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Volume 24 No 18, December 1, 2017



Hundreds Turn out to Support Schoonmaker Letters on pages 4-7.

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As the Times continues to experience that same struggle, now more than ever we need the help of our readers to continue with this publication. You can do this by making a voluntary contribution of at least \$10.00 to help us continue with our mission. The voluntary payment helps with increasing expenses, and shows your support for your hometown newspapers. **WE NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE.**

We thank you in advance for your continued support and if you have any suggestions please let us know. Send your voluntary payment to: **Totoket Times - PO Box 313, Northford, CT. 06472**

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Comments	



Dancer's Studio Supports Food Pantry

Pictured are dancers from the Dancers Studio in Northford who recently completed a fundraising drive for the Food Pantry of North Branford. The dancers collected food and raised money in making a generous donation to The Food Pantry of North Branford. Pictured with the dancers is the

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Publication	Date
December	1
December	15
December	29
January	19
February	2
February	16
March	2

Deadline	
November	24
December	8
Decemebr	22
January	12
January	26
February	9
February	23



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In this issue of th	e Totoket Times
Editorial	3 -7
School	8 & 9
Sports	10 & 11
Community	12
Recreation	13
Church	14
Community	15
Classifieds	15





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State Respresentative Vincent Candelora With Budget Woes, Come Reform



Before the Thanksgiving holiday, the Governor's office projected a \$200 million deficit arising from less reimbursement of federal Medicaid dollars than projected and a decline in certain revenues, including sales and withholding taxes. Despite recommendations from the legislature on where to find savings, the Governor has taken his own path and cut an additional \$91 million from our cities and towns.

Part of his proposed cuts reduces education aid in North Branford by approximately \$660,000 for this fiscal year. This cut is more than double than the one proposed by the legislature, and goes directly against our philosophy. The legislature struggled to preserve aid to our cities and towns because we believed any reduction leads to an increase in property taxes. Whether it be a sales tax increase or a property tax increase, neither are sustainable in this economy, and hence we produced a budget that minimized reductions to towns.

In the adopted budget, all four caucuses agreed on options to provide for additional savings in the budget totaling \$112 million in FY 18 and \$151 million in FY 19. We targeted consolidations in human resources within departments, proposed reducing certain expense and managerial accounts, and reduced funding for overtime. This detailed information was forwarded to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) by the Office of Fiscal Analysis when the budget was adopted. Governor Malloy clearly knew exactly how we intended to achieve these reductions. Instead, his recent action shifts more pain onto municipalities and is a blatant disregard for the will of the legislature.

Some will say that Republicans should never have voted for the bipartisan budget because the Governor cannot be trusted; however, because of bipartisan input, the budget contains sound reforms that will still move Connecticut forward. In the meantime, we need to endure one more year with Governor Malloy. For instance, the budget reforms the method by which we certify deficits and it returns the needed discretion to the Comptroller. Under current law, the OPM secretary must submit to the comptroller each month a cumulative statement of revenue and expenditures, which shows the projected deficit or surplus. For the past twenty-five years, the Comptroller was required to rubber stamp this letter and



Let's Be "Frank"

Oh my God! This is a time where I should be telling you about our first Thanksgiving without Mary and how we coped. However, our local political scene has never been in greater shambles than it is right now. First of all, the election was confusing. The Republicans ran two very well known citizens to fill their empty seats and try to win back the majority. The Democrats ran two lesser known candidates. The Republicans had signs and advertisements all over town, The Democrat marketing pieces were few and far between. As many expected the Republicans won the majority and the calmness for two years has erupted into controversy and animosity.

The biggest joke (for lack of a better word) is the decision not to extend the contract of Superintendent of Schools Scott Schoonmaker. Although this vote was suppose to be taken in June, they postponed it until after the election. It's obvious to me why this was done, but you are the politician in the family dear brother, so you might have your own thoughts.

They then pushed forward and took a vote of the BOE with only 6 members and the 3-3 vote was not enough to extend the contract. A small handful of people with hidden agendas are trying to push this man out the door and this is a disgrace.

Scott Schoonmaker has done more for this community in his nine years in North Branford, than most lifelong residents have done in their entire existence. When the shooting took place at Sandy Hook, Schoonmaker spearheaded the program to get armed guards in all our schools and we lead the state in this program. He has added programs in the school system that we never had before. Agricultural classes with high school kids doing the farming and working with the students in grade school. What a novel idea, high school students working with second graders. Realizing that college isn't for everyone, he extended the auto repair and the AV programs.

With the youth obesity problem in this country, Schoonmaker developed the wellness/fitness room at the high school which is open to all students, faculty and alumni.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. What he has done to make our community a closer knit unit is unparalleled. When there is a cause for an individual student, a group of students or a family in need, he is always at the forefront, leading the charge to make things better.

To name all of his accomplishments would take more than this column but you can read about some of them in the next four pages. Although the majority of the town wants this man to continue to be a part of our community, a few people with agendas seem to want him on the hot seat.

A BOE member has stated that, "...it is necessary to first review and revise the Board's past practices regarding contract renewals and modifications". It is clear by this statement, that it is the Board that needs to be fixed, not the Superintendent. If there are problems with the Board then take care of those problems but let the district move forward while you are fixing your problems. This isn't fiscally responsible it's fiscally stupid.

I will not go into my personal feelings about Mr. Schoonmaker. Many have already done that. I, unlike some, although very passionate, would not let a hidden agenda distort my judgement. The bottom line is that if you look at the facts, and the track record of Superintendent of Schools Scott Schoonmaker, the choice is clear.

I urge the BOE to put aside their own agendas and not be bullied by the Town Council. For once, do what the people who voted for you want and do what is right for the North Branford community and a man who has given so much to it.

That's all for now brother. Say hi to Mary and I'll see you soon.



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This publication is published bi-weekly by Doss enterprises LLC PO Box 313 Northford, CT. 06472 Tel; 203-410-4254 Fax 203-484-4729 email: totokettimes@comcast.net **PUBLISHER - FRANK MENTONE JR.** *founders - Bert Bunnell Jr. & Antthony Esposito Jr.* **The publisher assumes no responsibility for typographical errors. In the event of an error, the publisher will issue a credit adjustment on only the incorrect portion of the advertisement, as well as a retraction in the next issue.**

Letters to the editor...

This paper encourages all readers to voice their opinions and comments. The Totoket Times is not responsible for erroneous information or statements in letters to the editor. Letters should be as brief as possible. All letters must be signed. A telephone number should be included and no personal attacks. This paper reserves the right to edit all letters. All letters should be addressed to : The Editor P.O. Box 313, Northford, CT 06472

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL

Student Speaks Out

Dear Editor,

The year of 2016-2017 has been the worst year for many North Branford residents. Many peoples lives were taken away from our town. Guess who was the one that helped us through these struggles...Mr. Schoonmaker. I am 12 years old and Mr. Schoonmaker has been my superintendent for over half my life. Nobody in this town has cared for all the students in our district more then this great, loving person. He has helped us all through our ups and downs, from athletics and academics to our social lives. He is always there. He supports our town so much and he is the glue that holds this town together. He is the best superintendent in the world and I really wish the board of education saw what we see in him as a husband, father, and superintendent. Thank you,

Ally Farrell

...the best things...in our Town Dear Editor,

Mr. Schoonmaker has been one of the best things to happen to our town. He is ALWAYS involved with our sports and clubs and cares so much for everyone. When my art work was nominated for a contest, he knew about it and congratulated me. He always makes all of us special. He should not be fired because that will be a horrible decision for this entire town **Sincerely, Bayley Fair**

"Guilty of Being a Role Model" Dear Editor.

There have been so many changes that have taken place in our school district in 2017 and I know everyone would agree it has been a horrific and devastating year! There was a time I believed the Board of Education and its chosen members were supposed to act and make decisions that are in the best interest of children, that they were put in place to protect our Superintendent. I learned that this is not the case here in North Branford.

Taking into consideration the death of Alan Davis, resignations, a variety of health diagnosis, the shifting of administration etc., (not to mention the revolving door of the Board of Education members), how could any member of our Board of Education feel it is in the best interest of our children NOT to renew the contract of our adored Superintendent, especially since there is no investigation and he is not guilty of any wrong doing that has been implied.

Mr. Schoonmaker has worked in North Branford since 2009. Every year he has received glowing reviews, including this past year. He was called a thief publicly and left in that comments wake are people who now wonder what he has done wrong. NOTHING!

Having been privy to the Board of Education controversy, Mr. Schoonmaker is innocent! He is guilty of being the best Superintendent North Branford has ever known. He is guilty of knowing the names of every student he passes and for taking time away from his own family to spend time with ours. Scott is guilty of holding me up when my son Matt died. He is guilty of helping me empty his locker and for allowing me to address his senior class so we could grieve together. Our Superintendent is guilty of being a role model to his staff and someone we can all look up to - literally!

Thank You Scott Schoonmaker Dear Editor

I write this letter regarding Scott Schoonmaker, Superintendent of North Branford Schools. What can you say about a man who has done so much for the students of North Branford?

I say Thank You. Although, Thank You just doesn't seem like enough. His Love, Compassion, Dedication to his students and faculty is immeasurable. Scott's dedication goes Above and Beyond his job requirements. If he isn't rooting for a team on the side line, attending a Play, eating lunch with the Grammar school children, he is having a conversation in the hallway at the high school with a senior asking what their plans are for their future.

Off campus he is visiting a past student in the hospital or their home. He makes himself accessible 24/7. As a parent, getting a call from your child that their coach had just passed away is a day I will never forget. I walked into a classroom where all of the track and cross-country students were saddened, shocked and inconsolable by this devastating loss. Who was there holding hands in a circle with "his" students but Scott Schoonmaker reflecting on the Beautiful Life of Floyd Parness and comforting all of them.

While going through his own pain nothing else mattered to him but getting these kids through one of the most difficult times in their life. Again I say THANK YOU SCOTT SCHOONMAKER **Sincerely**,

Brandi Little

local government. I am aware that there are a plethora of laws that govern public education, however there needs to be a wall that separates our children's education from North Branford's Town Council. A Town Council member said on Facebook that this decision NOT to renew the contract of our Superintendent was in his opinion, being fiscally responsible for the town of North Branford.

