



Totoket Times

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Volume 22 No 24, January 8, 2016

KIDS HELPING KIDS DURING THE HOLIDAYS



Students At The Independent Day School Donate \$2,600 To Warm The Children

What started as a small in-class third grade “kindness” project twelve years ago, has blossomed into a school wide holiday tradition – supporting the local chapter of Warm the Children, an organization that provides new winter clothing for the children of needy families? At the school’s All School Meeting on December 16, Jessi Christiansen, the Head of School, presented Lynn Baldoni two checks totaling \$2,600. Baldoni said, “This gift creates a difference in the lives of our local children. I’m very grateful of the school’s continued support.” Baldoni explained that the funds will go directly to 30 local children who will be able to purchase winter apparel to fend off the approaching chilly New England weather. Christiansen said, “We have strong ties to our community and want to support it in any way we can. Helping children in need is a natural fit for us.”

Entry fees from the school’s Fearless 5K run along the IDS nature trails in the fall went towards supporting the non- profit, as did the sales of holiday wreaths and kissing balls donated from Casertano Farms and Greenhouses of Cheshire.

Service learning is an intrinsic part of the social emotional curriculum at The Independent Day School. Students gain an awareness of the challenges of some area families and develop empathy towards those less fortunate.

The Independent Day School is a coeducational private school for students in preschool, elementary and middle school. Located on 30 acres, IDS attracts families of diverse racial, religious and social backgrounds from over 25 surrounding communities to experience a challenging curriculum in a warm, supportive environment.

We Care at Wee Care

The Preschool at Wee Care of North Branford, recently had a “Pajama Day” to celebrate the last day of their 2015 pajama drive. The collected items were donated to the Scholastic Books/Pajama Program collection. Every pair of pajamas collected, will be matched with a brand new free book and delivered to a family in need.

The Dudley Farm Museum Winter Markets and Events



While you may be huddled up in your house waiting for winter to end, The Dudley Farm Museum and Farmers’ Market continue to provide good reasons to leave your house! Our Winter Farmers’ Market is held on the first Saturday of the month, February 6, March 5, April 2 & May 7, from 9 AM to 12:30 PM in the Munger Barn. We offer baked goods, eggs, handmade crafts, jams and jellies, naturally-raised meats, pickles, winter vegetables and more. Of course, if the weather is too bad, the market may be cancelled.

With the coming of spring, complete with skunk cabbage, pussy willows, and running sap, the Museum will be demonstrating the fine old craft of



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT IN PHOTO PROVIDED; IDS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR - JANET SISSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICE LEARNING - KATE THIBIDEAU, SILAS CASERTANO, WARM THE CHILDREN REPRESENTATIVE LYNN BALDONI AND HEAD OF SCHOOL - JESSI CHRISTIANSEN.

Dudley Farm continued

making maple syrup in our sugar house. Of course, like many things, this is very weather dependent, so please watch for news about this activity.

Please watch for news about our other winter-time activities. And as always we hope to see you “Down on the Farm.”

The Museum is located at 2351 Durham Road in North Guilford. For more information call [203-457-0770](tel:203-457-0770).

Farm Photo by Barbara Hanson

Publication Date	Deadline
January 22	January 15
February 5	January 29
February 19	February 12
March 4	February 28
March 18	March 11
April 3	March 25
April 17	April 10
May 1	April 24

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In this issue of the Totoket Times.....

Editorial	3 - 4
School	5 - 6
Sports	6 - 8
Recreation	9
Church	10
Classifieds	11



The Grinch Can't Steal This Christmas

This house on Forest Road is decorated by my son Anthony who is 15, this year. He takes a lot of pride and time to do this. I'm too old and not exactly in athletic shape anymore. I'm more in the shape of a circle nowadays!

Anyway, He took over for me after my 25 year run. He also sets up my garage which has a car lift in it and makes a chimney around it, so the kids could all watch Santa come down the chimney He decorates the garage for a lot of the smaller kids in and out of town. We've been doing this for 16 years now, the kids really enjoy it and it makes great memories.

I'm not telling you this so we could be popular or get praise. My family and I just want all the kids to have old-time fun to make new memories at Christmas. The problem is, if someone doesn't like our decorations or they don't agree with our religious beliefs there's no reason they should leave harassing letters in my mailbox. Seven years now we have a Grinch. We know what he drives and know what he looks like and the police

will deal with him, People in this country, we all come from different backgrounds. We should all respect each other, not necessarily agree, but respect each others beliefs. Besides, if you don't like the decorations it's as easy as not looking!

Every time I get one of these letters in our mailbox, I have to reassure my son that that's not how everyone feels. Now that he's older, he says the guy's wasting paper, cause it inspires him more to set up the place better next year, and there's always going to be one person that's not happy with something .

Oh well! If you see a sign about Barnum and Bailey Christmas, it's because this Grinch writes in his letter that our house looks like a circus because one year I bought an inflatable elephant.

Christmas at our house will continue and I am proud of my son for his hard work that puts smiles on the faces of many.

Sincerely,
John Leone

THANK YOU!

Dear Friends;

This year, like all the rest was filled with highs and lows. At times the stress and physical and financial toll in putting out the Totoket Times made me think about putting out a final good bye edition.

Don't get me wrong. I am not some righteous person who does this for the people. I do it for myself because I love doing it. It's not a financial thing, there have been some years where I barely made expenses. But I love doing it. Perhaps it's ego. Okay, it's definitely ego. Even with that said, it sometimes gets a bit crazy.

