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Volume 32 No 13 May 1, 2026

NORTH BRANFORD

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE - 2026

The Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, May 25, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the Northford section of town. The Veterans Service Commission and the Town of North Branford extend an invitation to everyone who wishes to march on that day. The groups will line-up at St. Monica's Church on Middletown Avenue, Northford at 9:00 a.m. The parade line will start at 9:30 a.m. and step off down Route 17 at 10:00 a.m. sharp.

The parade line will proceed north on Route 17/Middletown Avenue to the monument at the Northford Village Green. All are invited to the Company 2 Fire House immediately following the parade for refreshments.

Memorial Day is dedicated to honoring and remembering the men & women who have served our country and have since passed way. Anyone who has a family member or acquaintance who is deceased veteran is invited to carry a picture of this person in our Memorial Day parade to honor their memory

Interested groups contact Gina Cox in the Town Manager's Office, gcox@northbranfordct.gov or 203-484-6000, ext 301 or Kathy Poston at Parks, Recreation and Senior Center, kposton@northbranfordct.gov or 203-484-6017. This is necessary to be included in the parade lineup. **RSVP no later than Wednesday, May 20, 2026.** We look forward to another successful parade.

Calling all past and present Military to Walk in the Memorial Day Parade

REMEMBER AND HONOR



On Monday, May 25, 2026



The parade will be held in the Northford section of town. The parade line will proceed north on Route 17/Middletown Avenue to the monument at the Northford Village Green. All are invited to the Company 2 Fire House immediately following the parade for refreshments.

**** There will be vehicles for you to ride in**** Kindly inform us by Wednesday,

May 20, 2026, if you need transportation in the parade.

Please contact Gina Cox in the Town Manager's Office at gcox@northbranfordct.gov or 203-484-6000 or Kathy Poston at Parks, Recreation and Senior Center, kposton@northbranfordct.gov 203-484-6017. **RSVP no later than Wednesday, May 20, 2026.**

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May 2, 2026

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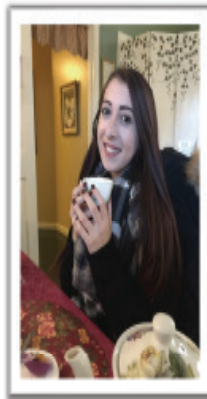
9am – 12pm

\$10/banker's box (13x17x10)
NorthBranfordRotary@gmail.com

Please contact Jamie Abelson
at 203-530-7616 with any questions

Please Donate Blood
In Memory of

Nicole Ferrucci



On the second anniversary of Nicole's passing, her family is again holding a blood drive in her memory. During her brave fight against cancer, Nicole received many blood transfusions that helped her along the way. In true Nicole fashion — always giving and thinking of others — we feel there's no better way to honor her than by helping others in their time of need. We hope you'll consider coming out to donate and make a difference in her memory.

BLOOD DRIVE

STW Community Center

1332 Middletown Ave, Northford - Gym



Wednesday, May 6th

1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Scan to sign up

For an appointment, please contact:

1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

or visit redcrossblood.org – code Nicole



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UPCOMING PUBLICATION & DEADLINE DATES

| Publication Date | Deadline |
|------------------|--------------|
| May 15 | May 8 |
| June 12 | June 5 |
| June 26 | June 19 |
| July 10 | July 3 |
| July 24 | July 17 |
| August 7 | July 31 |
| August 21 | August 14 |
| September 4 | August 28 |
| September 18 | September 11 |

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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW

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Mase_attorney@sbcglobal.net

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State Representative Vincent Candelora

In the Conversation on Affordability, Alternatives Are Good



Connecticut residents aren't asking for much. They want to keep the house they saved up to buy. They want their kids to go to good schools without watching their property tax bills climb every year. They want to afford a car, a doctor's visit, and maybe a little left over at the end of the month.

For years, state government has made those simple goals harder to achieve for middle- and working-class families.

In even-numbered years, the primary job of the General Assembly is to balance the second year of the two-year budget, which takes effect July 1. In mid-April, the legislature's Finance and Appropriations committees each voted out their proposals—one for revenue, one for spending. Unfortunately, the Democratic plans don't sync with each other. Connecticut simply doesn't have a traditional ways-and-means budgeting system.

With affordability as our priority, I worked with my House Republican colleagues to produce a budget adjustment of our own—one that balances the budget, delivers meaningful tax relief, spends less than both the Governor's and Democrats' proposals, and falls more than \$160 million beneath the state's spending cap to ensure we've got wiggle room if problems arise. We called it the "Pathway to Affordability," and you can view its provisions at cthousegov.com/budget.

