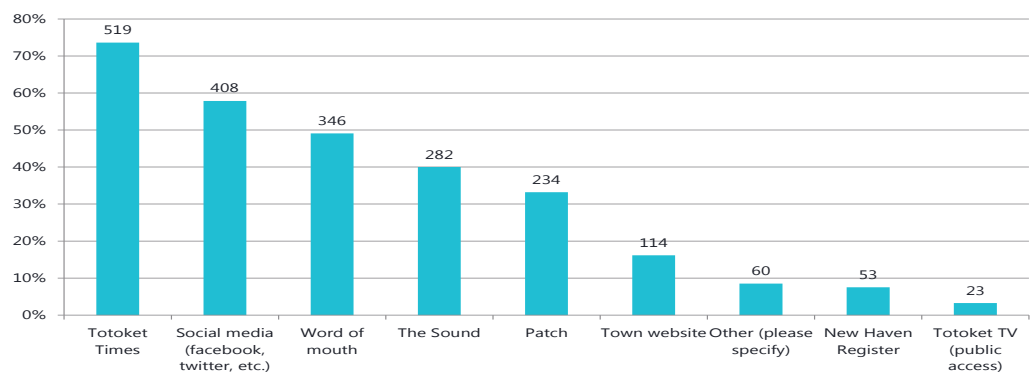
PORTO FUNERAL HOME

234 Foxon Road (Rt. 80) /East Haven
467-3000

Offering assistance with PRE-planning and PRE-financing Burials ~ Cremation

Directors:
 Anne Marie Porto DeLucia
 Clement L. DeLucia
 Albert M. DeLucia

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

MILONE & MACBROOM

Q28

Town Survey is all you need to see.
Totoket Times is the most popular source for community events.
call Today to Advertise 203-410-4254

To Advertise call Frank at 203-410-4254 or Totokettimes@comcast.net

State Representative Vincent Candelora Creating the “New Normal”?



Governor Lamont made headlines last week when, in the middle of burgeoning statewide conversation about police reform and racial inequality, he issued an executive order that placed limits on what Connecticut State Police troopers can and can't do.

Policy aside, the news was significant because it advanced what I consider a worrying trend: the erosion of our representative—and deliberative—form of government.

The governor's June 15 executive order came just six days after he announced his intention to call lawmakers back for a special session. Police accountability would be the topic. That session would happen, he said on June 9, when there was consensus on legislation. Yet at the time of that executive order, members of the Judiciary Committee, Democrats and Republicans, were collaborating. Still, the governor pressed forward by issuing edicts on policy matters that should instead be tackled by the legislature.

We've seen this go-it-alone approach a lot from Governor Lamont. From his push for tolls and advocacy for a secretive public-private education partnership, and more recently his COVID-19 response and reopening efforts, the governor has made a habit of eating at the essence of the citizen legislature.

If only Governor Lamont were as decisive when it came to the raises state employees are scheduled to receive next month—salary increases even he limply contends should not go forward during the state's unprecedented economic crisis.

Going forward, all Connecticut residents should keep an eye on the legislative process. Simple aspects of good government, such as properly noticing meetings, were already under threat by those who seemed more interested in their desired outcome than the rules. The COVID-driven layoff could exacerbate the problem.

