



Totoket Times

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For Our Town From Our Town

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Volume 31 No 13, March 21, 2025

North Branford Rotary News





**NORTH BRANFORD ROTARY
EASTER EGG HUNT
SATURDAY APRIL 12, 2025
10:00AM
CONNECTICUT SPORTSPLEX
At the Dome
216 FOXON ROAD
NORTH BRANFORD CT**



**PLEASE BRING A NON PERISHABLE
FOOD ITEM
TO SUPPORT
THE FOOD PANTRY OF
NORTH BRANFORD**



Seeking nominations for the Service Above Self Awards.

The North Branford Rotary's **Service Above Self Awards** are a wonderful way to recognize those who go above and beyond to serve the community. These individuals are often the unsung heroes who make a lasting impact through their compassion, dedication, and service. If you know someone who exemplifies these qualities, now's the time to nominate them.

Why should you nominate someone?

Recognition like this not only acknowledges their hard work, but it also inspires others in the community to get involved and make a difference. It's a way of saying, "We see you, and we appreciate you." By nominating someone, you're helping to inspire the entire community to continue working together for positive change.

The nomination process is easy. Simply visit NorthBranfordRotary.org or via the Service Above Self post on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/northbranfordrotaryclub](https://www.facebook.com/northbranfordrotaryclub) where a nomination form can be submitted online. Be sure to provide as many specific details as possible about the nominee's contributions and how they've made an impact on the community. **Don't wait—nominations are due by April 25, 2025!**

If you've nominated someone before, even if they weren't chosen, don't hesitate to nominate them again. Your efforts could help shine a light on someone truly deserving.

The awards ceremony will take place on Thursday June 26, 2025 at 6:00pm at Woodwinds.

Should you have questions regarding the form please do not hesitate to reach out via email to northbranfordrotary.org or call Melinda Fonda @ 203-988-0883. Nominations Are Due By April 25, 2025

Senior Center Celebrates St. Patrick's Day with Annual Luncheon

It was a wonderful afternoon at the Senior Center's annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon Thursday, March 14 at the North Branford Parks & Recreation at Stanley T. Williams. Mayor Rose Angeloni, Deputy Mayor Jeff Macmillen, Town Manager Michael Downes and other staff and guests served corned beef and cabbage lunches.

Guests had a special treat of Irish bagpipe music performed by our own Emergency Management Director Bill Seward.



Thanks to all the residents who joined us and a special thanks to our staff, especially Chef Toni, and volunteers who made the afternoon memorable and green!



Poo Squad works out of Northford and provides full-service residential and commercial pooper scooper services in addition to yard sanitation and deodorization.

We were excited to join Mark Perez and Team, and the Shoreline Chamber at their ribbon-cutting ceremony welcoming them to North Branford! In attendance were: Mayor Rose Angeloni, Town Manager Michael Downes, Shoreline Chamber President Dee Jacob, Shoreline Chamber Membership and Operations Manager Diane Laffitte, and Shoreline Chambers Ambassadors Matthew Rader (Tech Fix) and Chris Weiler (Guilford Insurance).

You can contact them at 203-936-6177, or newhaven@thepoosquad.com.

TOTOKET TIMES			
Deadline		Publication Date	
March	28	April	4
April	11	April	18
April	25	May	2
May	9	May	16
May	23	May	30
June	6	June	13



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Welcome to Spring North Branford

It's almost planting season and time to check out all of the CSAs that are available in town at our local farms. Spring is the season of growth and renewal and change. Change is good but we can all benefit from staying informed and involved. Involvement can be as small as sending in written testimony during a Public Hearing or tuning into meetings on Totoket TV.

The state legislature is in session too. The committees also have their own youtube channels and accept both written and video testimony on zoom. Many of the recent public hearings have direct consequences to us here in North Branford. Every voice matters regardless if it is for or against. Legislatures can use little to no testimony as meaning the public doesn't care and then vote against it.



YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE EXPERT



My promise: To guide you every step of the way with honesty, care, and expertise. Born and raised in North Branford, I know our town, its neighborhoods, and what truly matters to buyers and sellers. Whether you're finding a home where memories are made or selling to start your next chapter, I'll make the process seamless and personalized to you.