As the year ends I always reflect on what I will do for the new year and the Times was one of my reviews. Once I decided to continue, I ran the ad for the "Voluntary Payment". Please remember this is not a "donation". The paper is mailed to your homes every other week and sometimes a struggling economy makes it difficult for the advertisers to sustain the expenses that come with printing and mailing. Contrary to some beliefs, this paper is not subsidized or run by the town. It is simply me. That's why for that reason there are some things that are lacking: "in depth stories", "town politics", "economic development or lack of it" are only a few of the requests I get. Page restriction, people restrictions and time restrictions will continue to leave this void. Before you ask, I don't need help, that would only take up more time and money (even if the help is voluntary).

With all this said, I am very grateful for the "Voluntary Payment" responses from our readers. Many of you doubled and tripled the suggested amount of \$10.00. It was quite rewarding to read your comments and see the support from all of you. It was also nice to know that I could pay the printer and post office.

At several town events I have been complimented on the paper and I really think that with my new program and constant re-reads, I have lessened the typos. I don't want to get rid of all of them because at that point the Totoket Times will not have anything to be famous for.

For those of you who have told me you missed making the payment because of the hectic schedule around the holiday, you have one last chance.

I thank all of you for your support as you make the hard times better. If you have missed your payment, you can return the attached form.

Sincerely,
Frank Mentone

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Comments _____



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Let's Be "Frank"

Well brother, the holiday season is over. A big sigh every year at this time but this one was pretty good. The good news was that with a four day celebration, it was more relaxing. We were able to spread some things out and enjoy it more. The bad news is with four days to celebrate, it was also four days of an eating festival. All that weight I lost is slowly creeping back but I am still in the good column and with the new year "un-resolutions" I will take it all back off and then some. It's the first time I am optimistic about that.

Speaking of New Year's, I was reflecting on the changes since we were kids. For many years we went to a house party at aunt Tess and uncle Rudy's house. As kids it was always fun because bed time curfews were lifted, we got to make all the noise we wanted, play with our cousins and watch some of the older cousins and aunts and uncles (for lack of a better phrase), get drunk.

As we got older, we took our dates to this same party, taught them what family gatherings were all about and had a few (too many) drinks ourselves. We stayed up all night, playing games and bonded until the wee hours of the morning. Sometimes, we even had contests with the cousins to see who could stay up all night. If my date didn't like the event, chances were she was gone by next year. If you don't like my family, you don't like me.

As time went on and the kids were young, the all nighters would end at about 1:00 or 2:00am. The ball would drop, we'd kiss and hug, dance to the Guy Lombardo band, warm up the car and say good night.

Then the kids got a little older. They too would come to the family gathering. They too would bring their dates. They too would drink a little (as we had slowed down). They would usually leave as soon as the ball dropped because they were going to another party. We would make sure there was a sober driver and we would leave as well at about 12:30.

When the extended families started getting bigger and the aunts and uncles were all gone, the party started breaking down, We then started going to small house parties and we would always leave right after Dick Clark's countdown. The parties were always close to the house and we were nestled snug in our beds well before 1:00am.

Then the house parties became a hassle and we decided to stay home. Cook some appetizers, have some nachos and watch Ryan Seacrest (not the same without Dick Clark) countdown. The beds would be turned down and we would be in bed by 12:02, only rustling to take the happy New Year's wishes from our three kids.

This year, I checked with the kids and nobody had plans. My New York kid said he was staying as far away from Times Square as he could and the other two decided not to go anywhere. At 8:00 I turned on Dick Clark's New Year's Eve and after watching for an hour, I realized I did not know one of the entertainers. The music was giving me a headache so I went to bed at 9:00.

As I was laying in bed with further reflections, I thought, "It has happened, I have turned into my parents". Upon further reflection, I realized, "It was worse than that". Our parents, up to their death stayed up until the ball dropped. Dad died 9 days after New Year's and he was awake at the family party for his final New Year's Eve.

I haven't figured out what all this means, but it is obvious that times have changed. I don't know if it is for the good or bad. I had the opportunity to go to a Sons & Daughters of Italy New Years eve party and I did not go. I wasn't upset because I didn't go, I was upset because I chose not to.

Yes brother, times have changed. Again, I'm not sure if it's for the good or bad but after retiring at 9:00 New Year's Eve, I do know that this was the best I have felt on New Year's Day in a long time.

As for resolutions, you know I never make them. I no longer feel that it's a special time. It's just another day. The older we get, the more important each day becomes. No resolutions but I do try to follow that great Jimmy Valvano quote, "If you laugh, you think and you cry, that's a full day. You do that seven days a week, you're going to have something special.

Happy New Year and I'll see you soon.

State Representative Vincent Candelora

Opioid Addiction: A Priority for the Legislature



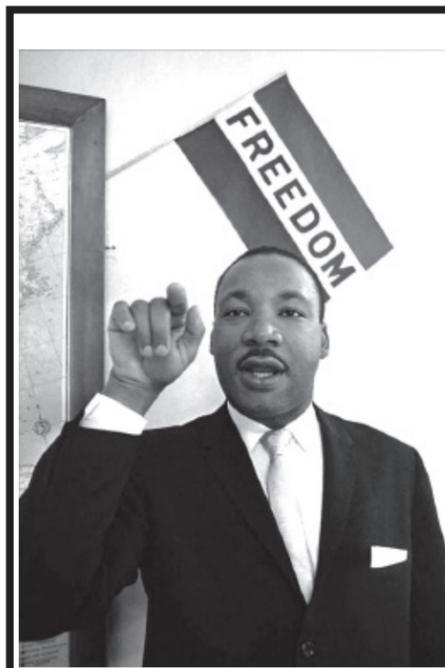
Connecticut communities rang in the new year, and so many of us have made resolutions and are looking forward to a good year. I was quickly brought to reality when reading about two heroin overdoses in East Hampton on New Year's day. In the shadows of our communities, many are struggling with an increasing problem of drug addiction. Heroin and opiate usage is on the rise among our teens and younger generations.