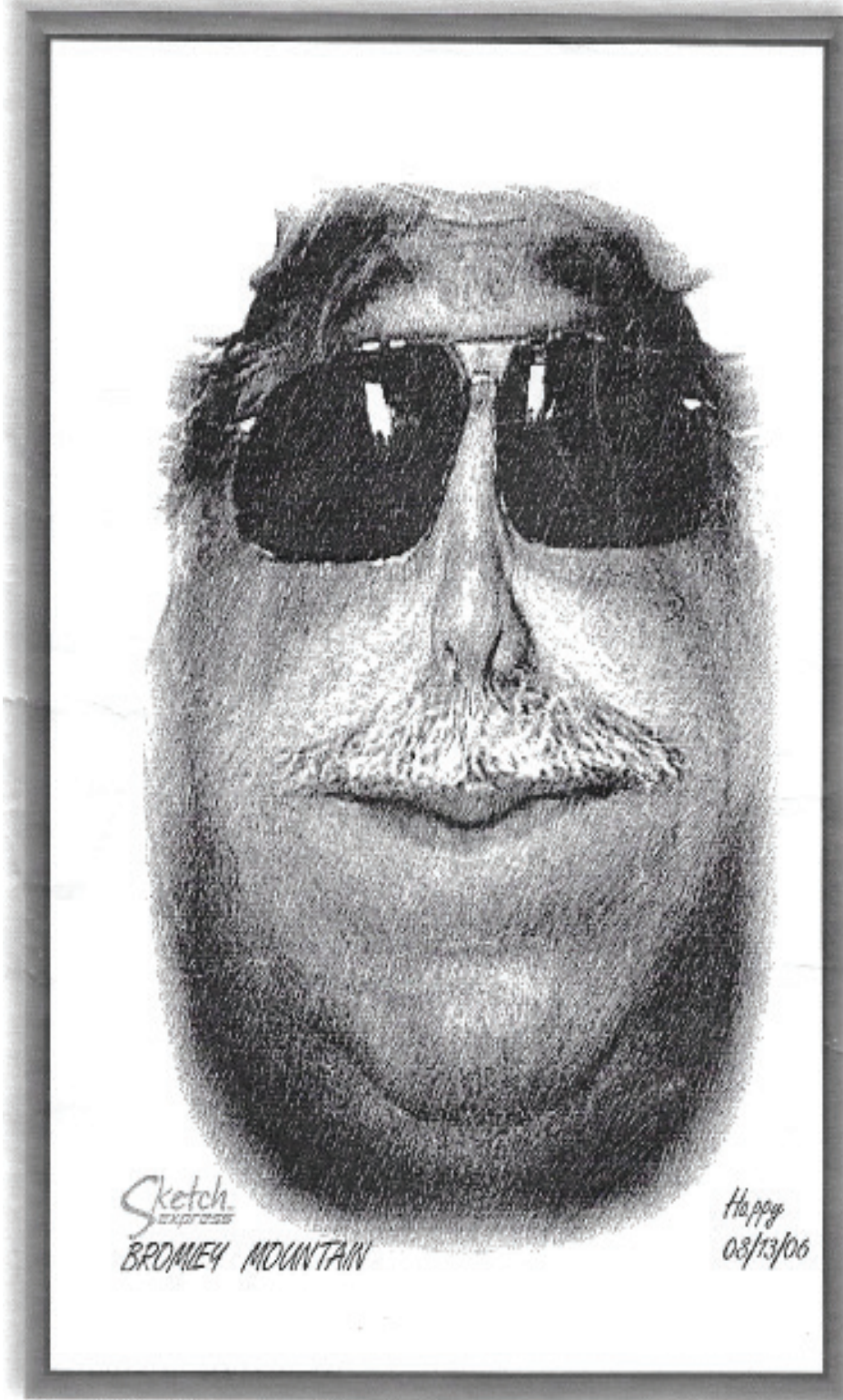
The legislature's Senate Democrats, on the heels of the governor's order, unveiled a sprawling equality-focused agenda offered in anticipation of a mid-July special session. It covers everything from local zoning, healthcare and absentee ballots to affordable housing, education and police accountability.

Each of their agenda items, as one reporter said at the time, are “gigantic issues,” yet the Senate Democrats are content with negotiating outside the public eye ahead of a mid-July vote as they hope for the “furthest reaching bill possible.”

In talking about their well-intentioned goals and the legislative process, Senate Democrats said they're “trying to push people to operate in a new way” and “we're creating a new normal,” while telling their colleagues—and the state—to “get comfortable being uncomfortable.”

The topics they raise are important, but count me among those Connecticut residents, and legislators, who are wholly uncomfortable tackling such far-reaching issues in such a short period of time and, more important, outside of the committee process that offers public commentary, conversation with constituents, and informed deliberation.

Let's Be “Frank”



Between the Pandemic and these crazy moves to get rid of Aunt Jemima, Christopher Columbus, Geroge Washington, Eli Yale etc., etc., I'm too tired and frustrated to write a letter this week. Anything I can say would piss me off and that's not to say what it would do to the readers.

Father's Day was uneventful, I miss you and pops and all my other pseudo fathers who have gone before me. From the looks of things, I might be joining you soon big brother. Take care of yourself and pave the way.

**Tell your Friends & Neighbors
You're still around and still in business.**

Let them know how you're doing.

To advertise call

Frank at 203-410-4254.

E-Mail totokettimes@comcast.net.

Check out the website for ad rates at totokettimes.com

This publication is published bi-weekly by
Doss Enterprises LLC
PO Box 313 Northford, CT. 06472
Tel: 203-410-4254 Fax 203-484-4729
email: totokettimes@comcast.net

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

PO. Box 313, Northford, CT 06472



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

By Attorney Marc P. Guertin

Most people never think that they will ever end up in a Nursing Home. However, the sad reality is that almost half of the population will spend some time in a skilled nursing facility during their lifetime. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the average time spent in a nursing home is 864 days, nearly two and half years.

