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Well guys it's that time again. I don't need to explain how prices have gone up, you can see it for yourself. The post office had two increases in 2024 and I now have a new printer starting with this issue and that is a bit more expensive than we were accustomed to.

I don't need to list all of the things that this newspaper does for the community. Those of you who are reading this note and newspaper know what is done for the community as far as free recreation and church pages just to name a few..

THIS IS YOUR NEWSPAPER. I gave up worrying about profits a long time ago. It's a labor of love and I will continue as long as my health and finances let me. My ego won't let me stop. I like coming into your homes regularly and offering my little help to the community.

So now I am going to need my faithful readers more than ever to make their annual voluntary paid contribution. It has never been closer to becoming a completely online newspaper and I don't want that to happen.

Let's get together and keep the home fires burning with the only newspaper *for our town and from our town.*

Let's be Frank. Your voluntary payment of hopefully \$15.00 or more can go a long way.

Totoket Times,
PO Box 313, Northford, Ct 06472

VENMO Frank-Mentone-1

Name _____

Address _____

*Only two issues left to get your holiay messages
out to our readers.*

Don't put it off and take care of it before you miss the dates.

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**remember, the deadlines are
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Deadline	Publication Date
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December 13	December 20
January 3	January 10
January 17	January 24
January 31	February 7
February 14	February 21
February 28	March 7



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State Representative Vincent Candelora

Stop the Bleeding:

Connecticut Can't Afford Unsustainable Spending



Connecticut faces a \$200 million Medicaid crisis, a fiscal disaster threatening to gut funding for critical government services and programs. One of the primary drivers of this crisis is taxpayer-funded healthcare for undocumented immigrants. Last fiscal year, this program exceeded projections by nearly \$10 million. This year, it's already on track to surpass the budget by over \$20 million—a number likely even higher since

summer estimates.

Governor Lamont's administration has ordered state agencies to make cuts, but without addressing the root cause of this crisis, those cuts will jeopardize essential services for Connecticut's legal residents. The solution is clear: we must immediately suspend this unsustainable, taxpayer-funded benefit.

Legislative Democrats had the chance to take responsible action last spring when we raised these concerns, but they chose to ignore the warnings—and proposals—from House Republicans. Their inaction, enabled by Governor Lamont and later backed by Attorney General Tong, has exacerbated the crisis. Now, Connecticut taxpayers are left to foot the bill in one of the most heavily taxed states in the nation.

Worse yet, Democrats in the legislature are poised to push for even greater expansion of free healthcare for undocumented immigrants in the upcoming session. This is simply unaffordable. Connecticut families are already struggling under the weight of high taxes and rising costs. Instead of adding to their burden, we must prioritize fiscal discipline and focus on providing real tax relief for our residents.

Suspending this program is not just a fiscal necessity—it's a matter of fairness and responsibility. We cannot allow runaway spending to continue at the expense of hardworking taxpayers. Immediate suspension, followed by its elimination in the next budget cycle, is the only path forward.

The Governor must take this crisis seriously. It's time to stop the bleeding and restore Connecticut's financial stability.

State Rep. Vincent Candelora

House Republican Leader

86th District

North Branford, Durham, East Haven, Guilford

*Happy
Thanksgiving
from our family
to yours.*

The Totoket Times

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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"

Geeze, it seems like yesterday we were talking about October and now we are looking at the end of November. My father-in-law was right. When you hit a certain age, the time just flies by.

I thought I'd relive my youth this past weekend and go on a few date nights. Well, things have definitely changed. They were both in Waterbury, both at night and I realized the eyes aren't that good for night driving. The eye doctor says my eyes are fine, the macular degeneration is minor and my prescription for glasses has not changed in five years. I used one of your old lines and told him to get in front of me when I drive at night and see if he still feels the same way.

Another difference is, I am no longer able to go out to eat before the show. I need my rest to stay up for the show and be awake to drive home. I also don't know how my stomach is going to react to the food. So it's time to do what we do at Goodspeed and make our season tickets for a 2:00 show. SueAnn is usually the only woman in there who doesn't have blue hair.

The first show was a DooWop show at a little theatre in Waterbury called Seven Angels. The harmony was great and it reminded me of the old days when the neighborhood boys would get together on the street and harmonize acapello. It didn't make the old man happy as he had to get up at 5:00 for work but it was the only peacefulness in a neighborhood filled with violence and crime.

The harmonizing at the show was pretty good but none of the quartet members seemed to have voices fit for solos. All in all it was a good time bringing back old memories.

On Saturday, we went to the Palace in Waterbury where we saw a one person performance of a show called Italian Bred. It was written about a young lady who grew up in Staten Island in an Italian American family. She told the story of her life, talking about her grand mother, mom and dad and sister. She did some singing during the story and I thought her singing was better than her comedy act and she should have done more singing.