When the General Assembly voted to decriminalize marijuana possession, reducing possession of the drug to the equivalent of a parking ticket, and allowed for marijuana to be used by residents with prescription cards, I expressed concern to my colleagues about the impacts these changes could have on our children's perception of drugs. Last year, my son referred to marijuana as "medical marijuana", which prompted a long discussion about that drug and the impacts of drug addiction. I believe that Connecticut is starting to see the results of these policy changes, and we must respond to prevent anymore deaths.

Last session, the General Assembly passed Public Act 15-198 in an effort to address this crisis. More needs to be done. The new law that went into effect on October 1, 2015 requires practitioners, before prescribing more than a 72-hour supply of any controlled substance, to check the patient's record in the prescription drug monitoring program; requires practitioners to review the patient's record at least every 90 days if prescribing for prolonged treatment; and requires physicians, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), dentists, and physician assistants (PAs) to take continuing education in prescribing controlled substances and pain management. These provisions will help identify people who are doctor shopping for drugs.

The law also allows pharmacists to prescribe opioid antagonists, such as Narcan, used to treat drug overdoses, if they receive special training and certification to do so, and expands the existing immunity for all prescribers when prescribing, dispensing, or administering opioid antagonists. Opioid agonists are medications such as morphine that activate the same areas of the brain as other opioids. Opioid antagonists block the effect of opioids and are often used to treat drug overdoses. All of these measures will hopefully help prevent drug overdoses.

In this next legislative session, this topic will certainly consume our time and effort, rightfully so. It is a problem that is hitting cities and towns, rich and poor, and young and old. We need to start the dialogue before it's too late.



**MARTIN
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MONDAY,
JANUARY 18,
2016**

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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



WIT & WISDOM

I have followed and embraced global warming, more from feeling, even if the scientists weren't right with their predictions of carbon being the culprit the need to replace fossil fuel with solar energy was long past needing. I have felt the millions of autos, especially, each belching out enough heat to heat a sizeable building were the real culprits, but was aware that no scientist would dare to challenge the oil, coal and the industries dependent on them for their survival. That it would take a serious threat to our survival, at least in our present land mass, to change things. Too many jobs, investors fortunes and our economy depend on it continuing. Only when those responsible, saw the hand writing on the wall have they decided the game is up.

But are they barking up the wrong tree. Is carbon the real culprit? The need to remove carbons and it's effect on the ozone, I believe, from a health point is long overdue. But is that raising the sea levels and melting all the ice in the Antarctica and Greenland? From casual acceptance now to full acceptance they are making moves to capitalize on the only practical solution; solar, wind and a host of new energies being researched. One of which I just learned threatens even solar as our energy of the future. They claim to be able to turn a grain of sand into usable non-toxic energy. We will see many such new sources of energy in the future.

I believe those blaming carbon from fossil fuel were far off base from the real cause of global warming. First, why was the water in the Antarctica and around Greenland warming at 2 to 3 times faster than anywhere else? Why is El Nino, the warm air we experienced, once every 7 years, but now at unpredictable sequences traced to the warming of the water off the coast of South America, and what causes this water warming? Doesn't it make sense that in the sea volcanic eruptions pouring out hot lava is the reasonable assumption? Volcanos have a habit of erupting at certain intervals, some regularly others hundreds of years apart. If carbon is interfering with the suns rays why more in certain areas and especially in the colder parts of our universe? It doesn't make sense to me.

Undersea eruptions, unless of a earthquake nature, seem to be beyond seismologists determination. They erupt with apparently little earth movement, unlike an earthquake. How about the tsunami, the wall of water that appeared unannounced, until too late to warn those in it's path that killed thousands in Thailand just 10 years ago? This prompted the need to place electrified buoys at a determined height above the normal sea height, that will send a warning message, world wide, when the rising water sounds the alert, from it's particular area to get prepared.

I suspect many scientists have been aware of what I relate, but like our politicians who when first elected are honorable and want to serve their constituents, but the temptation to grab the buck and support their benefactor, the fossil fuel people in the energy field is more than they can resist when they see their cohorts activities going scot free. Why bite the hand that feeds you?

Alton Eliason

The Legend of La Befana



January 6th is the Feast of the Epiphany. This was the day when the Magi reached the baby Jesus. In our Italian cultures and even to a lesser extent, today, many celebrate this day with great festivals and it is a holiday almost as big as the actual Christmas.

The legend of Befana began thousands of years ago and remains to this day a tradition practised by Italian children and their families. As the story goes, one day, the three Magi left their country bearing special

gifts of gold, incense and myrrh for the new-born Jesus Christ. They were guided by a star across many countries. At every village that they passed, people ran to meet them and accompany them in their journey.

But there was one old woman who did not join the Magi. She claimed to be too busy with her housework and promised to join them later when she had time. The next day, she realized her mistake and frantically ran after the Magi with gifts for the child, still clutching her broom. But it was too late – the Magi were long gone.

Ever since then the old woman has been known as “La Befana” or simply “Befana.” On the eve of January 6th, Befana flies from house to house on her old broomstick and delivers all the gifts she didn't give to the Holy Child to good girls and boys.

In fact, Befana's name is the Greek word “epifania” or “epiphany,” and is significant because the religious feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on January 6th. This Christian celebration, in remembrance of the Magi's visit to Jesus, can include purifying rites and benedictions with water. Water prepared on the eve of the Epiphany (the night that Befana flies the skies) is said to have sacred properties that can ward off evil spirits and is used in critical moments of a family's life. Celebration of the Epiphany can be traced as far back as the 13th century and is one of the most popular Italian feasts.