North Branford Schools is one of the least funded school district in the state of Connecticut yet our academic achievement is exceptional due to the support and dedication of our Superintendent, administrators, teachers and staff. The reason states are in charge of Boards of Education is so local government provides adequate funding for the education of ALL children. A percentage of our tax dollars is appropriated to North Branford's Board of Education so our children can get a good quality public education. Our Town Council should spend their time trying to find other ways to increase our tax base and stop abusing their power by directing and steering our Board of Education in the "witch hunt" against Scott Schoonmaker especially when the Board of Education's role and responsibility is to set policies for our school district.

Our administrators and educators are very qualified and they should be the ones driving the education bus for North Branford students. They have lived, practiced, and considered carefully what the goals of education should be and what the hurdles are for improving educational outcomes for our children. Local government should not interfere or micromanage operational details of any Board of Education when their main focus is financial by nature. Bureaucracy cannot teach our children! The decision not to renew the contract of our Superintendent Scott Schoonmaker hurts our children and our town. I am asking all of you to PLEASE attend the next Town Council meeting on Tuesday December 5th and the next Board of Education meeting on Thursday December 21st. This year has been a nightmare for our school district and my heart hurts! Sincerely, Lynn Riordan ation. Mr. Schoonmaker followed the ambulance and made sure that both my daughter and I were OK and had everything we needed before returning to school. That afternoon my daughter received a beautiful flower arrangement sent by Mr. Schoonmaker. I am sure that many other students and families have had this type of caring interaction with Mr. Schoonmaker. He cares for the children as people, not just scores on tests. I implore the Board of Education to listen to people who elected them and vote to renew his contract! Kathryn Kruser

"Redo the Renew"

Dear Editor,

With all the changes that are being made in our town right now, I highly disagree with the board of educations decisions lately. Our superintendent Mr. Schoonmaker does not deserve the way he is being treated right now! With the passing of his good friend Alan Davis I honestly think him and his family have been through enough these past two months.

He is a hard working man trying to support his wife and kids. He is such a good man who cares about and loves people. While the town of North Branford was rallying for him, he was in church praying for us. Every day I see him in school he is spreading kindness and he always puts a smile on peoples face.

Please keep our Superintendent! Let's "Redo the Renew". PLEASE!

Thank you! Ashley Giglietti

Not What's best for our Town Dear Editor,

I witnessed local government at its very worst at the Town Council meeting, November 14th, 2017.

There could not be a more perfect example of politicians acting for their own interests rather than for the good of the community they were elected to serve.

Lynn Riordan who had previously been appointed to serve out a vacant post on the Board of Education was now nominated to serve a term to expire November 12, 2019. There could not possibly be a more qualified and community spirited nominee than Lynn Riordan. Everyone in town has seen her in action with the good works of Matt's Mission and her co-founding the very much needed food bank. She has demonstrated her ability to get things done. She was willing to serve the town as a member of the Board of Education.

It was very apparent that the Republican majority on the Town Council who voted against her nomination were not thinking of what would be best for our town. **Sincerely, Rosemary Miller**

"...I Would not be the Same..." Dear Editor

& North Brnaford Community

My name is Alessandra Cordero and I am a sophomore at Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden. I have lived in Northford my whole life, and was enrolled in the North Branford School District until 8th grade. Since switching to SHA due to my religious beliefs, I can confidently say that Mr. Schoonmaker is one of the things I miss the most about North Branford. When I was in 7th grade, Mrs. Papa, a beloved history teacher at NBIS passed away, and Mr. Schoonmaker was at the school consoling all of us. When I heard about this situation from my friends, I immediately reached out to Brandi Little and my friends to see what I could do to help. Without a doubt, I would not be the same student I am today if Mr. Schoonmaker was not the superintendent in North Branford. The kids in JHS, TVES, NBIS, and NBHS deserve a superintendent who is willing to make selfless decisions that will benefit the students, and from experience, I can truly

4

Public education is not mentioned in the federal constitution and there is a reason our founders made educating children the responsibility of states and not

"...Find Anyone More Caring" Dear Editor:

I am one many parents who are dismayed by the Board of Education's decision not to renew Scott Schoonmaker's contract. I dare them to find anyone more caring about his or her students than Mr. Schoonmaker. When my daughter was a senior she tripped and hit her head in gym class which caused her to black out briefly. Because of this she needed to be transported to Yale New Haven Hospital by ambulance for evalusay that Mr. Schoonmaker is that superintendent. This is for the students! Sincerely, Alessandra Cordero

".. *Great Asset to our Community"* Dear Editor,

Our family feels it would be a great loss to the North Branford educational system to loose Mr. Schoonmaker as our superintendent. It is our opinion that he has been a great asset to our community. I know from personal experience he has put my child's best interest at heart. Losing Mr. Schoonmaker would be a great loss to our community. **Sincerely**,

Traci and Joe Houde

"A Very Positive Impact.."

Dear Editor,

I would like to speak of our superintendent and his positive impact on the community. I transferred back to North Branford Schools after freshman year, and our superintendent was more than welcoming me back to our close-knit school community. I am an upperclassman and am part of the cross country team. Each home meet he attended showed his love for the students and his involvement in our lives. He plays an active role in the lives of the students and in their academic and athletic lives. Whether it be attending sporting events, or just simply saying hi in the halls, he has had a very positive impact on the students and we wish for him to be able to continue making students laugh and smile with the years to come. **Thank you!**

Maria Bernabucci

Junior at North Branford High School

"A Bunch of Seventh Graders" Dear Editor,

During this time many Scott Schoonmaker supporters are disappointed in the board of educations decisions. It has been hurting many North Branford students and parents. Mr. Schoonmaker has been there for many families and students. For example when our principal Mr. Davis passed away he helped raise the hopes of the Davis family, students and teachers. He also took part in his funeral. This shows that he is very caring towards others.

There is so much Mr. Schoonmaker has done for our town and when we went through our tough times. Knowing him for more than half my life he has a special place in my heart. I know I would not be the only one devastated or heartbroken if he was not our superintendent. I know a bunch of 7th graders won't make that big of a difference, but the way Mr. Schoonmaker brought our town together will help us have one big voice.

Thank you, Carlie Rodriquez

"...A Very Poor Choice..."

Dear Editor,

Myself and many other citizens disagree on the decisions that the board of education has has made. I feel the decision was a very poor choice. Look at all the great things Mr. Schoonmaker has done for our school board and the citizens of our town. He has helped our town throughout the ups and downs. We need him in our town. Without Mr. Schoonmaker, the town of North branford would fall apart. He is a kind, caring and loving person in and out of school. Mr. Schoonmaker doesn't deserve this kind of treatment. He has been my superintendent for more than half of my life and has done a fantastic job. Mr. Schoonmaker also has helped families hard times and we should honor all the amazing things he has done, not find one little thing to throw him out. I feel if this decision is perused through, many students will be very upset. All these supporters of Mr. Schoonmaker could make a difference and it will. We will keep fighting and never give up for him. We all have a voice, lets make it heard. Thank you, **Bella Goodmaster**

Let's Ask The Kids Dear Editor,

I sat at the November 16th Board of Ed meeting trying to recall who the superintendent was when I attended North Branford schools and I couldn't remember who it was, what they looked like, or if there was more than one superintendent in the 13 years I attended NB schools. I asked my kids the following morning during breakfast "How do you know who our superintendent is?" and I loved their responses. "I got to dunk him in the dunk tank at JHS", "He read to my class in Kindergarten and 2nd grade", "He high five'd me during the halloween parade", "He asked me a lot of great questions about my invention at the invention convention", "he goes to our assemblies" and "he is always at our schools". How lucky we are that we have a superintendent who cares so much about our children and staff to be active in our schools, a figure that kids get to know and trust and a role model in leadership.

I attend BOE meetings regularly, to educate my self on how BOE works and to keep on top of what's going on in our schools. I appreciate the people who volunteer so much of their time to be on the BOE and Town Council and I know, after volunteering much of my time to our town PTO's, that it is a thankless job. The reasons cited for not extending Scott Schoonmaker's contract

"Irresponsible to say the Least" Dear Editor,

We as a community should expect our elected officials to make decisions based on facts, science, statistics, and in the case of Scott Schoonmaker's contract, the human element. The numbers speak for themselves: our district performs competitively with the region, at less expense per pupil, and the interested parties speak passionately in support of him. The reason for the BOE to have a vote with a vacant seat, was pure politics ignoring the above mentioned facts, and this is irresponsible to say the least.

I am very concerned certain members of the BOE, which should advocate for our children, for our district, are instead going to lead with destructive, rhetoric based politics. We all need to be engaged. **Sincerely**

Daniel Armin

"...*It IS a BIG DEAL*" Dear Editor,

I served on the North Branford Board of Education which hired Scott Schoonmaker in 2007. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the hire. What you need to understand is, with regard to major decisions, boards of education can be prone to infighting.

LETTERS

another year were the "pending" investigation on the BOE from the Town Council and issues with Scott's contract. This vote was supposed to take place in June 2017, but was pushed to November, when we only had 6 board members, and the vote resulted in a tie. He has already had his evaluation and was deemed meeting/exceeding his job requirements. I am still unclear on the investigation, it was supposed to be sent to the State's Attorney's office, but that hasn't happened yet, and I can't help but wonder if the TC is dragging their feet. It is public knowledge that members of the Town Council have called Scott a "criminal" and stated "he's out", with no basis for these allegations. If there are any issues with his contract, that would be the responsibility of the BOE, they are responsible for approving everything in his contract. So now, we are just supposed to sit back and wait until his contract is voted on in June of 2018, and "trust" that when this is all said and done, Scott will still be our superintendent, and I have a hard time doing that, knowing all of the facts above.

I spend a lot of time in our schools volunteering, and I get to see firsthand what makes our schools wonderful.....the dedicated staff, supportive administrators and a great leader at the helm setting an example and setting the tone for the kids and staff. Why are we going to mess with that? **Sincerely, Liz Hoskins**

This is Ridiculous Dear Editor,

I'm voicing my outrage/concerns over the vote NOT TO RENEW THE CONTRACT OF OUR AMAZING SUPERINTENDENT SCOTT SCHOONMAKER! This is ridiculous!!!! This man has an proven track record!!!