I too grew up in an Italian family atmosphere and my childhood was much funnier and more traditional. No one in her family spoke with an Italian accent. She called her grand mother gramma instead of nonnie and many of her jokes were just not that funny. I was complimented by several people I know who went to the show who told me that I would have been a lot funnier. Ahh, the olden days of our Christmas shows at Saint Anthony's. The people still talk about those shows.

Sunday was finally more relaxing. Mass in the morning, followed by coffee with some friends (we still have coffee at Saint Anthony's after Mass). Then it was off to Erica's for Nico's 8th birthday party. I've never seen a kid who was as grateful for clothes as he was for toys and games. Not sure if it was an act but if it was, it was very convincing.

So now it's time for preparation for Thanksgiving. Frankie and Ana are going to spend the entire week here. Now that they hit 35 years old they are finally calming down with work anxiety and trying to lead a more relaxing life. It's the year Erica and her family are with us so we should have everyone here just like the old days. Unfortunately, you and Mary are gone as are mom and dad and your wife can't make the steps any more. But don't worry, we'll talk about you just as if you were here.

The menu has changed a little with those who are gluten free, or dairy free or tasty food free, but it is all good just to have the entire family together. We are quite fortunate.

Now I'm off to put the grave blankets out at the cemetery. With all you guys checking out earlier than expected, it becomes quite costly with so many blankets. However, I must admit Christmas is a lot less expensive with fewer gifts and I save a lot on money on gas just having to go to All Saints cemetery instead of making a whole bunch of stops. I often wonder what you and Mary would say about the adjusted menus for the holidays. I also wonder what you guys would look like at a much older age. But being the youngest, I always thought you guys looked pretty old anyway.

I myself have not changed too much. Except for a bad knee, a pacemaker, diabetes and macular I'm the same guy I always was. Fat people don't wrinkle, they just grow a few extra chins.

Take care, You are all in my thoughts and prayers, and 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



Why Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November.^[2] Outside the United States, it is sometimes called **American Thanksgiving** to distinguish it from the Canadian holiday of the same name and related celebrations in other regions. The modern national celebration dates to 1863 and has been linked to the Pilgrims 1621 harvest festival since the late 19th century. As the name implies, the theme of the holiday generally revolves around giving thanks with the centerpiece of most celebrations being a Thanksgiving dinner.^{[3][4]}

The dinner often consists of foods associated with New England harvest tatoes (usually mashed and sweet), squash, corn (maize), green beans, cranberries (typically as cranberry sauce), and pumpkin pie, but has expanded over the years to include specialties from other regions of the United States, such as pecan pie (the American South) and wild rice stuffing (the Great Lakes region) as well as international and ethnic dishes.

Other Thanksgiving customs include charitable organizations offering thanksgiving dinner for the poor, attending religious services, and watching or participating in parades and American football matches. Thanksgiving is also typically regarded as the beginning of the holiday shopping season. The day following Thanksgiving, Black Friday, is often considered to be the busiest shopping day of the year in the United States.

History

Shrine of the first U.S. Thanksgiving in 1619 at Berkeley Plantation in Charles City County, Virginia

Days of thanksgiving, that is, days set aside to give thanks to God, have been common in Christendom for hundreds of years and long predate the European colonization of North America.

Documented thanksgiving services in what is currently the United States were conducted as early as the 16th century by the Spaniards^{[5][6]} and the French.^[7] These days of thanksgiving were celebrated through church services and feasting.^[3] Historian Michael Gannon claimed St. Augustine, Florida, was founded with a shared thanksgiving meal on September 8, 1565.^[8]

Thanksgiving services were routine in what became the Commonwealth of Virginia as early as 1607;^[9] the first permanent settlement of Jamestown, Virginia, held a thanksgiving in 1610.^[5] On December 4, 1619, 38 English settlers celebrated a thanksgiving immediately upon landing at Berkeley Hundred, Charles City. The group's London Company charter specifically required «that the day of our ships arrival at the place assigned for plantation in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God».^{[10][11]} This celebration has, since the mid 20th century, been commemorated there annually at present-day Berkeley Plantation, the ancestral home of the Harrison family of Virginia.^[12]

Harvest festival observed by the Pilgrims at Plymouth

The Plymouth colonists, today known as Pilgrims,^[14] had settled in a part of eastern Massachusetts formerly occupied by the Patuxet Indians who had died in an devastating epidemic between 1614 and 1620. After the harsh winter of 1620-1621 killed half of the Plymouth colonists, two Native intermediaries, Samoset and Tisquantum (more commonly known by the diminutive variant Squanto, and the last living member of the Patuxet) came in at the request of Massasoit, leader of the Wampanoag, to negotiate a peace treaty and establish trade relations with the colonists, as both men had some knowledge of English from previous interactions with Europeans, through both trade (Samoset) and a period of enslavement (Squanto).

