

Totoket Times www.totokettimes.com

For Our Town From Our Town

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Volume 31 No 8, January 10, 2025

HELPING HANDS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON





Knights of Columbus Council 6801 packed and delivered twenty one-Christmas turkey and ham baskets To Stanley T. Williams Recreation Center. (photos by Tim Wee)



North Haven Sons & Daughters of Italy Community Outreach Committee recently delivered toys to the Toy Closet at Yale's Children's Hospital. Bill Bradley accepted the toys.

The collection was started by Ralph and Donna Casciello 12 years ago.. Pictured far right is committee member Georgiana Hall



Mark DeFranco also presented a donation of \$500 to Rob Snurkowski of North Haven Community Services as part of the Community Service's Fuel Assistance program.

This donation was made possible by profits realized from the lodge's successful Car Show held this past August 10 at St. Therese Church.



TOTOKET TIMES

<u>Deadline</u>		Publication Date	
January	3	January	10
January	17	January	24
January	31	February	7
February	14	February	21
February	28	March	7
March	14	March	21
March	28	April	4



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THANK YOU: ONE MORE TIME

Thank you to all those who reached out to make a voluntary payment to continue your hometown newpaper. Whether it was a dollar or a hundred dollars, every bit counts.

Many have asked me if it is too late for a contribution. It never is but this is the last time for this year that I will be positing this request.

You can still mail a voluntary payment to Totoket Times at PO Box 313, Northford, Ct. 06472. You can also VENMO to Frank-Mentone-1

Totoket Times

Totoket Times January 10, 2025

pick up locations if you did not receive a mailed copy.

North Branford

Atwater Library Patco Station Town Hall Post Office North Branford Barbershop **Hair Designs**

Northford

Recreation & Senior Center.

Edward Smith Library, Post Office, **Oasis** Northford **Country Store**

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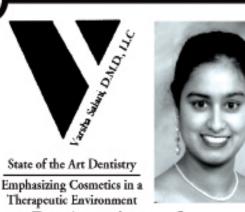












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State Representative Vincent Candelora



As the new year began, a wave of media coverage spotlighted new laws now in effect. With the legislature back in session, those reports were a timely reminder of the significant impact 187 elected state representatives and senators have on the lives of Connecticut residents.

One such law addresses "coerced debt." which includes protecting victims of

domestic violence from being held accountable for debts accrued by an abuser. It also mandates a 60-day pause in collection activities if victims provide evidence of coercion. Another notable law includes a variety of election-related measures, such as requiring absentee ballot applications to be designated for a specific year. Student loans were the focus of another bill, expanding the loan payment tax credit for qualified employers who make student loan payments on behalf of their employees.

I've posted to my website (repcandelora.com) a link that will allow you to access the laws—and summaries—that became active Jan. 1.

Also available on my site is a link to a simple survey that allows you to share thoughts about issues that are important to you. I've received a bit of early feedback after sending out the link by email, and I'll continue to collect more suggestions and comments through a scannable QR code I'm distributing via mail.

These topics reflect not just the variety of opinions and concerns of residents in our area, but also the issues that pop up General Assembly committee rooms. They range from safety on our roadways, illegal drug use, and immigration to varying opinions on electric vehicles, fossil fuels, and education. Connecticut's high cost of living is, of course, a hot issue. Healthcare and homelessness are also concerns mentioned so far.

The sheer breadth of topics addressed by the legislature each session is staggering, underscoring the importance of understanding where residents truly stand. Gaining a high-level view of community concerns—and insight into the real-world effects of legislation—isn't just helpful; it's essential. When a bill lands on our desks, this type of feedback serves as a compass, ensuring that the decisions made reflect the priorities and realities of the people we represent.

I encourage you to scan the code on the survey mailer when it arrives at your home. By sharing your thoughts, you'll help shape the decisions that impact our community and work toward ensuring that future "new laws" reflect your concerns.

State Rep. Vincent Candelora **House Republican Leader 86th Assembly District**

North Branford, Durham, East Haven, Guilford

Put Your Ad here for just \$1.00 a day! Reach all your neighbors and communicate you services. Totokettimes@comcast.net or Frank Mentone at 203-410-4254



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

Let's Be "Frank"

Well brother, not a lot to report this issue. Just like that the Christmas season is over. Valentine and Easter candy are already filling the shelves with all signs of Christmas gone.