KIM DAWSON

203.481.4605

Kim@CoastalCTHomes.com



Town budget season is here. The Town council does a great job putting the budget together, creating and presenting data to support decisions, please come out to the Budget Hearing at NBHS Cafe on Tuesday April 1, 2025. Then vote at the Budget Referendum on May 13, 2025.

Enjoy the Spring North Branford, plant some Sunflowers! Catch me on the Community Lens March 25, 2025.

Sincerely,
Kara Papa
CT General Assembly



Town of North Branford




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Vincent J. Mase, Sr.
 ATTORNEY AT LAW

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

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 North Branford, Ct
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SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH FROM 10 AM - 3 PM | SEATINGS AT 10 & 1
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Adults \$59 | Children 6-10 years \$25 | Children 5 & under FREE

Brunch Items
 Seasonal Fruits & Berries | Lemon Poppy Seed Yogurt | Variety of New York Style Bagels with butter & cream cheese
 Fresh Butter Croissants | Assorted Danish | Assorted Muffins | Mini Pastries | Cookies and Brownies
 Pastrami Smoked Salmon with sliced vine ripe tomatoes, red onions, capers, chive & dill cream cheese
 French Toast with cinnamon, sugar, maple syrup, fresh berries | Belgian Waffles with fresh berries
 Scrambled Eggs with chives | Maple Bacon | Sausage Links
 Herb Roasted Fingerling Potatoes with onions & thyme | Vegetarian Frittata with muenster cheese
 Roasted Chicken Breast with garlic au jus | Salmon with bearnaise sauce | Seasonal Starch and Vegetables

Salad Station
 Marinated Grilled Vegetables | Caesar Salad | Chopped Salad

Pasta Station
 Orecchiette with basil parmesan pesto cream | Cavatappi smoked tomato alla vodka

Carving Station
 Slow Cooked Prime Rib with horseradish cream sauce | Boneless Leg of Lamb with moroccan sauce

Beverage
 Freshly Brewed Regular & Decaffeinated Coffee | Assorted Teas | Freshly Squeezed Orange and Grapefruit Juices

Prices do not include tax or tip - 72 Hour notice is required for a full refund.
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State Representative Vincent Candelora



A recent study by personal finance company WalletHub—widely reported across Connecticut—ranked our state as having the third-highest combined state and local tax burden in the nation. While rankings may fluctuate, one fact remains constant: Connecticut residents already shoulder an overwhelming tax burden.

With that in mind, many are left wondering: Why are my Democrat colleagues pushing yet another new tax on the public?

They've branded it as a "retail delivery fee"—a .28-cent charge on every package delivered to homes or businesses by a vehicle, including food deliveries. Order a pizza? Pay the fee.

This proposal, originating in the Transportation Committee, has largely flown under the public's radar. However, it has drawn strong opposition from key organizations, including the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, the CT Retailers Network, the Connecticut Restaurant Association, and the CT Food Association. The reason is clear: It's bad for business—especially small businesses—and bad for our economy.

Proponents claim the tax will help fund the Special Transportation Fund (STF), which supports road and bridge repairs. Over time, however, the STF has also been used to cover operating costs for the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Transportation. The gas tax has historically been its primary revenue source, but concerns over the rise of fuel-efficient and electric vehicles have some legislators scrambling for new ways to tax the public.

This retail delivery fee is just another attempt to replace highway tolls—an idea that was abandoned after intense pushback from Connecticut residents. Instead, Democrats installed a highway use tax on trucks, increasing costs on businesses that provide essential services and deliver everyday goods, including groceries. You're already paying for that tax—and you'll pay for this one, too.

But is a new tax even necessary?

Connecticut residents already face one of the highest costs of living in the country. Meanwhile, the Special Transportation Fund is running a surplus—\$125 million in FY25 and \$95 million in FY26—with a deficit not expected until FY28. The STF cumulative balance or reserve fund is projected to grow to \$570 million in FY25 and \$665 million in FY26. The fund is so flush that for two consecutive legislative sessions, the state treasurer has proposed redirecting some of it toward debt reduction.

While inflation has contributed to this surplus, a bigger issue is the Department of Transportation's failure to execute projects efficiently, leaving millions of taxpayer dollars sitting idle. Before imposing yet another tax, residents deserve to see how DOT plans to fix its project backlog.