Massasoit had hoped to establish a mutual protection alliance between the Wampanoag, themselves greatly weakened by the same plague that extirpated the Patuxet, and the better-armed English in their long-running rivalry with the Narragansett, who had largely been spared from the epidemic; the Wampanoag reasoned that, given that the Pilgrims had brought women and children, they had not arrived to wage war against them.

Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to catch eel and grow corn and served as an interpreter for them until he too succumbed to disease a year later. The Wampanoag leader Massasoit also gave food to the colonists when supplies brought from England proved insufficient.^[15]

Having brought in a good harvest, the Pilgrims celebrated at Plymouth for three days in the autumn of 1621. The exact time is unknown, but James Baker, a former Plimoth Plantation vice president of research, stated in 1996, «The event occurred between Sept. 21 and Nov. 11, 1621, with the most likely time being around Michaelmas (Sept. 29), the traditional time.»^[16] Seventeenth-century accounts do not identify this as a day of thanksgiving, but rather as a harvest celebration.^[16]

The Pilgrim feast was cooked by the four adult Pilgrim women who survived their first winter in the New World (Eleanor Billington, Elizabeth Hopkins, Mary Brewster, and Susanna White), along with young daughters and male and female servants.^{[16][17] [18]}

According to accounts by Wampanoag descendants, the harvest feast was originally set up for the Pilgrims alone (contrary to the common misconception that the Wampanoag were invited for their help in teaching the pilgrims their agricultural techniques).^[19] Part of the harvest celebration involved a demonstration of arms by the colonists, and the Wampanoag, having entered into a mutual protection agreement with the colonists and likely mistaking the celebratory gunfire for an attack by a common enemy, arrived fully armed. The Wampanoag were welcomed to join the celebration, as their farming and hunting techniques had produced much of the bounty for the Pilgrims, and contributed their own foods to the meal.^{[20][21][15]}

Most modern imaginings of the celebration promote the idea that every party involved ate solely turkey.^[22] «While the celebrants might well have feasted on wild turkey, the local diet also included fish, eels, shellfish, and a Wampanoag dish called *nasaump*, which the Pilgrims had adopted: boiled cornmeal mixed with vegetables and meats. There were no potatoes (an indigenous South American food not yet introduced into the global food system) and no pies (because there was no butter, wheat flour, or sugar).»^[23]

The Puritan by Augustus St. Gaudens, 1904. The “buckle hat” atop the sculpture’s head, now associated with the Pilgrims in pop culture, was fictional; Pilgrims never wore such an item, nor has any such hat ever existed as a serious piece of apparel.

Two colonists gave personal accounts of the 1621 feast in Plymouth:

William Bradford, in Of Plymouth Plantation wrote:

They began now to gather in the small harvest they had, and to fit up their houses and dwellings against winter, being all well recovered in health and strength and had all things in good plenty. For as some were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were exercised in fishing, about cod and bass and other fish, of which they took good store, of which every family had their portion. All the summer there was no want; and now began to come in store of fowl, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they can be used (but afterward decreased by degrees). And besides waterfowl, there was a great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc. Besides, they had about a peck a meal a week to a person, or now since harvest, Indian corn to the proportion. Which made many afterward write so largely of their plenty here to their friends in England, which were not feigned but true reports.^[24]

Edward Winslow, in Mourt’s Relation wrote:

Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruits of our labor. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which we brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you, partakers of our plenty.^[25]

The First Thanksgiving 1621, oil on canvas by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris (1899). The painting shows common misconceptions about the event which persist to modern times: Pilgrims did not wear such outfits, nor did they eat at a dinner table, and the Wampanoag are dressed in the style of Native Americans from the Great Plains.^[26]

Debate over the “first Thanksgiving” and the invention of tradition

Jeremy Bang opines that, “Local boosters in Virginia, Florida, and Texas promote their own colonists, who (like many people getting off a boat) gave thanks for setting foot again on dry land.»^[27]

The codification and celebration of an annual day of thanksgiving according to the Berkeley Hundred charter in Virginia prompted President John F. Kennedy to acknowledge the claims of both Massachusetts and Virginia to America’s earliest celebrations. He issued Proclamation 3560 on November 5, 1963, saying: «Over three centuries ago, our forefathers in Virginia and in Massachusetts, far from home in a lonely wilderness, set aside a time of thanksgiving. On the appointed day, they gave reverent thanks for their safety, for the health of their children, for the fertility of their fields, for the love which bound them together and for the faith which united them with their God.»^[28]

