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Volume 27 No 14 December 18, 2020

MERRY CHRISTMAS



HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR

Let's be "Frank"

Well brother, it's Christmas. Covid -19 is robbing us from many of our normal traditions. A house full of people, a kids pageant at church, Christmas caroling, endless parties and tons of food with friends and family are now just memories of past Christmas seasons. Another painful death levied by this horrible virus. It's easy to look at the situation this year, and label it the year that Covid -19 killed Christmas.

The seven fish on Christmas Eve will out number the amount of guests at the dinner table.

The trash bags filled with wrapping paper will be opened at five different homes and the abundance of a house full of laughter will be silent.

In deed it will be a silent night, one we are not accustomed to.

The hugs and kisses and well wishes after church is a parish family celebration of the birth of Christ, will be paltry and brief as the few people who braved this dreaded pandemic will maintain social

distances with their faces covered with masks.

Definitely a different feeling but although this dreaded infection has killed many, we can't let it kill Christmas. I am not down playing the pain and suffering of families and individuals who have been affected. But no disaster can kill the birth of Christ.

A famous writer, Taylor Caldwell, describes Christmas as "A time when we are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, or the world seemingly most indifferent". she then adds, "And that of course is the message of Christmas."

Many of my Christmas messages to you have talked about the greatness of the season, but many more have spoken about the loss of the Christmas spirit which has been killed by commercialism and the stress of all the wrong things.

So if we take a step back, maybe we can call this year of Covid-19 the year that rejuvenated what Christmas is all about.

Perhaps we can savor this time and let these

sacrifices help us improve on the future of our Christmas holidays.

Thanksgiving, was a calmer time where we had moments to reflect without the pressure of fighting the crowds for deals on Black Friday. Many gifts were purchased on line and in pj's, giving more time to chose meaningful gifts.

As the season progressed, parties were replaced by evenings at home, watching old Christmas specials and more time together with close family. Maybe some of that money we always spent on self indulgent items was used to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Time to share the real meaning of the birth of Christ.

Next year, we can go back to our old customs but perhaps we can remember the pain and suffering of a terrible year and take some of the stuff we learned to move forward, remembering that with Jesus, "We are not alone. Not when the night is darkest or the wind is coldest..."

Merry Christmas my brother. Give my best to the family and I'll see you soon.

| Publication Date | | Deadline | |
|------------------|----|----------|----|
| January | 8 | December | 31 |
| January | 22 | January | 15 |
| February | 5 | January | 29 |
| February | 19 | February | 12 |
| March | 5 | February | 26 |
| March | 19 | March | 12 |
| April | 2 | March | 26 |
| April | 16 | April | 9 |

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ATTENTION ALL EDUCATORS!!!!

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State Representative Vincent Candelora Helping Businesses is No “Dumb Idea”



There was a bit of a dustup in Hartford last week tied to an idea my Republican colleagues and I offered about how to help the state's business community.

We suggested the state use some of its federal pandemic aid to backfill our unemployment compensation fund, which ran dry in August and forced us to borrow money from the federal government to pay benefits. Businesses are responsible for paying back those loans with interest—a years-long burden that would hamper their ability to recover.

Simply put: borrowing less money now would reduce their pain later.

Gov. Lamont didn't see it the same way. He called it a “dumb idea” when a reporter asked him about the concept while also admitting it was the first he'd heard of it.

So much for giving a chance to ideas other than your own.

Thankfully, I've since heard from legislative Democrats who not only acknowledge the unemployment compensation fund problem would be a major headache for Connecticut businesses, but who are also willing to learn more about what we've proposed.

If the governor had skipped the rash response he might've learned that roughly 15 other states, including some of our New England neighbors, have already done what we suggested—pumping around \$5 billion into their funds. Not such a “dumb idea” after all.

The next legislative session begins Jan. 6, and that means members of the General Assembly will have greater influence over the state's ongoing response to the pandemic.

That's good news for Connecticut and its residents, many of whom feel as though their ideas and concerns have fallen on deaf ears because their voices in Hartford have been sidelined.

With that said, the governor's extraordinary executive powers don't expire until Feb. 9. The monthlong overlap will be a situation we'll have to work through, as will the likely conversation about whether his broad emergency power should be extended again. Last week, the governor was non-committal about whether an extension would be needed before saying, “I'd like to think we can get back to a normal course of action very soon.”