In the time when our grandparents were children, Befana was tremendously popular and was awaited with a mixture of joy and anxiety. Children hung hand-knitted stockings on the fireplace and wrote long letters to her expressing their wishes. Often they were disappointed as their families had little money to spend on gifts; however, sometimes they found little hand-sewn dolls and puppets in their stocking. If they had been bad, their stockings were filled with onions, garlic and coal. Although there were no traditional dishes to celebrate this day, people would gather together and eat chestnuts, nuts and fruit pancakes.

Children of today know Befana as an old woman who flies a broom and wears a black shawl over a dress dirty with soot from the chimneys she climbs down to deliver her gifts. For the good children she brings sweets,

toys and books. And, as in the past, she brings onions, garlic and coal for the bad children. In modern-day Italy some shops sell *carbone* or black rock candy that actually looks like pieces of coal.

Many people believe in La Befana's existence, while others believe it is a fanciful story created for children. But Befana's question of existence is irrelevant. Either way she still fulfils her function, which is to reaffirm the bond between family and ancestors through an exchange of gifts.

HAZ/WASTE Corner

**Christmas Tree Pick-Up for 2 weeks in January
January 4th – 15th on your scheduled trash day**

Remember to save your

2016 Recycling/Trash Information Card

Inserted in this issue of the in this Totoket Times

“Please Don't Feed the Storm Drain”

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

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

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Folz Engaged to Kagan

Mr. & Mrs. Franz Folz of North Branford and Mr. Robert Kagan & Ms. Marcy Cain of Avon announce the engagement of Franz Folz to Daryl Kagan.

Daryl received her Master's Degree in Education from the University of Connecticut and is employed as a Special Education teacher in the Farmington school system.

Franz is also a graduate of the University of Connecticut and is an accountant employed by The Hartford insurance company in Hartford. A September wedding is planned.

THEY MAKE US PROUD

Jessie Walters was one of ten finalists in the Western New England University 5th Annual Golden Voice Singing Competition. The University is located in Springfield, MA.

Samantha Perrelli participated in the Accounting Society Club at Easter Connecticut State University.

Samson Amendola participated in the Ice Hockey Club at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Kyle Hottin was inducted into the English Honor Society at Eastern Connecticut State University.

North Branford Education Foundation Wants You!

The North Branford Education Foundation is looking for two new members to fill positions on their Board of Directors. The Foundation is an independent non-profit organization designed for the purpose of giving grants to teachers, for projects that are not funded by the regular budget. Meetings are held once a month at 7:30AM. The organization runs three to five fund raisers and community functions per year and distributes more than \$5000 per year in grants and scholarships.

If you are interested in learning more about the North Branford Education Foundation or you have questions about joining the Board please call Frank Mentone at 203-410-4252



Webelos Visit Armed Force Base

The Webelos from Pack 455 visited the U.S. Arm Force Base and the U.S. Coast Guard. Anyone interested in joining this scout troop can contact Jadeane Grant at northbranfordcubscouts@yahoo.com.

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Preschool Open House

Friday, January 15th and Saturday, January 16th
10:00am-11:30am (Snow Date: January 22nd & 23rd)



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NBHS TV Production Class visits WVIT/NBC

Mr. Delizio and the NBHS TV Production class recently visited the WVIT/NBC Studio and met with TV production and talent personnel at the facility and on the set which is used for daily news programming.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Scott Schoonmaker, Superintendent of North Branford Public Schools, announces that Kindergarten registration for North Branford residents with children eligible to enter school in September 2016 will be held as follows:

Jerome Harrison Elementary School

335 Foxon Rd., North Branford

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

9:00am - Noon, 1:00 - 3:00pm & 5:30 - 7:30pm

Please call the school office (203) 484-1235 for a registration packet. This will need to be completed and brought to kindergarten registration at Jerome Harrison School.

Your child does not need to be present at the time of registration.

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

1. Child must be five (5) years of age on or before January 1, 2017.
2. The birth record or legal proof of birth has been examined by the principal or designee.
3. Your child must have a **2016** physical exam date no earlier than 9/1/15. The physician and the parent must complete the blue Health Assessment Record provided by the school. This form must be filed with the school **prior** to the first day of Kindergarten or the child may not attend.
4. Proof of residency has been examined and approved by principal or designee (utility bill and/or voter registration form).

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

In the event of a school cancellation due to inclement weather, day and evening registration will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at the same times noted above.



Wee Care of North Branford, Inc. Daycare and Preschool

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

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- Curriculum and disciplinary procedures aligned with local kindergarten classes
- Teacher directed learning centers
- Morning lessons reinforced by afternoon activities
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Openings

currently available.

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High School Sports Wrap - Up

With the NBHS girls basketball team starting the season at 4-2, both boys basketball and hockey teams have started the season off at 500.

The girls are 4-2 with their only losses coming at the hands of the powerhouse Morgan Huskies. The wins have been; Hyde 77 - 17, Hale Ray 54-15, Windsor 52-43 and Old Lyme 51-35.

The boys basketball team is 2 -2. Losses to Hyde 62-35 and East Hampton 72-57 were evened out with wins over Hale Ray 48-28 and Edwards 81-79. Against Edwards, sophomore Brett Lequire had 48 points.

The hockey team started the season with a 9-0 victory over Milford Cop and then suffered a loss to South Windsor. In the last game of the year the boys held on to tie Fairfield Warde/Ludlow at 4-4 to finish the year out with a 1-1-1 record.

For upcoming games see the high school schedule below.