However, according to historian James Baker, debates over where any “first Thanksgiving” took place on modern American territory are a “tempest in a beanpot”.^[29] According to Baker, «the American holiday’s true origin was the New England Thanksgiving. Never coupled with a Sabbath meeting, the Pilgrim observances were special days set aside during the week for thanksgiving and praise in response to God’s providence.»^[29]

continued on page 5

Thanksgiving continued

It's important to note that Baker's "New England Thanksgiving" does not refer to an annual commemoration of the Pilgrim's 1621 harvest celebration. Indeed, that 1621 event does not appear to have contributed to the early development of the modern holiday at all, as Bradford's "Of Plimoth Plantation" was not published until the 1850s and the booklet "Mourt's Relation" was typically summarized by other publications with-

out the now-familiar thanksgiving story. In fact, by the eighteenth century, the original booklet appeared to be lost or forgotten although a copy was later rediscovered in Philadelphia in 1820, with the first full reprinting in 1841. In a footnote the editor, Alexander Young, was the first person to identify the 1621 feast as the "first Thanksgiving", but this was only because he viewed it as similar to the traditions of New England Thanksgivings that had developed independently from it over the previous two hundred years. [29]

Those traditions, and the modern holiday, were born out of the gradual homogenization and, to a degree, secularization, of multiple, separate but related days of thanksgiving throughout New England. These days were often celebrated from early November to early to mid-December, in some cases functioning almost as a Calvinist alternative to Christmas, and typically involving a return to the family home, church services, a

large meal and various diversions ranging from games and sports to formal balls. These celebrations were gradually disseminated throughout the US as New Englanders spread across the country, accelerating after the Civil War. [30]

Sarah Josepha Hale, a native of New Hampshire and steeped in the traditions of a New England Thanksgiving, was the longtime editor of *Godey's Ladies Book*, the most widely circulated periodical in the antebellum U.S. Hale was the chief promoter of the modern idea of the holiday in the 19th century, from the foods served to the decorations to the role of women in putting it all together. Concerned by increasing factionalism in American society, Hale envisioned Thanksgiving as a commonly-celebrated, patriotic holiday that would unite Americans in purpose and values. She viewed those values as rooted in domesticity and rural simplicity over urban sophistication. As a celebration of hearth and home, she also sought to cement a role for women within the identity of the young nation.

Nast's vision of immigrants seated in harmony around America's Thanksgiving table mirrors Sara Josepha Hale's desire to Americanize immigrant populations through adoption of the holiday

Every November, Hale would focus her monthly magazine column on Thanksgiving, positioning the celebration as a pious, patriotic holiday that lived on in the memory as a check against temptation, or as a comfort in times of trial. Hale and *Godey's* led the way in creating a standardized celebration, which in turn created a standardized celebrant — a standardized and true American. Her vision aimed at a broad audience: The stories in *Godey's* depicted Black servants,

Continued on page 8

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Cheerleaders Take Third Place

Congratulations to the North Branford Youth Cheerleaders A/B squad for taking third place in their recent competition on November 2, 2024



On Their Way to the "SHIP"

At presstime, both youth football teams were on their way to the championships in Hartford. Please join us in wishing our A and B Teams the best as they head to the CTYFL Championships against East Hartford at East Hartford!

We especially want to give a shoutout to our 8th graders in their last game as youth players! They have worked so hard throughout the years, and have grown to become great players and people on and off the field.

Let's go NB!

#NBproud



TIME TO JOIN THE SCOUTS

Scouts of Scouting America Troop 463 recently spent the weekend camping at New Haven Sportsman's Club in Guilford, honing their cooking skills and taking a 5-mile hike to Bluff Head.

They also spent some time doing a service project for the Club. Despite not being able to have a campfire, they still practiced some of their favorite skills.

For more information about Scouting and how to join the adventure, contact Joe Anderson by email at joe.anders@comcast.net or text to 203-464-4741.

North Branford High School Class of 1975 50th Class Reunion

Save the date: August 22, 2025, 6 to 10pm
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Facebook group **NBHS Class of 1975**

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CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS



On Monday November 11, 2024, the JHS school community had the privilege of honoring nearly 70 veterans through a series of heartfelt events. From start to finish, it was a morning filled with respect, gratitude, and unity.

Our student council members began the day by welcoming our veterans, escorting each of them to a breakfast held in their honor. Following the breakfast, we gathered for an emotional assembly. The Landcraft Fife and Drum core led our veterans into the assembly, setting the tone for a beautiful tribute. Our students shared their appreciation through song and poignant essays, expressing just how much our veterans' service means to us all.

We were also joined by several dignitaries who helped make the day even more memorable. Special thank you to Superintendent Scott Schoonmaker,



Board of Education Chair Marjorie Bonadies, Mayor Rose Angeloni, Deputy Mayor Jeffrey Macmillen, Board of Education Member Judy Bannon, Board of Education Member Kim Dowson, and Director of Technology Tom Lonsdale. It was truly a community effort and a day we'll remember for years to come.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this Veterans Day so special.



The Town of North Branford celebrated our local Veterans once again at our annual Veterans Day Luncheon put on by the Parks, Recreation and Senior Center staff at STW Community Center on Thursday, November 7th.

Two local veterans were honored with presentations of quilts from the Quilts of Valor Foundation by Chuck Larkin of the North Branford Veterans Service Commission. Kathy Poston, a Veteran of the U.S. Army, and Cliff Potter, a veteran of the U.S. Army, Army Guard, and Air National Guard, both received Quilts of Valor sewn especially for them to celebrate their service to our nation and community.