The 2026 legislative session ends May 6, and by the time you read this, a final budget may already be in place. In putting forward our plan, my hope was that some of our proposals would make it into the final product.

Among our proposed tax relief measures:

- Eliminating income tax on all Social Security benefits
- Increasing the state's maximum property tax credit to \$650 from \$300
- Removing the "Passport to Parks" fee from vehicle registrations
- Eliminating the sales tax on children's clothing

The centerpiece of our proposal is the School Taxpayer Relief and Affordability Plan, or STRAP. It would direct \$365 million in new money to towns and cities to help offset the impact rising education budgets have on local property taxes. Every municipality would receive funds according to its existing percentage share of the \$2.3 billion awarded via state's Education Cost Sharing system. That money would be budgeted for municipalities to count on until the state fixes the broken ECS formula, which for years has shortchanged rural and suburban communities in favor of large urban centers.

How do we pay for it? For starters, by recovering \$340 million that New York has been effectively taking from Connecticut workers through its "convenience of employer" rule, which forces remote workers to pay New York income taxes—at a higher rate, no less—instead of Connecticut's. Beyond that, there are roughly 2,400 vacant state jobs; budgeting only for positions we can reasonably expect to fill would save around \$150 million. Trimming legislative earmarks to nonprofits and community organizations would save another \$12 million.

The point is this: real tax relief is achievable—if you're willing to think beyond the status quo that created this affordability crisis in the first place. I'm proud that our caucus has once again put a fully-vetted alternative budget on the table. As far as we can tell, we remain the only minority caucus in the nation to do so consistently.

In the legislature, as in life, it's easy to ignore people who show up without solutions. Without them, Connecticut will stay on the same path that has so many residents frustrated about their financial future.

I look forward to reporting back in my next column, after the session concludes, with details on what made it into the final budget.

State Rep. Vincent Candelora House Republican Leader

86th Assembly District

North Branford, Durham, East Haven, Guilford

Let's Be "Frank"

Well brother, I gotta tell you so far 2026 and turning 70 has been a real bastard. As you know, I took that little trip from my family room into my dining room back in the second week of January. I spent a week in the hospital and five weeks recuperating at home. Although I still had a pretty good sized wound, I went back to work and continued with some normalcy of life. Just when I thought it was healing all hell literally broke loose.

Apparently, the covering on the wound burst open and without getting too graphic I suffered a very large infection. After two weeks of incompetent treatments the doctor decided to rush me to the hospital. There I stayed three hours in the emergency department waiting room, six hours in what they call the annex and 11 hours in another room in the emergency department where doctors came in nonstop, offering different opinions on my situation.

Finally, a surgeon came into the emergency room and cleaned out the wound right there in the bed, but suggested that the next day I should go for surgery to completely clean out the infection. The good news was it didn't hit the bone or the muscle. I guess that's the one instance where I should thank God I'm fat because if I was skinny, it would've gone right through to the bone, but by the time it ate through my flesh, they cleaned the infection.

As usual, the food was a joke. Every day was a different surprise because whatever I ordered wasn't what I got. I don't know why they ask you to order because they seem to give you what they want. The night before the surgery, I was on liquids only. The brain surgeons in the cafeteria sent me ice tea, lemon ice, Jell-O and ginger ale all with sugar. Guess they didn't see the warning on the chart that said I was a diabetic.

The nurses as usual were tremendous. Always helpful and always accommodating. They have a thankless job. The only complaint I have is that when it is 1:00 in the morning for the patients, it's actually 1:00 in the afternoon for the nurses. When they are outside your room they talk like it's 1:00 in the afternoon and that makes sleeping a bit difficult.

Following another week in the hospital on constant IV antibiotics, they have sent me home with what they call a wound vac. I myself have named it SpongeBob Square Pants cause it's a sponge in the wound keeping it from getting infected. I am no longer on intravenous antibiotics and the prognosis looks good but I have to stay connected to this machine for anywhere from 4 to 12 weeks.

You know me. I am independent and thick headed but I now have to be independent with assistance. Visiting nurses are here three times a week and SueAnn has to help me with most activities.

I have officially retired from my job and coaching baseball is probably a thing of the past. I am looking forward to (once I heal) doing some traveling with the Mrs. and maybe even spending a month in Florida because by the time you read this letter, you would've been a great uncle as Frankie and Ana will be giving birth to my third grandson Lucas Mentone. Also, during my illness I lost 30 pounds so I will be able to walk Lucas in the carriage

and play soccer in the backyard with Nico and Johnnie.