BEST GAMES IN TOWN

GIRLS BASKETBALL

TUESDAY	1/12	CROMWELL	7:00
SATURDAY	1/16	EAST WINDSOR	7:00
TUESDAY	1/19	@ PORTLAND	7:00
FRIDAY	1/22	@ VALLEY REGIONAL	7:00

HOCKEY

SATURDAY	1/9	NEW FAIRFIELD IMMACULATE	7:30
WEDNESDAY	1/13	CHESHIRE	3:45
SATURDAY	1/16	@ SUFFIELD GRANBY	4:30
MONDAY	1/18	AMITY	1:45
THURSDAY	1/21	@ GUILFORD	5:00

BOYS BASKETBALL

FRIDAY	1/8	COGINCHAUG	7:00
TUESDAY	1/12	@ CROMWELL	7:00
TUESDAY	1/19	PORTLAND	5:30
FRIDAY	1/22	VALLEY REGIONAL	7:00



NORTH BRANFORD BOYS BASKETBALL



•Giovanni's Fundraiser

Monday, January 18th, 4:00-10:00

Support the North Branford High School Hoops Club!
Dine on some fantastic Italian food and support your local student athletes.

Dine in or Take Out

Mention the Hoops Club and a portion of your bill will be donated to the Club. The Hoops Club provides the basketball team with items not in the school budget

•Bleed Purple Night



Friday, January 29th, 7:00



Come watch the North Branford Thunderbirds take on

the East Hampton Bellringers

Wear purple and get a raffle ticket

Raffle prize to be picked at halftime

Fill the stands and show how North Branford Bleeds Purple!

Questions?: Email Jeanne Jamieson at jamiesontwins@comcast.net

LeMere joins Elite with 1000th Point



With 5.05 left in the second quarter, at home against Hale Ray, Sabrina Lemere sank a free throw to join the NBHS basketball record books with her 1000th point. Sabrina became only the twelfth player in NBHS basketball history to reach that milestone. She scored 21 for the game to lead NB in the victory.

For girls basketball, she joins; Karen Vissicchio -1,391 (1990-1994), Holly Oslander - 1,382 (1985 - 1989), Patti Ferraro - 1,290 (1978 - 1982), Lindsay Mansi - 1,206 (1998 - 2002), Samantha Scavo - 1,181 (2005 - 2009) Sheree Rascati - 1,113 (1998 - 2002) and Kirsten Kolstad - 1,068 (1983 - 1987).

A successful senior season can easily put Sabrina in the top five scorers in North Branford High School Girl's Basketball history.



WHO ARE YOU YELLING FOR...? NBHS CHEERLEADING



Come out and patronize **GIOVANNI'S PIZZA**, a hometown favorite, and support **NBHS CHEER**. Bring the family for dinner, or take out. A portion of the proceeds from the event will go directly to support the girls.

YELL IT....

Giovanni's Pizza

855 Forest Road, Northford

Monday, January 25, 2016.

Let's support the girls, whose dedication and commitment to the team, their school and community, is second to none.



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Click "Register Online" to register or for more information

Register before December 20, 2015 – Save \$20 per registration

Register before January 17, 2016 – To avoid Late Fees

Registration closes February 1, 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOYS OR GIRLS PROGRAMS PLEASE CONTACT:

Jason Taylor, Boys Coordinator: boyscoordinator@nbylax.org

Kelly Sheehan, Girls Coordinator: girlscoordinator@nbylax.org

Neil LeBeau, President: president@nbylax.org

FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT: info@nbylax.org

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All Coupons are not combinable - one per visit and expire 11/31/16
Mondays & Wednesdays - Large 18" \$10.00
(Take out only)

Book our BYOB Party Room now for the Holidays!

www.slicepizzarestaurant.com

North Branford Boys/Girls Indoor Track

The North Branford High School Boys/Girls Indoor Track Team competed in the Shoreline Developmental Meet on Wednesday, December 16th at the Floyd Little Athletic Center.

In the relays the boys 4x800 Relay Team of Richard Hernandez, Austin Gibilisco, Michael Madoule and Isaac Cammarata finished at 9:40.8 and the girls team of Holly Dulak, Maggie Dulak, Olivia Hemstock and Hannah DiEdwards finished at 11:36.9. The girls SMR Team of Maggie Dulak, Jenna Bryden, Jess Zumbo and Rachel Sauro finished at 4:47.7 and the boy's team of Parker Nadeau, Isaac Cammarata, Pat Fisher and George Augur finished at 4:46.9. The boys 4x400 Relay Team of Michael Odell, Michael Madoule, Austin Gibilisco and Jason Alaska finished at 4:02.1 and the girls team of Nina Robertson, Sarah Sullivan, Ana Pavic and Hanah DiEdwards finished at 5:15.3. The girls 4x200 Relay Team of Grace Little, Jenna Bryden, Jess Zumbo and Rachel Sauro finished at 1:56.3 and the boy's team of Christian Diaz, Michael Odell, Jason Alaska and Jacob Marshall finished at 1:45.9.

Individual top places were earned in the High Jump by Winnie Chan at 4'10", Nina Robertson at 4'8" and Joselyn Streeto at 4'6". Jess Zumbo in the 55m Dash finished at 7.91. Also in the Long Jump, Deanna Sgambato finished at 13'5" and Catie Moran 13'9". In the Shot Put event, Jordan McGovern threw 22'7" and Carly Monge came in at 21'0". Catie Moran finished at 9.4 in the 55m Hurdles.

HARLEM SUPERSTARS ARE BACK!



**FAMILY FUN - SLAM DUNK - DANCING -
TRICKS - MUSIC - HALF TIME SHOW**
FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016
7:00PM AT NBHS GYM
SPONSORED BY THE
NORTH BRANFORD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Tickets are \$8.00 in Advance - \$10 at the Door.

**Advance tickets can be purchased at any
North Branford Public School or Central Office.**

Please purchase advanced tickets by 1-14-16.

For information call 203-410-4254.



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Sundays 8:30am (Starts January 10th)

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FOR MORE INFORMATION



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**North Branford
Parks & Recreation Department**
1332 Middletown Ave, Northford
203-484-6017

Happy New Year!

from all of us at
**North Branford Parks & Recreation
and Senior Center!**

NEW for 2016!