Attendees were served by PR&SC staff, as well as Mayor Rose Angeloni, Deputy Mayor Jeff Macmillen, Town Manager Michael Downes, Public Works Director Fran Merola, and Deputy Public Works Director Dan Celentano.

Special guest speakers were Anne Mosher and Edward Porto from the Veterans Affairs Office of Advocacy and Assistance.

Thanks to the PR&SC staff who made this all possible- Jess Caetano, Kerry Haynes, Jess Cave, Kathy Poston, Sarah Brown, and Chef Toni DeLizio.

AT North Branford High School, 18 Veterans attended the annual Veterans Day event. During the morning, Veterans were provided a breakfast, led discussions with staff and students in the NBHS Library and then were provided a musical performance in the auditorium which included patriotic selections. The NBHS Wounded Warrior Organization sponsored the event once again. Veterans on hand for the event included former North Branford Mayor Robert Viglione and 1965 NBHS Graduate Gary Tercyak, pictured below.



Thanksgiving continued

Roman Catholics, and Southerners celebrating Thanksgiving, and becoming more American (which for Hale meant becoming more like White Protestant Northerners) by doing so.^[31]

Her efforts sought to expand the holiday from a regional celebration to a national one not only through advocacy in her magazine but also in direct appeals to several U.S. presidents, including Abraham Lincoln, who permanently established the holiday at the national level in 1863.

Enter the Pilgrims

While the Pilgrim's story did not itself create the modern Thanksgiving holiday, it did become inextricably linked with it in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This was largely due to the introduction in U.S. schools of "an annual sequence of classroom holiday activities through which civic education and American patriotism were inculcated."^[30]

The late 19th and early 20th century were a time of massive immigration to the U.S. The changing demographics prompted not only xenophobic responses in the form of restrictive immigration measures, but also a greater push towards the Americanization of newcomers and the conscious formulation of a shared cultural heritage. Holiday observances in classrooms, including those for Washington's birthday, Memorial Day, and Flag Day "introduced youngsters to the central themes of American History and, in theory, strengthened their character and prepared them to become loyal citizens." Thanksgiving, with its non-denominational character, colonial harvest themes and images of Pilgrims and Indians breaking bread together peacefully, allowed the country to tell a story of its origins- people leaving far off lands, struggling under harsh conditions and ultimately being welcomed to America's bounty- that children, particularly immigrant children, could easily understand and share with their families.^[32]

Thanksgiving pageants were popular forms of "edutainment" in the early to mid 20th century

The holiday materials were often disseminated in the form of booklets containing poetry and songs and crafts. Thanksgiving pageants at schools often involved a recreation of the imagined "First Thanksgiving" to reinforce the Pilgrim narrative and the importance of the story to an understanding of U.S. history. These pageants continue in some parts of the U.S. today.

Unfortunately, what these materials usually elide, gloss over or ignore altogether is what has brought controversy to the holiday in recent years.

Thanksgiving proclamations in the early United States

The First National Proclamation of Thanksgiving was given by the Continental Congress in 1777 from its temporary location in York, Pennsylvania, while the British occupied the national capital at Philadelphia.^[33] ^[34] Delegate Samuel Adams created the first draft. Congress then adopted the final version:

For as much as it is the indispensable Duty of all Men to adore the superintending Providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with Gratitude their Obligation to him for Benefits received, and to implore such farther Blessings as they stand in Need of: And it had pleased him in his abundant Mercy, not only to continue to us the innumerable Bounties of his common Providence; but also to smile upon us in the Prosecution of a just and necessary war, for the Defense and Establishment of our unalienable Rights and Liberties; particularly in that he hath been pleased, in so great a Measure, to prosper the Means used for the Support of our Troops, and to crown our Arms with most signal success:

It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive Powers of these United States to set apart Thursday, the eighteenth Day of December next, for Solemn Thanksgiving and Praise: That at one Time and with one Voice, the good People may express the grateful Feelings of their Hearts, and consecrate themselves to the Service of their Divine Benefactor; and that, together with their sincere Acknowledgments and Offerings, they may join the penitent Confession of their manifold Sins, whereby they had forfeited every Favor; and their humble and earnest Supplication that it may please God through the Merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot them out of Remembrance; That it may please him graciously to afford his Blessing on the Governments of these States respectively, and prosper the public Council of the whole: To inspire our Commanders, both by Land and Sea, and all under them, with that Wisdom and Fortitude which may render them fit Instruments, under the Providence of Almighty God, to secure for these United States, the greatest of all human Blessings, Independence and Peace: That it may please him, to prosper the Trade and Manufactures of the People, and the Labor of the Husbandman, that our Land may yield its Increase: To take Schools and Seminaries of Education, so necessary for cultivating the Principles of true Liberty, Virtue and Piety, under his nurturing Hand; and to prosper the Means of Religion, for the promotion and enlargement of that Kingdom, which consisteth "in Righteousness, Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost.

