



Totoket Times

www.totokettimes.com

For Our Town From Our Town

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

Postal Customer

Volume 31 No 9, January 24, 2025



NB Plastic Film Recycling Program Year Eight Update

Year eight of the Plastic Film Recycling Program in North Branford continued to show enthusiastic support by North Branford residents. 5,700 pounds of plastic film were collected in 2024, which is the highest yearly total to date. We have collected 37,000 pounds of plastic film in 8 years, which equates to over 18 tons. Thank you!

Since we started the program in 2017, some milestones were met by our collection locations. Country Paint and Hardware eclipsed the 8,000 pound mark, Northford Store 6,000, Atwater Library 5,000, and Guilford Fence and Smith Library 4,000 pounds each. Very impressive for our Town.

As part of the program, we earn benches from the Trex Company, which are then distributed to locations and organizations in NB. Those benches are made by Trex from recycled plastic film, so your recycling efforts are worthwhile.

In 2024, Trex changed the eligibility criteria for earning a bench, so we can now only earn one bench per year after collecting 1,000 pounds of plastic film. NB reached that threshold in March of 2024.

The bench earned for 2024 went to Northford Country Store. The bench for 2025 will go to either Fire Company 2 or 3.

We have two requests that will greatly assist with the sorting of the plastic film we collect. Please only place acceptable items in the collection bins, and remember to TURN ALL BAGS INSIDE OUT. This will ensure no food residue remains in the bags.

NO CHIP OR CANDY BAGS, NO CANDY WRAPPERS, AND NO MOLDED PLASTIC CONTAINERS.

Lastly, do the crinkle test. If the item makes a lot of noise when squeezing it, it is probably not plastic film, so throw it out. One exception is cereal bags, which can be collected. Only #2 and #4 plastic film is acceptable. Most items do not have a number on them, but there are several that indicate they are a #5 or #7. Please throw those out.

Please contact us if you have any questions. The North Branford Solid/Hazardous Waste and Recycling Committee thanks you again for making this program a huge success.

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://northbranfordct.gov/195/Boards-Commissions) (<https://northbranfordct.gov/195/Boards-Commissions>), and submit along with a letter of interest and optional CV to the Town Manager's office at gcox@northbranfordct.gov by February 7, 2025, for consideration by the Town Council.

*For issues that are not mailed you can pick up your
Totoket Times at any of the following locations.
This is a great chance to get out and meet some of your
local businesses and neighbors!*



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

www.totokettimes.com

TOTOKET TIMES

Deadline	Publication Date
January 31	February 7
February 14	February 21
February 28	March 7
March 14	March 21
March 28	April 4
April 11	April 18
April 25	May 2

**Connecticut
Sporting Arms, LLC**

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

Amie Willhite, Owner

New and Used Guns • Bought • Sold • Traded

Table of Contents

Editorial	Page	2 - 4
School	Page	6
Sports	Page	7
Church	Pages	8
Community	Page	9-10
Park Rec	Page	11
Classified	Page	12

Thanks to All

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are now behind us, but the spirit of community generosity and thoughtfulness remains. There are many things in life we must do, things that we are required to do but the sincerity to care for your neighbors is not required although it is prevalent within this community.

Thank you to all the people that reached out without being solicited. People that called sincerely wishing to help another family. People that had the patience and endurance to work with me through voicemails, emails, busy signals, weekend and night calls, and the juggle.

Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and warm hearts. Truly a community composed of in-

tegrity and compassion. May you have a spectacular New Year! Stay well, stay safe.

North Branford Public Works staff, Fran Merola, Director of Public Works, Dan Celetano, Asst Director of Public Works, Ken Ash, Darren Peterson, John Calamita, North Branford Town Hall staff, Jessica Della Camera, North Branford Fire Co. 1, North Branford FD Ambulance Co. 4, North Branford Police Union, Det. Craig Miller, North Branford Police Dept., North Branford Library staff, Lauren Davis, Director of Library Services, Carly Limere, Assistant Library Director, NB Democratic Town Committee, Family Resource Center staff, Honeywell Northford staff, Shawna Gilson, Bill and Phyllis Peterson, The Petrosky Family, Reitman Personnel staff, Lisa Kagel, Arlene Lucibello, Fran Beaumont, Keri Moyer Nina Burhardt, Beth Casanova Family,

Twin Lakes Child Care, Sharon DiCrosta, St Andrew's Church, Leslie Williams, The Surh Family, Yale Ambulatory HVC Branford Office, Crista Nolan Pat and Dennis Owens, Kim Muravnick, Courtney Cleary, Girl Scout Troops 60336, 60121, 60471, 60139, 60141, 60136, 60193

Knights of Columbus Council #680, Wayne Humphrey Knights of Columbus, Grand Knight, Gary Johnson, Knights of Columbus, Recorder, Damian DeNegre Knights of Columbus, Grand Knight, David Coombs Bob Haley, Tim Wee and children, Mike Colella, Anthony Celotto, Rob Mullins Jr., Dave Burich Jeffery Artice, Nancy Sciliopote, The Fleming Family Nancy and Frank Brigano, Barbara Amato Family, Mr and Mrs Ferrigno, Dave and Lynn Clark, Catherine Frankel, Sara Monde Family Anonymous Donors Eileen DeRosa, Lauren DeRosa Peter DeRosa Laura Colangelo Bob Colangelo Lynn Adams, Dedicated Few MC Mother Chapter, Royal Order of South Dakota Buffalo, Darkside Dave Smith, Dunbar United Church of Christ, Jennifer Johnson, Missions Board, Henry Fernandez, Debra Bowler, Ann DiPalma John Della Ventura Family, Wishing Wheels Bike Drive Roots 4 Relief Rhonda Gallo Jennifer and Ken Ash