It's been rough but I guess I'm tough.

I've still been able to visit you guys at the cemetery so keep watching over me and my wife as this has probably been tougher on her.

Take care. Give my best to the rest and I'll see you soon.

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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



For the Health of it...

Your Body is Talking. Are You Listening?



Have you ever found yourself shouting at someone you love, perhaps a child, spouse or dear friend? Maybe you started out trying to convey a message in a conversational tone, and then reached the point where you felt the need to shout in order to be “heard”. We’ve all been there at one time or another. Yet, multiple studies show that shouting is the least effective means of communication. Good communication can deepen personal connections. A healthy dialog builds trust and trust is necessary in all healthy relationships. Although

we may not think of it as such, our relationship with our body also requires good communication and trust. It’s talking to us all the time.

So how is the conversation between you and your body going? If you power through stress and fatigue, brush things off, and wait until the body turns up the volume loud enough that it can’t be ignored, you have been overlooking subtle signals along the way. For many, awareness often arrives in the form of a doctor’s visit, when those subtle whispers have already escalated into persistent symptoms. While medical care is essential and invaluable, it is not meant to be the first place we “hear” what our bodies have been trying to say all along.

The body is patient and rarely jumps straight to shouting. It nudges first; perhaps with quiet fatigue, minor discomfort, shifts in mood or digestion. When those signals are consistently dismissed over time, they tend to get louder and harder to ignore. Learning to listen earlier doesn’t replace professional care; it complements it. It can mean addressing stress before burnout, supporting nutrition before chronic inflammation appears, and recognizing imbalance before it becomes illness. In many ways, it’s about rebuilding (or building) a trusted relationship, seeing your body not as something that suddenly “breaks,” but as something that communicates, consistently and quite clearly, when given the chance.

There are also those who used to listen to what their bodies had to say but gradually allowed their own self-awareness to fall to the wayside by relying on a wrist buzz to tell them to stand, their phones to remind them to breathe, and apps that analyze everything from sleep cycles to stress levels. It’s as though somewhere along the way, we “hired” an assistant to take over one of our most important skills: listening to our own bodies. While devices can and do provide valuable data, they can also create a reliance on external validation, which pulls attention away from internal awareness. Ideally there should be a balance. It should complement, not replace your own perception.

In a world where deadlines, notifications, and constant noise often take center stage, it’s easy to overlook the quiet signals coming from within and may seem easier to rely on something else to do it for us. Yet your body is always communicating; subtly, persistently, and at times urgently. We’ve been given one body that gives us feedback on the reg. Fatigue, for instance, is not merely an inconvenience to be pushed aside with caffeine; it’s often a sign that your body needs rest, recovery, or a change in routine. Persistent headaches might reflect stress, dehydration, or even poor posture. Digestive discomfort can hint at dietary imbalances or emotional strain. These are not random occurrences, they are messages. If you are a good listener when it comes to receiving these messages I applaud you.

Unfortunately, most of us are conditioned to ignore these signals. Productivity is often prioritized over well-being. Skipping meals, sacrificing sleep, and working through pain are worn like badges of honor. Over time, however, this disconnect can lead to more serious consequences. When minor signals are ignored, the body tends to turn whispers into louder, harder-to-ignore symptoms.

Listening to your body requires a shift in mindset and increased awareness. Instead of dismissing discomfort, pause and ask: What might this be telling me? This doesn’t mean jumping to worst-case conclusions, but rather exercising curiosity. For example, if you feel unusually irritable, consider whether you’ve eaten properly, slept enough, or taken time to decompress. Emotional and physical states are deeply interconnected, and your body often reflects what your mind is processing. Listening to your body starts with simple awareness:

- Noticing your energy levels throughout the day
- Paying attention to hunger and fullness cues
- Recognizing how different foods make you feel
- Tuning into physical signs of stress: tight shoulders, shallow breathing, clenched jaw
- Acknowledging emotional signals instead of brushing them aside

Ultimately, your body is a partner in your well-being. It works tirelessly to maintain balance and protect you, sending signals designed to keep you healthy and functioning. Ignoring these signals creates distance, while listening fosters alignment and trust!

So the next time you feel a twinge of discomfort, a wave of fatigue, or a shift in mood, don’t brush it aside. Pause. Pay attention. Your body is talking. Are you ready to listen?

JoAnn Begley is a Nutritionist, Health & Lifestyle Coach & a Holistic Wellness Practitioner. As a former family caregiver who also spent more than a decade as a family caregiver consultant, she knows how difficult it is to take the first step towards self care and how essential it is to do so.