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

When people are faced with choosing between preserving their assets and paying for care, there really is no choice, unless the costs of long term care in a nursing home are planned for. Giving away your money (to a child, for example) before needing long-term care may sound like a good idea, but it can be risky. Children get divorced, sued, have creditor issues, or can become catastrophically ill. The assets gifted to your child could be lost through divorce, lawsuits, etc. and would not be available to you. Furthermore, due to restrictive gifting laws, you may not qualify for Medicaid because you gave your money away.

An Irrevocable Asset Protection Trust (IAPT) provides an opportunity for individuals, both single and married to protect their assets long term. These assets could be available to you at some time in the future to pay for things that Medicaid does not, or for an individual's spouse or as a legacy for future generations, without the risks associated with giving these assets away to another individual.

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

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

If you would like to learn more about protecting your assets, Guertin and Guertin, LLC offers a free consultation on asset protection. We can meet via telephone, via video conference or in person. Give us a call at 203-234-7400 to schedule your appointment today.

Marc Guertin, is a partner at Guertin and Guertin, LLC, a law firm dedicated to Estate Planning, Elder Law, Trust and Probate Administration. Visit us on the web: www.guertinandguertin.com.

"Your Mask Protects ME"

To the Editor:

There is a misunderstanding present regarding the use of masks by some of your readers. Some readers state that those of us who wear masks because we fear getting the Coronavirus. This is understood by some readers to be an overreaction to risk because so many other things will kill us. In fact, the wearing of a mask is an act of respect for your fellow man. My mask protects YOU. Your mask protects ME. Your refusal to wear a mask is a selfish act that puts at-risk people you may encounter at greater risk. I don't want to be responsible, should I be an asymptomatic carrier, for the infection of another person.

Sincerely, Susan DeSilver

"Let's Stay NB Strong

Dear Editor:

Since my family moved to North Branford 15 years ago, we have found this community to be truly welcoming and supportive. My interactions with the North Branford police Department have been courteous and professional. Besides the officers in town, I have been able to get to know many in the local area, as well as retired men and women in blue. These are good people doing an extremely difficult job, dealing with an intense amount of stress each day.

I believe we should celebrate these officers and let them know on a daily basis that we appreciate them! I also suggest a public "rally of support" to demonstrate the caring community we are. Let's stay NB Strong! Our police, firefighters and emergency personnel are essential to our community! Sincerely, Rick Geremia Sr.

Do Not DeFund the Police

Dear Editor

What is going on? First, a life-threatening worldwide pandemic and now what appears to be an insurrection in our streets. All we hear about is "Defund the Police". What's next? Do you want to live in a country without police? I don't and I'm sure you don't either.

Wasn't it just a short time ago when we were holding up our police alongside other first responders, as "heroes" as they were on the front line of this horrible and ongoing virus? Now the police are being vilified, and assaulted and in some cases they have lost their lives because of the actions of a few "rogue police".

Do you really think the brave, good, honorable, hardworking police agree with what happened? They don't. They are human. They feel just like we feel. Horrified at what we saw.

What happened to the days when the police and other people in authority were respected? No more. The young people are taught to hate and challenge authority. Then they go off to college and they are further indoctrinated into that way of

Fireworks

Fireworks are enjoyable and exciting to watch, but every year they injure thousands of people, many of them children, and cause thousands of fires.

ALL FIREWORKS except for sparklers **ARE ILLEGAL**, in Connecticut, and may not be sold, purchased, or used. Only regulated firework displays by state licensed, professional pyro-technicians, which have been approved by local and state officials, are permitted.

Do not buy fireworks from roadside stands. Local establishments that are licensed to sell fireworks are inspected by the fire marshal. "Sparklers" as determined by the State, include sparkling devices of not more than 100 grams of mixture per item and are non-explosive and non-aerial. These include common stick sparklers, cone, base, spike and fountains. These are the only items that can be legally sold or purchased in Connecticut.