PORTO FUNERAL HOME
234 Foxon Rd (RT. 80) East Haven

467-3000

Offering assistance with
PRE-planning and PRE-financing

Burials - Cremations

Directors

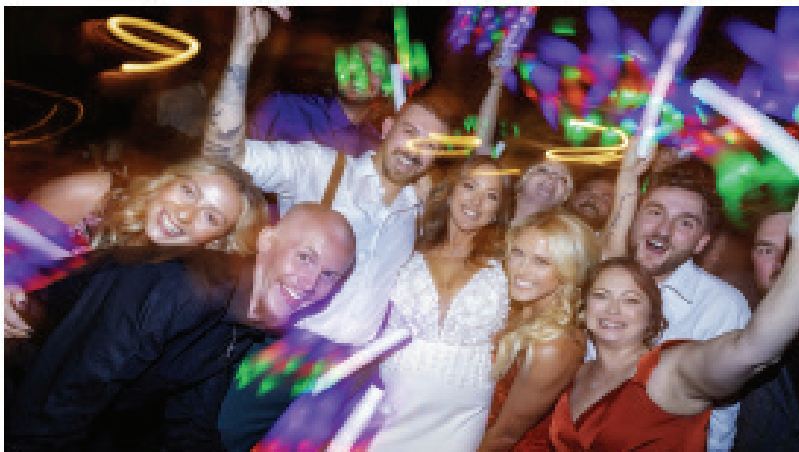
**Clement L. DeLucia, Albert M. DeLucia
Robert M. Patton, Donna M. Lewandoski**



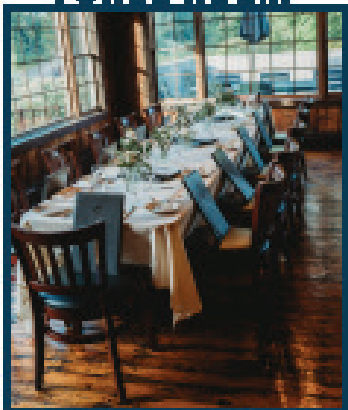
MILLPOND GATHERINGS

STEAKHOUSE • TAVERN • VENUE

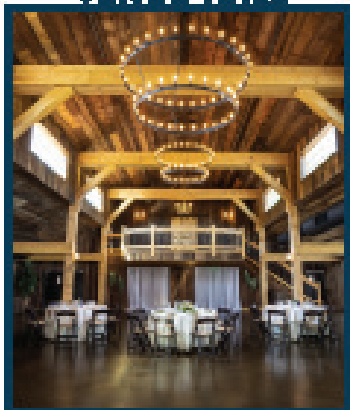
Making memories to last a lifetime



FORGE ROOM



VENUE HALL



BOOK YOUR SPECIAL EVENT TODAY (203) 714-4700

1565 MIDDLETOWN AVE., NORTHFORD | MILLPONDGATHERINGS.COM



**Hair Care
for Men & Women!**



Hours of Operation

Tuesday 1-5 PM

Wednesday - Friday 9AM - 5PM

Saturday 9AM - 3PM

**1717 Foxon Rd. (Rte 80) -
North Branford (in The Keybank Plaza)
203-488-6959**

Need to Sell Your House Fast? No Realtor?

We buy houses **cash**

Close in as little as 7 days!

Cash Offers or Creative Financing

- No Repairs Needed
- Fair, Fast & Hassle-Free Process

Call (203) 824-5775 for a FREE offer today!

The Law Office of
Vincent J. Mase Sr. LLC
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR
AT LAW

Vincent J. Mase, Sr.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

999 Foxon Road
Unit 10
North Branford, Ct
Tel: 203-484-4403
Fax 203-484-4404
E-MAIL:
Mase_attoreny@sbcglobal.net

Sit & Stay
Dog Grooming, LLC

\$5.00 OFF
\$40. Service
Expires 2-28-25



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



MARC GUERTIN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

**WILLS & TRUSTS
ASSET PROTECTION
ESTATE PLANNING**

203-500-0201

MARC@ATTORNEYMARC.COM

222 RIMMON ROAD • NORTH HAVEN, CT 06473

State Representative Vincent Candelora



On New Year's Eve, a convicted pedophile dressed in beige prison garb sat before Connecticut's Board of Pardons and Paroles, pleading his case. Guerino Magloire, a 52-year-old man sentenced to five years for sexually assaulting a child between the ages of 13 and 15, could not assure the panel that he wouldn't reoffend.

Yet instead of focusing on public safety or the victim's plight, the Board shifted its discussion to how they could support Magloire in avoiding deportation to Haiti, where he claimed his life would be in danger due to the country's instability.

Overcome with emotion, Magloire thanked the Board for paroling him into a halfway house ahead of his November 2025 release. This controversial decision—you can watch it on YouTube—highlights a troubling trend: public safety is increasingly taking a back seat to progressive immigration policies in the halls of our state government and within our criminal justice system.

Just days earlier, ICE officials criticized Connecticut for releasing a convict with a detainer order, citing growing frustrations with sanctuary state policies. This follows a December incident—I wrote about it in this space—where Hartford police, adhering to sanctuary city ordinances, released a previously deported Peruvian national arrested for alleged sexual assault, leaving ICE agents to track him down weeks later.

While many Americans find hope in President Trump's tough stance on illegal immigration, Connecticut remains a challenge. Many legislators continue their push to extend benefits for undocumented individuals, including proposals for more free healthcare, while our attorney general—our state's top law enforcement official—spends much of his time these days defending sanctuary state policies.

By contrast, I've joined my Republican colleagues to fight back against these dangerous policies. I've proposed:

Dismantling the legislature-imposed roadblocks between law enforcement and federal immigration officials.

Cutting discretionary, non-education funding for municipalities that adopt sanctuary city ordinances.

Requiring state agencies to finally report the financial and public safety impacts of illegal immigration on Connecticut.

It's time to put public safety first, protect our communities, and ensure accountability in our criminal justice system.

Rep. Vincent Candelora
House Republican Leader
86th District
North Branford,
Durham,
East Haven,
Guilford






State of the Art Dentistry
 Emphasizing Cosmetics in a
 Therapeutic Environment

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

- Whitening - Smile Design
- Painless Gentle Dentistry

Come see us at our new location!
185 Maple Ave., North Haven, CT
Varsha Salani, D.M.D., LLC
(203) 234-1901

Let's Be "Frank"

I have to tell you brother, in all the years my mother in law knew me, I never heard her say anything nice about me. That goes back even as far as grammar school when SueAnn and I were in the same class. She always thought her daughter was capable of doing better and that's one of the few things we might have agreed on.

On her death bed, she told my two daughters, "Your father is okay, but he has a lot of strange ways about him". As left handed as that was, it was probably the only compliment she ever gave me.