The students and the teachers think he is one of the best superintendents we have ever had. The TC and BOE have no reason not to renew his contract!

Sincerely Sally McCartin

with the superintendent's performance, the contract is not extended. At that point, a superintendent has that much time left on his original 3 year contract. When this happens, it is essentially a vote of No Confidence of the superintendent's job performance.

With a non-extension, the BOE is in fact telling the superintendent, "It's time to look for

Statement by Shawna Holzer, Vice Chair of NB'S BOE

Dear Editor,

It is the duty of the North Branford Board of Education to be fiscally sound as we keep the educational offerings for our children competitive. Scott Schoonmaker Superintendent of Schools has a contract in place until June 2019. A motion was made at the November 16 Board of Education meeting to extend this contract. The vote failed with a 3 -3 tie. It is the intention of the Board of Education to revisit this issue in May or June of 2018 as outlined in the Superintendent's contract; however it is necessary to first review and revise the Board's past practices regarding contract renewals and modifications.

Sincerely, Shawna Holzer

Yet, our decision was unanimous.

There is certainly a learnng curve when it comes to understanding the difference between a "contract" and a 'rolling contract".

A contract is for a finite period of time, A 3-year "rolling contract is standard for school superintendents in Connecticut. Recently, in a neighboring town, an administrator was offered the superintendent's position with a one year contract, and the individual turned down the offer.

With a standard superintendent's rolling contract, the term of hire is for three years, however, at the end of the year, the superintendent will receive a re-evaluation by the BOE. If the Board is happy with the superintendent's performance, a new three year contract may replace the existing contract, or the old contract is extended for an additional year. If the BOE has issues

another job." So when people say, "It's no big deal, Mr. Schoonmaker has his job until 2019, it IS a big deal. When a rolling contract is not extended the majority of the BOE, usually along party lines, is saying, "Your future is not with our district." Then the superintendent begins to look for work elsewhere because the handwriting is on the wall.

Town Council and BOE meetings are open to the public. Their members have accountability to the voting public. If you are in favor of keeping Mr. Schoonmaker as superintendent, I urge you to attend BOE meetings and ask those who voted against his contract extension what their no vote was based on. You are entitled to a satisfactory answer from your elected officials.

Dr. Chris Manna

Former North Branford Town Council and BOE member

Board Serving Hidden Agendas Not Our Children

Dear Editor,

On November 16th I attended the Board of Education Meeting at which the 1 year extension of our Superintendent Scott Schoonmaker was to be addressed. As I sat and listened to wonderful testimonials from parents, coaches & past BOE members, some very emotional, I just knew in my heart of hearts that this board...our board...the board that not one month earlier made a promise of "transparency" from this point forth, was going to do the right thing by our children.

Needless to say, that though it was predicted that this Republican heavy board was there to carry out an agenda not to renew Mr. Schoonmakers contract, I was astonished. The lack of care as to how this lynching of sorts looked to the parents of this town. The lack of respect for the parents who got up and poured their hearts out as to why they stand by Mr. Schoonmaker. The lack of regard for a mans livelihood, who has served this community & its children (quite well might I add) for over 9 years. The lack of appreciation for the people who put those board members in the seats that they are in. And the lack of responsibility and obligation to the children of this town.

Before last week, I knew Scott Schoonmaker as an ever present & visible administrator in our community. A superintendent unlike any other I had encountered as a student myself. Always there to greet you & say hello, making every child feel as though he knows exactly who they are. A man who is always at sporting events rooting on North Branford & supporting the children of North Branford participating in the arts. However, over the last week I have heard stories of how Mr. Schoonmaker has gone above and beyond in his position as Superintendent of Schools. A man who stepped up to the plate and was there in times of tragedy surrounding some of the children in our schools. A man who climbed into an ambulance to ride with a child who was being transported to the hospital and staying with them to keep them calm. A man who in a snow storm, drove his car to a stranded bus and sat with the children until they could get the bus out, and then proceeded to ride the bus home with the children

"Impossible to Replace" Dear Editor,

Upon learning that the North Branford Board of Education arrived at the consensus to cease the extension of Superintendent Scott Schoonmaker's contract, I, as a recent graduate from North Branford High School, was both disappointed and disheartened. The decision to remove such a prominent and proactive educational figure within the school district did not seem plausible. Throughout my attendance within the North Branford School District, Superintendent Schoonmaker has positively affected various aspects of the educational process, encompassing both academic curriculum and extracurricular activities. Superintendent Schoonmaker consistently made a conscious effort to positively impact each and every student within the North Branford School District. As a four year member of both the cross country and indoor/outdoor track teams, I can accurately claim that Superintendent Schoonmaker obtained a vested interest amongst the teams and their respective seasons. Both track and cross country seldom draw a large quantity of spectators. Superintendent Schoonmaker was always present at home meets and competitions, offering his support of the team's athletes. During this past spring, Superintendent Schoonmaker demonstrated this support and compassion with respect to the passing of late coach Floyd Parness. Working with other faculty personnel, Superintendent Schoonat 6pm at night and walk each frightened child to their door personally. Quite frankly, if stories like these did not make an impression on the boards majority & sway their already formed decisions, I fear for the future and the the children of this town.

Ms. Sara Rose Querfeld sited her inability to vote in favor of this due to the investigation that is "headed to the States Attorney's Office". This investigation came to light over 2 months ago, so apparently it is "headed there" by way of carrier pigeon because it has yet to materialize at the state level. Ms Rose Querfeld said she had "unanswered questions". Well, shame on her as for not seeking the answers to those questions in a more timely fashion. After all, this contract extension should have been addressed back in June. She has had ample time to ask questions and receive answers while the addressing of the contract was being stalled month after month to assure that the votes against Mr. Schoonmaker were in place. Ms. Rose Querfeld also sited that she would like to follow the recommendation of changing the position from a 3 year contract model to at-will. This is deeply concerning to me. The vast majority of Superintendent positions in the State of CT go by the 3 yr contract model. Therefore, if we are to revisit Mr. Schoonmakers contract come June 2018 as proposed, and it is not renewed again, just who does this board think we are going to get in less than a years time? What kind of quality Superintendent would we be getting if we offer a 1 year contract as opposed to every other school system that offers a 3 year contract? Who would want that position? Someone who cannot get a job elsewhere, where they'd be guaranteed a job for 3 years! Unless of course "we" already have someone in mind, in which case, this all makes perfect sense.

In closing, I would like to applaud the 3 board members Ms. Onofrio, Ms. Papa-Holzer & Ms. Vumbeck for standing by their promise to *faithfully discharge their Duties as Board of Education Members to the best of their ability*, to act and serve in the best interest of the children of our town and not allowing political influences or agendas to muddy the waters...we appreciate your TRANSPARENCY! **Sincerely, Dina Falcioni**

maker ensured the wellbeing of all students affected by the passing of coach Floyd Parness. Within this catastrophic and devastating event, Superintendent Schoonmaker offered and maintained his continuous and unequivocal support of the student-athletes on both the track and cross country teams. Furthermore, Superintendent Schoonmaker has made a beneficial impact within my personal high school experience as well. Throughout the college application process, I was attempting to receive an acceptance letter to attend the United States Naval Academy. A pivotal moment within the application process in the obtainment of a nomination from a Connecticut state official, such as a senator or state representative. Superintendent Schoonmaker called the office of Rosa DeLauro, our local representative in congress, and advocated on my behalf. Subsequently, I received the nomination from Rosa DeLauro. Superintendent Schoonmaker's efforts had most certainly contributed to my success in acquiring the congressional nomination I needed. The events in which I described above, without any doubt, illustrate the competence and success of Scott Schoonmaker as the Superintendent of the North Branford School District. He has been a consistent and proactive member of both the school district and the community of North Branford. A man of such stature will be very difficult, if not impossible, to replace. Sincerely,

LETTERS

"Is It Fair"

To the Editor:

It's the time of year to reflect and give thanks, to be grateful for what we have and what we can do to foster goodwill.

We have had a Superintendent who is visible, engages the students, and instills in them the importance of social responsibility and doing for the community besides excelling in academics. He is at most functions and moves quickly in events of importance for his district.

I also have watched parent after parent speak on his behalf and site specific reasons they admire him, support him and want him to continue on as North Branford School District's leader.

I'm not sure what went wrong, but I think the right thing to do is listen to the people, be honest and let people know exactly what investigation is happening that has to do with Mr. Schoonmaker and his ability to lead.

My favorite go to when I am struggling with politics, local government or any type of unnecessary behavior is the Rotary four-way test. So, let us ask ourselves:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIEND-SHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Years ago, when my kids were in the school district I asked the past superintendent to please bring in a program called "Names can really hurt me". I saw how invisible my kids were and felt this very well-known and popular program would benefit all the students in the high school. My pleas were dismissed year after year. After my daughter graduated, we received a call from Mr. Schoonmaker who had heard of our requests for the program to inform us that he was bringing in the program and invited my kids to attend and speak if they felt they had something valuable to say. We attended and my daughter got up the strength and spoke about being seen as different and the effects of that indifference. You could hear a pin drop! It touched the students and empowered my daughter. It was a positive life lesson. This is just one small example of the integrity of Mr. Schoonmaker.