Residential Burning Permits

- 1) Open Burning Applications are available on the Town's website www.townofnorthbranfordct.com
 - 2) **Completed forms must be returned to Fire Marshal's Office by email, fax, or regular mail. Applications must be received by the Fire Marshal's office three days prior to burning.**
 - 3) Upon receipt of a completed signed form, the Fire Marshal's office may physically inspect and photograph the site where the brush is to be burned. **Only brush can be burned. No limbs over 3 inches in diameter. No stumps or leaves. Permits are issued for 30 days. Burning can only take place between 10am and 5pm.**
 - 4) A copy of the form will also be faxed to the North Branford Police Department.
 - 5) **The resident will be instructed to contact the North Branford Police Department @ 203-484-2703 on the day they wish to conduct the burn.**
 - 6) If complaints are received, police officers will be dispatched to determine if a nuisance exists. If deemed necessary, the appropriate fire company will be dispatched, and the fire will be extinguished.
 - 7) If the resident does not have the appropriate approval to burn, at the discretion of the local burning official or the incident commander, police intervention may be required. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statute sec. 22a-174, failure to obtain the necessary approval to burn is a Class C misdemeanor and punishable by fine of \$ 200 or imprisoned not more than six months or both.
 - 8) **Applicants must follow all guidelines and requirements.**
 - 9) **You are required to have a 50-foot buffer from any structure or property line. You are required to have a water supply, capable of extinguishing the fire.**
 - 10) Chimineas and fire pits less than 3' in diameter don't need a permit. Email forms to: firemarshal@townofnorthbranfordct.com or fax to 203-484-6025
- Call the Fire Marshal's office with any questions: 203-484-6016

Obey Police Requests

Dear editor:

I've lived 29 years in Northford which I love. My kids grew up here and after college they settled in New York and California states.

Me and my family came to the U.S. in 1988 from the former Soviet Union where I worked as an electrical engineer and experienced a miserable life under Socialist-Communist parties - I know very deep what is "Socialism". This was the main reason why my family left the USSR.

Soon after we applied for Citizenship and became proud Americans!!!! I recently thought about the difference between different immigrants.

As soon as we became citizens we learned the law - if the police stopped you for traffic or different reasons you have to obey police requests - no resistance. My family always does it.

But now, as you describe in the article "Let's be "Frank" and I saw on TV and Internet the last (and it was before too) "peaceful" demonstration showed me a clear picture of racism. They destroyed around 70 cities, businesses, requesting to get rid of police and bring their own laws.... What is it? Is it in America?

My appreciation to you for sharing your Frank opinion with Northford readers. **Thank you, Jack Toporovsky**

thinking. How sad for our country when we observe these protests and see many of these suburban radical parents arrive with their young social justice warriors all holding their signs together as a family at the protests. Are the parents afraid to leave their kids alone at the protest for fear of them getting hurt? Then what would they do? They would have to turn to the very people they hate (the police) and demand them to help.

I don't know how the police go to work every day and protect and serve, not knowing anything they might encounter or that any action they take might lead them to jail. The police are not social workers either. Their job is law and order. The towns should hire a mobile 24 hour mental health team to respond to these situations. Don't make the police deal with these situations as many of them are chronic and they can escalate. It also takes time away from other important police work.

Police matter and we need them. The next time you see the police, thank them. Give them a thumbs up as you pass them. Tie a blue ribbon to your car. Buy them a cup of coffee or a meal. They need to know we care about them and support them especially now through these challenging and troubling times. I say thank you. Please do the same.

Sincerely, Debbie Ahmed

A Touching Tribute to his "Family"



There have been many stories written and messages shared over the last few months about how our world has changed and how stress and worry are the new norms. However, I wanted to share a message of hope, gratitude and inspiration. This week, our fifth grade students at Totoket Valley Elementary School are moving on to middle school, and although that might not seem like much; I hope to convince you that it is! As any administrator knows, it is always hard when your students leave for the next phase of their educational journey. We all reflect on the experiences over time and the ups and downs of our time together. For me, this year is more emotional than most, yes

because COVID-19 school closures put a damper on our typical traditions and experiences, but even more so because the students moving on have been with me since kindergarten.

I have been their principal in two different schools for 6 years, nearly half of their public education experience. To say these students and their families are like family to me is not just words; it is truly a reality. I can remember the tears separating from parents on the first day of kindergarten, I can remember the community of first and second graders shaving their heads to support St. Baldricks, I can remember learning together at recess about solving disagreements with empathy and understanding. I can remember celebrations of gratitude and respect at wonderful Veteran's Day ceremonies, I can remember amazing celebrations of reading and the transformation of school to real-life book journeys, I can remember countless peer mediations to repair harm from unkind moments, I can remember the fun of Halloween, Glow Party, Color Run, Eco Fairs, Wellness Fairs, and family nights, I can remember learning from families what it means to be in true partnerships, I can remember community connections with Evergreen Woods, our senior center, the NB Food Bank, NB libraries, NB Police and Fire Departments, I can remember true teachable moments when students learned to care and respect their custodians, bus drivers, and cafeteria workers, I can remember the amazing Dream Team partnership between our high school and elementary school students and how it helped bring so much to North Branford, I can remember processing and learning about appropriate use of technology, navigating issues of growth and development, and navigating issues of race, sexuality and acceptance, I can remember Student Senate and Little Leaders and embracing the idea that even first graders have leadership potential, I can remember families with histories of trauma and loss that resulted in very challenging behaviors and school performance and together we learned to accept, love, and appreciate each of us for who we are and the stories we have, and I can remember embracing and rewarding countless acts of kindness, leadership, empathy, academic risk taking, and perseverance.