I must say this one was one for the record books. With the entire family here, it was just how I like it. I did spend the week in excruciating pain with another kidney stone. This one took a while to get rid of. I'm a big boy but its amazing that a little stone can cause so much pain. It's also amazing how a tiny oxy pill where the recommendation is to take one every four hours can knock me out and make me stupid for the whole day with just one pill.

I was able to do my traditional O Holy Night solo at Saint Anthony's . Although I was a bit drugged up and don't remember a lot of it, I was told it was quite good. I also lost some weight because I was in two much pain to eat during the holiday. I guess two positives, one negative.

Well, as the season winds down, this is the time of year I usually go through a bit of depression. The only thing that keeps me going is looking forward to the baseball season. This team is special. The boys have been working out for four months and they are as close of a team as I have ever been involved with.

They have big goals. Coach Mitchell keeps them grounded. He has them keeping their eye on the big prize but as a staff, we also try to guide them into not competing with the other team or their teammates. They are in competition with themselves. They need to be better than they were yesterday. This doesn't only involve their athletic skills. They need to be better citizens, better students.better friends, and better teammates.

If they follow this simple structure they will be successful regardless of the record and outcome of the season. I do remind them of something you always use to say, "Winning is more fun than losing so let's go for the gold and leave it all on the field every day".

I'm looking forward to the season with these boys and I hope my health and theirs holds out.

Well, that's it for now. These are the longest two months of the year for me but everyday is a gift.

Take care and give my best to the family. I'll see you soon.



Happy Valentine's Day Join your friends at a Valentine Porchetta Dinner. Friday, February 14, 2025 **Hope Christian Church Hall**

Porchetta, Pasta, Vegetables, Salad, Desserts & Coffee or Tea.

Musical Entertainment

\$25 for Members, \$30 for Non-Members For Tickets call Frank at 203-410-4254 or fmentonejr@comcast.net

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

For the Health of it...

New Year, New Thoughts on Aging Can Change the Way You Age



Stepping into a brand new year, brings with it visions of promise and positive change. Most often New Year resolutions revolve around nutrition and exercise or perhaps tackling a project we've been putting off. I'm definitely all for drawing motivation for positive change from whatever source moves us in that direction. However, we can make a list, do all the things, and say "this time we are going to stick to it," but the bottom line is, MINDSET MATTERS.

Recently, a beautiful 98 year old woman who was a part of my life since I was a child left this earth. When she did, she left behind a legacy of strength and resilience that rivals any stereotypical image of aging one might hold. She was someone you could discuss current events with, the latest movies, sports scores, and more. I will miss our visits, conversations and her sense of humor.

I tell you this because if I just mentioned her age, it likely would have conjured up a totally different image of who she was. For this reason, before her passing, when I would mention her to others and they asked, "how old is she?" I would feel the need to quickly explain how sharp she was. This was my way of "defending her" against any negative thoughts coming her way. Yet I probably wouldn't have felt the need to do so if she had been much younger.

Aging is inevitable. Regardless of our age, whether it be 20-something or 80-something, we are aging. How we think about aging is something we learn from our family, our community, our culture, and the media. So what if I told you that *how we perceive aging* can profoundly impact how we experience it? Research shows that our mindset shapes not only our emotional health but also our physical well-being. Negative thoughts about aging can seep into the subconscious and when accepted as truth, can be detrimental to our health and actually shape the way we age.

This past November I attended a presentation on the topic of Ageism that not only increased my awareness of just how prevalent the aging misconception is, but left me feeling inspired to share the message. The facilitator, Jane Fisher, a Certified Senior Advisor and Owner of Oasis Senior Advisors delivered the following content to ponder, to an audience of individuals ranging in age from 20's to 60's; "In our youth-oriented culture, we're bombarded with messages that aging is synonymous with decline. This makes Yale University's Dr. Becca Levy's pioneering work, *Breaking the Age Code: How Your Beliefs about Aging Determine How Long and Well You Live*, especially powerful. Her research shows that on average, people with age-positive attitudes live seven and a half years longer than people with negative attitudes about aging. We can educate ourselves about ageism and work individually and collectively to fight it."

The study referenced shows that our thoughts are not just fleeting; they are powerful agents that can truly shape our reality. So how do we fight it? Redefine it! Make this your healthiest, happiest year yet by starting to reframe how you view the aging process. Instead of focusing on limitations, embrace the unique gifts that come with age: experience, resilience, and perspective. With each passing year, you gain a deeper understanding of yourself and the world, allowing you to make choices that align with your values. Your example is also shaping the views and thus the future, of the younger people in your circle of influence. Do it for you and do it for them!