Supporters argue, "It's only .28 cents," but Connecticut taxpayers know better—new taxes rarely stay small. The Connecticut Restaurant Association warned in its testimony that this fee is the camel's nose under the tent, setting the stage for even higher costs in the future.

This idea isn't new. Other states have either explored or implemented a similar fee, but it remains deeply unpopular, and efforts to stall or repeal it are already underway elsewhere. Connecticut shouldn't follow anyone down this expensive rabbit hole.

Here's a better solution: Instead of taxing deliveries, why not require electric vehicle owners—who currently pay no gas tax but drive heavier cars that contribute to road wear—to contribute through a registration fee? I've proposed a bill to do just that.

After all, we're already paying for their charging stations through the "public benefits" charge on our electric bills.

As I write this, there are murmurs that this bill may not make it through committee—a welcome possibility, but not a reason to let our guard down. Too often, the most insidious taxes, fees, and policies are quietly buried in the budget during the final days of session. Stay tuned.

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

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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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The East Rock Cafe expands to North Branford!
Poppy's Coffee & Kitchen Originally opened in the summer of 2022 and quickly became a town staple in New Haven, now opening a brand new location in North Branford!
Extending their popular menu options from New Haven to a new town! From Avocado toast to Poppy's breakfast (Their take on a classic American style breakfast) there's something for everyone. But the menu doesn't stop at breakfast, you can also dine in for a wide variety of lunch options! Offering sandwiches, salads, wraps & soups, you'll be sure to find some new favorites.
Not stopping there, they're also bringing over their wide variety of specialty coffee, roasted freshly every week by a local roaster and used to make a perfect cup for you! From lattes to cappuccinos to Vietnamese iced coffee. Using their "Gold" espresso roast, and for those looking for a more simple classic American coffee, not to worry they offer freshly roasted and brewed light and dark roast coffee all day!
Come by and show some love to a new small business in town.

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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.

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

Beacon Trail Studios and MTO Film & Television Announce Red Carpet Premiere of "Sign Man" at North Branford High School and Exciting Partnership with Local Students

North Branford, CT – March 5, 2025 – Beacon Trail Studios and MTO Film & Television, led by award-winning filmmaker Michael T. Lombardi, are thrilled to announce the premiere of their latest independent film, *Sign Man*, on **Saturday, April 5, 2025**, at the **North Branford High School Auditorium**. This special event will feature a Hollywood-style red carpet experience starting at **6:00 p.m.** for photos and media, with the screening beginning at **7:00 p.m.** and concluding around **9:00 p.m.**

Sign Man is a moving fictional drama that addresses the challenges of homelessness, featuring an incredible cast, including several talented actors with Down syndrome. The film is a powerful narrative of resilience and compassion, providing a compelling story that is both heart-wrenching and inspiring.

Tickets for the premiere are now available and can be purchased to support both the film and the local community's involvement in the entertainment industry. The red-carpet premiere offers an excellent opportunity for families, students, and members of the community to come together and celebrate the arts while supporting the continued growth of a unique, ongoing partnership between Beacon Trail Studios, MTO Film & Television, and the North Branford school system.

A New Opportunity for North Branford Students

Michael T. Lombardi and his production companies are excited to announce that they plan to establish a long-term partnership with North Branford's school system. This collaboration will offer local students hands-on opportunities in the entertainment industry, including workshops and internships that provide essential skills for success in film and television production.

Lombardi, who has over 25-years of experience in the entertainment industry as an actor, writer, producer, and director, worked for several years in Hollywood and brings a wealth of knowledge to this program. He has also taught an "Acting for the Camera" workshop for kids, teens, and adults for several years. Robert Canelli, a retired educator, who is now a successful actor and producer, joins him in this exciting venture to bring a professional-level learning experience to the students of North Branford.

The partnership will focus on helping students develop real-world skills in areas such as:

- **Acting for the Camera**
- **Camera Work and Sound**
- **Editing**
- **Writing & Directing**
- **Producing**

Internship Opportunities & Real-World Experience

Beacon Trail Studios and MTO Film & Television will also offer internships for students to work on upcoming productions as **Production Assistants (PAs)**. This hands-on experience will be invaluable for those interested in pursuing careers in the entertainment industry. Additionally, students will have access to guest speakers who are professionals in the business, allowing them to hear firsthand about the intricacies of working in film and television.