Honor Them With a Flag

The Northford-North Branford Women’s Club, GFWC is sponsoring Honor Them With a Flag, a salute to our country’s military personnel, veterans and first responders. Please help us celebrate our veterans and our country’s 250th anniversary! The public is invited to participate by purchasing a U.S. flag dedicated to a member of our military, first responder or anyone else close to your heart. The flags will go on display on the front lawn at the North Branford Town Hall before Flag Day, from Wednesday, June 10th to July 4th. Each flag, 12” x 18”, will have a white ribbon attached to it inscribed with the name and rank of the soldier, first responder or loved one. Flags will be available for collection for one week after July 4th from the lawn of the North Branford Town Hall. Proceeds will benefit local veterans’ projects. To order, fill out a form and mail a check made out to the Northford-North Branford Women’s Club, GFWC for \$10 per flag to: The Northford-North Branford Women’s Club, P.O. Box 264, Northford, CT 06472. Information is also available online at: www.northfordnbwomensclubgfwc.org. There is no limit on purchases, but all forms must be received by June 6th. For more information, contact Mary Ellen Collett at 203-484-9079.

A ceremony has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 10th at 7:00pm on the North Branford town hall lawn. Please come and join us for this moving program.

Please fill out the following information and make a check out to Northford-North Branford Women’s Club GFWC
Northford-North Branford Women’s Club
PO Box 264, Northford CT. 06472
Deadline: Saturday, June 6, 2026

Name & Rank _____
 (As you would like to appear on the flag’s ribbon -please print)
 Service Branch _____
 Dates of Service _____
 Name of Purchaser _____
 Address _____
 Phone # _____ E-mail _____
 Number of Flags ___ x\$10. per flag = Total donation _____
Photo copies or similar copies of this form are acceptable

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD TOWN BUDGET REFERENDUM MAY 12, 2026

Notice is hereby given to the electors of the Town of North Branford that a Budget Referendum will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, for the purpose of voting on the following question:

“Shall the Town Council Recommended Budget of \$65,859,026 which will require a mill rate of 28.91 mills, be adopted?”

Those desiring to vote in favor of said budget should fill in the oval next to the words “I accept the budget”. Those desiring to vote against the budget should fill in the oval next to the words at either “I reject the budget because it is too high” or “I reject the budget because it is too low”.

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling places is as follows:

- District 1 Jerome Harrison Elementary School, 335 Foxon Road – Route 80
- District 2 STW Community Center (Gymnasium), 1332 Middletown Avenue – Route 17
- District 3 STW Community Center (Board meeting room), 1332 Middletown Avenue – Route 17

Voting machines will be used. The polls will be opened at twelve noon (12:00 p.m.) and will remain open until eight o’clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.).

Absentee ballots shall be available as provided by law at the Town Clerk’s Office during regular business hours. In accordance with section C8-5 of the North Branford Charter, only registered voters are eligible to vote at the Budget Referendum.
Lisa A. Valenti, MMC - North Branford Town Clerk



Family-style dinners are more than just sharing a meal—they create a warm, memorable experience where friends and families gather, connect, and celebrate together.

For one set price, your Sunday Family Dinner begins with a relaxing Wine Tasting from 12–1pm on our beautiful stone patio overlooking the vineyard.

From there, guests move into the main celebration with dinner, music, and dancing from 1–5pm.

We invite you to experience a Family Style Dinner at Magnanini Winery!



**Bus Trip , Sunday, October 4, 2026.
 Bus to Leave North Haven at 9:30 AM
 Sons & Daughters of Italy Members \$155
 Non Members \$165.**

Includes bus transportation, wine tasting, dinner and entertainment
Price is subject to change if the Vineyard finds it necessary to adjust the price.

**Non refundable \$50. Deposit required upon booking.
 Must book as soon as possible to hold the bus and spot.
 For more information or to reserve your seat
 Call SueAnn at 203-710-4186.**

First Course | Antipasto

Assorted Antipasto | Homemade Salami, Capocollo, Prosciutto Di Parma, Fontina Cheese, and Sweet Peperonata

Second Course | Pasta

Penne Bolognese | A classic Italian meat sauce made with ground beef, crushed tomatoes, veggies, and seasonings

Third Course | Salad

Caesar Salad | Crisp romaine lettuce tossed with our homemade caesar dressing. Topped with shaved Parmigiano Reggiano and croutons.