As you know, January is my least favorite month of the year and it gives me a lot of time for reflection. So I have been thinking of some things that I do that might seem strange to the average individual.

I have had the same pair of gloves for more than fifteen years. They are my favorites. I have kept them this long by not wearing them outside. I wear them in the car and take them off when I go outside. Because of this I have never lost them and have kept them in good condition for many years. When I drive I keep one glove on to keep my hand warm and the other hand is glove less so I can play with the phone, the radio etc.

When I eat, I eat each item on my plate separately. First all the vegetables, then the starch (if I am cheating on my diet) then the main protein part of the meal. Never let them touch and never a spoonful of one until I'm completely finished with the other.

I eat pizza with a fork. I eat all the toppings first. Then if my sugar numbers are good, I eat the crust. If they are not good I give the crust to Erica's dog.

I don't do anything today that I can put off until tomorrow. I agonize over it for days but I never do it until I really need it done.

I refuse to put nuts and fruit in my salads. I love nuts and fruits but they don't belong in a green salad. They are pretty much a dessert.

I watch TV shows over and over again. Even though with some of them I know all the words by heart, I still watch them and sometimes hope for a different outcome.

I hate hospitals but I love to watch hospital and doctor shows on television.

I thought they went together.

Hot peppers screw up my stomach but I love eating them and continue to do so even though I know I will pay for it by the end of the day.

I refuse to take leftovers home from a restaurant or a party when the host is asking me to take something. Tired of being the poor family when we were kids and having mom take everything she was offered. I might love the meal but I'm just not taking anything home.

My son makes fun of me because I always have cash in my pocket and rarely use a credit card. I guess in today's world no one carries cash. But I am not from today's world.

I still write out checks for bill payment although I am getting better at online automatic payments.

I sing every Sunday at church. I have done weddings, funerals and special events. However, I refuse to do Karaoke. I'm often asked when we might be at a bar that has it, but I have no interest.

No matter how cold it is, I refuse to wear a winter coat. My winter coats are various sweaters I have bought for myself, or Gina will pick out and give me as a gift. Some of the things I wear seem to embarrass her.

When I drive I tend to use all three lanes. If they are going to put three lanes on the highway then you should take advantage of all of them.

I do have a filter from my brain to my mouth but I choose not to use it. I am spontaneous and sometimes that comes off as being rude. I say at my age I can do and say what I want, but my kids tell me I have been doing that forever.

I'm sure you could name a few hundred more my brother, but although I still talk to you every day, you still don't respond.

Well, in hindsight, maybe my mother in law was right. I do have some strange ways about me but what the hell. In our own ways we all have things that are different about us. I'm just man enough to admit it.

Take care my brother. Give my best to the rest of the family.

Give mom and dad a happy anniversary kiss for me.

I'll see you soon.

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



This publication is published bi-weekly by

Doss Enterprises LLC

PO Box 313 Northford, CT. 06472

Tel; 203-410-4254

email: totokettimes@comcast.net

PUBLISHER - FRANK MENTONE JR.

founders - Bert Bunnell Jr. & Anthony Esposito Jr.

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

Estate Planning for Everyone: Back to Basics By Attorney Marc Guertin

Every adult should have a basic estate plan. A basic estate plan contemplates both life and death. A basic plan is comprised of a Will, a Power of Attorney, a Healthcare Directive and a Living Will.

The key document in a basic estate plan is a Last Will and Testament. A Will can be a simple document distributing assets outright to your heirs or it can be more complex; planning for all types of situations from minor children to special needs beneficiaries. A Will acts like a roadmap on how and when to distribute your assets to your heirs.

A basic plan will plan for more than just your death. It will also plan for your incapacity. The core document in an incapacity plan is a Durable Power of Attorney. A Durable Power of Attorney allows you to appoint an agent who can handle your financial affairs if you should become incapacitated. A Durable Power of Attorney is critically important. In the absence of this document no one has the power to manage your affairs while you are incapacitated and the only way to get that kind of power is to go to court.

Healthcare Directives and Living Wills are also extremely important when planning for incapacity. These documents focus on your health. A Healthcare Directive appoints someone to interact with healthcare professionals and make decisions on your behalf if you are incapacitated. A Living Will lets you inform your doctors (and loved ones) your wishes regarding what extraordinary medical procedures you want performed if you are in a terminal condition with no hope of recovery. It spells out your exact intentions, which takes the weight of a decision like that off your family.

If you'd like to sit down with me and talk about putting together a plan, I offer free initial consultation. Virtual, phone and in person consultations are available. Call me at 203-500-0201 or email me at marc@attorneymarc.com to schedule an appointment.

Marc Guertin is the principal at Marc Guertin, Attorney at Law, LLC. Located at 222 Rimmon Road, North Haven, Connecticut. Visit Attorneymarc.com Call: 203-500-0201 or email Marc@attorneymarc.com to schedule a complimentary consultation.

Italian American Defense League

For Immediate Release: The Italian-American Defense League (IADL) today announced that it has formally filed an appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, challenging a recent district court decision that the organization believes undermines the rights and cultural heritage of Italian-Americans, including IADL members and Plaintiff Ralph Marcarelli. IADL's attorney Norman Pattis called U.S. District Court Judge Omar A. Williams' decision, "ludicrous."

The appeal stems from the district court's ruling on ITALIAN AMERICAN DEFENSE LEAGUE & RALPH MARCARELLI Plaintiffs, v. CITY OF NEW HAVEN, JUSTIN ELICKER, Case Number 3:23-cv-773 (OAW), which concerns the removal of a statue of Christopher Columbus from Wooster Square, a historical marker dating back to 1892 that was erected in the aftermath of the 1891 mass lynching of Italians in New Orleans. The IADL argues that the lower court's decision fails to adequately consider key legal principles about standing and historical preservation laws.

"This appeal is about ensuring fairness and protecting cultural heritage," said Matthew Guarnieri, President of the Italian-American Defense League. "We are confident that the Second Circuit will give this case the careful consideration it deserves, recognizing if the City of New Haven is allowed to destroy Italian heritage, then every American's heritage is in jeopardy."