I would ask the BOE to please reconvene to extend the superintendents contract and vote to extend. **With Respect**,

Mary Caruso

Teaching by Life Example Dear Editor,

I am writing today to talk about Superintendent of Schools Scott Schoonmaker. After getting my degree and having a very difficult time finding a job given my disability, I was very lucky and grateful to find a position at the high school front desk. Since working in the high school I have been able to prove myself and show how dedicated and hardworking I am to my job. I have also had the chance to show the students that no matter what your life is like you can make things work. When my sister and I are out in public most people stare at us because we use wheel chairs and because our speech is different. Now I know the students in North Branford will never stare at people who are different because they have had a chance to get to know me as a person. They ask me the best questions and I always answer them with honesty. Mr. Schoonmaker saw me for what I can do, not what I can't do. I am grateful for the opportunity I was given and what I am able to teach the students just by being with them every day. The students have had the opportunity to respectfully interact and educate themselves about someone living with a physical disability. Teaching by life example is just one thing Mr. Schoonmaker strives to teach the students. You could never find anyone else who could a better job. Please reconsider your vote and vote to extend Superintendent Schoonmakers contract. Thank you, Sam Bode

"Our Perfect Superintendent" Dear Editor,

We'd like to take this opportunity to say how much our Superintendent Scott Schoonmaker means to us. When we think about what our perfect superintendent would be like, Mr. Schoonmaker perfectly fits the role. He is a visible man in our school community and is at almost every school event. He doesn't only show his support for athletes, but he is there for our music department, artists, and anyone else who doesn't quite

Austin Gibilisco

fit in these categories. When we see Mr. Schoonmaker in school he makes sure to ask how each individual is doing, and never makes anyone feel left out. If Mr. Schoonmsker is having a bad day we wouldn't know it, he always has a smile on his face and puts everyone before himself. We feel it is important for him to stay North Branford's superintendent so we can continue down the positive path we've started with him. **Sincerely,Freddie & Grace Little North Branford High School students**

LETTERS

"How do we Move Forward" Dear Editor,

I am writing to you in support of the renewal of Scott Schoonmaker's contract. I am thinking of this in terms of employee review. In the last four months two Board Chairs stated the Superintendent met his goals. Chairperson O'Rourke on August 24th and then again in the October 19th meeting by Chairperson Querfeld. These statements can be found by viewing the videos of the meetings. In the time since Mr. Schoommaker has been an employee of the North Branford school district, he has always met and/or exceeded his goals. These goals are set by the BOE, and he is charged with implementing them. What is hard to understand is why the BOE by its own accounts have chosen to non-renew given he has done what was required of him by this body. So now, take into account the upheaval in this past year and into the current school year; a change at the helm in three schools, the illness and passing of a beloved educator/Principal, the budget unknown until this past month, and I am not even talking about the maintenance issues the schools encounter and yet we achieve. We are beyond the baseline, we excel. There are a lot of moving parts in education on a regular basis, in this case I would say they were extraordinarily intense. Yet Scott has been there along with his teams, problem solving, being present and meeting the goals set forth by the BOE. What concerns me most, how do we as a community move forward. I think the only way is the public becoming more aware and participating in the process. Everyone has a voice, if it's hard to find the time to go to meetings, watch them on TV, write letters, become educated, you make a difference. I truly believe North Branford is a gem of a place to live, work, and raise a family.

Thank You Scott Schoonmaker Dear Editor,

We can't begin to thank you enough for all of the kind gestures you have bestowed upon my son Michael and also our entire family. Starting way back in 2010 when Michael was in high school and you made so many accommodations for him, after his abdominal surgery, to make sure that he could attend his graduation. It had already been a long journey to get him to that point and it really meant a lot to all of us for Michael to be able to graduate with his class. These past few months have been extremely difficult for our family. As you know Michael's recent brain surgery did not go as well as we had hoped. My niece and friends within the community had very generously arranged to hold a benefit at Doody's for Michael. Before his surgery Michael was very excited when he learned that this special event was going to be held for him. After surgery it became a motivational tool for him and he fought hard to be able to attend on September 17th. Prior to this event, Michael was pleasantly surprised when you came to visit him at Gaylord. He kept telling all of his doctors and therapists how his North Branford Superintendant had came to visit him and he proudly showed off all of the NB apparel that you gifted to him on your second visit. And then again, on the day of Michael's benefit you added another surprise to all of our day with the addition of a police escort by two of North Branford's finest. Mike was totally thrilled. All of your generous actions have put a smile on our son's face throughout the years. He has always been a very special kid to his family and seeing how the whole North Branford Community has come together to support him has been totally overwhelming for all of us. Please accept our sincere thanks for all of your generosity The Russo Family

"...Never thank Him Enough" Dear Editor,

I can never thank Scott Schoonmaker enough. When my daughter Lyla missed school due to chemotherapy, he arranged for a tutor. When my family needed financial and emotional support, he organized the most amazing fundraiser. When Lyla died last Christmas, he painted the town purple, and made sure my son Grant had the resources needed to transition back to school.

While my family's circumstances are unique, I have come to find that my experience with Dr. Schoonmaker was not. After listening to many parents at the November school board meeting, on social media, and at a recent support rally, it is obvious Dr. Schoonmaker has had an overwhelmingly positive impact on many of the students in North Branford. In addition, the school board has admitted that Dr. Schoonmaker has a positive evaluation, achieving all of board's stated goals.

However, at that same November school board meeting, Dr. Schoonmaker's contract was not extended as in past years. The chairperson of the school board, with two other members, voted not to extend his contract. The chairperson cited a potential investigation into the school board's approval of the conversion of five unused vacation days of Dr. Schoonmaker into \$3,500 of salary. Another vote on Dr. Schoonmaker's contract extension has been scheduled for June of 2018.

"I Like Kool Aid"

Dear Editor:

As a resident of North Branford for over 33 years. It has been my pleasure to be involved with many town activities such as BOE, POCO, but what I enjoyed most is being part of NB youth sports during my 30 year involvement I met so many great families, grandparents and players because of these people I still stay involved with Youth Sports today currently I'm umpire in chief for NBLL and referee in the NBYB I will stay involved as long as they will allow me.

We all know parents can be crazy they all think their kid is the best player, there kid is getting an offer to play college ball or even better some even thing there kid is going pro I wish them all the best of luck! But I honestly can say the worst thing someone has said to me in 30 years is that I missed a call and I'm blind which at my age there probably right but NO ONE has ever been over the top. I would like to THANK all the league officials and families for allowing me to be involved for over 30 years it has been a great experience that I will never forget.

For those of you that know me know that I will do anything for the children of NB. With that said and with some encouragement and your support I decided to run for the BOE and was elected (Thank you!). If you know anything about politics it's a process. I needed to get endorsed by the Republican Town Committee, which I did and during the process some RTC members found out that I had personal issues with Scott Schoonmaker which made me the perfect candidate in their eyes. I have to admit I did have BIG!!!! Issues with Scott. But again please keep in mind those were my issues. Anyone that knows me know I would never allow my personal feeling to sway my judgement. I will always do what's right for the children of North Branford PERIOD.

During my 4 years on the BOE I feel myself and the

Despite having over \$31 million dollars at its disposal in the school budget, three members of the school board have chosen to put our entire school system in limbo over \$3,500. The welfare of our students is being disregarded in favor of legal wrangling over the authority of the school board. While the chairperson claims to the contrary, it is clear that Dr. Schoonmaker's tenure at North Branford is now in jeopardy. Also, isn't it ironic, that by working harder for our kids, by NOT TAKING HIS VACATION, certain members of the school board are now using his dedication against him.

The mission of North Branford Public Schools is to foster a strong learning environment focused on academic excellence and a positive school climate which prepares each student to be a responsible 21st century citizen of the world. From his evaluation and the near universal support of North Branford parents, it is clear Dr. Schoonmaker is working overtime to implement that mission. On the contrary, certain members of the school board have strayed from the mission, preoccupied with contract minutiae and nonexistent legal risks. These members of the school board are urged to return their focus to the welfare of the students of North Branford. Extend the contract of Dr. Schoonmaker.

Very truly yours, William C. Bogardus

the Republicans had an open seat for the BOE and I approached two key figures in the Republican Party that I was interested in filling the open seat and I was told no. Let me guess why?

All we hear from the TC and the BOE is that there's an investigation going on. Unless I don't understand what an investigation is, it usually means talking to people that were involved. Am I correct? I'm personally involved in one of those so call investigations and I was never asked my side of the story. I reached out to the TC and a meeting for executive session was finally scheduled for Oct 10,2017 at 6pm at the Town Hall. After the meeting was confirmed I received a call from TC member and I very nice told him what I had to say (maybe it wasn't so nicely) we hung up and 5 minutes later I get another call from another TC member and I was told very nicely that the Republicans want to cancel the meeting as they didn't like what I had to say and it was too close to the election. So the Town Manager sent out an email cancelling the meeting.

With that said a few Democrats wanted to hear what I had to say so we met Oct 10, 2017 at 6pm and this is the meeting that one member of the TC is requesting FOI. There's no need to FOI since I was involved I will gladly tell you what I said. I also will gladly do this in public session so please stop all these FOI. Just ask I have nothing to hide.

In closing I have a few questions that I would like answered since I am a taxpayer and over 60.

Please explain to the public why the last (4) BOE Chairs all Republicans were not allowed or asked to re-run? It's pretty clear!

In 2014 please refer to the TC minutes you voted to send the teacher's contract to the state because the BOE members were told we were a bunch of idiots and didn't know anything. You did this against your lawyers advice. How did we make out it cost the taxpayers over \$50,000? How is that fiscally responsible?

"...Never be the Same" Dear Editor,

Mr. Schoonmaker is always involved in our school events. There isn't a day I don't see him, whether he is at Jerome Harrison, Totoket Valley, NBIS, or NBHS, he is always around and involved with the students. The town of North Branford would never be the same with out him!

Theresa Guadagnino, NBHS Senior

other board members did a good job. We brought all day kindergarten to NB and did what we though was in the best interest of the school district. We never voted party lines. We were all free thinkers and I want to thank my fellow board members for that.

Please keep in mind what I'm about to say and lay out is what I perceived and feel to be true. I was put on the BOE to get rid of Scott and when I didn't I was called a liar, thief and more (One TC members favorite saying is I drank the kool aid). These were said in public and some behind closed doors. I want to make one thing very clear for those that don't know me I don't lie and I'm not a thief but I do like Kool Aid.

During my 4 years on the BOE I voted no for Scott's raises not because of his ability to lead our school district but because as the TC likes to put it I was fiscally responsible. BUT I always voted for the year extension because in my mind one has nothing to do with the other and Scott was doing a very good job.

I would like to let the citizens of NB know that I didn't abandon the children of NB when my term ended I was not asked or allowed to run because I didn't do what I was put on to do and that was get rid of Scott. Most recently

As a sports guy something has always bothered me. Please explain to me how can we build a Middle School knowing that we have (2) Middle School basketball teams, and not build the gym big enough so they can play games. Instead they need to be bused up to TVES for their home games. This is a building that will be there for at least my life time HOW IS THIS FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE???!!!