While aging is often looked upon as a time of mental decline, a multitude of examples support that narrative couldn't be further from the truth. Neuroplasticity—the brain's ability to adapt and grow—continues well into old age. Arti Dixson, a friend who is a renowned drummer and educator, notes one of his students who began taking lessons at the age of 65, is still doing so 15 years later and gets better with each passing year. I also know those polar opposites who live by a favorite phrase that goes something like "at this age I'm not going to start (fill in the blank)". This was their mantra when they were 30 and when they were 40 and if they continue, they are sure to be among the least likely to ever take on something new.

As you step into the "New Year, New You" frame of mind, take time to reflect on how you think about aging. Reap the additional perks that come with a belief that aging is a time for growth and vitality; you're more likely to engage in habits that support your well-being. This means staying active, eating nourishing foods, and prioritizing restorative sleep. Your body responds to the care you give it, and there's no better time than the New Year to commit to these small, sustainable changes, 1% at a time. Challenge yourself to learn a new skill, pursue a hobby, or reconnect with friends and family.

The Northford-North Branford Women's Club, GFWC Is Accepting Scholarship Applications

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

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

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

Completed applications, including general and personal information, a financial statement, instructor/employer references, official transcript of at least the most recent two years of undergraduate or graduate work must be received by February 10, 2025.

The application may be obtained by visiting the Northford-North Branford Women's Club website at www.northfordnbwomensclubgfwc.org.

For further information, contact Rose Lynch at 203-483-8395.

North Branford High School Class of 1975 50th Class Reunion

Save the date: August 22, 2025, 6 to10pm Amarante's, New Haven, CT For more information and updates: Facebook group **NBHS Class of 1975**

Please send your contact information (name, address and email address) to NoBranfordHSClassof1975@gmail.com.

Please share this information with other classmates.

Let's rewrite the narrative we tell ourselves about growing older. See it as a privilege, a time to celebrate accomplishments, and a foundation for even greater things to come.

For suggestions on how to turn your New Year resolutions into lasting solutions, reach out at <u>joann@wellnessfusion.net</u>. Remember, this monthly article is here for you,

For the Health of It! JoAnn Begley is a Holistic Wellness Practitioner, Certified Health, Nutrition & Lifestyle Coach, with 25 years experience in holistic wellness services.







Jonathan Boughton Scholarship Raises More Than \$20,000

On Thursday, November 14th, The Jonathan R.Boughton Scholarship Corp. held its second annual Fundraising Event. Hosted again by Branford Cue-n-Brew, The event raised over \$20,000 for students who are seeking a career in the Automotive and Technical Trades. This past Spring, two North Branford High students, Lucy Vogt, and Collin Augur, were awarded scholarships for their work towards their futures in the Vocational Trades. Scholarships were also awarded to Sonya Marie, and Joniel Serrano, both students graduated from the Auto-Tech program at Eli Whitney High School.

This year's event was attended by over 100 people and supported by dozens of local businesses. Attendees took home over \$5,000 in raffle prizes, including high-end tools from Snap-on and Matco, Patio sets, gift cards, and more. We wish to thank everyone who helped and donated to this great cause. Especially the Owners and Staff at Branford Cue-n-Brew, and our great D.J. "Josh the Music Man".

For more information on this scholarship program, or if you wish to donate and help students get their start in the Vocational Trades, please visit our website, www.JRBSC.org

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Confidence in Docking & Undocking: Slow Speed Maneuvering New Haven Sail & Power Squadron, part of America's Boating Club,

will hold a two-hour seminar for boaters who need information about confidence in docking and undocking: slow speed maneuvering. Look like a pro. Protect your boat, your passengers, and yourself with the docking/ undocking skills you need.

Docking can be one of the most stressful tasks you can perform, especially if you are a new boater. Learn how to control your boat at slow speed in close proximity to other boats and fixed objects. Learn how to approach the dock in a variety of conditions and safely secure your boat. Learn how to depart the dock in any situation. Understand the use of spring lines, how to safely fend off, and other techniques. With the knowledge you'll gain in this seminar, coupled with your on-the-water practice, your confidence in docking and slow-speed maneuvering will increase and your boating will be both safer and more enjoyable.

Class will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Sat., Jan. 25, at Indian Neck Yacht Club, 87 Harding Ave., Branford.