Join Us at the Premiere: A Chance to Get Involved

In preparation for the premiere, students from North Branford High School will be involved in various aspects of the event, including assisting with tech, greeting guests as ushers, and representing the face of the evening. In the coming weeks ahead of the premiere, Michael T. Lombardi & Robert Canelli will meet with students and faculty from the drama, film & TV classes to introduce the program's goals and vision.

The hope is to establish a planning committee made up of students, teachers, and parent administrators, who will then work alongside the production team from Beacon Trail and MTO to design a comprehensive program for the 2025-26 school year, providing students with even more opportunities to learn and grow beyond the classroom.

How You Can Support

Tickets for the premiere of *Sign Man* are available now via Brown Paper Tickets online or by scanning the QR code below, and can be purchased by local families and community members who want to support the film, the students involved, and the ongoing collaboration with Beacon Trail Studios and MTO Film & Television. Your attendance will help support future educational programs, provide valuable career development opportunities for students, and ensure the success of this partnership.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, April 5, 2025

Location: North Branford High School Auditorium

Red Carpet Arrival: 6:00 p.m.

Film Screening: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



Media Contact:

Michael T. Lombardi/352-705-6905/ mtofilms@gmail.com

Robert Canelli /203-996-3227/rcanelli@aol.com

Website : <https://mtofilmmandtelevision.wixsite.com/mysite>

To purchase tickets, scan the QR code below or call North Branford High School. For additional information, please visit the production company website above.

Applications Available for North Branford Scholarships

The North Branford Scholarship Association announces that applications for scholarship awards are available at the town libraries and the North Branford High School Guidance Office beginning March 1st. Graduating high school seniors living in North Branford regardless of what school they graduate from are eligible. Applications must be in by March 28th, 2025.

Our fund drive is also being run at this time. If anyone would like to make a donation or help us raise monies for the students please call me at 203 483-1311.

North Branford High School Class of 1975 50th Class Reunion

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

For more information and updates: Facebook group **NBHS Class of 1975**

Please send your contact information (name, address and email address) NO-Branfordhsclassof1975@gmail.com Please share this information with other classmates.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION



INDOOR TAG & BAKE SALE

Sat., May 10th, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Parish Hall
The White Church on the Hill
in the Heart of Northford



1382 Middletown Avenue



All are welcome to participate!!
Tag Sale tables for rent only \$25
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a table 203-710-7005

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@NCCHSMove

Check out our Facebook:

[Northford Community Church](https://www.facebook.com/NorthfordCommunityChurch)



Night of Prizes at

Saint Anthony's

Come join the fun at ST. ANTHONY SOCIETY's 46th annual Night of Prizes, (formally known as the Card Party) to be held at St. Anthony Parish Center, 70 Washington Ave., New Haven on Friday, April 25,

2025 at 7:00 pm. Doors open at 6:15 pm. Food and beverage available for purchase or you can bring your own. Admission ticket is \$10.00 which includes coffee, Italian pastry and chance for door prizes. Raffle tickets for sale that night for fantastic prizes and there will also be a 50/50 raffle. For information or tickets please call Anna Simeone 203-710-5004. No admission tickets will be sold after Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Memorial Day Mass Catholic Cemeteries Association (CCA)

Join us for Mass on Monday, May 26th (Memorial Day). **If you would like to honor a Veteran**, please visit our website at www.ccacem.org and select the **Blog & News Tab**, and click on **Events** to open the calendar. Select May 26th on the calendar and fill out the form included.

All Veterans names will be honored at **all** the Masses held at our cemeteries.

Mass offered on Monday, May 26th, Memorial Day .

All Saints Cemetery Mausoleum-North Haven
700 Middletown Ave. (RT 17)

Celebrant: Rev. Ajeesh Ouseph

Time: 10:30 am

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

The North Branford Congregational Church, NACCC, 1680 Foxon Road, North Branford CT. Join us for meaningful worship and Bible based teaching every Sunday at 10 am. Sunday School for children during service. Communion on the first Sunday of the month. We offer Bible study, choir, lunch bunch, 2nd Sunday brunch, charity work, book club, praise team, men's fellowship and more. Our pastor is the Rev. Wendy Tarry. 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 Come grow in faith with us!