The memories are ups and downs, moments when we were at our worst and at our best, examples where we learned together (principal and students), and the countless moments of decisions made (positive and negative), reflecting together, and growing as human beings. The memories are that of a family growing up together, myself as a leader and 5 year-olds becoming 11 year-olds. I hope this all serves as a strong foundation for future success!

This is a story of inspiration in that I have been inspired by the way this group of fifth graders has grown up together and learned along the way. They have found "the good" in difficult situations like distance learning. They have persevered through difficult times (school closure at the end of their last year together in elementary school). They have rallied around each other and stayed together as a family as many students have been affected by COVID and other diseases and family traumas, and they have been there for each other. This is a story of hope in that our fifth graders have found their voice (speaking and writing) on social issues like racial inequality, cultural awareness, and economic disparities as they have been inspired by amazingly caring, dedicated, and talented teachers. They are proving to be advocates of social justice and leaders in their community. This is a story of hope in that the future is bright with what these students have to offer the world in their talents, their kindness, and their social, emotional, and academic intelligences. This is a story of gratitude in that as a principal and as a human being I am forever grateful for our time together. I am grateful for the trust that students and families have placed in me over time. I am grateful to have learned so much in six years. I am grateful to be a part of so many families. And this is a story of gratitude because I am thankful for the many blessings that our journey together has provided to all of us, and to our entire community of North Branford. North Branford should be filled with hope by these 150 students moving to grade 6, and they should be encouraged by how this group can help lead our community through times of fading hope, stress, and concern...these students are tested in character, emotions, and academics and they are ready to be problem solvers. It has been my privilege to be their principal and I hope I will always be a small part of them as their journey continues. To the fifth graders...always stay together and pick each other up when you are down, always challenge yourselves academically and socially, and always, always treat others the way you would like to be treated!

With gratitude,
Principal Carter Welch



"Upside Down World"

Lyrics by Jerome Harrison Elementary School
1st grader, Evan Green
& Music by Eugenie Rocherolle

During the COVID-19 shutdown of schools, Jerome Harrison Elementary School Music Teacher, Linda Franklin-Biggs, collaborated with nationally known composer and CT native, Eugenie Rocherolle, to engage JHS first graders in a special music assignment through Distance Learning. Students were asked to create, write and submit original song lyrics about the pandemic or how it's affecting them personally. One of the submissions would be chosen by the composer to be set to music. Eugenie Rocherolle, who writes piano music for Alfred's Publishing, chose the lyrics of Evan Green, pictured here with his mother, Allison Green; Ms. Parker, JHS Principal; and Linda Franklin-Biggs, JHS Music Teacher; and set the words to music. The song is called *Upside Down World* and will be shared with classmates when school resumes.

Photo by Terri Rienzo

Lucibello Going to Indiana



North Branford resident Justin Lucibello signed a commitment letter this past winter to begin his National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) baseball career in Indiana.

Justin started playing ball in North Branford Little League and is a 2020 graduate of Hamden Hall Country Day School.

He will be pursuing a dual major in Forensic Science and Cyber Security.

Connecticut Sportsplex

Fieldhouse Family Fun Center

LASER TAG • CYBER SPORT
PLAYSCAPE • ARCADE

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

AND A WHOLE LOT MORE

BOOK YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY TODAY
LASER TAG • PLAYSCAPE • SPORTS PARTY

For more information
Call 203-484-4383 or visit www.ctsportsplex.com

THEY MAKE US PROUD

Gabriella Fico was named to the Dean's List at Southern Connecticut State University. Gabriella is studying Nursing Psychology.

Ryan Gries was named to the Dean's List at Becker College in Worcester, MA.

Nicole Yeager and Marie Zampano were named to the Dean's List at Lasell University in Newton, MA.

Linsey DeDomenico graduated with a Juris Doctor from Western New England University in Springfield, MA.

Tyler Williams graduated from Colby College in Waterville, ME.

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

Colby Anastasio, Nick Candelora, Sarah Cook, Deanna Heine and Kaley Oliverio were named to the Dean's List at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston.



Softball Coach Recognizes his Players

In the last issue of the Totoket Times there were profiles on the seniors who were scheduled to play spring sports. Unfortunately, the comment of softball coach Nick DeLizio was mistakenly omitted. Below is what Coach DeLizio had to say about his graduating players.