All students must sign up by Wed., Jan. 22. People can sign up online and charge it to a credit card. The class costs \$10 per person. To register and pay online, use the Zeffy link that follows. https://www.zeffy.com/ ticketing/dockingundocking-seminar There is no processing fee. Or, contact Squadron Education Officer Peter DePascale at 203-671-2420 and leave a message, or email him at <u>bathworksinc@gmail.com</u>.

New Haven Sail & Power Squadron (NHSPS), is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization dedicated to making boating safer and more enjoyable by teaching classes in boat handling, navigation, and related subjects. For information on NHSPS, go to: <u>www.nhsps.org</u>.



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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Branford Bible Chapel. 212 Branford Rd., corner of Twin Lakes Rd. 203-488-3586. Sunday morning: 10:00 - 10:30 Worship & Lord's Supper, 10:30 11:00 Announcements and Music Minity, 11:00 -11:45 Ministering of God's Word & Sunday School. Nursery provided. Vacation Bible School, missions & outreach programs. www.branfordbiblechapel.org

Community Baptist Church. 53 Hopson Avenue, Branford, CT. Pastor Jon Bickel. Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 a.m. and Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Nursery is provided. Adult bible study and prayer meeting, and children's clubs on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. For more info.: 203-488-8581; info@cbcbranford.org; www.cbcbranford.org

Hope Christian Church (we are an Assemblies of God affiliated church) 211 Montowese Ave., North Haven CT www.hopeag.com. Sunday Service 10:00 AM, Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM. Follow us on Facebook. "realpeople realhope reallife" (203) 234-7328

North Branford Congregational Church, UCC, 1680 Foxon Road, North Branford, CT Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM. On the first Sunday of each month please attend and share communion with us. Nursery Care is available. To contact our church: Office hours are Wednesday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Phone: 203.488.8456, email: nobdcong@sbcglobal.net, website: www.northbranfordcongregational.org_Remember, all are welcome no matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey; you will always be welcome here.

Northford Community Church. Church is located on Old Post Rd. (Corner of Rte 17 and Rte 22), PO Box 191 Northford. Phone (203)-484-0795, Fax (203)-484-9916. Email: northfordcc@gmail.com. Office Hours: Tuesday 9am-1pm; Other days by appointment. John Vigneri, Pastor. Catherine Klouda, worship leader. Worship service 10am. Join us for coffee hour following worship. Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Like us on Facebook. Our website is www.northfordcommunity.church.

St. Ambrose Parish – Roman Catholic Parish with two church buildings, St. Augustine, located at 30 Caputo Rd. North Branford and St. Monica, located at 1321 Middletown Ave. Northford.

The pastor is Rev. Robert L. Turner. All are welcome and invited to join us for Mass! Summer Mass times include: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 9:00 AM at St. Augustine. Weekend Masses are celebrated on Saturday at 4:30 PM at St. Augustine (English Ordinary no incense used), Sunday at 9:00 AM at St. Monica (English Ordinary, no incense used) and on Sunday at 11:00 AM at St. Augustine (Latin Ordinary with use of incense). The sacrament of Reconciliation is offered a half hour before all Masses, excepting Sunday, and on Monday evenings from 5-6 PM during Adoration. The parish office is located at St. Augustine Church and is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-1. You can access the bulletin and staff emails at NBcatholics.org. If you are new to the area and looking for a wonderful parish or homeschool co-op to join, please visit us or give us a call!

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, the white church on the hill in the heart of Northford, has been an integral part of Northford since 1763! Worship services are held Sundays at 10 a.m., except during the Summer are held at 9 a.m.(from June through Labor Day). Refreshments and fellowship always follows. Please join us - we'd love to get to know you! All are always welcome!! St. Andrew's supports many community programs. The Food Pantry of North Branford is located in the lower level of St. Andrew's Parish Hall. St. Andrew's annually contributes to the North Branford Scholarship Program; North Branford Social Services Thanksgiving Basket Share and the Christmas gift and food basket share programs; Back-to-School backpacks; clothing donations (donation shed located at the back of the church parking lot); and more. A number of fundraising events are held throughout the year to help us help our neighbors, such as a Rhubarb Fest, Ice Cream Socials, and Harvest Supper. Also, the Parish Hall is available for rent for birthday parties, showers, receptions, etc. The Rev. Bryan Spinks is St. Andrew's priest; Nan Monde is Sr. Warden. For more information please contact Nan at 203-710-7005."