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

Recycling News

Scrap Metal Pickup will be the week of March 31st – April 4th on your normal trash day.

Scrap Metal includes: Small and large appliances, metal lawn furniture, hot water tanks, tools, metal fencing, furnaces, non-riding lawn mowers with gas removed, outdoor grills, small machines, air conditioners and dehumidifiers.

The Leaf Drop-off will be opening on Saturday April 5th.

The drop-off is located around the field to the left of the police station. Be aware that it is Spring and it may be muddy. The leaf drop off will also be open on April 12th, 19th and 26th. There will be curbside pickup of leaves in untapped biodegradable paper bags the week of April 28th to May 2nd.

The Electronics Waste Drop-off will be on Saturday April 12th - Public Works 290 Forest Road – 9am – noon

Take2Recycling is collecting electronics including TVs, computers, small appliances and almost anything that has a plug. We cannot accept smoke detectors, A/C's or dehumidifiers.

We will also be taking mattresses and box springs (clean and dry), and used oil for free.

When you bring us your mattress, you are creating jobs for those who take them apart to recycle the components.

There is a small fee for recycling propane tanks in reusable condition. Cash only.

Bulky Waste will be the week of April 14th – 18th on your normal trash day.

Bulky Waste includes rugs and tree branches (no thicker than 4") if less than 4' long and tied into bundles. Also included are couches, mattresses, wooden furniture and most items that won't fit in your tote. These large items are only taken during bulky waste which is twice a year. For a complete list, see your 2025 yellow Recycling/Trash card.

Bulky Waste will NOT take:

Electronics including TVs and computers, construction waste, grass clippings, tires, hazardous materials or scrap vehicle parts. It is also not meant for total home cleanouts.

The next Bulky Waste will be in November.

Earth Day – April 26th 2025

For Earth Day, the NB Recycling Committee will be having an event at Wall Field on April 26th during Little League opening day.

We would like to invite any organizations/businesses/hobbyists in town that can offer information about protecting our environment, conservation or recycling to be part of our Earth Day event. For more information or to reserve a table, you can email us at NBEarthday@gmail.com or call Bill Savastano at 203-484-2784.

There will be tables, displays, handouts and we will be available to answer your recycling questions.

On Earth Day, we encourage everyone to do a little to help mother nature. Do a cleanup around your neighborhood. Clean up a hiking trail on your next hike. Teach others not to litter. Learn how to recycle one new thing this week.

Change to North Branford's Plastic Bag Recycling Program

After 8 years of the NB Plastic Film Recycling Program, we have our first major change.

Unfortunately, you will no longer be able to drop the plastic film off at Town buildings. These are Atwater and Smith Libraries, STW Community Center and Town Hall.

Why the change?

The program has been so successful, that sometimes there is so much plastic film dropped off, that it causes a bit of unsightliness, with overflowing bins.

As these buildings are cornerstones of North Branford, and perhaps someone's first visit, to our Town, keeping the entrances looking welcoming is paramount.

So, how do we make up for losing these three convenient locations? New recycling bins have been placed at Public Works to accept the plastic film. They are directly in front of you as you drive in the entrance at 290 Forest Road.

The other four drop off locations in NB will remain available. They are: Country Paint and Hardware, Northford Country Market and TJs Launderette.

Additionally, as part of the new process, you will no longer be able to drop off household batteries, eye glasses, and cell phones, at Town Hall. There are bins at Public Works for eye glasses and cell phones. No batteries will be collected, as it's a safety issue. Some retailers such as Staples, Home Depot and Lowes take household batteries for recycling.

Please - If bin is full, please do not leave plastic film outside bin, as getting wet makes things much more difficult to sort.



Have you heard of the Habitat for Humanity Restore Store in Wallingford?

Shop or Donate to the ReStore

This is a great way to give a second life to used furniture.

The ReStore sells new and gently used furniture, appliances, lighting, cabinets, vanities, and other household-related items. The ReStore provides an environmentally and socially responsible way to keep good, reusable articles out of the waste stream while providing funding for Habitat's community improvement work. To inquire about a donation please contact the store by text at (203) 800-5517 or email at Restore@habitatgnh.org. Please include photos of the items you would like to donate. There is a list of acceptable donations on their website.