Fourth Course | Main Course

Melt in your mouth, slow roasted pork belly
 Chicken breast baked in a lemon cream sauce
 Baked Yukon gold potatoes in a rosemary garlic butter
 Braised red cabbage made with local apples

Fifth Course | Dessert

Freshly baked homemade apple crisp with vanilla ice cream

All Menus Are Subject To Change Based On Seasonal Availability



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 For more information or to reserve your seat
 Call SueAnn at 203-710-4186.**



North Branford and Conservation Trust THE GREAT GIVE

NBLCT is excited to be participating in The Great Give on May 6-7. This 36 hour, online, community-wide giving event was created by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven to raise visibility and resources for nonprofits serving Greater New Haven.

With your help in the last year, we have installed an ADA-compliant parking lot at our Beech Street Demonstration Forest, created a series of trails on the property, and built a beautiful, welcoming, timber-frame kiosk.

While we have accomplished a lot there is still vital work to be done such as completing an ADA-accessible trail, and continuing work to clear invasive plants, to free up younger trees for unencumbered growth. Our goal is to make this property a wonderful place to learn about woodlands and nature.

At Pumps Lane Woodlands, we will be creating trails, clearing invasive plants and freeing up younger trees to restore the health of the woodlands.

Your assistance during The Great Give ensures that Beech Street Demonstration Forest and Pumps Lane Woodlands remain vibrant, accessible, and healthy for years to come.

Thank you for supporting our mission and helping us protect and enhance our community's natural spaces, by assisting us in the continued development of our Beech Street Demonstration Forest and Pumps Lane Woodlands.

The web address of the Great Give is <https://www.thegreatgive.org/>



National Football Foundation Recognizes North Branford Natives

The National Football Foundation's local chapter recently held their 66th Scholar Athlete Dinner. Greg Ferraro was the football Scholar Athlete from North Branford High School.



Greg pictured with his mom and dad (left) and coach Anthony Salvati

In addition to the scholar athlete, the organization also recognized their Distinguished American award which went to Chris Heatherington. Chris was raised in North Branford. He attended Avon Old Farms and then went on to earn a B.S. in Psychology at Yale University where he also played football. Chris went on to play for eleven years in the National Football League.

He completed executive education programs in Business Management and and Entrepreneurship at Harvard Business School



Heatherington pictured with foundation president Anthony Mortali (left) and Yale coach Larry Ciotti. (photos and information compliments of Bill O'Brien)



North Branford High School Class of 76 reunion

North Branford Class of 1976 will be getting together for a weekend of reminiscing on August 14-16.

The event will kickoff with a get together at Doody's from 6:00 till closing. Food and drinks can be purchased on your own.

On Saturday, August 15, we will be gathering together at Rosabianca Vineyards located on Middletown Avenue. They have reserved the Forge room and there is limited seating so reserve now. Tickets for the event are \$75.00 per person for a light buffet and cash bar.

Sunday, August 16 will be time to say goodbye. Meet up at the Northford Park where we have reserved the pavilion. from 10AM to 1PM rain or shine. Check us out on Facebook <https://FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/NORTHBRANFORD.H.S.CLASSOF76> OR E-MAIL BOBSWICK@SNET.NET FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.



North Branford Rotary Honors North Branford High School Seniors

North Branford High School and the North Branford Rotary Club are proud to honor five exceptional seniors as the 2026 Rotary Award recipients. This award recognizes one student from the following disciplines: Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, English, and Citizenship. These students demonstrate a commitment to academic rigor and community engagement.

Taylor Cantore (Social Studies) is recognized for her dedication to social change and impactful Capstone work with youth therapy programs.

TJ Connelly (Mathematics) is lauded as a classroom leader whose mastery of A.P. Statistics and A.P. Calculus prepares him for a future in actuarial science.

Meghan Tang (Science) continues to distinguish herself through her success in the school's most challenging STEM electives, including A.P. Biology and Honors Physics.

Alexa Esposito (English) earns distinction for the analytical depth and social justice mindset she brings to each of her three senior-year English courses.

Finally, Bree Aiken (Citizenship) is celebrated for her extensive involvement in clubs, activities, and the performing arts, and for her reputation as a kind, positive mentor to her peers. Together, these honorees embody the ideals of excellence and service-oriented leadership of our North Branford school community.

Congratulations to them and their families for this achievement.



Let's Celebrate our Seniors & 8th Graders with Balloons!
NBHS Project Graduation & NBIS PTO are sponsoring
Balloons for NBHS Seniors and NBIS 8th Grade Graduates
Purple for Seniors ~ White for 8th graders

Purchase congratulatory mylar balloons for your special Graduate!