Please join us for worship at **St. John's Episcopal Church** at 129 Ledge Hill Road in Guilford, CT 06437. Our services are at 10 am each Sunday with Youth Spiritual Foundation for ages 5 and up every first and third Sunday. Coffee hour after our service in our parish hall. See our Facebook page St. John's Episcopal Church, Guilford CT. 203-457-1094. check our website at www.saintjohnsguilford.org

Shoreline Community Church located at 9 Business Park Dr., Units 1-4, Branford, CT. Call us at 203.481.8919. Sunday Services at 8:30 and 10:00 AM (Children and Jr. High activities meet during our 10 AM service). For more information, check out our website www.sccbranford.org. SCC is a diverse community that is dedicated to Making the Invisible God Visible.

Zion Episcopal Church, 326 Notch Hill Road, North Branford. While we are in transition, we continue to hold services of Morning Prayer following Rite 2 in the Book of Common Prayer, and do have services of Holy Eucharist when we are fortunate to get a supply priest. At this time, we have a single service at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday morning. Refreshments and fellowship to follow service in the parish hall. Please visit our Facebook page or our website zionepiscopalchurch.org. Zion is an open and affirming congregation for those seeking a safe place to worship and grow in Christ. 203-488-7395

Recycling News

Christmas Tree Pickup continues – January 13-17, 2025 On your scheduled pickup day.

The 2025 Recycling/Trash Information Card will be in your January Totoket Times. Please look for it and save it as a reference to all the trash/recycling events all year long. If the card is missing or you misplace yours, there will be copies at both libraries and Town Hall. You can also download a copy from the town website.

Reduce - Reuse - Recycle

For the New Year it is a good time to re-evaluate your waste footprint.

Donating = **Reuse**

For items that still have some life in them, consider posting them on the Facebook page: North Branford & Northford Free Items.

Help someone else out, unclutter your house and help the environment at the same time.

For a larger audience check out Freecycle.org in East Haven or New Haven.

You can also look up your item in the New Haven Downsizing Donation Guide. It lists multiple organizations that want your stuff! Just search for 'New Haven Downsizing Donation Guide'.

Try the One-A-Day Declutter Method. Every day, commit to purge ONE item from you home.

Try to donate your items so someone else can use them.

Recycling Reminder

Don't put your recyclables inside a cardboard box or plastic bag. Recycling should always stay separated and loose.

Plastic Film Reminder

The town's drop off locations are:

Atwater and Smith Libraries, Northford Store, STW

Community Center, The Food Pantry of NB, Country Paint

and Hardware, T.J.'s Launderette

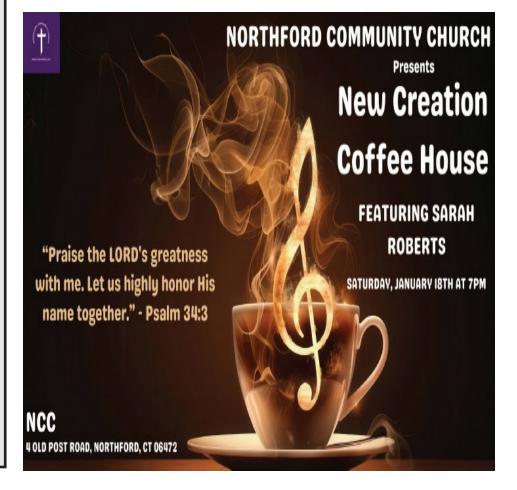
Can I recycle it?

Connecticut has a website to help with recycling questions: <u>www.</u> <u>recyclect.com.</u>

They also have an app.

For more information about recycling in North Branford you can check out North Branford's Recycling Committee's website: townofnorthbranfordct.com/government/boards-commissions/hazardous-wasterecycling-committee.aspx

or our Facebook page: North Branford CT Hazardous Waste & Recycling Committee





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Valentine Dance Party

In partnership with Beyond the Horizon

Valentine themed dance party for individuals in our special needs community.

Thursday, February 13
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Kindly register by 2/10/25

Gnorace An Adaptive Dance Program

Join us for an adaptive, sensory friendly dance class for individuals of differing abilities!

January 16, 2025

Ages 16 and under 5:30pm- 6:00pm - \$10 STW Community Center

YOGA TO RELEASE THE WEEK

A fluid (vinyasa) class taught with basic foundation poses, alignment and options for the beginner students, as well as, seasoned practitioners. This class will focus on releasing the stress of your busy week in both the mind and body leaving all students with more space to breathe, ease in their body and calm in their mind. Instructor: Brianne Barrett

STW Yoga Room

Thursdays Jan 23 - March 20 2 6:30-7:30pm Ages 18+ Cost \$75 res/ \$80 nr







-SENIOR CENTER

In the Kitchen with Kathy

Let's get together to create simple, yummy snacks.