"Each of the seniors bring a unique style of leadership that sets a standard

**NORTH BRANFORD
BARBERSHOP**



HAIR CUTS
MEN \$12.00
SENIOR &
KIDS UNDER 10
\$10.00

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

~ WALK-INS ONLY ~

OWNER - ROBERT VIGLIONE
1179 FOXON RD. NORTH BRANFORD 203-484-1179

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

for the following years to come. Each of those styles have helped the program maintain a championship culture on the field, and more importantly, a championship mindset to achieve success in whatever they decide to pursue in life. These girls demonstrate positive values and virtues to make a difference in the world. I couldn't be more proud to have coached them all. They will truly be missed"



Can North Branford Achieve Certification as a Sustainable Community? YES!

The Town of North Branford registered to join a growing number of communities across the state participating in Sustainable CT, an exciting program to support Connecticut's cities and towns. The statewide initiative, created by towns for towns, includes a detailed menu of sustainability best practices, tools and resources, peer learning, and recognition.

Mike Paulhus, Town Manager commented, "I am very excited to have this resolution passed unanimously by the Town Council. I look forward to a partnership with Sustainable CT to make North Branford an even more desirable community to live and raise a family. This is a step in the right direction."

More than 50 percent of Connecticut's municipalities are now registered to participate in Sustainable CT. The second cohort of certified communities was announced in October 2019. Collectively, 27 percent of the state's cities and towns have achieved certification.

The Sustainable CT platform supports a broad range of actions, such as improving the education and management of our Farm River watershed. Volunteers are needed to help educate our community on the importance of our watershed and to monitor and report on the watershed's health. Other initiatives support arts and culture, improve recycling programs, assess climate vulnerability, support local businesses, and provide housing options. We will be using the **Pollinator Pathway /Sunflower Project** to complete one of our actions.

Carey Duques, Town Planner stated, "Just last year the Town updated its Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) through an engaging and productive public outreach program. The updated POCD looks at goals for the Town over the next 10 years that cover a wide variety of areas including preservation of agricultural lands, conservation of open space, economic development, transportation, housing choices, and many other topics. Having a current POCD is evidence that North Branford is participating in talks and activities involving sustainability."

There have been some happy surprises. We have been tracking municipal energy use with UI to identify energy use with the goal of reducing our energy consumption and exploring renewable energy for municipal buildings. **Roger Salway, North Branford's Economic Development Coordinator** has been cultivating relationships with the Town and business community. "I was looking at our energy use and began discussions with Citrine Power. They presented a solar energy generation project to our Economic Development Commission which has been approved by UI. The project, a solar farm, would sell solar energy back to UI, and deliver rebates to the municipality and some local farms. The projected annual Town savings are in the range of \$70,000 to \$90,000 and there would be no cost to the Town. Working on the Sustainable Actions has made us aware of how we can be a more sustainable community."

There is no cost to participate and communities voluntarily select actions that meet their unique local character and long-term vision. After successful implementation of a variety of actions, municipalities are eligible for Sustainable CT certification. The initiative was developed under the leadership of the Institute of Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University in partnership with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. Three Connecticut philanthropies—The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, The Smart Seed Fund, and the Common Sense Fund—have supported the program's development and launch.

Bonnie Symansky, a member of the North Branford Land Conservation Trust, has volunteered to work with the Town to achieve Bronze Certification, a major challenge during the pandemic. We hope to complete enough actions for August certification. Sustainable CT has given a fellow (student volunteer) to South Central CT participating towns to help them to succeed. If you are interested in volunteering for the steering committee, contact Bonnie at BSymansky323@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.sustainablect.org. *Story & Photo submitted by Bonnie Symansky*



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





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



I am ecstatic to start a new adventure here in North Branford as your Director of Parks, Recreation, and Senior Center and join a wonderful team of professionals serving the community. These are certainly unique times to transition leadership, particularly during a time that has had such a substantial impact on facilities and programs. That being said, as the state begins to carefully and cautiously re-open, the team here is hard at work on our own plans to fully re-open parks and the community center.

We have been closely following the guidance prepared by the Reopen Connecticut Advisory Group. Our goal is to be good stewards of both public health and the well-being of the town so we too, are moving cautiously to be sure that people are able to recreate safely. We are currently preparing our own systematic plan back toward normal operations.

As long as the State's numbers continue in the right direction, in the next few weeks, look for announcements regarding playgrounds and basketball courts. We have held off on opening these areas as they are considered higher risk than other activities. Once they are open, we will continue to ask people to practice social distancing and to be sure to clean hands frequently.