And it is further recommended, That servile Labor, and such Recreation, as, though at other Times innocent, may be unbecoming the Purpose of this Appointment, be omitted on so solemn an Occasion.^[35]



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR GIVING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024

Support your local community with a generous donation to the North Branford Land Conservation Trust, Inc. (NBLCT), as part of **GivingTuesday** on December 3.

After 3 1/2 years of dedicated and unwavering effort, NBLCT is now the proud owner of 37 acres of former Regional Water Authority (RWA) property at the intersection of Beech St and Poms Ln in North Branford. This achievement would not have been possible without the generous contributions of our supporters. Thank you for believing in our mission and helping us protect and enhance our community's natural spaces.

Owning this land is just the beginning. Your continued support can make the property a special place for everyone, with the the creation of:

- an ADA parking lot and trail to vernal pond
- a trail to a new Chestnut Grove
- a pollinator garden
- signage

GivingTuesday is a global movement to encourage the generosity of people in the support of charitable giving in their communities. Founded in 2012, Giving Tuesday inspires people to collective generosity during the holiday season. The collaborative effect of many gifts at once allows good causes to benefit substantially. Great success comes from collaboration!

GivingTuesday emphasizes opportunities to give back to communities and causes that allow for social connection and kindness. NBLCT provides value to the community through acquisition and open space for passive recreation. We create and maintain trails and offer programs for the benefit of our community. When you support NBLCT, you give to your own community.

Go to nblantrust.org. Click on the DONATE button

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

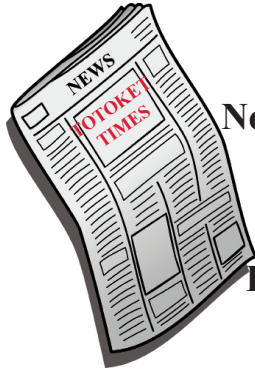
North Branford

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

Northford

Recreation & Senior Center,
Edward Smith Library,
Post Office,
Oasis
Mariana's Boutique
Northford Country Store

WWW.TOTOKETTICES.COM




NBLCT Purchases 37.5 Acres of RWA Land in North Branford

By David Sargent, NBLCT President

In 2011, the South Central Regional Water Authority (RWA) received approval to sell the Class III lands (land outside of the RWA watersheds) at the intersection of Beech Street and Poms Lane for “highest and best use.” Unfortunately, this term often implies development, which tends to increase land value compared to leaving it as woodland. This proposal faced significant opposition due to its original zoning of R40. Before the parcels could be put up for bid, the town rezoned the land to R80. This action would force the RWA to restart its lengthy disposition process – if they wished to sell again. It was just not in the cards in the years that followed.

Fast forward ten years: Charley Ferrucci contacted the new RWA Land Manager, John Triana, offering to contribute \$100,000 toward the purchase of these parcels, provided they would be preserved as open space. In turn, John reached out to me, knowing these parcels were of interest to the North Branford Land Conservation Trust (NBLCT).

Charley, who grew up in the neighborhood, was motivated by his mother’s fondness for the woodlands. He and his wife, Mary, had previously established the “Mary Lloyd Ferrucci & Charles Ferrucci Jr. Family Foundation”. They believed that preserving these parcels as natural habitat aligned perfectly with their philanthropic goals.

Recognizing Lake Gaillard as a major drinking water source, John understood the importance of protecting the land surrounding it. If developed, some backyards would be only a few hundred feet from the lake, making it difficult to protect the boundary line.

John moved forward and had the two parcels appraised for a combined total of \$584,000. As much as John might have wanted to offer some discount to the land trust, for the peace of mind of the woods being a natural buffer, his fiduciary responsibility is to the RWA “ratepayers”. If he wanted the transaction to be approved, he had to use appraisals as a selling price. No discounts here. With Charley’s & Mary’s pledge of 100k, and a firm selling price, the NBLCT had to figure out if acquiring these parcels was even feasible.

With a “we can do it” attitude, the board unanimously voted in favor of moving forward. It was time for the NBLCT to roll up its sleeves and begin fundraising. This would be, by far, the most expensive acquisition in the land trust’s history. Add to the \$485,000 for the purchase price, we also needed to pay for associated costs – like our own appraisals, surveys, title searches, etc.

To raise this money, we applied for a state Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant (OSWA). We received letters of support from our town, our Economic Development Commission, our state legislators and our regional council of governments. *A lot of effort went into meeting the requirements and there were no guarantees we’d be awarded anything.* There were even a few times we missed a step, and almost voided our application. When it was finally approved, we held our breath – for what seemed like eternity. Finally, in May of last year, Governor Ned Lamont announced the OSWA grant awards. To our astonishment, we were awarded \$385,450! This was the second highest award in the grant round. Our hard work really paid off.