One TC member keeps saying these investigations have cost the town hundreds of thousands of dollars .Once your investigations are complete you owe it to the taxpayers of NB to tell us what the exact amount is and not just bury it like everything else.

Finally if all these so called investigations do not show any WRONG DOING by Scott I request that some BOE and TC members resign? You know who you are.

Scott has done nothing wrong. All these investigations are going no where and he doesn't deserve the treatment he is getting from the TC and the BOE. Why don't you listen to the taxpayers of NB. Scott needs his contract extended NOW!!! Not June of 2018.

Our children come first with Scott and I put all my trust in him.

Hope you enjoy the holiday season. Lou Paternoster

SCHOOL

SCHOOL

NBHS PERIOD I HONORS

HIGH HONORS 12TH GRADE

8

Albrecht, Rae-chelle Bookman, Sydnie Bryden, Jenna Calabrese, Nadia Candelora, Christopher Colavolpe, Matti Criscuolo, Sarah DePalma, Sierra Despres, Ethan Dewitt, Julia Esposito, Abigail Fama, Jenna Fee, Jonna Fillion, Katelyn Galdenzi, Zelda Ghobrial, Benjamin Gibilaro, Chevenne Goeman, Sahdalia Hackley-Cleary, Erin Hammond, Brooke Harrison, Makayla Johansen, Alex Lovelace, John Madoule, Michael Mattson, Lydia Monge, Carly Muller, Kaitlyn Norton, Emilia O'Neil, Thomas Ouellet, Courtney Pellegrino, John Powers, Brooke Sauro, Cole Scell, Amanda Smola, Zacharv Streeto, Joselyn Sullivan, Madison Vitarisi, Sarah Wilkinson, Emilie Wilson, Madeline Zumbo, Paul **HIGH HONORS** 11TH GRADE

Anastasio, Colby Annunziato, Brianna Ash, Jason Augur, Alessandra Augur, Hannah Callender, Christopher Chan, Alvin Constantinidi, Sydney Cristante, Alexina Frandsen, Logan Kilburn, Jessie Mahon, Stephanie McLay, Ian Miconi, Patrick Pavic, Ana Phabmixay, Joanna Pietrogallo, Julia Raccio, Brianna Sabetta, Rebecca Slubowski, Ashley Souza, Kaitlin Taylor, Noah Torgerson, Mary-Kate **HIGH HONORS** 10TH GRADE Aucapina, Ariadna Blomster, Lily Bonaldo, Nicholas Bureau, Karlee Capasso, Tyler Cavalier, Sofia Cirivello, Jennifer

Cole, Emily

D'Aria, Vincenzo

D'Onofrio, Bianca

DeLucia, Joseph

DeSisto, Isabella

Ferraiolo, Gianni

Gildersleeve, Britny

Despres, Kayla

Diaz. Enrique

Galdenzi, Ava

Helff, Marisa

Huisman, Victor

Kwalek, Rachel

Gall, Jenna

LeBeau. Avonlea Lucibello, Justin Malavasi, Ariana Marcarelli, Calley McIntyre, Carlie Mott, Izabella Norton, Melanie Olsen, Emily Pappolla, Jordan Patel. Krish Pearson, Annika Pedersen, Katv Powers, Jetta Roof, Erika Sarmento, Gabriella Sorrentino, Carly Spayd, Jenna Stoddard, Paul Sudusky, Stephanie Teodoro, Amanda Tomaso, Christian Vitarisi, Rachel Waligroski, Alvssa Wang, Allison Wheeler, Christopher **HIGH HONORS** <u>9TH GRADE</u> Anastasio, Sophia Burwell, Mackenzie Colavolpe, Bella Criscuolo, Charliana D'Aversa, Shawn Didiano, Roberto Dow, Catherine Erickson, Kelly Fortier, Isabelle Garrett, Jillian Gibilisco. Gabrielle Iuteri, Brianna Jassil, Karina Karsmarski, Marlena Kendall, Riley Kendrick, Alyssa Leete, Conor LeMere, Alex Manner, Kaila Maroulis, Vasilios McCormack, Emily Olson, Emily Ouellet, Sophia Pesticci, Gabriella Piercey, Erica Preiss, Mallory RazoukidYAwaif Riggione, Christina Sabetta, Ethan Serenson, Emma Shadman, Caroline

Sorrell, Alexis Stoner, Aidan Valentino, Alessia **HONORS** 12TH GRADE Ash, Nicholas

Balzano, Tiffany Beardslev, Britnev Beisaw, Aaron Blythe, Natasha Bonaldo, Kayla Buckley Jonathon Cacopardo, Jarrett Carr, Gloria Castelan, Bianca Coleman, Jasmine D'Amico. Marisa DeCola, Theodore DiEdwards, Hanah Ernest, Hayley Gall, Matthew Godfrey, Britney Guadagnino, Theresa Guest, Adriana Haeckel, Jake Hammond, Brianna Jablonski, Jeffrey Jamieson, Zachary Kennedy, Vanessa Konopka, Brianna LeQuire, Brett Levine. Samantha Little, Grace MacGowan, Mackenzie McKosky, Kayla Mingione, Ryan Mone, Joseph Odell, Caitlin Odell, Michael Otfinoski, Joshua Palma, Francesca Pierpont, Cooper Pietrandrea, Louis Pollick, Connor Ramada, Danielle Roof, Evan Stephens, Ryan Sullivan, Makayla Sullivan, Sarah Violette, Morgan Zampano, Marie HONORS 11TH GRADE Aaron, Aaliyah Astrom, Arianna Berube, Kaitland Chironno, Jenna Conboy, Jeremey Cook, Sarah Cosenza, Julianna DeAngelo, Samantha DeBarros, John Defaranos, Cayleen Diaz, Alyssa DiMartino, Bella DiPentima, Cameron Evon. Samantha

Hart, Israel Hennecy, Hunter Jacobson, Carl Mancini, Nicholas May, Caitlin McCormack, Gabriel McKee, Sean McNelis, Joseph Montanaro, Jacob Neubig, Emily Oliverio, Kaley Otfinoski, Jason Perez, Cedillo Pietrogallo, Julia Rabuffo, Michael Ramada, Angelina Raucci, Amelia Regan, Jordan Rodriguez, Odali Russo, Erika Saldutti, Ariana Santiago, Davianna Sellitto, Anthony Stakaj, Emanuela Stone, Kai Stoup, Laynee Testa, Ashley Torgerson, Mary-Kate Velez, Kaylee **HONORS** 10TH GRADE Alfveby, Gabriella Barrett, Alexandra Camp, Gerald Candelora, Juliana Cassista, Julia Dautaj, Briana DeBarros, Charles Esposito, Zachary Ferrucci, Aiden Fisco, Cameron Glenn, Mackenzie Guardino, Zachary Klemme, Katherine Little, Frederick Lucibello, Sean Mitchell, Dylan Montesanto, Marissa Palmieri, Teresa Perez, Alysha Pompano, Janessa Ricardo, Julia Rispoli, Hanna Rosado, Alexie Schanz, Isabella Schimelfanick, Kara Schneidt, Christopher Smola, Ava Tropiano, Allivah

HONORS 9th GRADE

Amendola, Ashlee Archer, Sachin Armin, Jessica Barile, Alyssa Beardsley, Bryce Becker, Nadia Brezicki, Brianna Cappelli, Kristina Carofano, Gabriella Covne, Connor DellaCamera, Sophia DeWitt, Daisy Didiano, Felicia Esposito, Alena Evans, Summer Fabish, Paige Fiondella, Ariana Frandsen, Justin Geist, Griffin Gott, Onna Graver, Summer Hart, Corbin Hughes, Zoe Humphrey, Madelyn Jacobson, Kelli Melillo, Brooke Melillo, Landon Miconi, Jada Miller. Zoe O'Connor, Jeffrey O'Neil, Kylie Page, Bryanna Podoloff, Jake Ricci, Louis Sarenas, Elizabeth Sellitto, Andrew Stanford, Jason Tam, Shevette Vecchio, Krista Velez, Ariana Votto, Sofia Wessoleck, Shelden

COLLEGE RECOGNITION

Erica Albrecht was named to the President's List at Goodwin College in East Hartford.

Amy Ragozzino, Stephane Barthel, Brittany **Bonito, Brittany Boyers** and Samantha Hemstock were named to the Dean's List at Goodwin College.

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NBHS Participates in Music Festival

On Saturday November 18th, 21 students from NBHS auditioned for the annual Southern Regional Music Festival with 9 moving onto participating in the event on January 12 and 13 at Middletown High School! Congrats to ALL!

(Photo courtesy of Katie Trainer, NBHS Instrumental Music Instructor & Band Director)

SCHOOLS



Guilford Texaco is Expanding to North Branford. A family run business since 1969, Guilford Texaco will now offer their full auto repair services at 2049 Foxon Rd. North Branford. Stop in and meet Jim Jr. and see what he has to offer. FREE TOWING to our shop for any North Branford Resident

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NBIS Celebrates Veterans Day

In celebration of Veterans Day, the students of North Branford Intermediate School had the opportunity to honor servicemen through activities and a luncheon. To welcome the veterans, eighth grade students arranged a display of twelve hundred American flags outside the school. Veterans of several branches of the armed services came to speak to the different grade

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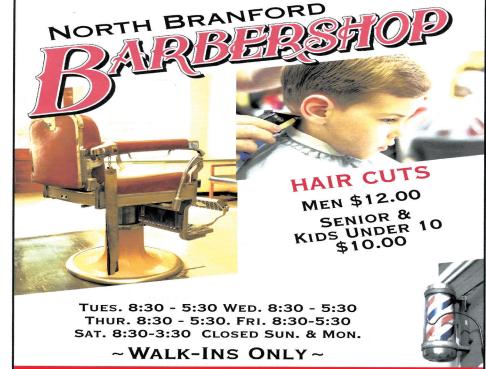
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levels and shared experiences during their time served. Afterwards, a luncheon was held for our veterans as well as staff members who served in the military. The activities and luncheon were organized by the middle school's social studies teachers and many staff members. Our guest veterans were John Ardine, Ryan DePalma, Ronald Grant, Paul Liquori, Clyde Lynn, Hugh Meehan, Cliff Potter, Mike Rickaby, Nik Rothstein, and Keith Shadman.