Many seniors have asked when the Senior Center will open again. We are very keen to have all our wonderful seniors back here with us, but we also want to make sure we can do so safely. The guidance for seniors (60+) is to continue to remain home as much as possible. We continue to try and find ways to safely engage with our seniors. One way will be to check out Totoket TV and see our own Vicky Struck presenting her Get Fit and Strongercize classes!

It has been a pleasure to start to get to know North Branford and some of the wonderful people who make it so special. Daily I am so impressed by the incredible team here at the Community Center, Public Works, and at Town Hall. They have really gone above and beyond in responding to COVID. From delivering over 2,000 meals to making nearly as many wellness calls to seniors in town, these wonderful folks worked so hard to ensure that your community was well taken care of. You can, and should, be proud of the work they have done and continue to do.

Soon I look forward to meeting each of you in person and hearing how we can better serve the community. Until then, please know YOUR Parks, Recreation and Senior Center Department is striving every day to provide excellent and safe opportunities for you to recreate yourself.

Please remember to continue practicing social distancing, wearing masks, and washing your hands. It is working!

Jessie Caetano
Director of Parks and Recreation & Senior Center

SPORTS CAMPS

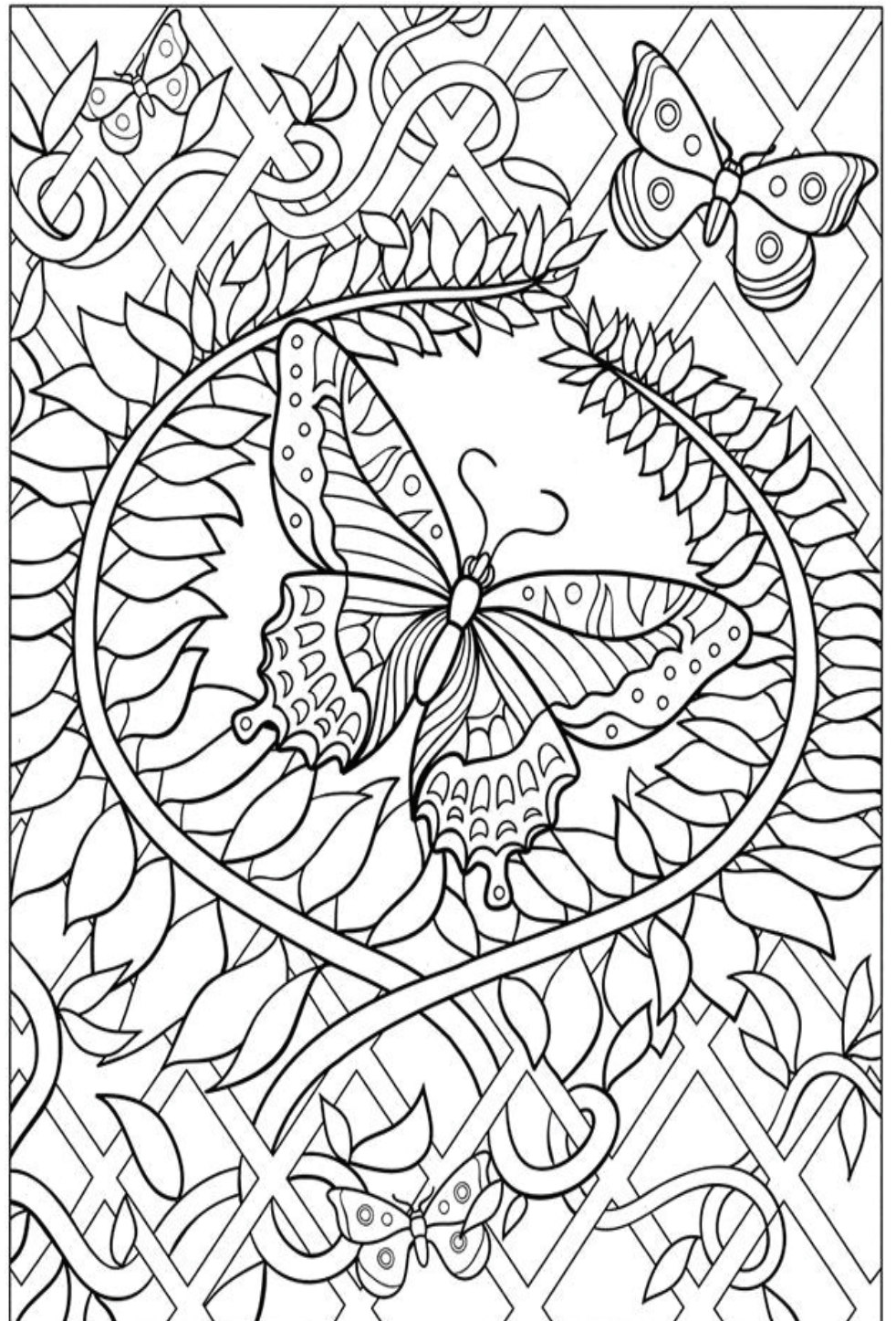
FIELD HOCKEY CAMP

Who: Entering Grades 2 - 8
When: July 6 - July 9
Time: Monday - Thursday, 9:30 - 11:00 am
Fee: \$80
Instructor: Cheryl Canada, Former Division I Associate Head Coach, USA Field Hockey Level II Accreditation, CPR and First Aid Certified
Description: Open to boys and girls of all skill levels that are new to the sport or looking to enhance their skill level. This camp is designed to develop the basic skills each athlete has by focusing on tactical game awareness, 1v1 defense, elevated passing, elimination and shooting skills. This camp is fun, exciting, and creates player synergy no matter what age or skill level. Equipment needed: Stick, mouth guard, shin guards and goggles (optional). Sticks can be provided if necessary. Please let us know at time of registration.

SKILZ & DRILZ BASKETBALL

Who: Ages 10 - 14
Session I: August 3 - August 7
Session II: August 10 - August 14
Time: Monday - Friday, 8:00 - 12:00 pm
Fee: \$150
Instructor: Cliff Yerkes and Malik White
Description: Run by the head coach of the NBHS Varsity Boys Basketball team, this program is perfect for boys or girls trying to improve their skills to the high school level. A typical day includes ball handling drills, fundamental stations, full court game, lunch, individual contests, team contests, and more. All campers will receive a t-shirt and a personal evaluation from their counselor/coach and awards will be given out at the end of the week.

* All programs and activities will adhere to state and local COVID guidelines. For more details please see our website, www.nbrecreation.com



CLASSIFIED AD RATES