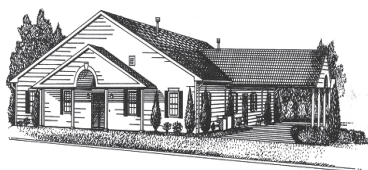
Let's hope so.

While the session is likely to look different due to social distancing guidelines, I look forward to the free-flowing exchange of ideas and conversation that characterize our legislature.

As always, if you have suggestions or concerns about an issue impacted

by state government, feel free to contact my office at 860-240-8700 or vincent.candelora@housegop.ct.gov.

Rep. Vincent Candelora 86th District
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Letters to the editor...

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

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

This paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

All letters should be addressed to :

The Editor

P.O. Box 313, Northford, CT 06472



Senator Christine Cohen



As a small-business owner, I’m all too familiar with the constant health insurance rate hikes and worsening health insurance coverage that so many of us are subject to.

Years ago, my business, Cohen’s Bagel Company, provided 100% health insurance coverage for our employees. But the steady climb in health insurance premiums over the years forced my business to introduce cost-sharing first, and then shifted our employees to the state health exchange as my business expenses for health insurance became unsustainable.

At the same time, my family’s health insurance premiums have seen similar price increases, with premiums increasing by 50% in four short years and our family deductible nearly doubling.

It’s obvious that America’s health insurance system is neither reliable, nor predictable, and it’s certainly not affordable. We’ve seen this in especially stark terms this year, as tens of thousands of Connecticut families have been left without coverage, a consequence of layoffs during this awful coronavirus pandemic.

So, what to do?

In 2018 and 2020 I campaigned on the idea of creating a “public option” for health insurance in Connecticut, and it’s an idea that was embraced by many of the people I spoke with, regardless of their political party affiliation.

By creating a public option, Connecticut can provide a new baseline for health insurance coverage. These plans, managed by Connecticut but administered in partnership with private providers, will allow small companies and individuals to purchase health coverage along with the state employee health insurance plan. These large risk pools (there are tens of thousands of state employees and their family members on the state health plan!) will not only allow for lower prices from health care providers, but will also offer lower premiums, larger networks, and better coverage.

With a public option, small businesses like mine and thousands of others across Connecticut will be able to stand on an equal footing before all those big corporations in the insurance market. Gone will be the days of endless paperwork and meager offerings as insurance companies raise premium after premium. The public option will provide a reliable and affordable plan that will have quality, affordable health care as its first priority -- not squeezing profits out of small businesses who are just trying to retain their employees.

We can do better. Connecticut must pass health insurance reforms that will reduce premiums, increase access, and make health coverage more reliable.

2020 Holidays

Dear Editor:

The holiday season is upon us, and Anheuser-Busch is especially thankful to be a part of your celebrations – wherever they may be. While this year may not bring the usual crowded office parties or ugly sweater contests, Americans will continue to find new ways to celebrate loved ones near and far in the months ahead. If you plan to toast the season at home or with a small group of friends and family, be sure to keep your community safe by drinking responsibly.

It’s true – nothing quite says the holidays like enjoying a frosty Bud with those you hold dear. If you plan to have a drink or two, make sure to stay hydrated between Buds and plan ahead for a safe ride home. Whether you designate a driver, call a rideshare service or take public transportation, the important thing is that you – and those in your community – make it home safely.

For more than 35 years, Anheuser-Busch and its wholesaler partners have invested more than \$1 billion in responsible drinking marketing efforts. As a local beer distributor, Dichello Distributors, Inc. is working alongside Anheuser-Busch to ensure that safety is the number one priority for this holiday season.

Binge drinking and drunk driving are 100 percent preventable, so join us in staying off the naughty list. Do your part to keep our community safe this year and remember to “Drink Wiser.”

Wishing you a holiday season that is safe, merry and bright.

Tony Lota
Alcohol Awareness Coordinator
Dichello Distributors, Inc.
Orange Ct.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

By Attorney Marc P. Guertin

Never under estimate the power of a basic estate plan. Currently, the world is a complex place. Even going to the grocery store is not easy. It requires some planning and patience as well as personal protective equipment (the three P’s of grocery shopping). Just because the world is so very complicated doesn’t mean that your estate plan has to be.

A basic estate plan focuses on a different set of “P’s” people, property and plans. Any good estate plan, basic or otherwise should answer two questions: “What happens to my stuff when I die?” and “What happens if I am seriously ill?”