Youth Open Gym

Starts January 8. Fridays 4:00-7:45 p.m.

STW Community Center gymnasium open for youth play (grades 7-12). Bring school ID for entry.

**Youth Fitness Center Memberships
(grades 9-12)**

Monday-Friday, after school - 8:00 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 6:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. \$5/month

Archery

Starting January 20th

NRA Basic Pistol Shooting Course

Saturday, January 30. 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Taught by NRA Certified Instructor Tom Smith, this class provides the knowledge to develop the skills and attitude necessary to safely own and shoot a handgun. Course includes classroom time as well as practical shooting experience. Upon successful completion, participants will be awarded the necessary documentation required for a State of Connecticut Concealed Carry Permit.

Meet at the STW Community Center and finish at a local gun range.
\$150 resident / \$155 non-resident

EXCURSIONS

JORDANS FURNITURE. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

Cost: \$2 resident/\$4 non-resident. Check out the famous furniture store's newest location at Long Wharf in New Haven. More than just furniture, zip lines, ropes courses, waterfalls, food and fun!

CENTRAL EUROPEAN NATIVITIES. FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

Cost: \$2 resident/\$4 non-resident

Visit the Knights of Columbus museum's display of themed crèches and nativities.

Watch Park Rec Supervisor

Lauren Munro on the

Let's Be "Frank" Show.

**Check out Totokettv.com for
local TV schedule or view it online.**

BUS TRIPS

**MAPLE SUGAR MADNESS – North Hadley, MA
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9**

Cost: \$90 resident / \$95 non-resident

Take a guided tour through the North Hadley Sugar Shack then off to Champney's Restaurant at the Deerfield Inn for lunch. Final stop – Kringle Candle – a scent to experience!

ATLANTIC CITY – RESORTS CASINO

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4-6 *(\$50 deposit required by January 11)

Cost: \$211 per person resident / \$216 per person non-resident

Stay at the Resorts Casino Hotel and enjoy the brand new addition – Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville. This tropical-themed section now offers a 5 O'Clock Somewhere Bar, Land Shark Bar & Grill and Coffee Shop. Trip cost includes \$30 slot coupon, \$10 food credit and two \$30 meal credits for featured outlets (Breadsticks, Capriccio's, or East Wind)

ELLIS ISLAND & STATUE OF LIBERTY

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Cost: Adults \$73 resident / \$78 non-resident

12 years & under \$64 resident / \$69 non-resident

Stand under the recreated historic canopy at Ellis Island – the same point where immigrants began the process toward American Citizenship. Trip includes ferry ticket and entry to the Pedestal Museum at the base of the Statue of Liberty. Ferry ticket allows you to depart Liberty park and get off at both Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty Island.

WEST POINT DRESS PARADE

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Cost: \$97 resident / \$102 non-resident

View the famous West Point Dress Parade as the Cadets march in full uniform, presenting arms in unison. Enjoy lunch at the Hotel Thayer for their Bountiful Buffet, then off to a guided tour of West Point highlights Cadet Chapel, Trophy Point, and Hudson River lookout.

PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Ballet 'N Rhythm (2-3 yrs) Weds. January 6 – February 24 from 9:15-10:00 a.m. at STW. Cost: \$45 resident / \$50 non-resident

Introduce your toddler to the basics of dance through pre-ballet, rhythm exercises and creative movement. Class incorporates music, movement, imagery and props to develop motor skills and imagination. Dance clothing & ballet shoes required.

Ballet & Tap Combo (3-4 yrs) Sat., January 9 – February 27 from 8:00-9:00 a.m. at STW. (5-6 yrs) Sat., January 9 - February 27 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at STW

Cost: \$35 resident / \$40 non-resident

Learn basic techniques and fundamentals of ballet and tap. Wear danceable clothing, ballet and tap shoes and bring water.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

*****NEW CLASS!*****

Archery (8-14yrs) Weds, Jan 20 – Feb 24 from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. at STW.

Learn basic skills using the classic recurve bow. Practice great shooting habits and learn to put your arrow in the bullseye every time.

\$45 resident/\$50 non-resident

Jazz & Hip Hop (5 - 8 yrs) Thurs, Jan 7 – Feb 25 from 4:15-5:00

p.m. at STW. \$35 resident/\$40 non-resident

Intro to Drums (6 -14yrs) Thurs, Jan 14 – Mar 3 from 4:30-5:15 p.m.

at STW. \$45 resident/\$50 non-resident

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

Northford Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. Church is located on Old Post Rd., (corner of Rte 17 and Rte 22), PO Box 191 Northford. Phone 203-484-0795, Fax 203-484-9916. email; ncchurch@snet.net. Reverend Kathryn King. Pastor. Jane K. Leschuk Minister of Music. Worship service and Sunday School, 10:00AM. Join us for coffee hour following worship. Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Office hours, Monday an Wednesday 10am - 1pm. Like us on Facebook. Our website is www.northfordcongregationalchurch.com

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Middletown Ave. (Rte 22 & 17) Northford. 203-484-0895. or <http://standrewsnorthford.org> We are a member of the Middlesex Area Cluster Ministry. The Reverend Jim Bradley, Interim Missioner in charge of MACM, 203-525-6846. The Cluster office is 860-345-0058. Sunday morning Eucharist is 10am. We have a rotating clergy & choir during the academic year. Join us for coffee and fellowship following service. All are welcome. Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/standrewsnorthford>,

St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church. The church is located at 30 Caputo Rd., North Branford. The Parochial Administrator is Reverend Robert Turner and Deacons are John Hart & Robert Macaluso. Daily Mass and Homily are celebrated Mondays & Wednesdays at 9am. On weekends, Mass is celebrated on Saturday at 4pm & 11am on Sunday mornings. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated every Saturday afternoon from 3:00 - 3:30PM In addition, you can make an appointment for reconciliation 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. You can contact the church office at 203-484-0403 or fax 203-484-0132 weekdays, 9am to 1pm or visit us online at www.staugustinenobfdct.com