Personal, For Sale, Help Wanted, Tag Sale, and all non-business classified
1 issue \$9.00 2 issues \$12.00 3 issues \$15.00
20 words or less, not including phone #. \$.05 per word, per run,
after 20 words

Lost and Found FREE

Business Classified Ads & Real Estate
3 issues \$35.00, 6 issues \$60.00, 12 issues \$100.00
\$.10 per word, per run, after 20 words

Payment MUST accompany all ads. The advertiser must notify this newspaper of any errors.

Send ad along with your check to:

Totoket Times P.O. Box 313 Northford, CT 06472

For more information call 203-410-4254

ELECTRICIANS

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

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

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

TREE SERVICES



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

LANDSCAPING

J & M Landscapes LLC. Complete Lawn Care { Mowing , Edging , Weed whacking & Blow off } Tree, hedge & shrub Pruning - Property cleaning & debris removal - Landscape Design { Mulch, shrubs & flower beds} - Stone, Gravel & Mulch delivery -Install Stone shed foundations - Small Backho { excavation work } - Driveway sealing - Power washing - Spring & Fall Yard clean-ups. Winter Snow plowing.

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

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.

HELP WANTED

LABORER I - The Town of North Branford is accepting applications from qualified individuals for the position of Laborer I in the Public Works Department to perform all types of manual labor related to road and grounds maintenance. Requires High School diploma or GED, one (1) year of experience in construction and/or grounds maintenance or any equivalent combination of experience and training that demonstrates the ability to perform the duties. Minimum CT CDL, Class B, Class A license preferred. Starting wage is \$14.35/hr. plus benefits.

Application are available on-line at 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 this position will remain open until filled. (No faxes). EEO/AA

Part time Drivers Wanted. Good driving record is a must. Must be flexible. Call Petals 2 Go Florist to make an appointment. 203-484-7800.

STEVEN J. ELZHOLZ

Certified Public Accountant

Certified Information Systems Auditor

More than 45 Years Experience

"Accounting, Bookkeeping & Tax Planning Services"

"Estate & Trust Accounting & Tax Services"

"Computer Consulting, Training & Support Services"

Federal & State Electronic Filing for FAST REFUNDS

Federal & State Tax Audit Representation

Day, Evening & Weekend Appointments

54 Deforest Drive North Branford, Ct 06471

email - selzholz@snet.net

203-488-8649 (FAX) 203-488-1970

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.

Thank you for your cooperation!

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

HazWaste Central Open for the Season

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

For more information go to www.rwater.com, call 203-401-2712 or email 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***

WANTED: Lead fishing sinkers (weights). Also, small inexpensive aluminum boat or related items. Please call or text 203-530-5182.