The center piece of a basic estate plan is a Last Will and Testament. A Will can be a simple document distributing assets outright to your heirs or it can be more complex; planning for all types of situations from minor children to special needs beneficiaries. Wills only contemplate one thing- your death, but what happens if you don’t die and you just become seriously ill or incapacitated in some way? Planning for incapacity is just as important as planning for death.

The core document in an incapacity plan is a Durable Power of Attorney. A Durable Power of Attorney allows you to appoint an agent who can handle your financial affairs if you should become incapacitated. A Durable Power of Attorney is critically important. In the absence of this document no one has the power to manage your affairs while you are incapacitated and the only way to get that kind of power is to go to court. Going to court, even the probate court, is not what I would call a cost-effective solution. Any time you have to get a doctor, a lawyer and a judge involved it is going to be costly. This problem is easily avoided with a Durable Power of Attorney.

Healthcare Directives and Living Wills are extremely important when planning for incapacity. These documents focus on your health. A Healthcare Directive appoints someone to interact with healthcare professionals and make decisions on your behalf if you are incapacitated. Just as with the Durable Power of Attorney, in the absence of a healthcare directive your family would have to petition the court to get the power to make healthcare decisions.

The final piece of a basic estate plan is a Living Will. A Living Will lets you inform your doctors (and loved ones) your wishes regarding what extraordinary medical procedures you want performed if you are in a terminal condition with no hope of recovery. It spells out your exact intentions which takes the weight of a decision like that off your family. In these times it is critically important to have a healthcare agent who can speak for you and a Living Will in place to speak to your wishes regarding end of life decisions.

Thinking about our own mortality is not an easy thing to do. Planning for not being here can be stressful. Sometimes it’s hard to even get started. Focus on people and property. Once you have identified the important people in your life and your property- it is time to make a plan on how to transfer your property to your people. If you’d like to talk to me about your estate plan, please call my office at 203-234-7400 for a free consultation. In this new age of social distancing we can meet over the phone or even over video conference. Old fashioned in person meetings are also available.

Marc Guertin, is a partner at Guertin and Guertin, LLC. Guertin and Guertin, LLC is dedicated to Estate Planning, ElderLaw, Trust and Probate Administration. Guertin and Guertin, LLC is located at 26 Broadway, North Haven, Connecticut.

Holidays, Loss, Coping

What is the most significant change in the way you celebrate the holidays?

If you recently lost a loved one, how much do the holidays affect you?

How will you celebrate future holidays?

Are you and others reluctant to speak of your/their loss?

Will you send cards and decorate for the holidays?

Because of Covid 19, what will you do this year that will be different? These are but a few questions. However, they open the door to many more. Speak of happy and humorous memories. The body is no longer with us but the memories remain.

With the pandemic, we are faced with new challenges, In our Isolation, we are force to be creative in ways we never through possible.

Covid -19 is nearing one year since its beginning. Until we are back to our usual way of doing things, each approaching holiday will have many challenging questions.

Try to keep a positive attitude for your emotional stability and those of your loved ones. These are difficult times. However, we have survived many crises in the past. With a positive attitude, we will all get through this.

Always remember, we experience life by going through it...not around it.

Jean M. Hadley - Bereavement Facilitator
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The Northford Women’s Club
Is Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Connecticut Federation of Women’s Clubs has announced two scholarships that are available to Connecticut women pursuing advanced courses of study at Institutions of higher learning. Awards are granted on the basis of future promise, scholastic ability and financial need.

The Dorothy E. Schoelzel memorial scholarship has a maximum award of \$2,000. Candidates must have completed three or more years of undergraduate work in an accredited institution with a 3.0 average or higher in the field of Education.

The Phipps scholarship has a maximum award of \$1,000. Candidates must have completed two or more years on undergraduate work in an accredited institution with a 3.0 average or higher toward a Bachelor’s or post graduate degree.

Completed applications, including general and personal information, a financial statement, instructor/employer references, official transcript of at least the most recent two years of undergraduate or graduate work must be received by February 10, 2021.

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THIS YEAR GIVE THE GIFT OF READING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



2020 HOLIDAY MENU

Desserts

Pastry Fusions Holiday Favorite - Chocolate Devastation Cake - Chocolate cake filled with alternating layers of chocolate ganache and chocolate mousse, then frosted with a chocolate whipped cream and topped with chocolate ganache.