The case involves Mayor Justin Elicker's order to remove the Columbus statue on June 24, 2020 without public notice or an official vote. Elicker's order attracted protesters, for and against the removal of the Columbus statue, to the public park creating a disparaging situation for the Italian-Americans at the protest. The IADL contends that the district court's decision ignored federal historic preservation laws: The Official Compilation of the U.S. Cultural Heritage Statutes (5th edition, 2018) states, "The Congress finds and declares that the spirit and direction of the nation are founded upon and reflected in its historic heritage;" that "the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community...;" and that "the preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest..." That's official policy. The "Nation" encompasses all groups, equally, without favor of one over another. The cultural heritage of Italian Americans is not excluded. The removal of the statue threatened the rights and dignity of Italian-Americans, damaged the historic district, harmed Ralph Marcarelli, and favored Black Lives Matter (BLM) protesters after the George Floyd tragedy on May 25, 2020.

The New Haven Historic District Commission did not rule on the re-

continued on page 10

He Had a Dream

On August 28, 1963 Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous speech.

"I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation. Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity. But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. So we have come here today to dramatize a shameful condition. In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check -- a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children. It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges. But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. 1 We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. They have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone. As we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied, as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating "For Whites Only". We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned

continued on page 9

Valentine's Porchetta Dinner

*Join friends or make new ones as
The North Haven Sons & Daughters of Italy celebrate.
Saturday, February 15, 2025, 6:00*



- Porchetta
- Pasta
- Vegetables
- Salad
- Desserts
- & Coffee
- or Tea



\$25.00

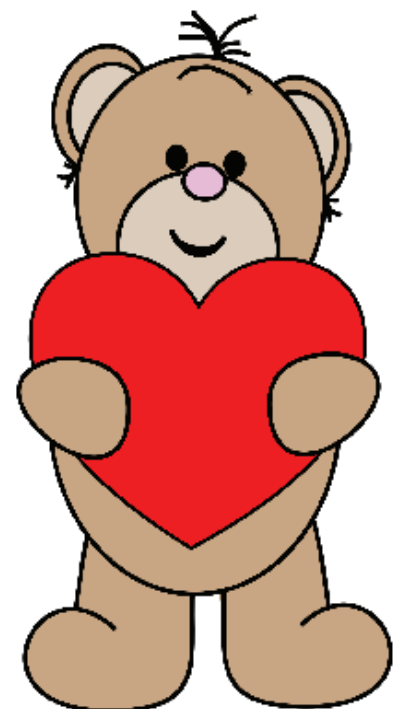
for members

\$30.00 for non members

**Hope Christian Church Hall
(ALCOHOL FREE)
Montowese Avenue
North Haven.**

Entertainment by
Jon Condie

For tickets call Frank at 203-410-4254



MEET THE NORTH BRANFORD YOUTH FOOTBALL ELITE

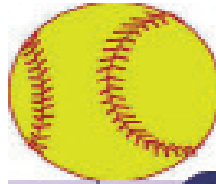
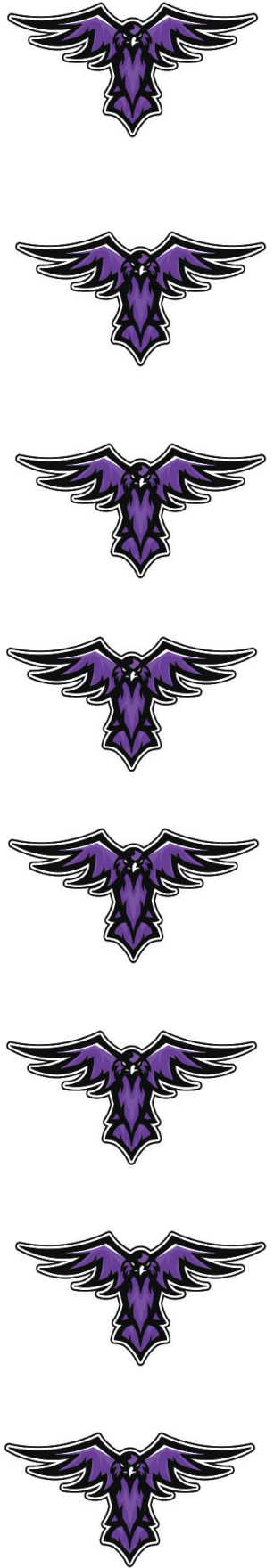
The CTYFL (Connecticut Youth Football League) championship games were recently held at East Hartford High School. The North Branford Thunderbirds B Team exhibited tenacity in a tough loss to the East Hartford Hornets and took home the 2nd place trophy. Congratulations on your hard work and dedication this season.



Coaches: Sean Macauley, Sean Anderson, Dan Wells, Dan Schmidt, Tim Furtak, Dan McNamara and Bob Silvestro.
Players: Rocco Anderson, Jackson Azarigian, Keegan Barrett, Carmine Bevilacqua, Ryder Dalip, Gennaro DiLungo, J.P. Freeman, Caden Furtak, Gavin Fusco-Cuneo, Jared Gallagher, Jr, Ryan Kavanaugh, Paul Ludington, Joey Mansi, Giuseppe Marino, Jason Mazzucco, Benson McNamara, Liam Nunez, Colt O'Donnell, Gianni Petrarca-Pepe, Noah Rodriguez, Luciano Salvati, Izayah Santiago, Daniel Scali, Bennett Tracz, Parker Tracz, Connor Toman, Nicholas Tripp, Mitchell Verzi, Michael Vitale, Joseph Wells, and Landon Williams. T

The North Branford Thunderbirds A Team beat the East Hartford Hornets 38-7 to win the CTYFL championship and completed an undefeated season with a record of 11-0. This is the first time in North Branford Youth football history that a team has won back to back championships! Congratulations to the players and coaches for an amazing year of football!

Coaches: George Cottiero, Alec Cottiero, Austin Cahill, Ryan Brustman, Mark Stephens and Jeff Dow.
Players: Nico Anderson, Owen Brustman, Austin Cahill, Marco Cerrone, Santino Cerrone, Billy Criscuolo, Anthony D'Amato, Gianni DiBenedetto, James Kavanaugh, Connor Lowery, Jack Macauley, Harlen Ozoria, Elias Osegueda, Mason Pantano, Tyler Poston, Gianni Salvati, Andrew Savo, Lucas Savo, Cypress Smith, Jade Smith, Tanner Tracz, Brian Tripp, Joni Troqe and



NOW OFFERING:

SOFTBALL LESSONS

Lessons will be offered in North Branford, CT.