Mashed Potato Puffs Tuesday, January 14th

1:00-2:00pm - FREE STW Gym/Cafe Please register by 1/9

WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Comfort Food That's Nutritious & Easy
January 21, 2025

STW Senior Room 1:00-2:00pm *Register by 1/17*

Understanding Seasonal Affective Disorder February 11, 2025

STW Senior Room 1:00-2:00pm *Register by 2/7*

CHAIR YOGA

Tuesdays Jan 7 — Feb 25 10:30—11:30am \$45 res / \$50 nr

Instructor: Sharon Bailey Chair yoga is a gentle form of yoga that is done while sitting and using a chair for support. Chair yoga helps build strength, improve coordination, and promotes relaxation, reduces stress.

CARDIO DRUMMING

Tuesdays Jan 9 — Feb 27 1:00—1:45pm \$12 res / \$15 nr

Instructor: Senior Center Staff
Cardio drumming brings together drumsticks, an
exercise ball, and a stand to create one of the most fun
workouts you'll ever do! Cardio drumming can be done
while standing or sitting in a chair. Registration required.

Totoket Times January 10, 2025

CLASSIFIED AD RATES Personal, For Sale, Help Wanted, Tag Sale, and all non-business classified 1 issue \$9.00 2 issues \$12.00 3 issues \$15.00 20 words or less, not including phone #. \$.05 per word, per run, after 20 words Lost and Found FREE Business Classified Ads & Real Estate 3 issues \$35.00, 6 issues \$60.00, 12 issues \$100.00 \$.10 per word, per run, after 20 words Payment MUST accompany all ads. The advertiser must notify this newspaper of any errors. Send ad along with your check to: Totoket Times P.O. Box 313 Northford, CT 06472 For more information call 203-410-4254

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Interior/Extrerior Repairs. Walls, ceilings, trim, water damage, porches, decks, doors, and windows. Free estimates, insured. Call Bill at 203-901-2136.

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TOWN COUNCIL RECONSTITUTES AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

Seeks New Volunteers to Guide Revitalized Group

NORTH BRANFORD - The North Branford Town Council is seeking interested residents to volunteer as members of the North Branford Agriculture Commission. The commission has gone inactive over the past several years and new members are being sought to revitalize the commission and make it active again.

The Agriculture Commission was originally created in 2007 by the Town Council through an Ordinance under Chapter 4 of the Town Code. Its purpose is to undertake efforts and provide advice that will preserve and sustain the agriculture industry, encourage pursuit of agriculture, protect farmland through education, communication, conflict resolution, and promote the economic viability of farming in the Town of North Branford.

The Commission additionally serves as a conduit between nonprofit agencies and local farmers, as a clearinghouse for agricultural information, and charts land use in North Branford to support a balance between agriculture, preservation, and other land uses.

The Commission is to be composed of five members and two alternates appointed by the Town Council. All members must be electors from the town with three of the regular members being electors who are active in or have an interest in farming or agriculture in town.

Those interested in seeking appointment to the revitalized Commission should complete an application form available on the town website HERE (https:// northbranfordet.gov/195/Boards-Commissions), and submit along with a letter of interest and optional CV to the Town Manager's office at gcox@north-<u>branfordet.gov</u> by **February 7, 2025**, for consideration by the Town Council.



Northford-North Branford Women's Club, GFWC **General Assembly Meeting January 21, 2025**

A Place Called Hope will be presenting at our January 21st meeting and bringing 2 birds! All members, family and friends are invited to attend.

A Place Called Hope is a 501 c 3 non-profit organization run entirely by volunteers along with donations of time, supplies and money from our supporters. If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please send us an email at hope4raptors@yahoo.com. One of our goals at A Place Called Hope, Inc. is to teach the public how to protect and respect wildlife, in particular Raptors. We are encouraged by people's reactions to our programs and their own personal stories about the Birds of Prey they have encountered. We are thrilled to share these birds with so many people who truly care and want to learn more. Although, our biggest thrills are experienced whenever we have the opportunity to release a wild bird back into its own environment after a brief stay at our facility! There is no comparison to giving a wild bird or animal the gift of "Freedom."

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Did you know:

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