Black & White Mousse Cake- Moist marble cake filled with layers of chocolate mousse and white chocolate mousse, then frosted with rich chocolate butter cream.

Assorted Mini Cannoli Platter - 2 dozen of Pastry Fusion handmade cannoli shells and cannoli cream. \$30)includes chocolate dipped and regular cannoli shells).

Assorted Holiday Cookie Tray \$15.00 per pound.

Assorted Italian Pastry

Pies

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| Pumpkin Pie | \$14.50 | Apple Pie | \$14.50 |
| Chocolate Lemon Pie | \$14.50 | Apple Crumb Pie | \$14.50 |
| Cannoli Cream Pie | \$20.00 | Ricotta Pie | \$23.50 |
| Banana Cream Pie | \$15.50 | Chocolate Cream Pie | \$15.50 |

Cheesecakes 8” \$22.50 10” \$30.00

Pumpkin Cheesecake - New Your Style Cheesecake w/strawberries or cherries - Oreo Cheesecake- Chocolate Ganache Cheesecake

Breads

Snowflake Dinner Rolls \$5.25/dz., Ciabatta Bread, \$4.50 - Italian Bread, \$2.00 - Rye Bread, \$4.50 - Pumppernickel Bread, \$4.50

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

St. Ambrose Parish is a Roman Catholic Parish in the Archdiocese of Hartford comprised of two church locations; St. Augustine, 30 Caputo Rd. North Branford and St. Monica, 1331 Middletown Ave. Northford. The Pastor is Rev. Robert L. Turner. Temporarily all Masses are being held at St. Augustine during the pandemic to accommodate as many parishioners at each Mass as capacity allows. Weekday Masses are celebrated at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Weekend Masses are celebrated on Saturday at 5:00 P.M. (English Ordinary, no incense) and on Sunday at 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (Latin Ordinary with use of incense). The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered 30 minutes prior to all daily Masses and by appointment by calling the parish office. The parish office is located at 30 Caputo Rd. in the parish center and is open M – F from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Mass is live streamed each Sunday morning on our St. Ambrose Facebook page. You can access the parish bulletin and staff emails on our website at NBcatholics.org. If you are new to the area and are looking for a parish family to join, please visit us!

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1382 Middletown Avenue, Northford (at the intersection of Rts. 17 & 22). "The White Church On The Hill In The Heart Of Northford." St. Andrew's is a member of the Middlesex Area Cluster Ministry (MACM) Network, along with Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Killingworth and St. James Episcopal Church in Higganum. Rev. Jim Bradley is Interim Priest-In-Charge. Due to the COVID pandemic, Sunday services currently are on-line via Zoom, and may also be viewed on St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Northford, CT Facebook page. St. Andrew's is also the proud home of the Food Pantry of North Branford, located on the lower level of the church's parish hall. And, the Community Dining Room, which serves South Central shoreline CT, utilizes St. Andrew's kitchen and parish hall to prepare and deliver meals for the homebound. Two vital community resources serving families in need in Northford and North Branford. Like us on Facebook: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Northford, CT. For more information contact Nan Monde, Sr. Warden, at 203-710-7005, or MACM Network office at 860-345-0058.

United Methodist Church, Branford 811 East Main St, Branford (Route 1, across from Bill Miller's Castle). www.umcbranford.org or (203) 488-0549. Sunday service 9:30am - both in-person and live on our website. "The Church on the Rock," led by Pastor Kent Jackson. We invite you to discover the power of faith in Jesus Christ bringing God's love to the world. Join us to worship, experience God's word, and stay connected.

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

United Methodist Church Remote Worship

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

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

During the Advent season, a virtual **Lighting of the Candles of the Advent Wreath** will take place each Sunday at 10:15am via a Zoom session (<https://zoom.us/j/9584392273>). As **Pastor Kent Jackson** leads a short liturgy and lights the candles in the UMCBranford sanctuary, viewers are invited to light the appropriate candles on their own wreath at home. Once the liturgy has concluded, pour a cup of coffee and join your fellow Zoomers for Fellowship Time – a chance for conversation and social interaction.

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

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

North Branford Public Libraries

Go Fine Free

Starting December 1st, North Branford Public Libraries are piloting a fine-free initiative by eliminating overdue fines. With the implementation of this trial program, the library will no longer charge late fines on most materials including books, DVDs and audiobooks.