My name is Angelina Ramada and I am a former D3 college softball player, and now coach looking to spread knowledge and skills about softball!

Contact me if you are looking for extra help in hitting, fielding, and more.

Any ages between 8-18 years old are welcome!

For more info as to when and where contact me through email:
ramadaangelina@gmail.com



Connecticut Sportsplex®

FIELDHOUSE FAMILY FUN CENTER

LASER TAG BIRTHDAY PARTIES

LASER TAG FIELD TRIPS

LASER TAG GROUP OUTINGS

NOW AVAILABLE BY RESERVATION

GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE ONLY



203-484-4383

www.ctsportsplex.com



New Adult Classes at

Shoreline
ADULT EDUCATION



Scan the QR Code
to Register!

Choose a **FREE** class:

ESOL Family Literacy for Parents with Children ages 1-5:

Your children attend their own class
while you are in English class

ServSafe Classes



ServSafe for GED and ESOL Students

- Become ServSafe certified while earning your diploma
- OR**
- Become ServSafe certified while learning English

203.488.5693

shorelineadulted.org

THEY MAKE US PROUD

Zachary Schroeder, Dana Wray and Dominick Langello were named to the Dean's List at Western New England University in Springfield, MA

Gabrielle Senerchia, Rachel Peppe and Brionna Staton were named to the Dean's List at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, NH

Michael Riordan was named to the Dean's List at Curry college in Milton, MA.

Nathan Tranquilli, Ariana Fionella, Jillian Garrett, Carl Jackson, Emily McCormack, Desiree Wilson and Emma Yacono were named to the Dean's List at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, CT

Dylan Altermatt was named to the Dean's List at Dean College in Franklin, MA.

North Branford High School

Class of 1975 50th Class Reunion

Save the date: August 22, 2025, 6 to 10pm
Amarante's, New Haven, CT

NORTH BRANFORD BARBERSHOP

HAIR CUTS
MEN \$14.00
SENIORS &
KIDS UNDER 10
\$12.00

Tues, 8:30 - 5:00 Wed 8:30 - 5:00
Thur 8:30 - 5:00 Fri, 8:30 - 5:00
Saturday 8:30 - 2:00
- WALK - INS ONLY -

OWNER- ROBERT VIGLIONE
1179 FOXON RD, NORTH BRANFORD | (203) 484-6789

For more information and updates:

Facebook group
NBHS Class of 1975

Please send your contact information (name, address and email address) to OnfordH-SClassof1975@gmail.com.

Please share this information with other classmates.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Scott Schoonmaker, Superintendent of North Branford Public Schools, announces that Kindergarten registration for North Branford residents with children eligible to enter school in the fall of 2025 will be as follows: All school registrations are completed **solely online**. Registration will be open from **February 3 – February 7, 2025**.

PLEASE NOTE: Registrations will not be considered complete until all required documents are provided and verified including proof of residency, original birth certificate, immunization and health assessment records (HAR-3). You may be required to bring in your child's original birth certificate as well as your proof of residency documents.

On February 3rd please visit our website <https://jerome.northbranfordschools.org/> and click on the "New Registrations" button. Here you will see detailed directions on the registration process.

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

1. The child must be five (5) years of age on or before September 1, 2025.
2. The original birth certificate, with seal, has been uploaded and examined by the principal or designee.
3. Your child must have a current physical exam; **one that was completed after September 1st, 2024**. The physician and the parent must complete the State of CT Health Assessment Record. The form must be **on file** with the school nurse **prior** to the first day of Kindergarten unless alternative arrangements have been made with the building principal.
4. The child **must physically reside** in North Branford/Northford.
5. Proofs of residence have been uploaded, examined and approved by principal or designee such as: deed to home or current dated rental agreement, escrow papers or signed mortgage commitment, current utility or telephone bill, and/or notarized letter from landlord or owner acknowledging parent/guardian's **and** student's residence.

If you have any questions, concerns or problems during the registration process, please call 203.484.1235.

In addition, if you have specific concerns about your **preschool** child's development, please call 203.484.1235 for information.

The North Branford Board of Education policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability (including pregnancy) or gender identity or expression, or against homeless children and youth.

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. Schaelzel 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.

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.

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

Zion Episcopal Church, 326 Notch Hill Road, North Branford. 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

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



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



WINTER DANCE

Friday February 14, 2025

7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

**Saint Monica's Church
1331 Middletown Avenue**

Northford, CT 06472

Raffle Baskets & 50/50 Raffle

Music by DJ – Anthony Esposito

BYOB & Snacks

**Setup, & light desserts are provided by the
Knights of Columbus**

Tickets \$15/per person

For questions or tickets, please call:

Wayne 203-410-3885

or Damian 203-215-7699

or email:

knights6801@gmail.com

PROCEEDS WILL GO TO OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Lenten Walk 2025-

North Haven: Join us for the **Lenten Walk** as we gather for the **Stations of the Cross** beginning on **March 25th, Tuesday's at 5:00pm (also April 1st, 8th, and 15th)** at the **All Saints Cemetery Mausoleum-700 Middletown Avenue**. The Walk will continue for 4 weeks ending the Tuesday of Holy week. Please mark your calendar to **SAVE THE DATES**. There is no registration required. Please wear "weather-appropriate" clothing. This event will take place outdoors. Walking is of **moderate intensity**. We will be walking up and down hills and stopping to stand at each Station to pray. Those interested in taking on a more responsible role, please reach out to Barbara at 203 780-8418 or email her at bgode@ccacem.org. Visit our website often for any scheduling updates at www.ccacem.org

North Branford Congregational Church

**1680 Foxon Road, North Branford
203-488-8456**

Souper-Bowl Sunday,

February 9, 2025, at 10:00 AM

Please join us for our Souper-Bowl Sunday Worship. Wear your favorite team jersey and help us provide for the Food Bank by bringing a can of soup to help fill their pantry shelves.

Our guest speaker will be John Vampatella, Northeast Regional Director of Athletics in Action.

Please join us.

Ash on the Dash

March 5, 2025, 7:00 - 8:00 AM

On Ash Wednesday our church will once again be giving out ashes in our church parking lot.

All are welcome to receive.