To cover some of the significant upfront costs, we applied for a Transaction Assistance Grant (TAG) through the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) and were awarded \$5000. We also had very generous donations from the Summer Hill Foundation, Donald and Celeste Krahl, Michael Belfonti of Belfonti Companies and many, many towns folk who sincerely care about nature and preserving the character of our town. On October 23rd, 3 ½ years later, we finally became the proud owners of the parcels!

Lots of NBLCT volunteer time & energy went into this effort and those hours of dedication cannot be discounted. Protecting this land from development would not have been possible without their efforts!! We had one more wonderful thing going for us. Our general counsel, Ted Fretel’s, unwavering commitment to seeing this project through to completion was invaluable.

The next chapter in this story is still to be written and *you can be a part of it!* We have obligations to fulfill the OSWA grant requirements, and we have ambitions of our own. Some of our to do list: create off road parking, make an ADA accessible trail to a vernal pool, a much longer trail throughout the properties and general forest management from invasive removal – to planting native trees. Our goal is to create a healthy forest everyone can enjoy for passive recreation. *Join us in our efforts to preserve North Branford’s rural character. You can be proud you helped improve this land for future generations!*

To get involved contact: secretary@nblandtrust.org

Health Department Wants to Hear from You!

The East Shore District Health Department is currently conducting its Community Health Survey. Every four years, the Department surveys residents about their health and the health of their community. This information and national health survey data will be used to help understand our communities’ health and help make decisions about our Community Health programming.

The survey is anonymous but is very valuable to our understanding of the community. It includes questions about your health, the medical access to our residents and our behaviors and habits that affect your health.

We encourage everyone to participate! You can access it online on your computer or phone. Paper copies are available to the public at town halls and libraries in Branford, East Haven, and North Branford.

Surveys are available at the following link, which and is also posted on at www.esdhd.org and social media accounts (<https://www.facebook.com/ESDHD> / Twitter @esdhd) The survey should take less than 15 minutes but the information you give us is invaluable.



English link: https://esdhd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6L0cEjmJhq6E4bc?h8=1



Spanish link: https://esdhd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_03csUAmgimH2mjk?h8=1

The survey will be open until the end of November. Thank you to our community for your time and for helping us make our towns stronger and healthier!



Changing Seasons
by Local Photographer
Nick Carlino

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@cbebranford.org; www.cbebranford.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 Kent Jackson. We invite you to discover the power of faith in Jesus Christ bringing God's love to the world. Join us to worship, experience God's word, and stay connected.

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

North Branford Congregational Church

CHRISTMAS HOLLY FAIR

November 23, 2024

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Shop in our Fellowship Hall for Christmas gifts or find a treasure in our White Elephant Room.

You can also purchase raffle tickets to try and win one of our baskets filled with goodies.

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD OFFICE OF SOCIAL SERVICE THANKSGIVING BASKET SHARE

The Thanksgiving Basket Share Program will take place on Monday, November 25th, 2024

For those that need some assistance with their Thanksgiving Dinner, you only need to call the Office of Social Service and request to be a recipient in the Thanksgiving Basket Share. The only requirement is that you are in need, and that you reside in Northford or North Branford. Your information is protected, and your name will not be disclosed. You must be able to pick up your basket or arrange for someone to pick it up for you. We are unable to deliver or bring it to your car.

For those wishing to donate a basket or grocery store gift card, call or email the Office of Social Service and express your desire to donate a Thanksgiving Dinner Basket or a grocery store gift card. You may choose the family size you would like to adopt. You may choose to do this alone, or as a group, with neighbors or co-workers.

Although names are not disclosed, a number will be given to both the recipient and the donor. This is used to identify which family is the recipient. All commitments by the donor and recipients will receive written confirmation.

The Thanksgiving Basket Share is scheduled for Monday, November 25th, 2024. Should you have an interest in being a recipient or a donor please contact the Office of Social Service by email, lbreen@northbranfordct.gov or ksperry@northbranfordct.gov or by phone at 203.484.6006 or 475-655-0412 by **10/31/2024 for recipients, there is no end date for donors.**

Crafters Care Events Presents ...

A HOLIDAY ARTISAN MARKET

@ Millpond

Saturday, November 30, 2024 AND

Sunday, December 1, 2024

11 am to 3 pm

Millpond Gatherings

1565 Middletown Ave. Northford, CT

\$5.00 Cash Only

Entry Fee Benefits

The Food Pantry of
North Branford

Support local small business

Holiday shopping from handmade artisans and crafters
All from CT!



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

Annual Tree Lighting
Friday, December 6th
 Town-owned Augur Property 290 Forest Road, Northford • 6:30 - 8:00pm
Snow or Shine!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NORTH BRANFORD ROTARY CLUB

Ice Sculpting	Hay Rides	Hot Chocolate & Cookies
Marshmallow Toasting	Stage Performances	And Santa!