Going fine free is a growing trend in American libraries and studies have shown that late fines can be a significant barrier to library access and drive borrowers away, particularly among individuals with low or fixed incomes. Libraries are about providing access, and going fine free is one more way for patrons to have increased access to our collections and services. This initiative directly supports the library's mission of **providing equitable access to knowledge and information for all patrons.**

Why have we gone fine free?

It's good for our community! Our community is stronger and healthier when people have access to programs, services, and materials they need to pursue their educational, career, family, and life goals. Libraries are a place of discovery open to everyone. We hope this will encourage prior users to come back to the library and attract new users to experience our offerings.

It's good for our relationships. When you walk through our doors, we want to do our best to help you. Going fine free makes a trip to the library more pleasant for both you and the staff. **A library should never be a financial burden in your life.** We are here to improve your life, not add stress or challenges.

Late fines are not effective. The growing research has shown that fines do not incentivize patrons to return materials on time, instead they penalize those who can't afford them. **What does it mean to be fine free?**

If you borrow material that is owned by either the Atwater Memorial Library or the Edward Smith Library, it will not accrue fines if it is returned after the due date. However, items owned by other libraries in the state may be subject to fines. Patrons are still expected to return library items on time. We do want all items back but we also want ALL people to be able to use our resources without money creating a barrier.

Under this new policy, the daily charges applied to items not returned by their specified due date will be eliminated. While most items will no longer accrue a daily late fine, library users are still responsible for fees associated with the replacement of lost, damaged, or unreturned material they check out.

For more information about this new program, please visit www.nbranfordlibraries.org

StoryWalk® is an innovative and interactive way for readers of all ages to enjoy a story and the outdoors at the same time. Through this experience, we hope to encourage a lifelong love of reading and enjoying the great outdoors.

Welcome to our StoryWalk®

Stanley T. Williams Community Center
1332 Middletown Ave.
Northford

Look for the StoryWalk pages along the fence by the tennis courts

William's Winter Nap
by Linda Ashman; ill. by Chuck Groenink
A cozy winter story, featuring a boy and woodland animals, that touches on the concept of hibernation. A series of animals arrive at William's door looking for shelter. Tap, tap tap...knock, knock, knock... is there room for one more

Look for a Take-and-Make bag at either the Atwater or Edward Smith Library. It includes the supplies needed to make your own hibernation scene with a bear. Help him snuggle up in his cave to get ready for a long winter's nap.

Bundle up for a winter walk and read our featured story. Afterwards, stop by either Library to pick up a treat! Be sure to enter your name in a raffle to win a copy of William's Winter Nap.

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

co-sponsored by

NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARIES

NORTH BRANFORD PARKS AND RECREATION

nbranfordlibraries.org nbcreation.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

Light Up North Branford MAGICAL MAP

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. 223 WHITE HOLLOW RD | NORTHFORD |
| 2. 40 BLUE TRAIL DR | NORTHFORD |
| 3. 5 LINDA CT | NORTHFORD |
| 4. 24 HYL A LN | NORTHFORD |
| 5. 40 ACORN LN | NORTHFORD |
| 6. 27 WALNUT LN | NORTHFORD |
| 7. 21 MALTBY LN | NORTHFORD |
| 8. 19 BIRCHWOOD RD | NORTHFORD |
| 9. 15 PALANGA RD | NORTHFORD |
| 10. 17 RUTA DR | NORTHFORD |
| 11. 20 GAIL DR | NORTHFORD |
| 12. 16 GAIL DR | NORTHFORD |
| 13. 17 SURREY DR | NORTHFORD |
| 14. 550 FOREST RD | NORTHFORD |
| 15. 3 MILLER RD | NORTHFORD |
| 16. 64 AUGUR ROAD EXT | NORTHFORD |
| 17. 196 FOREST RD | NORTHFORD |
| 18. 16 JERZ LN | NORTHFORD |
| 19. 17 ANN ST | NORTH BRANFORD |
| 20. 40 MARJORIE DR | NORTH BRANFORD |
| 21. 1 TUMBLEBROOK DR | NORTH BRANFORD |
| 22. 75 COLONIAL DR | NORTH BRANFORD |
| 23. 44 GLEN RD | NORTH BRANFORD |
| 24. 21 GLEN RD | NORTH BRANFORD |
| 25. 2 VALLEY ROAD | NORTH BRANFORD |
| 26. 1700 FOXON RD APT 1 | NORTH BRANFORD |
| 27. 106 LEDGEWOOD DR | NORTH BRANFORD |
| 28. 3 GLENWOOD RD | NORTH BRANFORD |
| 29. 2191 MAPLE RD | NORTH BRANFORD |
| 30. 11 BAILEY DR | NORTH BRANFORD |
| 31. 253 SEA HILL RD | NORTH BRANFORD |
| 32. 30 CLEAR LAKE RD | NORTH BRANFORD |
| 33. 25 DINWOODIE DR | NORTH BRANFORD |
| 34. 21 COUNTY RD | NORTH BRANFORD |