Recycling News

You should have received a Bright Yellow 2025 Recycling/Trash Card in your last issue of the Totoket Times. Please keep this card handy all year. It has important dates and information that you will need concerning your trash pickups and what can be recycled. If the card was missing or you misplace yours, there will be copies at both libraries, public works, STW Community Center and Town Hall. You can also download a copy from the town website or from the North Branford Community Pride Facebook page.

The Electronic Waste Drop-Off will be on April 12th. We will be taking most electronics, mattresses and propane tanks.

Bulky Waste pick up will be the week of April 14th.
COUNCIL 6801

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: www.recyclect.com. They also have an app.

Are you interested in getting involved on a town committee?
Does it upset you when you see littering?
Do you wonder where the trash goes and how recycling works?

The Solid/Hazardous Waste and Recycling Committee is looking for new members.

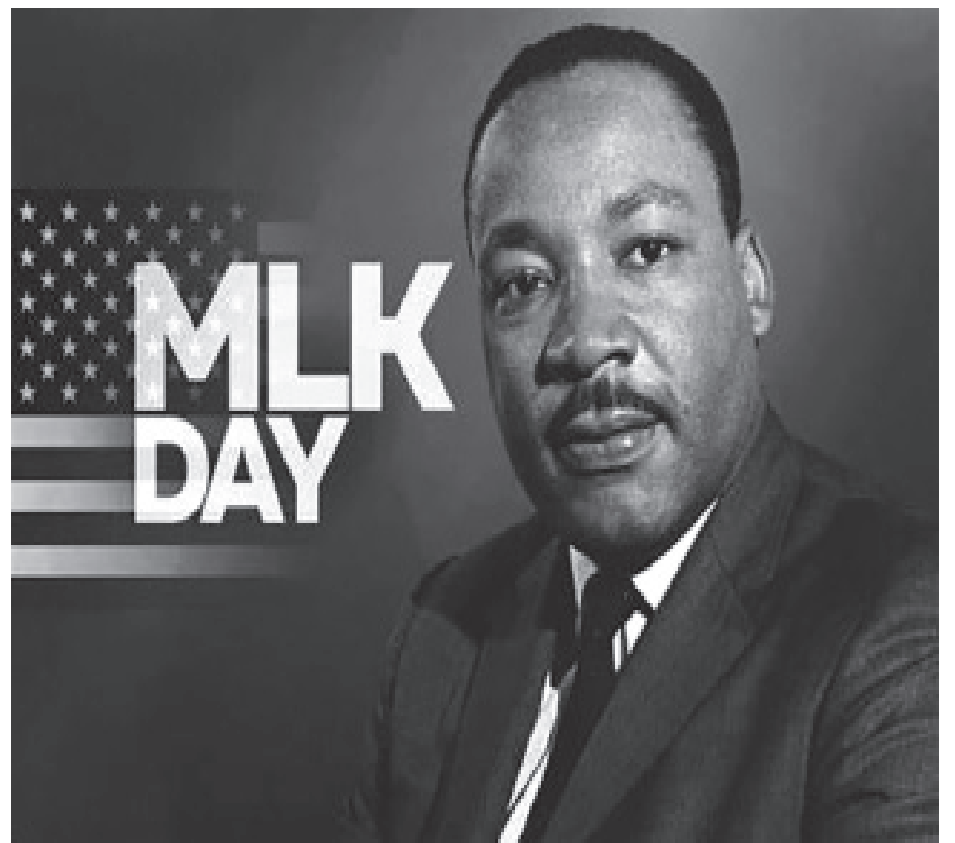
The new year is full of possibilities and we could use some fresh ideas. Please call the Town Manager if you are interested.

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

Thank You

King continued

suffering is redemptive. Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.” I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, “My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.” And if America is to be a great nation this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania! Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado! Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California! But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia! Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee! Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring. And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, “Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”



NEW HAVEN SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

Emergencies on Board: Preparation for Handling Common Problems

New Haven Sail & Power Squadron, part of America's Boating Club, will hold a two-hour seminar for boaters who need information about emergencies on the water.

No one wants to think about it, but emergencies happen on boats. Be prepared for a variety of boating mishaps, medical emergencies, and other crises! Prevention and preparation make all the difference. This seminar will prepare you to handle common emergencies that can happen when you are on your boat and away from the dock, whether you venture out for the day or are leaving on a longer cruise. You will learn how to deal with them as they occur and especially when the skipper is unable to respond. Upon completion of this seminar, you will have gained an understanding of the most common types of vessel emergencies and how to deal with them, how to handle onboard fires, how to recognize and prepare for medical emergencies and how to communicate with crew, other boats, and first responders.

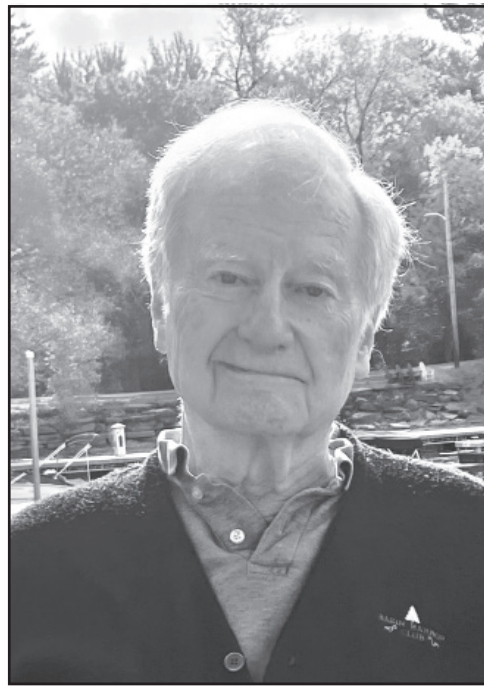
Class will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Sat., Feb. 22, at Indian Neck Yacht Club, 87 Harding Ave., Branford.

All students must sign up by Wed., Feb. 19. 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/emergencies-on-the-water>

There is no processing fee. Or, contact Squadron Education Officer Peter DePascale at 203-671-2420 and leave a message, or email him at bathwork-sinc@gmail.com.

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: www.nhsp.org.