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 for Your Participation

Northford-North Branford Women's Club, GFWC

Military Whist Card Party

The Northford-North Branford Women's Club, GFWC is sponsoring a Military Whist Card Party on **Friday, April 4th** at Totoket Valley Elementary School, 1388 Middletown Avenue, Northford, CT. Doors open at 5:45PM and games start at 6:30 PM. Entry is \$12 per person and the proceeds benefit various charitable organizations in the local area.

For advanced tickets and to save your spot, reach out to Elisa Orio @ elissa.08@comcast.net or by phone at 203-793-7180 or Venmo@NorthfordWomens-Club. Tickets will also be available at the door.

We will be collecting donations for the North Branford food pantry. They need cereal, canned goods, non-perishables, cake mixes and icing. Anyone who brings a donation will receive one **FREE** ticket for the raffle.

There will be door prizes, and the club will be raffling off gift baskets and other donated prizes.

Refreshments, including appetizers and desserts, will be served.

The Northford-North Branford Women's Club is a civic organization dedicated to promoting deeper friendships among the women of our town and surrounding areas. Participating in community service and cooperating with the club work of the Connecticut State Federation of Women's Clubs. Check us out on Facebook: Northford North Branford Women's Club, GFWC.





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

leprechaun hunt

There once was a leprechaun with a pot full of gold!

He's been spotted in these woods - so we've been told.

If you try to catch him, he will surely duck.

Take a coin for your pocket - it will bring you good luck!

Please be polite and only take one, Leave coins for others to join in the fun!

The Leprechaun Hunt will begin Friday, March 7 at Harrison Farm Preserve

95 North St, North Branford, CT 06471

TENNIS AT NORTHFORD PARK

Due to the overwhelming success of our Tennis Program last year we are excited to offer it again!

Join us for 5-week Introduction to Tennis program at Northford Park! Lessons will be offered with Guilford Racquet Club Pros once a week for 45 minutes and included age appropriate skills and drills! Lessons include a Racquet!

Meet our Instructor: Austin is a certified USPTA tennis teaching professional and worked at Fairfield County Tennis and Milford Indoor Tennis before landing in Guilford and North Branford. He played high school tennis at Brookfield High School and college tennis at Western Connecticut State University, where his teams made the playoffs every year. When he's not teaching tennis he can be found playing tennis, as he belongs to several USTA league teams.

INTRO TO TENNIS

Ages 11-13 • 5:00-5:45pm • April 23 - May 21

Ages 5-10 • 6:00-6:45pm • April 23 - May 21

\$75
per session

BABYSITTER'S CERTIFICATION



SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025

STW GYM/CAFE

9:00 - 2:00PM \$65 RES/\$70 NR

AGES 12 - 15

Please register by 3/28

Girls & Boys Welcome! Ideal class for current and future sitters. This training gives you the knowledge, skills, and confidence to care for infants and school-aged children. This course addresses safety issues, preventing injuries and illnesses, and basic childcare. Students learn by doing and will be required to demonstrate the skills to be certified by the American Pediatric Association. (Bring a lunch)
Instructor: Ambulance Co. #4

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 APRIL 9, 2025

APRIL FOOL'S MEATBALL CUP

CAKES & HAMBURGER COOKIES



ARTISAN SERIES: BASKET CHEESE

Join master cheese maker and resident, Frank Angeloni in this hands on cheese making class. Basket cheese is an Easter tradition that is still made the old fashioned way, by hand. This cheese makes a beautiful table-top presentation when unmolded, showing off the "weaves" of the basket.

Tuesday April 15, 2025 - 5:00-7:30pm

STW Gym/Cafe - Adult (18+) - \$25

Wednesday April 16, 2025 - 5:00-7:30pm

STW Gym/Cafe - Adult (18+) - \$25

Thursday April 17, 2025 - 5:00-7:30pm

STW Gym/Cafe - Adult (18+) - \$25

Register by 4/11



— SENIOR CENTER —

SENIOR DINER DASH

Rein's Diner in Vernon & Buckland Hills Mall

March 26, 2025 - \$2

Meal Costs on own

Departs STW at 9:30am Departs the Diner at 2:00pm

Register by 3/21

Join us for some shopping at Buckland Hills Mall after we'll go to Rein's Deli in Vernon for lunch!