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Thank You North Branford

The Staff Flag Football Fundraiser for the Love For Lyla Scholarship was a huge success. What a tremendous event to honor a special girl in this town. Team Elmentary played their hearts out but ultimately the winner was Team Secondary. Everyone is looking forward to a re-math next year.

Thank you to the North Branford High School football coaching staff for acting as our referees and managing the game. A big thank you to the amazing North Branford Thunderbird football team

Thank you to Superintendent of Schools Scott Schoonmaker for all your support and dedication to our students. Thank you to the principals and vice principals of all our schools, for their assistance. Thank you to all the office staff, the teachers, parents and students who stepped up to make this night a huge success. Thank you North Branford for coming out!

Thank you to Marissa Laudano and the North Branford Cheerleaders for the posters. Thank you to Mary Elissa Giovanni for her amazing face painting skills for all the children to enjoy. A big thank you to the amazing North Branford Thunderbird football players. If only you all could have seen the work they put in setting up the field and acting as role models to the younger kids during the half time obstacle course. Everyone really had a blast.

Thank you Jeff from Giovanni's, and Tony from Tony Z's Apizza for your pizza donations. And to Mrs. Angeloni for donating the candy for the concession stand. Thank you to Mike Augur and anyone who helped with the concession stand and bake sale.

Finally, thank you to the Bogardus family for letting us honor your pecial girl.





were recently recognized at the final game of the season. Photo by Tom Zampano

Cross Country Team Closes out Season The three-month XC season came to a conclusion with the Varsity squad's participation in

the 3.1 mile State Class SS Meet at Wickham Park, Manchester. This was the final showing for the hard work which the runners selected to run Varsity had put into the sport for the season, and the results for both the ladies and men's team did not disappoint. Participation in this meet is the highlight of the season as our runners have the opportunity to compete against the Best HS runners in the State.

Our men's squad was led by Senior Captains Mike Madoule (65th) and Jared Jamieson (72nd) who finished at 19:35 and 19:48 respective. Following closely behind by Rob Didiano 128th/20:52, Joe DeLucia 157th/6 22:35, Patrick Miconi 168th/ 24:38, Josh Brigido 170th/24:52 and Jason Ash 171st/24:56. Great results by all runners in this highly contested race. Due to continued illness Senior Zachary Jamieson could not participate although he was present to cheer on his fellow teammates.

On the ladies side, the Team was led by Onna Gott 37th/ 22:43 followed by Mackenzie Glenn 42nd/23:15, Riley Kendall 68th/24:31 and Captain Sarah Sullivan 30:00. All of the NB runners ran strong on this difficult course. Our preparation of running to the top Caputo Street Hill helped to prepare our runners to the difficult running required to reach the summit of the long Wickham Hill and the incline to the finish while running in an "envelope" of encouragement from teammates and families, alike. A very exciting time for our Varsity NB Harriers.

Valley All- Freshmen Championship Race

Our full team supported the small freshman group at this final season race at Deep River. In the men's race there were strong performances by Rob Didiano 32nd/ 22:19 and Conor Leete 52nd/ 26:01 to finish off successful seasons by these two new members of the XC Team, and provided each runner with an opportunity to run against area freshman.

Onna Gott Runs to Win

Our Ladies race had one competitor and Onna Gott led the 21 runner race for a majority of the race. With less than 1/2 mile from the finish she was passed by two lady runners from Cromwell HS, however not to be deterred, Onna used a strong 150 yard drive to the finish, passing both runners and crossed the finish line in first place in a winning time of 23:38. This exciting finish by Onna capped off a most positive season for the entire North Branford Cross Country Team for 2017.



NBHS Cross County Awards Banquet

The NBHS Cross Country Team season ending awards banquet was held at the NB HS Cafeteria for our Men and Women Team of harrier runners. Ms. Brandi Little and a host of parent and student volunteers and school administration assisted to support the team during the season and made this a memorable season and awards night for the Team.

While the team loses a core of experienced seniors to graduation, NBHS looks forward to our Junior class of runners who have accepted the challenge of team leadership as they have dedicated themselves to continuing the success of cross country in 2018. With the addition of talented NB intermediate school runners to the team next year, the XC team should expect continued strong team results in the Shoreline League. All runners, managers, seniors, Ms. Little and Coach received special awards as part of the ceremony. Many thanks to all for a successful season-Coach Doohan

A summary of the traditional TEAM awards are as follows:

MVP Award

Ladies- Mackenzie Glenn - Men- Michael Madoule

Rookie of the Year Award

Ladies- Onna Gott - Men- Roberto Didiano

New Varsity Letter Award

Ladies- Onna Gott, Riley Kendal, Bianca Catalan

Men- Joe DeLucia, Roberto Didiano, Jason Ash, Joshua Brigido, Ryan Mingione

Repeat Varsity Letter Awards

Ladies- Sarah Sullivan (Captain), Mackenzie Glenn Men-Michael Madoule (Captain), Jared Jamieson (Captain), Zachary amieson, Patrick Miconi

Four Year Team Member Award Michael Madoule **Desire and Dedication Awards**

Ladies- Bianca Castelan - Men- Ryan Mingione

Additional Team Member Participation Awards

Managers- Marie Zampano, Maria Bernabucci, Freddie Little Team - Denise Wall, Hunter Boni, Noah taylor, Nick Bonaldo and Conor Leete.



Congratulations to Freshman Onna, Riley and Conor who all ran on the Intermediate School Cross Country Team last year in addition to Rob Didiano. Running with the I. S. team under the direction of Athletic Director Ralph Shaw provided the necessary background training and experience to have a successful Freshman Cross Country Season this year. Our incoming 2018 class to the HS are encouraged to follow the lead of our successful freshmen student / athlete runners and join the North Branford High School XC team next year.

Coach Doohan



Online Registration Now Open for North Branford Youth Lacrosse

nbylax.org

Join America's Fastest Growing Sport!

Open to Boys & Girls in Kindergarten to 8th Grades

*Register before November 27, 2017 – Save \$25 per registration *Register before December 31, 2017 – To Avoid \$50 Late Fee **Registration closes January 31, 2018**

*(Early Bird & Multi-Player discounts and Late Fess do not apply to K – 2nd grade Programs)

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

Jason Taylor, Boy's Coordinator: boyscoordinator@nbylax.org Joe Amaturo, Girl's Coordinator: girlscoordinator@nbylax.org

Neil LeBeau, President: president@nbylax.org

FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT: info@nbylax.org

NORTH BRANFORD YOUTH LACROSSE IS A REGISTERED 501(c)(3) NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION



ALL NEW LASER TAG !!

- We take fun to a whole new level -

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

FIELD TRIPS • GROUP OUTINGS

CYBER SPORT • ARCADE

GIANT PLAYSCAPE



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www.ctsportsplex.com



Duo Competes in Fishing League



Drew Sommo and Connor Jarmie from North Branford recently took part in the Connecticut Bass Nation High School Fishing league. They competed in four fishing tournaments this season; Lake Lillinonah Bridgewater, CT River Haddam, Lakeoar Southburyand Candlewood Lake Danbury.

They caught their five fish limit in each tournament totaling 41lbs 13oz of fish. They also volunteered their time at two adult tournaments to maximize their points. They finished in 2nd place out of 16 other High School teams throughout CT. The first and second place teams

qualified to fish in CT Bass Nation Nationals at Kentucky Lake in Tennessee June of 2018.

The teams are completely sponsored by CT Bass Nation.

Branford Compassion Club's Annual Holiday Cookie Sale

NORTH BRANFORD – Branford Compassion Club hosts its annual holiday cookie walk 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at its Feline Rescue & Adoption Center, 2037 Foxon Road.

Delicious homemade cookies can be purchased for \$4 a dozen. Looking for the purr-fect gift for the cat lovers in the family? There will also be a selection of charming homemade cat-motif pillowcases and "mug rugs" with designs ranging from the sophisticat to the whimsical. All proceeds from the sale benefit the shelter's homeless felines.

Refreshments, including eggnog and samples of homemade cookies, will be served. Stop by and join in the holiday festivities and check out the cats and kittens looking for forever homes.

BCC kitties are grateful for cash donations, too. This is a good way to help the shelter and get in one more tax-deductible gift for this year.

For more information visit <u>www.branfordcompassionclub.org</u>. *Contributed photo of Astro, one of six kittens known as The Jetsons litter.*

Northford Women's Club Photo Contest

The Northford Women's Club is looking for photos of your favorite spots & landmarks in Northford/North Branford (no people in the photos please) for our upcoming fundraising project. This contest is open to all ages. If your photo is chosen, a rendition of it will be used in our project and you will receive one of these heirloom keepsakes. Please post a copy of your photo to our Facebook page (Northford Women's Club). You can also email photos or questions to maryellen.nfwc@gmail.com. Further information on this great project will come after the winners are chosen. The deadline for submissions is December 20, 2017



2017 Northford Volunteer Fire Company #2 SANTA CLAUS TOY RUN

Northford Volunteer Fire Company #2 will be assisting Santa and his elves dropping off toys to children in Company #2's fire district (North on Middletown Avenue to Northford Park; South on Middletown Avenue to the North Haven line; South on Forest Road to the Police Department; North on Clintonville Road to the North Haven town line; including side roads off of those main roads.) on Christmas Eve.

Please bring your presents (see wrapping instructions below) to the Northford Fire Department Company #2 (Middletown Avenue next to the new Rec. Center - formerly Stanley T. Williams School) on the following dates:

10111011y Stanley 1. William	ins believing on the following dates.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9	10 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10	10 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16	10:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
ABSOLUTELY NO DELIVERI	ES WILL BE ACCEPTED
AFTER SATURDAY DECEME	BER 16, 2017 AT 1:00 P.M.
WRAPPING YOUR GIFTS:	

1. Gifts should first be wrapped in gift wrap with the child's name on the outside of the package.

2. The gift wrapped package must be wrapped in brown paper over the top of the gift wrap with the family name, address and telephone number on the outside of the brown paper.