St. Monica Roman Catholic Church. The Church is located at 1331 Middletown Ave. Northford. The Parochial Administrator is Reverend Robert Turner and the Deacons are William B. Bergers, Louis P. Fusco and Joseph Marena. Weekend Masses are celebrated on Saturdays at 5:30pm and Sunday at 9am. Weekday Masses are Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 9am. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated Saturday morning from 8:30 - 9:00AM. In addition, you can make an appointment for Reconciliation by calling our parish office. You can contact the parish office by calling 203-484-9226 or fax 203-484-1189 Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10am - 2pm. You can contact the Education Center at 203-484-2434 Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9am to 2pm.

Zion Episcopal Church. 326 Notch Hill Rd., North Branford. 203-488-7395. The Reverend Lucy LaRocca, Vicar; Sunday Holy Eucharist 9am. Coffee hour follows both services. Child care available. Email; www.zionepiscopalchurch.org.

RECREATION CONTINUED

Learn to Sing (6 -14 yrs) Thurs, Jan 14 – Mar 3 from 5:30-6:15 p.m.
at STW. \$45 resident/\$50 non-resident

Learn to Play Guitar (7- Adult) Thurs, Jan 14 – Mar 3 from 6:30-7:15 p.m at STW. \$45 resident/\$50 non-resident

Total Conditioning for Teens (Grades 6 - 12) Weds, Jan 13 – Mar 2 from 2:30-4 p.m. at STW (Bus 11). \$40 residents

Cupcake Decorating (9 -12 yrs) Fri, Jan 22 at 6 p.m. at STW. \$10

ADULT ACTIVITIES

Get Fit – Weds, Dec 30 - Mar 2, 10:30-11:30 a.m., at STW.
\$20res/\$25nr

Water Aerobics – Mon, Jan 4 - Feb 29, 1:30-2:30 p.m. (no class Jan 18 & Feb 15), at Soundview YMCA \$40res/\$45nr

Water Aerobics – Weds, Jan 6 - Feb 24, 1:30-2:30 p.m., at Soundview YMCA \$45res/\$50nr

Gentle Tai Chi—Tues, Jan 5-Feb 9, 10:30-11:30 a.m., at STW
\$40res/\$45nr

Tai Chi – Tues, Jan 5 - Feb 23, 6:30-8:00 p.m., at STW \$70res/\$75nr

Strongercise – Mon & Fri, Jan 29 – March 7, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at STW
\$30res/\$35nr

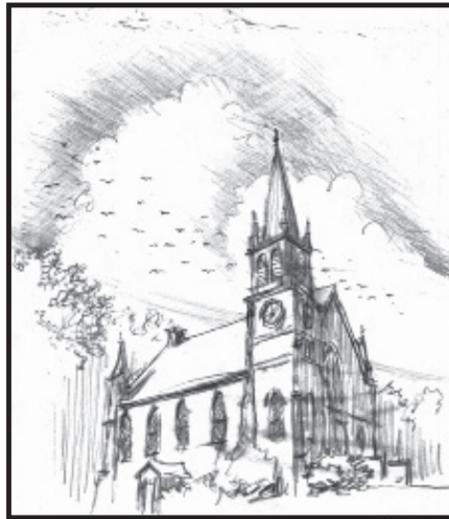
ALL AGES ACTIVITIES

Total Conditioning – Tues, Jan 5 - Mar 1, 6:00-7:00 p.m. (no class Feb 16), at STW \$70res/\$75nr

Insanity Live! – Weds, Jan 6 -Feb 24, 6:30 -7:30 a.m., at STW
\$55res/\$60nr

Yoga Basics – Mons, Jan 4 – March 14, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at STW
\$55res/\$60nr

Final Fund raising Underway for Bell Tower Project



Northford Congregational Church has raised approximately two thirds of the necessary funds towards the estimated \$65,000 needed to build the new bell tower and steeple. It will be built to its original design in modern materials and the bell will be refurbished and returned to the tower. Architect Daniel Webster Lyon has designed the replacement to replicate noted Yale architect Henry Austin's design as in the illustration.

In recognition of donations of \$750 or more from individuals, organizations, businesses, and groups, a bronze plaque with the name of the donor(s) will be permanently placed on a monument at the base of the tower. Tax-deductible donations can be made payable to Northford Congregational Church Bell Tower Fund, P. O. Box 191, Northford CT 06472. For any questions or more information, call 203-234-7794.

Your help is needed so that the sound of the bell will again be heard throughout the village of Northford. An electronic striker will be used to sound the bell without swinging the 2,000 pound bell.

The historic Northford Congregational Church (203-484-0795) is located at 4 Old Post Road at the corner of Route 22 and Route 17 in the Northford section of North Branford.

Living with Bipolar Disorder *A Story of Hope*

Do you live with bipolar disorder? Do you have a friend or family member who does? Have you ever felt that your life is over or that the disease has robbed you of all the happiness you once had? Come hear a story of hope at the Atwater Memorial Library, 1720 Foxon Rd. in North Branford, on Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Dawn Affinito shares her story from the days when she was suicidal and living in the depths of debilitating depression. She lost a career she loved and friends she thought she had and also lost the ability to do things she could once accomplish with ease.

Learn how she deals with those dark days when they come to visit, the damaging manias that continue to cause problems, and how life is far from over as she celebrates the good days, living in the moment and being mindful of each positive experience that now helps to carry her through to a new life of simplicity, joy, and gratitude.