DEATH NOTICES



James (Jim) W. M. Monde of Northford, 93, beloved husband of Nancy Roseman Monde, passed away peacefully at home on January 6, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son Scott (Sara) Monde of Northford, his daughter Dawn (Kristopher) Brooks of North Haven, and sons Peter and Jamie Monde. He also leaves his cherished grandchildren, Ryan and Jack Monde, and Ainsley and Asa Brooks. Born in New Haven, May 17, 1931, son of Emil and Maizie (Moss) Monde, Jim grew up in the Spring Glen section of Hamden. He attended the Choate School,

was a 1950 graduate of the Hotchkiss School and a 1954 graduate of Yale University. Jim sang with several a cappella groups while at Yale, including the Eight Flats, Augmented Seven and the Alley Cats, as well as the Glee Club, and later became a member of the Class of 1954 Whiffenpoofs. Post-graduation, Jim remained active with Yale and his class. He was his Class Delegate for the Association of Yale Alumni, served on his Class Council for many years, and was Chairman of his class's 30th reunion. Those friendships born at Yale have lasted a lifetime. Jim served in the U.S. Army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma following graduation from Yale. Upon returning to the New Haven area, he began working for the CPA firm of Seward & Monde, and later was owner and President of the American Specialty Company, a manufacturing company specializing in contract springs, mostly for machinery and automobiles. He was a lifelong ham radio operator; as well as a lifelong philatelist. He enjoyed boating, and was a former member of the Pine Orchard Yacht and Country Club, Branford. Jim was an avid baseball fan, and, after his beloved Brooklyn Dodgers left NY for CA, he became a diehard Boston Red Sox fan, even getting Nan to cheer them on, too. Jim was a long time member and later Chairman of the Branford Board of Education. In 2000 he was inducted into Branford's Education Hall of Fame. Jim and Nan loved to travel, and visited many places in the U.S., the Caribbean, South American and Europe, often enjoying river cruises. He was a parishioner of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Northford. Jim's family is extremely grateful to the caregivers of CT Hospice. In lieu of flowers, Jim would be honored for contributions in his memory to CT Hospice, 100 Double Beach Rd., Branford CT 06405 (www.hospice.com/honor-memorial-gifts) or To The American Cancer Society www.cancer.org.



Regina Lillian Fox Acampora, 92, of Northford, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 13th, 2025, at her home with her family by her side. She was the beloved wife of the late Salvatore Alphonse Acampora. Regina was born in Bridgeport on April 2, 1932, and was the daughter of the late John and Mary Babyak Fox. Beloved mother of Theresa (Steve) Prusinski, Ralph Acampora, Kathryn Kopylec all of Northford, Lori (Jeffrey) Sbona of Durham, and the late Arthur Acampora. Sister-in-law of Nancy Fox, Marie and Dolores Acampora. Also survived by 10 grandchildren,

5 great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. She was predeceased by her brother John Fox and sister Barbara Alfano. Regina was a woman of deep faith. She loved her church (Saint Ambrose Parish) where she was a member of the Legion of Mary, Rosary Society and a former Eucharistic Minister. In 2013, she was awarded the Saint Joseph Medal of Appreciation from the Archdiocese of Hartford. Regina was happy to volunteer her time as a religious education teacher with her daughter, Lori. She was commonly referred to as "Gram Gram" to the students. She loved crafting/sewing, reading, and baking her cheesecakes which were truly the best. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. The family would like to extend a special thank you to her caregivers Amy, Judi, and Katrina.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to North Branford Fire Department Company #3, 1958 Middletown Ave., Northford, CT 06472 or North Branford Ambulance Company #4, 1351 Middletown Ave., Northford, CT 06472. www.northhavenfuneral.com

Italian American defense League continued

removal of the Columbus statue. Mayor Elicker ended police protection of the statue, which precipitated a crisis and an excuse for its removal. The Parks Department, which is not the authority for a national register historic district, followed the mayor's order. The due-process requirements of legal notice by the Historic District Commission, a public hearing on the removal, and the requirement that a Certificate of Appropriateness be issued were bypassed. Too make matters worse, Mayor Elicker removed the original fence surrounding the statue and the statue's bronze dedication plaque, "A Cristoforo Colombo GI' Italiani di New Haven," the signature of that early Italian community, only adding insult to the injury.

"We firmly believe in the strength of our legal arguments and the importance of standing up for what is right," said Matthew Guarnieri. "This appeal is a necessary step in defending the rich cultural legacy of Italian-Americans and ensuring that Italian heritage is honored and respected in public discourse and policy in accordance with federal law." Italian heritage is so much more than pizza and a new, generic immigration statue.

The two June 2020 petitions which called for the removal of the Christopher Columbus statue in Wooster Square were authored by a high school student and New Haven resident. Rhea McTiernan Huge, now an adult, and Jacob Booth parroted false claims about Columbus. Frank Carrano, retired President of New Haven's teacher's union, took credit for the removal of the statue, and others politically connected to the mayor supported the decision; including: Frank Gargano, President of Saint Andrew the Apostle Society, Paul J. Criscuolo, President of St. Catello Society, Vin Mauro Jr., Democrat Town Chair, and Ellen Cupo, Alder. Alder Anna Festa and St. Andrew's Apostle Society Treasurer Mel Sanseverino did not actively oppose the removal of the statue. On June 25, 2020, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro published her opinion renouncing her support for the Columbus statue.

The IADL is calling on its members, supporters, and allies to remain engaged as the legal process continues. "This is not just a legal battle; it is a collective effort to preserve our heritage for future generations," added Guarnieri.

The Italian-American Defense League advocates for the rights and recognition of the Italian-American community. Through legal action, public awareness, and community engagement, the organization strives to promote understanding and respect for Italian-American history, culture, and contributions to the nation. IADL participates in solidarity sessions with the Native American Guardian's Association to foster understanding and mutual respect by bridging cultures against cancel culture. IADL participates in a forum called Connecticut Council of American Italian Organizations promoting Italian heritage curriculum and the celebration of Columbus Day. You can contribute to our cause by making a donation to our GoFundMe page at <https://gofund.me/d247fc1d> or visit iadlnow.org.

For more information, please contact: **Matthew Guarnieri**, President



NORTH BRANFORD PARKS, RECREATION, AND SENIOR CENTER

STW COMMUNITY CENTER • 1332 MIDDLETOWN AVE NORTHFORD

WWW.NBRECREATION.COM • CALL (203) 484-6017

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK! @NBPARKSANDRECREATION AND INSTAGRAM! @NBPARK.REC.SENIOR

Mary's Culinary Classes

Join Mary Amter in this unique, hands on culinary experience that will engage children in preparing delicious creations. They will explore, create, and learn basic cooking techniques!