Order Deadline is May 31st:(First come first serve. No late orders accepted)

NOTE: Balloon pick will be June 8th at the NBHS Auditorium from 3-6:30PM.

Balloons will NOT be delivered.

Please print clearly: Please use additional forms for multiple balloon orders.

Sender's Name: _____

Sender's Email: _____ @ _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

NOTE: Please include the students' information in the "To" area & your message:

| | |
|---|--|
| To (Student Name): Grade (check one): Senior <input type="checkbox"/> 8th Grade <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Guardian Cell Number for pick-up: Phone: (____) _____ # of balloons _____ | Your Message To the Graduate: From: |
| Total # of balloons _____ x \$6.00 ea. \$ _____ | |
| To (Student Name): Grade (check one) Senior <input type="checkbox"/> 8th Grade <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Guardian Cell Number for pick-up: Phone: (____) _____ # of balloons _____ | Your Message To the Graduate: From: |

Checks payable to: NBHS Project Graduation 2026 or use QR Code/link: [QR LINK](#)
Please put student's full name/# balloons on check
Check one: Check # _____ or paying by QR Code _____
Mail Forms/Check to: Jenn Piercey, 49 Basswood Drive, North Branford CT 06471
Attn: Balloons
Questions? Please contact Jenn Piercey at (203) 623-4645 or Gina DePino at (203) 668-3721



SAVE THE DATE!

Northford-North Branford Women's Club Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday June 6, 2026

11:00 am



TWIN LAKES GOLF COURSE

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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!

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.

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. 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!

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 10:00 a.m. Refreshments and fellowship always follow. Please join us - we'd love to get to know you! All are always welcome!! The church is also open to all in the community for individual prayer, Tuesdays from noon to 2 p.m. St. Andrew's supports many community programs, and contributes regularly to the North Branford Scholarship Program; North Branford Social Services (NBSS) Thanksgiving Basket Share and Christmas gift and food basket share programs; NBSS 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 an Annual Rhubarb Fest, summertime Ice Cream Socials, and the annual Harvest Supper. Please join us for the events, and help us help our neighbors! Additionally, the church's 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

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



Pierpont Concert featuring the United Girls Choir!

On Saturday, May 2, at 7:00 pm, the North Haven Congregational Church, 28 Church Street is proud to present a concert featuring the world renowned United Girls Choir (UGC)! Over the past 30+ years, UGC has given thousands of choristers ages 5-18 the chance to sing for joy, develop confidence, leadership skills, and build lifelong friendships. These musicians have been sharing professional caliber choral music, delighting audiences for many years!

This concert will feature songs of the spring season, old and new, some sacred gospel and secular pop. There is ample parking and the church is handicapped accessible via our elevator entrance just off the parking lot.

Tickets are \$15, General Admission. Student tickets are \$10 and children under age 12 are free admission! Cash, Check, and Venmo accepted at the door, or in advance by calling the church office at 203 239 5691 or emailing Music@NorthHavenUCC.org.

This concert is part of our annual Pierpont Concert Series! Thank you for your support!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 6801

Knights of Columbus Council 6801 is working on a very aggressive schedule as they continue to raise funds for their Parish as well as the many organizations they support. Be on the lookout for upcoming events.

May 10, 2026. Membership Drive with presentation at all Masses about the structure of the group.

May- plans are in place for a breakfast honoring moms in the church community.

June & July - Ice cream Socials

July 19th - bus trip to see the Red Sox play Tampa Bay at Fenway Park. \$120 includes transportation, tickets, and lunch.

September 19, 2026. annual Murder Mystery Dinner

Septemebr 26th the Flea market/tag sale is baack. It will be taking place on the POCO Fest grounds.

November and December are reserved for food baskets and toys for the those less fortunate than ourselves.

For information on any of these events or interest in joining the Council, please call Wayne Humphrey at 203-410-3885



\$12 per person
Includes entry into door prize raffle
(additional raffles will be available)
Call for tickets - 203-239-5378
while they last!
No tickets sold at the door.



St. Pier Giorgio Frassati Parish

Military Whist

FUN TO LEARN!
EASY TO PLAY!
NO EXPERIENCE
NECESSARY!

CARD PARTY FRIDAY, MAY 8

ST. MONICA CHURCH HALL
1321 MIDDLETOWN AVE. NORTHFORD
DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM
GAME STARTS AT 6:45 PM
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS, RAFFLES

Raffle donations needed, call the office.



TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD
BUDGET PRESENTATION for 2026-27 FISCAL YEAR

Shall the Town Council Recommended Budget of \$65,859,026, which will require a mill rate of 28.91 mills, be adopted?

Table with columns: 2023-24 ACTUAL, 2024-25 ACTUAL, 2025-26 BUDGET, @3/18/2026 ACTUAL, 2025-2026 PROJECTED, DESCRIPTION, 2026-2027 DEPARTMENT REQUEST, 2026-2027 MANAGER PROPOSED, 2026-2027 COUNCIL RECOMMENDED. Rows include categories like PROPERTY TAXES, FUND BALANCE CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS, and TOTAL REVENUE.

continued on page 10

Recycling News

Curbside Leaf Pickup

There will be curbside pickup of leaves in untapped biodegradable paper bags the week of May 4th to May 8th.

Thanks to the following for participating in our Earth Day Event: DeFrancesco Farm, The Poo Squad, The North Branford Fire Department, Kara Papa from the Community Lens, The North Branford Land Trust, NB Town Engineer Chris Holden, RWA and family and friends of the NB SHWRC.

Hazwaste Central is opening Saturday May 30th Safe & Free Disposal of Residential Household Hazardous Waste

They take household batteries.

The Regional Water Authorities' HazWaste Central will be open on Saturdays starting on May 30th through mid-October. They are closed on the weekends of Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day.

HazWaste Central helps area residents in member towns protect water quality by safely disposing of household wastes. Located at RWA at 90 Sargent Drive in New Haven, HazWaste Central is open from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturdays only. Household hazardous waste comes from everyday products used in the home, garage, yard or garden.

A visit to HazWaste Central is quick and easy. Participants never have to leave their cars, and the waste is off-loaded by professionals. Some of the household wastes that can be dropped off include aerosol cleaners and sprays, antifreeze, oil-based paint and pool chemicals. We also list some of the accepted items on your yellow trash information card.

Please visit <https://www.rwater.com/about-us/in-the-community/hazwaste-central> for a complete list of what is accepted along with the online registration form. You can also call 203-401-2712 or email ask.hazwaste@rwater.com.

If You Missed Bulky Waste!

If you find something you forgot to put out for bulky waste you can post useful items on the Facebook page: [North Branford & Northford Free Items](#).

There is also [Freecycle.org](#) in East Haven or New Haven.

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

Plastic Wrap Reminder

Most bird seed, pet food and mulch bags are not made of the right plastic to be considered plastic film. And even if they are labeled as recyclable, they would need to be clean to go into the plastic film bin. Please put these items into the trash unless it has a recycle symbol on it and has been turned inside out and clean.

Black plastic plant pots and takeout containers are not recyclable. The machinery can't detect the black plastic. Either try to return the plant pots to the place where you bought your plants or try to reuse them. I find the takeout containers have many uses around the house.

The North Branford's Solid/Hazardous Waste and Recycling Committee is looking for new members.

We are an advisory committee to the Town Manager. Our goal is to develop and implement environmentally sound solutions and best practices for solid waste disposal and recycling management on behalf of our town. We are always looking for people with fresh ideas to join us. Please call the Town Manager if you are interested.

For more information about recycling in North Branford you can check out North Branford's Recycling Committee's website: townofnorthbranfordct.com/government/boards-commissions/hazardous-wasterecycling-committee.aspx or our Facebook page: North Branford CT Hazardous Waste & Recycling Committee

Thank You for Your Participation

North Haven Sons & Daughters of Italy to Honor Three Distinguished Citizens

The North Haven Sons Daughters of Italy will be hosting their annual Distinguished Service Dinner on Wednesday, May 20th at WoodWinds in Branford.

This year's honorees will be:



Gerard Acampora, a long time pharmacist and owner of North Haven Pharmacy. Gerry has been active in the community and he is able to help his patients navigate the sometimes complicated and intimidating world of prescription drugs.

Matthew Guarnieri is a long time teacher for more than twenty five years. He currently teaches fourth grade in and serves on the Clinton Board of Education.

In 2021 Matthew founded the Italian American Defense League, a non-profit public charity with the mission of promoting education and portraying Italians positively, and preserving traditions.



John Tullo had a remarkable 27 year career serving in the Connecticut Air National Guard where his services included deployments to Aviano Air Bases and

Kandahar Air Base where he earned the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

He spent many years organizing sports and leisure activities for fellow service men. He has been a high school and college football official for more than thirty years and held many positions of leadership in the high school football officials organization.