FREE SHUTTLE TRANSPORTATION FROM NBIS!
 654 Foxon Rd, North Branford
 The shuttle will run continuously from 5:45-8:45pm

LETTERS TO THE NORTH POLE
 Mail a letter to Santa, Mrs. Claus, or your favorite elf or reindeer!
 Find the template On our website nbcreation.com

Marshmallow toasting sticks provided by **SMORSTIX**

— SENIOR CENTER —

Gift Tree

Year after year, our Gifting Tree program helps bring extra holiday cheer to Senior Citizens in our community. Kindly remove an ornament tag from the tree and purchase a gift card to either Big Y, Walmart, Walgreens, or Dollar General and return the tag with the gift card to one of our Gifting Tree locations by 12/13/24. Recommended denominations, \$15-\$40

Find our Gifting Trees at:
 STW Community Center -1332 Middletown Ave. Northford
 Atwater Memorial Library -1720 Foxon Rd. North Branford
 Edward Smith Library - 3 Old Post Rd. Northford

Santa's Little Helper RAFFLE

HELP SANTA LIGHT THE CHRISTMAS TREE!

Purchase a raffle ticket for a chance to light the town tree at the Annual Tree Lighting on Friday, December 6th!

Tickets can be purchased for \$1 per ticket (cash only) at the STW Community Center during regular hours until end of day on 12/2. The drawing will be held on 12/3 and the winner will be notified.

GET STRONG
with Vicky Struk

A New Take On Your Favorite Exercise Classes!

8 week session = 16 classes!
Offered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
 Pick any **TWO** classes per week
Daily drop in rate is \$5 per class
The Next Session Starts Nov 22 - Jan 24
 No class 11/29, 12/23, 12/25, 12/27, 12/30, 1/1, 1/3, 1/20
STW Gym/Cafe
10:00am - 11:00am
\$40res/\$45nr

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 DAY****
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11, 2024
 SANTA PIZZA AND WHOVILLE CUPCAKES
 1:00 - 3:00pm
 Cost \$40 res/ \$45 non-res per class

SOUND HEALING
Wednesday December 18, 2024
6:15-7:15pm - Ages 16+
STW Yoga Room - \$30

Experience this incredible workshop with Toni McGovern. Balance your mind, body and spirit with sound healing instruments to heal, reset & promote deep rest.

*Blankets & mats are available, however you may choose to bring your own pillows.
 Registration Required by 12/13

PURPOSEFUL PARENTING
Family to Family Networking Group

If you are a parent, caregiver, guardian, etc. for an individual with special needs, please join us.

- Connect and engage
- Share experiences and resources
- Provide support and encouragement
- Develop meaningful relationships

Purposeful Parenting will meet at the STW Community Center on the first Tuesday of every month from 11:30-1:00pm as well as the third Thursday of every month from 5:30 - 7:00pm.

Finding STRENGTH in your community!

For more information or questions please reach out to Kerry Haynes - khaynes@northbranfordct.gov

HEALTH & WELLNESS CLINIC
LOW COST!

Dec 6th | **10AM - 1PM**
 Stanley T. Williams Community Center
 1332 Middletown Ave.
 Northford, CT 06472

Register by Nov 29th to Reserve Your Spot (Limited to 30)
 (Cash/Check Only)

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register Online at: vetcareeverywhere.org/community-events
 Or Call: 203-484-6017

INCLUDED SERVICES:

- + Wellness check
- + Rabies vaccines
- + Distemper vaccine
- + Basic deworming
- + Heartworm testing (dogs only)

ATTENTION -

- All cats must be in carrier and all dogs must be leashed
- No litters of puppies or kittens
- Prior proof of rabies required for 3 year rabies certificate

*Additional services such as non-core vaccines (Lyme, Lepto, Kennel Cough) available for added fee

VCE VETCAREEVERYWHERE.ORG

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

Personal, For Sale, Help Wanted, Tag Sale, and all non-business classified
1 issue \$9.00 2 issues \$12.00 3 issues \$15.00
20 words or less, not including phone #. \$.05 per word, per run,
after 20 words

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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:

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For more information call 203-410-4254

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North Branford, CT 06471
Every life is unique.
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EMAIL US: WeCare@KeenanFuneralHome.com

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"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."

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355 Sackett Point Rd North Haven, CT 06473

Holiday Cookie Sale & Gift Fair

December 7, 2024
11:00 am to 2:00 pm

American Legion Hall
243 North Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

Homemade cookies - make your own dozen
Other baked goods
Crafts
Gifts for Sale
Raffle
Vendors
Spin the roulette wheel to win a prize
Hot-spiced Apple cider

Proceeds benefit Branford Compassion Club's Feline Rescue & Adoption Center

<http://branfordcompassionclub.org>

J-Cakes

Taking orders now through November 25th
Assorted Cupcakes decorated as Thanksgiving Dinner!
Also featuring our popular Pumpkin Spice Cake.

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