Grades 3-5 at STW Community Center

****EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS****

1:00 - 3:00pm Cost \$40 res/ \$45 non-res per class

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2025

HEART CALZONES & STRAWBERRY TRUFFLE KISS COOKIES



A SENSORY FRIENDLY

Valentine Dance Party

In partnership with Beyond the Horizon

Join us for a 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




Founded in 1990, the Sibling Support Project is the first national program dedicated to recognizing, promoting and addressing the life-long and ever-changing concerns of millions of siblings of people with developmental,

health, and mental health concerns. We are best known for helping local communities start **Sibshops**—lively peer support groups for school-age brothers and sisters of kids with disabilities and health concerns.

For the adults who run them and for the agencies that sponsor them, Sibshops are evidence of their loving concern for the family member who will have the longest-lasting relationship with a person who has a disability. However, for the kids who attend them, Sibshops are lively, pedal-to-the-metal events where they will:

- Meet other sibs (usually for the first time);
- Have fun;
- Talk about the good and not-so-good parts of having a sib with support needs with others who "get it";
- Play some great games;
- Explore how other siblings handle sticky situations sometimes faced by sibs;
- Laugh;
- Learn about the services their brothers and sister receive; and
- Have some more fun!

North Branford Parks, Recreation & Senior Center is proud to be offering the first in the series of Sibshops for 2025. Please save the date for **Sunday, February 23 from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm** for our first Sibshop in partnership with **Beyond the Horizon** and **Mary Amter of Mary's Culinary Classes, LLC.**

MY HOT COCOA STAND

Saturday Mornings (Grades K-2)

February 2 - March 8 10:30 - 11:30am - \$150

STW Community Center, 1332 Middletown Ave.

Learn how to make yummy hot cocoa and earn money selling it! A hot cocoa stand is a great way to introduce our youngest entrepreneurs to the world of business and is fun! From designing marketing flyers, to estimating profits, to experimenting with recipes, students have fun while developing business savvy. As a showcase event, students launch their stand as a fundraiser for a charity they select!



COOKIES WITH A COP

Wednesday, February 19

5:30 - 6:30pm

STW Community Center



Cookies with a Cop is a community program aimed at fostering trust and open communication between residents and local law enforcement. Participants share cookies and hot cocoa while asking questions and connecting in a relaxed setting. This program encourages meaningful conversations and builds stronger relationships. It's a sweet way to strengthen community ties and mutual understanding.
Kindly register by 2/14



— SENIOR CENTER —

BOCCIA

Tuesdays at 12:30 - STW Gym/Cafe

Like to play bocce but can't stand the cold? Come learn how to play boccia! Like bocce, boccia is a game of skill, strategy, and accuracy. Played on a smooth indoor court, competitors use throws or rolls to outmaneuver their opponents. Boccia can be played solo, in pairs, or in teams of three.

ADAPTED TANGO THERAPY FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE



When: February 10th, 2025 - April 2025, 12 weekly sessions, 1.5 hours each Mondays at 7:00pm



Want to Sign up? Scan this QR code!

Where: Stanley T. Williams Community Center 1332 Middletown Ave, Northford, CT 06472

For more information or would like to receive the Sign Up link, please contact: yaletangoford@gmail.com



Supported by a grant from the American Parkinson Disease Association Connecticut Chapter.

- All stages of Parkinson's disease welcome!
- No tango experience needed!
- Bring your own partner or be paired up with one of our lovely volunteers!
- Tango in Parkinson's has the potential to improve balance, walking, and overall mobility!



Strength in optimism. Hope in progress.

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

HOME REPAIRS

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

PLUMBING

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

STONE WORKS

Earthart Stoneworks LLC, all aspects of custom stone masonry, paver patios, walkways, retaining walls, water features, stone carvings including granite benches, granite mailbox posts, granite lighthouses, pizza ovens, fire pits and sculptures.

Specializing in dry-laid stone wall restoration. 30 years of experience, licensed and insured. Free estimates.

Call Norman CAstonguay III at 203-868-9958. www.earthartstoneworks.com. earthartinstone@yahoo.com.

PAINTING

WINTER SAVINGS! Small jobs our specialty. Get a freshly painted room or two. Sole proprietor so NO worries about a house full of strangers! Celebrating 40 years. BBB A+ rated! Trimworks Painting, Lic. #0619599. (203) 484-9181

ELECTRICIANS

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

REAL ESTATE

Need to Sell Your House Fast? No Realtor?

We buy houses **cash** - Close in as little as 7 days! **Cash offers** or **Creative Financing**. No Repairs Needed. Fair, Fast & Hassle-Free Process. Call (203) 824-5775 for a FREE offer today!

To run your classified ad on this page call Frank at 203-410-4254

Celebrate Life!
Keenan Funeral Home

KEENAN FUNERAL HOME, INC.
238 Elm Street West Haven, CT 06516
330 Notch Hill Rd North Branford, CT 06471
Every life is unique. Every goodbye, special.

Cremation Burial

Veteran Services

PREPLAN AND SAVE!! CALL NOW: (203) 933-1217
EMAIL US: WeCare@KeenanFuneralHome.com

★★★★★

"Keenan Funeral Home was truly amazing and very attentive to all of our needs. Thank you Keenan, for being there in our most painful time."

"I truly cannot say enough how grateful my family and I are to Keenan for their exceptional service. From the moment we met to make arrangements to the actual service, they were great. There was no financial pressures, our limits were respected, and everything was said outright."

"Beautiful and peaceful space, staff was very kind and sympathetic... Their kindness will not be forgotten."

Scan below to visit our website!!

NORTH BRANFORD PARKS, RECREATION, AND SENIOR CENTER INVITE YOU TO

COOKIES WITH A COP

Wednesday, February 19
5:30 - 6:30pm
STW Community Center



Cookies with a Cop is a community program aimed at fostering trust and open communication between residents and local law enforcement. Participants share cookies and hot cocoa while asking questions and connecting in a relaxed setting. This program encourages meaningful conversations and builds stronger relationships. It's a sweet way to strengthen community ties and mutual understanding. Kindly register by 2/14



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