Tickets for the dinner are \$55.00 per person. Anyone interested in attending the event is asked to call Frank at 203-410-4254.



NARFE Monthly Meeting

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association monthly meeting will be held Monday, May 4, 1:00 pm, at the North Haven Congregational Church, 28 Church St. All active and retired federal workers are invited to attend. The guest speaker will be Adelle Cuseo, AAA Northeast, Public Affairs Specialist. Topics include Handling Driving Emergencies and "Uber, Easy to Get a Lyft." NARFE is dedicated to protecting and preserving the earned benefits of federal workers and retirees. Info: www.Narfe.org

Submitted by:

**Judy Thomas, Public Information Officer
NARFE Chapter 257**



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



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

ALL WEEKS ARE CURRENTLY ON A WAITLIST
Please make sure to complete registration so when more seats become available your child will be on the list to be moved over.



**Saturday,
May 16th**

**11:00am-
1:00pm**

Quiet Time 12:30-1:00pm

Come touch, climb, explore and experience the excitement of many interesting and unique vehicles!

FREE ADMISSION

STW Community Center Parking Lot



BABYSITTER'S CERTIFICATION

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

STW GYM/CAFE

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

AGES 12 - 15

Please register by 4/27

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

BASKETBALL CAMP

Grades 2-8

June 15-June 19

Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Jerome Harrison School

\$179 res \$179 nr

Instructor: Slamma-Jamma Coaches



The Slamma-Jamma staff shows campers how to develop basketball fundamentals and a winning attitude. With over 39 years of experience, the knowledgeable and skilled camp directors and clinicians hold each camper's best interests as their priority as they work on skills to help create great players and great kids on and off the courts.

NEW

BREAKFAST AT STW

\$3

Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria. Please pre-register for meals at least one day prior, by 9am

STRAWBERRY PANCAKES WITH A SIDE OF BACON

MAY 20

8:30AM - 10:00AM

— SENIOR CENTER —

METEORS WITH MARK

Northford resident and Astrophotographer Mark shares with us his amazing photos of the skies over Totoket Mountain in Northford and explains how he captures all the wondrous images and videos.

May 14 - 12:45-2:00pm
STW Senior Room - FREE
please register by 5/11

HAND AND FOOT CARD GAME

We are putting together a fun session to learn and play a new card game-Hand and Foot. Here's a great opportunity to try something different, and just enjoy a fun social atmosphere. Come join us, be ready to shuffle up and play! Our friend, Barbara Amatrudo will be our instructor.

STW Senior Room
May 7, 2026 - 1:00-2:00pm
May 21, 2026 - 1:00-2:00pm

BERRY SWEET SOCIAL

June 4th STW Cafe
12:30-1:30pm - \$3

Join us for an after lunch sweet treat of strawberries, shortcake and lots of whipped cream!
Please register for this event by 5/29!

LEGACY THEATRE

September 17, 2026

Departs 11:00am Approx. Return 5:00pm

Join us at Key Diner (pay on your own) Then off to this classic comedy of the untidy apartment of divorced Oscar Madison, enter Felix Ungar, who is a "neat freak"!
Please register by 7/31

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

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

Lost and Found FREE

Business Classified Ads & Real Estate
3 issues \$35.00, 6 issues \$60.00, 12 issues \$100.00
\$.10 per word, per run, after 20 words

Payment MUST accompany all ads. The advertiser must notify this newspaper of any errors.

Send ad along with your check to:

Totoket Times P.O. Box 313 Northford, CT 06472

For more information call 203-410-4254

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ELECTRICIAN

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

PLUMBING

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

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

Home Improvements - Ceiling & wall repairs. Water damage repairs. Drywall - Doors - Trim - Windows - Free Estimates. Insured. Call Bill at 203-901-2136.

Deck & Porch Work - Decks - Porches - Railings - Stairs - Columns - Concrete Piers - New or repairs. Wood or composite decking. Insured. Call Bill at 203-901-2136..

HEATING & COOLING

Avallone Heating and Cooling. Heating & air conditioning repair, maintenance or installation. call 203-530-9324

“Security Systems are best when installed by a Professional not the Internet”



203-288-1000
355 Sacket Point Rd. North Haven, Ct 06473

Did you know:

Recycling just one tin can saves enough energy to watch television for three hours.



CELEBRATE Life!
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.

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!!



Glass Dance Studio
Stained Glass Artisans



- Stained Glass Classes
- Restorations
- Repairs
- Custom Work
- Gallery Gift Shop

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Must be able to work weekends
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or
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