NB Women's Club Monthly Meeting

The North Branford Women's Club, Inc., GFWC/CT will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 7:30 p.m., at the Zion Episcopal Church's hall located at 326 Notch Hill Road in North Branford. It will begin with a business meeting and refreshments. At 8:00 p.m. our program will feature game night - "Guess Who This Happened To?"

If you are new to our town, this would be a great opportunity to learn about our community and to meet other women. The North Branford Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Club's founded in 1890. We are a volunteer group who donate our time and talents helping our community and surrounding towns.

We are involved with Veterans, Atwater Library Story Hour, Local Schools, Ronald McDonald House, Food Banks, Midnight Run, Scholarships and more. For additional information on the North Branford Women's Club, please contact Barbara at (203) 444-9998.

North Branford Cookbook Club

The North Branford Cookbook Club held its December meeting at the Atwater Library. This month's selection was "The Best Recipes in the World" by Mark Bittman. It was fabulous!!!

We began with Mediterranean Squash and Chickpea Soup, a Moroccan recipe. The salad, from India, was Arborio Rice Salad and featured cherry tomatoes. The entree selection was from Spain: fresh Cod with Chickpeas and Sherry, and the vegetable selection, from India, was Panfried Spicy Potatoes with Eggplant. One of the gentlemen baked his first pie using a recipe from France using a Sweet Tart Pastry and Caramelized Apples.

Neither the experienced cooks nor those claiming inexperience found anything incorrect in the directions: everything was clear, accurate and, surprisingly, not difficult. Several members expressed an interest in buying the book for their own collections (this never happened in the past).

The next meeting will be in January and anyone interested in joining the club may inquire at the Atwater Library.

COMPUTER REPAIRS

Greg Tech Computer Services. Certified technician. On site support for PCs & Macs. Repairs, virus removals, wireless & network setups. Software installations, computer training, upgrades, hardware and printer repairs. Call 203-671-7525 or e-mail gregsilvestro39@gmail.com

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John DiMaggio Plumbing - Residential/Commercial repairs/remodeling. Big or small. Water Heater Specials! Licensed & Insured. Call 203 - 627 - 6826 or 203-484-4822. References available.

SERVICES

Power Equipment Repair - "The Mower Whisperer". We service all brands of yard & snow equipment. Reasonable rates, pickup and delivery available. Call Mark at 203-500-6011.

Handyman Services - Electrical work, plumbing repair and installations, carpentry work, dryer vents cleaned or repaired, yard work, dump runs etc. All general home repairs. Call Pete at 203-804-6373.

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Lift Chair. Excellent condition. Black naugahyde, motor (okin). Made in Germany. \$375.00. **Day Bed.** Black wrought iron and pine posts. Excellent condition. \$200.00 Call 203-484-2382.

Pre-owned wood burning Fireplace insert. You pick up. \$100 or best offer. Call 203-508-2207.

HELP WANTED

Substitute Van Driver: Must have a current CDL with F and P endorsements. Please call North Branford Parks & Recreation Department at 203-484-6017 for an application.

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

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Send ad along with your check to:

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

For more information call 203-410-4254

Branford Compassion Club to hold Gift Card Fundraiser in January



Branford Compassion Club will be kicking off the New Year with a gift card fundraiser during the month of January to benefit homeless felines.

Did you receive a gift card or gift certificate during the holidays that you can't use or don't want? Why not consider donating it to help homeless cats? Gift cards and certificates of any type and denomination will be gladly accepted. Cards which are not suitable for purchasing cat food & supplies will be used as silent auction items at one of their major fundraising events; so, every donation will benefit the organization in some way.

Donated gift cards and gift certificates can be dropped off at Branford Compassion Club Feline Rescue Center on any Saturday during January from 11am to 3pm and are tax deductible with a BCC receipt form.

For more information about Branford Compassion Club and upcoming events, please visit www.branfordcompassionclub.org.

Let Your neighbors know what you have to offer. Place your Classified Ads here for only Pennies a day! Totokettimes@comcast.net www.totokettimes.com 203-410-4254



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Notice of Caucus

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of North Branford, Connecticut

Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on:

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 7:00PM, at North Branford Town Hall, Council Chambers, 909 Foxon Rd, North Branford, CT

To endorse members of the Democratic Town Committee and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus.

Dated at Town of North Branford, Connecticut, on December 31, 2015

Democratic Town Committee of the Town of North Branford
David Palumbo, Chairman

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PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY REGISTRATION DEADLINES

The Registrars of Voters would like to inform the electors of the Town of North Branford of information pertaining to the upcoming Presidential Preference Primary. The Primary will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

In order to participate in voting in the Presidential Primary, electors must be registered in the political party for that primary. "Unaffiliated" voters, (i.e., not registered in any party) are **not** permitted to vote in any primary in the State of Connecticut. However, unaffiliated voters can apply to register in a political party in order to vote in a primary. Electors also should take note that enrolled party members may transfer enrollment from one party to the other, three months prior to a primary.

The deadline to change party enrollment for the Presidential Preference Primary is Tuesday, January 26, 2016.

There are certain deadlines to consider:

Tuesday, January 26, 2016: Deadline for enrolled party members to transfer from one party to another to be able to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary.

Thursday, April 21, 2016: Deadline for new voters and unaffiliated voters, to enroll in a party for voting in its primary. (Mail-in registrations must be received by this date, postmarks are not accepted).

12 Noon, Monday, April 25, 2016: Deadline for *in-person enrollment*, for new and unaffiliated

No. Branford Town Hall voters enrolling in a party, for voting in primary.

Electors who registered as "Independent" are considered a member of that party and will **not** be eligible to participate in the Presidential Preference Primary, unless they transfer parties by the above deadline.

Paulette Hart, Republican Registrar of Voters, Home: 203-484-4390.
Maryann Manzi, Democratic Registrar of Voters, Home: 203-484-9590



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