WE DO NOT PROVIDE GIFT WRAPPING. IF YOUR PACKAGE DOES NOT HAVE GIFT WRAP ON IT THAT IS HOW IT WILL BE DELIVERED.

The members of Company #2 provide this service at no cost but we do ask for a donation of non-perishable food items, i.e. canned goods, dry goods, diapers, etc. for those who are less fortunate then we are. Any other donations are gratefully accepted.

Please also remember that we <u>WILL NOT</u> guarantee a drop off time for the gifts. We normally begin our runs at 4:30 and end around 8:00. Please understand that Company #2 still needs to protect the residents of Northford and in the event of an emergency delivery may be interrupted. However, should an emergency occur, we will still make every effort to deliver the packages as soon as possible.

Any questions please call 203-627-9098.

Recycling News Change in Bulky Waste Pickup*

Monthly bulky pickup will take place the 2nd full week of each month: This Month, December 11th.

*No change to the weekly trash and recycling pickup schedules

Please note: large home cleanouts are unacceptable as curbside waste and will <u>not</u> be picked up *Call Michelle Knockwood, Purchasing Asst/Risk Mgr, with any questions: 203-484-6005*

North Branford Fall Leaf Collection

Curbside leaf pickup takes place for 2 weeks: Now thru Dec 8th.

Please also use biodegradable paper bags without any tape. For more information, call the recycling hotline at **203-484-4091**.

PROJECT GRADUATION Doody's Tuesday, December 5th 4:30-9:30

Mention the NBHS Project Graduation and a portion of your bill will be donated to Project Graduation which provides a Drug and Alcohol Free Safe Event for Graduating Seniors.

Questions? Email Dana Augur at <u>danaaugur@gmail.com</u>

Thank You for your Support

Christmas Tree Pick-Up for 2 weeks in January January 2nd – 12th on your scheduled trash day

NB Plastic Film Recycling Program Info

Thank you to all who continue make this program a success; please recycle plastic film:

Clean and dry grocery bags, bread bags, case overwrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, wood pellet bags, ziplock and other re-sealable bags, produce bags, cereal bags, bubble wrap and salt bags. Look for #2 and #4 recycle symbols on plastic bags to recycle.

Unfortunately plastic bags with #5 or #7 symbols cannot be recycled (some salad and grape bags). Also <u>not</u> accepted are: snack bags (potato chip, popcorn and candy), pet food bags,

frozen food bags and any bags with food remnants. Collection bins located at: Country Paint and Hardware, T.J's Launderette, Town Hall, Atwater and Smith Libraries, STW Community Center, Northford Store and The Food Pantry of North Branford.

North Branford Parks & Recreation and Senior Center

STW Community Center 1332 Middletown Ave Northford www.nbrecreation.com • call (203)484-6017

ACTIVITIES

Strength Training

Who:	Adult 18+
Session:	Dec 5 - Jan 30 (no class Dec 26)
Time:	Tuesdays, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m
Location:	STW Clarino Room
Fee:	\$75 res/\$80 nr
Instructor:	Deb Vita
Description:	Designed to help you get strong and h

Description: Designed to help you get strong and healthy, this class combines strength training with low-impact cardiovascular exercises to benefit your heart, strengthen your bones, improve balance, flexibility, and endurance. Build long lean muscles to rev up your metabolism and add tone to your physique. Strength training also has many mental and emotional health benefits as well. Sign up now! Two class trial is available for \$15.

The DiLungo Fitness Room Is now open until 8:00 pm Monday – Friday Saturday & Sunday 6:30 a.m.– 12 noon Now offering personal training. *Call to sign up!*



✤ Ice Sculpting

Hay Rides

Marshmallow Roasting

*** Petting Zoo**

- * NBHS Sax Ensemble
- **MBHS Choir**
- Hot Chocolate & Cookies



North Branford Senior Center 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Senior Hot Lunch available - \$3 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m.

RECREATION

Check out the menu at www.nbparkrec.com

Soup option now available for lunch! Lunch orders must be placed by 10:00 am



As a reminder, we offer a weekly grocery shopping trip at 12:30.



Stop by the community center and pick up a copy of our monthly Senior newsletter for upcoming trips and activities!

Never miss a monthly newsletter and sign up for email or snail mail delivery (snail mail \$8 for the year).



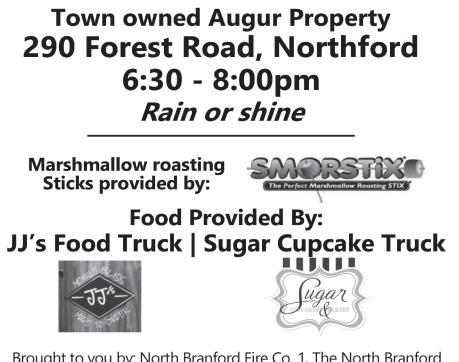
Slightly Used Bag Sale

Thursday & Friday, December 7 & 8 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Gently used pocket books, backpacks and duffle bags for sale. Come support the Senior Center and purchase an almost new, quality

bag as a gift or for yourself! We are accepting donated bags now!





Brought to you by: North Branford Fire Co. 1, The North Branford Rotary and YOUR North Branford Parks & Recreation Department.

Find our Gifting Trees at:

STW Community Center 1332 Middletown Ave. Northford Atwater Memorial Library 1720 Foxon Rd. North Branford Edward Smith Library 3 Old Post Rd. Northford Remove an ornament tag from a tree and purchase a gift card to either Big Y, Rite Aid, or Dollar General. Return the tag with the gift card taped to it to one of our Gifting Tree locations by 12/15/17.

CHURCH

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

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 wecome 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. Rev. Robin Blundon, Acting Pastor. Jane K. Leschuk Minister of Music. Sunday Worship service at 10am and Sunday school.. 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.northfordcongregational.church St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1382 Middletown Avenue - the white church on the hill, in the heart of Northford (at the intersection of Rtes. 17 & 22). Celebration of the Holy Eucharist every Sunday will start at 10:00 a.m. Coffee and fellowship always follows. All are welcome. Please join us - we'd love to get to know you! St. Andrew's is also the proud home of the Food Pantry of North Branford - a vital resource serving families in need in the communities of Northford and North Branford. St. Andrew's is a member of the Middlesex Area Cluster Ministry. The Rev. Jim Bradley is Missioner In Charge of MACM, and we have rotating clergy serving the parishes of St. Andrew's, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Killingworth and St. James Episcopal Church, Higganum. Visit our website at http://standrewsnorthford.org. Like us on Facebook - St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Northford, CT. For more information contact us at 203-484-0895; Nancy Monde, Sr. Warden, 203-481-9472; MACM office at 860-345-0058; Rev. Bradley at 203-525-6846.

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

Zion Episcopal Church, 326 Notch Hill Road, No. Branford. 203-488-7395 Rev. Lucy LaRocca, Vicar. During the summer we will have a single 9am service of Holy Eucharist in our newly air conditioned sanctuary. In September we will go back to two services at 8 & 10AM. Healing Prayer and Compline 7PM, second Tuesday of the month. Two Safe Chruch trained babysitters available downstairs during the service. Visit our Facebook page or website at zionepiscopalchurch.





Refurbished Ramp at NCC

Diane Wasilewski and Nancy Tipping check it out the newly refurbished handicapped ramp at the Northford Congregational Church.. Numerous hours were spent power washing, sanding, painting, and protecting it. Many thanks go to the church members, friends, and relatives of members who did the work, especially Wayne Sharp, Bill Sharp, Diane Sharp Wasilewski, and Bruce Downing.

The historic Northford Congregational Church, "A Little Church with a Big Heart," (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.

Advent & Christmas Services @ NCC

During December "A Little Church with a Big Heart" welcomes everyone to come and sing traditional Christmas Carols at 9:45 a.m. prior to regular 10 a.m. worship services. Enjoy and expand the joy of the Christmas season by joining with others in song.

Holiday services on Sundays at 10 a.m. during Advent involve candles being lit by various families as special verses are read. Sunday School is continuing at the same time. The special "Hanging of the Greens" service will be held on Dec. 10. By tradition, everyone comes together on this day to prepare the church - preparing for the coming of our Lord at Christmas - by lovingly decorating the sanctuary and telling the stories of the significance of these decorations in our history. The whole church comes together to do this as a church family activity.

There will be two services on Dec. $24 - a \ 10 a.m.$ service and a 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service with carols and stories. Take a few minutes out from your busy schedule and add some meaning to this special time of year. All are welcome.

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. Church office hours are Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Website: www.northfordcongregational.church. Email address: <u>ncchurch@snet.net</u>. Like us on Facebook.

DEATH NOTICES



George Roy Trecarten, Jr., age 44, passed unexpectedly on Thursday, November 9th, 2017 at his residence in Warrenton, VA. He was born on October 14th, 1973 in New Haven, CT, son of George R. Trecarten, Sr. and Ann Venturo Trecarten currently of North Branford, CT.

In addition to his parents, George is survived by his wife of twelve years, Kim Trecarten; two daughters, Alison & Lorianna

Trecarten; a sister, Sherry DelGaudio & her husband, Jeff of North Branford, CT; and two nieces, Mariana & Carissa DelGaudio, also of North Branford, CT.

George is preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Thomas & Mary Venturo; and his paternal grandmother, Irma Trecarten. George was a beloved son, brother, husband, daddy, colleague, and friend. He had many accomplishments in his life: Eagle Scout, high school graduate of Xavier High School, college graduate of Quinnipiac University, & numerous work accolades while working at the Department of State.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Special Olympics, https://www.fundanytime.com/M/I9A57C43H3, or https://www.gofundme.com/georgetrecarten. Online condolences may be made at www.moserfuneralhome.com.