**All houses will be fully decorated by
Monday, December 21st**
*Want a sneak peek? Go for a drive and
check out their progress!*

Candy Cane Lane

**WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR RIDE
DOWN CANDY CANE LANE!**

North Branford Parks & Recreation would like to thank the following
partners for making this magical evening possible:

- The North Branford Rotary Club
- North Branford Public Works
- North Branford Public Libraries
- North Branford High School
- Northford/North Branford How to be Grateful
Community Stocking Stuffer Drive
 - The Branford Bible Chapel
 - Our Community Volunteers
- and of course, Santa!

PenFriends

with **NORTH BRANFORD
HIGH SCHOOL**

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

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

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

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

HOW TO USE ZOOM

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

ZOOM TUTORIAL: <https://youtu.be/9isp3qPeQOE>
Enter the web address above in to your web browser for
simple steps to getting started!

**Our January newsletter will offer ZOOM
programming, get ready!**

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

Zoom Basics Part 2- How to join a meeting
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmaD5d28Spg>

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

Shared by Groton Library

FROZEN

Ages 3 - 4— Virtual
\$15

Wednesday, January 20, 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Instructor: Elena Bigio, Kidscapades

For Frozen fans ages 3-4 out there this class is perfect for you! We
will create a beautiful Frozen wand, an Olaf project and even make
and erupt snow! A Zoom link and materials list will be provided for you
to gather supplies prior to class.

SNOW DAY SCIENCE

Ages 5 - 8— Virtual
\$15

Wednesday, January 20, 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Instructor: Elena Bigio, Kidscapades

A science class filled with snow, and hot cocoa of course! Have the
kids ever made or erupted snow? In this fun filled hands- on science
class we will make and erupt snow, create a snowstorm and of course
erupt some hot cocoa! Zoom link and materials list will be provided for
you to gather supplies prior to class.

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

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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. Gutter Cleaning. Winter Snow plowing.
Vet & Senior discount. For a free quote call John (860) 349-8135.

PLUMBING

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

HELP WANTED

Experienced Hair Stylist needed. Call Maryann at Hair Designs. 203-
488-6959.

Recycling News

Simple Recycling Pink Bag Weekly Curbside Collection
Will End on April 6, 2021
Residents must call and schedule curbside pickups at
1-866-835-5068
or email Info@SimpleRecycling.com now through end
date

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

“Please Don’t Feed the Storm Drain”

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

STEVEN J. ELZHOLZ

Certified Public Accountant

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email - selzholz@snet.net

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



Order Christmas Desserts Early!
Featuring Our Rudolph Cake!

www.j-cakes.com • 203-488-2800
5 Foxon Road, North Branford (Farm River Plaza)

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

Remember: Only Rain in the Drain!

Got new or reusable unwanted items? Please consider:
North Branford & Northford free items – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1647630532048934>

Children’s books: Read to Grow <https://readtogrow.org>

Professional attire: Save a Suit <https://saveasuit.org>

Winter coats: Button Up Connecticut www.buttonupconnecticut.org

Musical instruments: Horns for Kids www.hornsforkids.org

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

Keep Your Neighborhood Cleaner and Safer

Please store totes away from street and sidewalks after pickup.

Unacceptable Curbside Waste Reminder

Construction debris (such as toilets, concrete blocks, roofing
material), propane tanks, TVs, monitors, printers, home
cleanouts may not be placed curbside. These items will not get
picked up; please dispose/recycle properly.

Bulk Pickup is twice a year (no longer weekly)

Next pickup is week of April 19, 2021

Please do not place curbside until that week

-No home cleanouts-

Due to Health CrisisPlastic Film Drop Off Still Suspended
Please save plastic film at home until further notice.

Updates soon on program restart.

Thank You!