Monday April 21, 2025

9:00am - 1:00pm

No lunch break. Pre-registration is required.

Frank Davis, a certified instructor with AAA, will conduct the Driver Improvement Mature Operator Program. During this program you will learn preventative measures to use when driving. You will also learn how aging affects reaction time, hear tips to sharpen driving skills, review the new state laws and regulations, refine existing skills, and develop safe defensive driving techniques that save lives.

Participants, age 60 and older are eligible for a two-year, insurance discount on liability, collision and personal protection on insurance premiums. SCRCOG working with CT DOT, is pleased to offer the class at no cost to the Seniors.



RAGTIME

At the Goodspeed Opera House

May 14, 2025- \$120res/\$130nr

Enjoy lunch at the Gelston House before the show!
Departs 11:00 am Returns: appx. 5:00 pm

Payment is due at time of registration

Please register by April 16th to reserve your ticket to lunch and this fantastic show!

The trip leaves from the Senior Center. If you need transportation to the Center, kindly let us know when you register.

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.

VENDORS WANTED

The North Haven Congregational Church Women's Fellowship Craft & Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, May 10th, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. outside on the church lawn, 28 Church Street, North Haven, CT. Set up begins at 7:30 am. There is ample parking in the church parking lot. The cost for an outside space is \$30.00, prepaid, non-refundable, bring your own table and chair. Limited indoor spaces

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

with table and chair provided are available with a reservation for \$35.00, prepaid, non-refundable. No rain date. Please call the church office at 203-239-5691 for information. Spaces will go fast so make your reservation soon!

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!!

HELP WANTED

American Protective Products is looking for a Sales & Customer Success Representative to join our team! This role focuses on building relationships, helping customers find the right solutions, and ensuring they have a great experience with us. Pay is \$1,000/week plus commission. If you're proactive, great with people, and love problem-solving, we'd love to chat! Interested? Email Tim at tim@app-ppe.com.

R.E.C. Crew (Seasonal) – The Town of North Branford is accepting applications for R.E.C. Crew Counselors. This position is responsible for planning & leading activities and experiences for children in a group setting, as well as overseeing the general development and safety of the children under their supervision. R.E.C. Crew Counselors are expected to be available to work the entire summer season, Monday through Friday from June 18 – August 15. Part-time and full-time seasonal opportunities are available. Prior experience working with children is highly preferred. Applicants must be 16 years of age or older. Additional opportunities are available during school breaks. Please note your interest on your application. Starting rate \$16.45/hour. Full job description is available on the Town of North Branford website www.northbranfordct.gov/jobs. Please submit application and other materials via website, email (rburke@northbranfordct.gov), in person, or by mail to Town Manager/909 Foxon Road/North Branford, CT 06471. EEO/AA

Part-Time Seasonal Grounds Attendant- The Town of North Branford is accepting applications for the position of Part-Time Seasonal Grounds Attendant in the Public Works Department to assist the Grounds Division within the Public Works Department by keeping local municipal properties clean and removing litter from designated areas. Cleans and/or removes graffiti and makes minor repairs to vandalism. High School or GED diploma preferred. As a minimum, the employee must have a valid State of Connecticut driver's license. Starting wage is \$17.00/hr., no benefits. Applications are available on the Town's website www.northbranfordct.gov/jobs. Please submit applications via Town website, in-person at 909 Foxon Road, by mail, or email: rburke@northbranfordct.gov. The position is open until filled. EEO/AA

Seasonal Laborer – The Town of North Branford is accepting applications from qualified individuals for the position of Seasonal Laborer in the Public Works Department. Assists with all types of manual labor related to road, grounds, and facility maintenance. Work involves routine and non-scheduled maintenance and repairs of the Town's public grounds and facilities. Position assists permanent, full-time employees with the execution of their duties. Applicants must be 18 years of age and have a valid Connecticut Driver's license. Salary is \$18/hour with no benefits. This is a seasonal position. Hours will be 6:00 AM to 2:30 PM from May 1 through Labor Day and 7 AM to 3:30 PM otherwise. Position runs from April 1 through October 31.