Albert Teixeira, 64, of Northford passed away peacefully on Monday, November 13, 2017 at Yale New Haven Hospital with his family by his side. He was the beloved husband of 36 years to Suzanne Simione Teixeira. Albert was born in Bridgeport on March 22, 1953 and was the son of the late Francis and Alice Teixeira. He served his country faithfully in the US Army during the Vietnam era. Albert obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Albertus Magnus College and had worked as an IT Manager for the City of Hartford and later was an Auditorium Technician for the Town of North Branford. He had also worked as a Pharmacy Technician at Rite Aid. Albert was very involved in the community of North Branford which earned him the North Branford Shining Star Award in 2012. He was also very involved with North Branford Youth Soccer serving as their Treasurer for many years, was a member of the Knights of Columbus in Northford, was a member of the Totoket Historical Society and the North Branford Education Foundation. The life of the party, Albert was a very humorous man always joking and doing magic tricks. He enjoyed gardening but most of all he enjoyed his two granddaughters whom he loved unconditionally. Father of Lauren (Chris) Barry and Daniel Teixeira. Grandfather of Anabel and Avery Barry. Son-in-law of Genevieve "Jenny" Simione. Brother of Nancy Teixeira (Cliff), Barbara Gonzalez (Tom), Carol Teixeira and Laura Laracuente (Marcus). Also survived by many nieces and nephews whom he adored.

Women's Club Donates Wreaths to Trees of Hope The Northford Women's Club GFWC purchased and decorated two wreaths for the Twenty-Eighth Annual Trees of Hope, a project that will benefit children and families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Over 140 beautifully decorated trees, wreaths and holiday baskets decking the halls of the Maritime Center in New Haven will be on display from December 2-10 at the Maritime Center in New Haven. Enjoyed by more than 4,000 people each year, Trees of Hope is a dynamic and festive holiday spectacular and not to be missed! The public is invited to view the beautiful and unique displays, browse and buy at the Holiday Boutique, purchase raffle tickets and support a good cause-it's what the holidays are all about! The Northford Women's Club is a civic organization dedicated to promoting deeper friendships among women of our town and surrounding areas, participating in community service, and cooperating with the club work of the Connecticut State Federation of Women's Clubs. For more information, go to http://www.northfordwomensclub.org. Pictured Patty Meglio, Liz Broissard, Kim Wollman, and Mary Smith with the Woodlands and Snowman theme wreaths that will be raffled for Trees of Hope.

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PLUMBING

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.

NORTH BRANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Officers and Members of the North Branford *Fire Department, wish to extend our Best Wishes* for a Safe and Happy Holiday Season to all.

Use Common Sense During the Holiday's

Home fires increase during this time of year. Heating devices, fireplaces, holiday lighting, candles and decorations, all contribute to the increased risk.

North Branford Fire department Recommends:

- 1. Use only UL listed lights and extension cords.
- 2. Keep extension cord use to a minimum. Do not overload your electrical system. If you are blowing fuses, find out why. Check for frayed wires. If the lights don't work when you test them, toss them. Don't take the chance.
- 3. Keep decorations away from open flame and heating sources.
- 4. If you have a live tree, keep it watered and dispose of as soon it starts to dry out.
- 5. Keep your means of escape clear. Don't block a door with the tree or other decorations.
- Use candles correctly. Keep away from any decorations, curtains and 6. paper tablecloths.
- 7. Do not leave home without turning off all lights, extinguishing all candles and any portable heating units. At night check to make sure that your house is safe, before you go to bed.
- 8. Make sure you have at least one operating smoke detector on every floor.

Fireplace and Stove Safety:

More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves, and other fuel fired appliances to heat their homes. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks associated with wood and other fuels.

North Branford Fire Department encourages you to practice the following fire safety steps:

- 1. Have your chimney or wood stove cleaned and inspected annually
- Keep the area around your fireplace or stove clear of flammable

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



Plenty to do at the Library

Smith Library (3 Old Post Rd, Northford) Register by phone (203) 484-0469 or in the library.

Saturday, December 9th at 10 am "Your life in retirement"

Join host David Quast as he covers the topics of:

- ~ Calculating the cost of retirement
- ~ Determining sources of income
- ~ Defining the role of Social Security

Holiday Story Hour

North Branford Women's Club, in conjunction with the Atwater Memorial Library, present a Holiday Story Hour. The event will take place on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 10:30am at the Atwater Memorial Library, (Community Room). 1720 Foxon Road, North Branford. There will be a craft and refreshments for the kids.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information call Ginny at 203-488-8259.

Movie Matinee

Christmas with the Kranks Schafer Community Room/ **Edward Smith Library** Wednesday, December 6th - 12:45 pm **Refreshments will be served**

KIDS (and adults who love them)! The ATWATER LIBRARY presents:

How Cool is That?! - GOTTA BRAIN?

- decorations or materials
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces, and keep your glass 3. doors open
- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire 4.
- Use only seasoned hardwood 5.
- Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke 6.
- Never burn cardboard, trash or other debris in your fireplace or wood 7. stove
- Never leave a fire unattended and extinguish before going to bed or *8*. leaving the house
- 9. Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside and away from your house

Facts of the Month

Heating Equipment fires account for 16 % of all home fires and 22 % of all home fire deaths. The majority of these fires occur during December and January. Cooking equipment was the leading cause of home fires and fire injuries, causing 46% of home fires that resulted in 19% of the home fire deaths and 44% of the injuries

What better gift for a loved one this year, new smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. And offer to install it too.NBFD has a limited supply of new battery operated Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors. If you don't have a working alarm, call or email us @ 203-484-6016 or deputyfiremarshal@townofnorthbranfordct.com

GETTA HELMET!

Do you enjoy WINTER SPORTS - sledding, snowboarding, skiing, ice skating, snowmobiling? Learn about why wearing a helmet is important in sports and recreationally and how to PROTECT yourself! Experiment with melons wearing different helmets and dropped from different heights (from a firetruck ladder!) to see how safe you are with and without a helmet! MONDAY, DECEMBER 4th, 6:00pm at the ATWATER LIBRARY, North Branford Ages 6 and up Registration required – 203-315-6020

Special Holiday "Paws to Read" Story Circle with Mason to benefit "Help Willy's Friends" at the Smith Library on Wednesday: December 13th at 6:30 pm

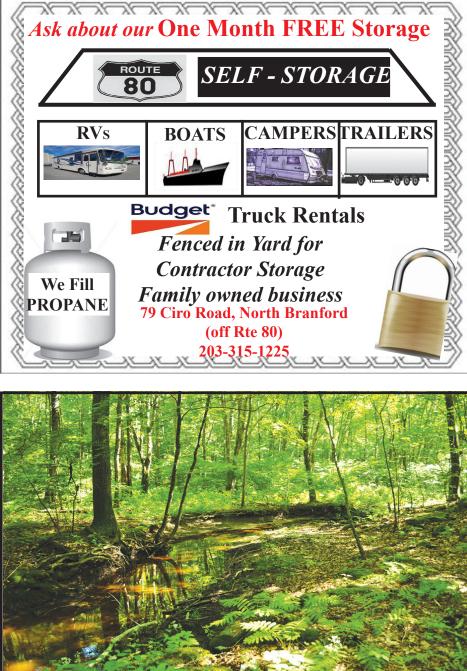
The Smith Library invites young readers-in-training (ages 4-8) to improve their reading skills by reading to a licensed therapy dog. Mason is a six year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel who is a good listener and loves making new friends. Come say hi and share a holiday story at the library with our new furry friend!

**Help the elves pack Santa's bag with treats for our furry friends too! (Pet food, beds, towels, treats, toys, litter, etc.) All items will be donated to "Help Willy's Friends"! http://www.helpwillysfriends.org/

Space limited. Please register in the Children's Room or call: 203-484-0469 http://nbranfordlibraries.wixsite.com/home

If you or someone you know h Robinson Aviation can make t

available for one flig



NBLCT Hosts Hike at Notch Hill Brook Trail

On Saturday, December 2, the public is invited to join the North Branford Land Conservation Trust, Inc. (NBLCT) on a lightly challenging hike at their Notch Hill Brook Trail in North Branford. Geoff Smith of NBLCT will guide hikers up rocky slopes, over a stream and through the beautiful protected woods. Hikers should meet at 9:15 am on the cul-desac at the end of Ciro Road. The hike will begin promptly at 9:30 am. Be sure to bring water, wear layers of clothing, use insect deterrent and wear sturdy hiking shoes. The hike is expected to end around 11:30 am.

The Notch Hill Brook Trail is well marked and maintained by the NBLCT Stewardship Committee. The property is owned by NBLCT and its use is free and open to the public. Take a hike - Recharge, Explore and Discover!

NBLCT is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to acquire and maintain open space and to promote the conservation of land and natural resources within the Town of North Branford and environs. For more information about NBLCT, go to www.nblandtrust.org or visit us on Facebook.

North Branford Cookbook Club There is a reason Jacques Pepin is revered as a chef and cookbook author:

There is a reason Jacques Pepin is revered as a chef and cookbook author: his brilliant approach to food is simple, straightforward and anyone can cook his recipes. And so Jacques' cookbook "Heart and Soul in the Kitchen" was chosen for November's selection of the North Branford Cookbook Club.



A number of members missed the meeting because of all the holiday conflict but those who attended were amazed with our efforts.

Soup was called Broccoli Silk and it was stunning. Recommended for presentation warm or cool, it was smooth, creamy, gorgeous and, if you served it at a dinner party, certain to get lots of requests for the recipe. Don't tell anyone, though, because it is too easy. All technique. Scary easy.

Ricotta Quenelles, which are dumplings, smelled heavenly. And also very simple - which surprised us since classic French fish quenelles, typically made with pike, are 3 days to execute. Not these. Wonderfully savory, they filled the table with aura of comfort. Supporting the quenelles, a Tabbouleh that was so light, fresh and refreshing positively will find a place in everyone's year-round menus planning, and a Red Cabbage salad, like a slaw, was enhanced with pistachios, cranberry and blue cheese. Dessert was a cherry crumble, served as recommended with vanilla ice cream. Indian cuisine will be featured at the December club meeting on December 16 at the Atwater Library. Stop by for more information. After all, you have to eat.



Come and visit Tony and Paul for the **Best Pizza in the area.**

1874 Middletown Ave. Northford, CT 06472 203-484-PIES or www.tonyzsapizza.com Hours: M - Thur 11am - 9pm, Fri-Sat 11am - 10pm, Sun 11am - 9pm