

Totoket Times

For Our Town From Our Town

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Volume 31 No 18, June 6, 2025

North Branford High School Graduating Class 2025



Salutatorian Ashley Amendola Valedictorian Noah Allen Essayist Alexa Falcioni Photo by Dina Falcioni







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TOTOKET TIMES					
<u>Deadline</u>		Publication Date			
June	14	June	20		
June	28	July	4		
July	10	July	17		
July	24	July	31		
August	7	August	14		
August	21	August	28		
September	4	September	11		



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A Bad Decision

Dear Editor,

I would like to comment on the Town of North Branford's decision to eliminate the part time Assistant Building Inspector's position as part of this years budget process.

This elimination is going to cause a hardship to the homeowners, contractors and staff of this Town. Yes, the position was originally staffed to handle the increase of inspections due to the construction of the new high school and police station and now those projects are completed. How-

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ever, the Town Council has not taken into serious account that since 2020 the number of permits issued by the **Building Department** has nearly DOUBLED. This number has nothing to do with the high school or police department. These permits are for regular proj-

ects by homeowners. Each permit requires at least 2 inspections. The hardship comes when homeowners/contractors are looking for a permit and inspections. With only ONE inspector, the timeframe for issuing permits and scheduling inspections will be extremely difficult. The inspector's time will fill up quickly and projects will be delayed. Homeowners/ contractor's will have to wait 1-2 WEEKS for an inspection. Either they will wait and be very frustrated or they will continue the project without an inspection and then safety may be compromised. Also, the Building Inspector is entitled to take time off which will create a further bottleneck. In the past outside inspectors have filled in but anyone in the industry right now knows that there is a shortage of available inspectors, so it will be difficult to find a temporary fill-in.

I understand that taxpayers are upset about paying more taxes and cuts were needed but, in my opinion, this should not have been one of them. In case anyone doubts what I am saying, please know that I have over 40 years of experience working in a building department.

Respectfully, Lvnn Walczak Northford resident **NB** Building Dept employee













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State Representative Vincent Candelora

A Legislature That Must Refocus



I've served in the legislature for the better part of two decades, and I can say with confidence that this year's session has moved more slowly than any I've experienced. That's left the bulk of our work to the final week—including major legislation that demands robust, public debate.

By the time you read this, the session will have ended (on June 4). Yet we still don't have a clear picture of the two-year, \$55

billion state budget. Details on legislation to reduce electric bills—touted as a top priority back in January—remain frustratingly unclear. Meanwhile, many significant bills, both good and bad, have passed in one chamber only to stall in the other.

There are many reasons behind this dysfunction, but two stand out and rarely get attention.

First, the administrative side of the legislative process simply isn't running as smoothly as it used to. Too many legislators—and even some administrative staff—are working remotely. That might sound minor, but it erodes one of our most valuable tools: in-person conversation. When lawmakers aren't in the building, important discussions don't happen. That leads to confusion, delays, and poorly drafted bills that often need to be fixed the following year.

Second, Democratic committee chairs continue to advance too many lowpriority or impractical bills—many with little chance of passage—just to appease members eager to show they're "doing something." This performative legislating wastes time and distracts from the real issues affecting our state.

As a result, we're seeing a rise in massive "omnibus" bills—what we call "aircraft carriers"—that cram together several loosely related proposals into a single, hundred-page package. This kind of rushed, opaque legislating breeds confusion and distrust, especially among minority Republicans, who are left to spend hours on the floor trying to figure out what's actually in the bill.

Take H.B. 5002 as an example—controversial legislation that undermines local control over zoning. It was cobbled together behind closed doors and rushed forward just a week before session's end, with no public hearing. The bill included hot-button proposals like banning minimum parking requirements, replacing vouchers to housing providers with direct cash assistance to renters, and penalizing towns by deprioritizing their access to state funding if they don't report how much "developable" land they have—based on unrealistic advocacy group quotas.

The result? More than 11 hours of floor debate—burning precious time in the final days of session, when all business must conclude by midnight on June. 4.

In my next column, I'll detail what ultimately made it to the governor's desk. But for now, it's clear the legislature must do better. I've pushed for simple rule changes, like limiting remote participation, and will continue to do so.

More important, I hope Democratic leaders take to heart the Speaker's advice from the start of session: get your work done early. If you miss the deadline, you have no one to blame but yourself.

We owe it to the people of Connecticut to operate with greater urgency, more transparency, and a renewed respect for the serious work we were

> Vincent J. Mase, Sr. ATTORNEY AT LAW

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 $Mase_attoreny@sbcglobal.net$

elected to do. I remain 86th District – North Branford, Durham,

East Haven, Guilford

committed to that goal. Rep. Vincent Candelora House Republican Leader

This publication is published bi-weekly by Doss Enterprises LLC PO Box 313 Northford, CT. 06472 Tel; 203-410-4254 email: totokettimes@comcast.net

PUBLISHER-FRANK MENTONE JR.

founders - Bert Bunnell Jr. & Antthony Esposito Jr.

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

Let's Be "Frank"

Well brother, a lot has happened since my last letter. First of all Memorial Day came and went. Like everything else it's just not the same anymore. We started the weekend with the Sons and Daughters of Italy marching (me driving) in the North Haven parade. Then a trip to the cemetery to see my friend Neil and Uncle Rudy. We remember those who died so that we could live.

Then it was home for a three day weekend. SueAnn & Gina walked every day and saw no neighbors having picnics. I had Sunday Mass in memory of you and Mary. Roseana was away so I had to do a capella but it was ok. People in town are up in arms about the budget. It's unbelievable. This town is so much better than it was when we moved here close to forty years ago. We have a new high school, a relatively new middle school and Jerome Harrison is only about twenty five years old. We have a new police station and upgraded parks. What we don't have are businesses. The people want to keep it a small farm town but that doesn't add a whole lot to our tax base.

The Board of Education proposed a 6.16% increase which was just to maintain status quo. The Town Council reduced this increase to .59%. I understand cuts have to be made but it always seems as though our kids Many parents are

suffer the most.



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we will hopefully still be in the State Tourna-Well, that's it for now.

going crazy about the

announced imple-

mentation of a school

activities fee. These

same parents will spend

\$4,000 to \$5,000 for

their kids to play sum-

mer sports and yet

they scream the loud-

est about a small fee.

Most of the coaches at

the schools are just as

good if not better than

some of these programs

that care more about the

almighty dollar and sel-

dom have our kids best

Finally, my brother,

we did it again. The

North Branford High

School Baseball Team

joined the softball and

girls lacrosse team as

Shoreline Champions.

consecutive one and

the odds were stacked

up against us but with

a tremendous cast of

characters we were able

to overcome obstacles.

I know if you were here

you would have loved

As you read this letter

our journey.

This is our second

interest at heart.

Wish us luck and watch over our kids as they graduate and go onto their next steps in life. Take care 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



For the Health of it...

Farmstand Finds Offer Hidden Health Benefits



One of the easiest ways to get in sync with the rhythms and patterns of nature is to visit a local farm market. This time of year it's one of my favorite things to do. I'm always drawn in by the color palette of fresh fruits and vegetables—the vibrant reds, greens, blues and yellows that are not only pleasing to the eye, but taste even better than they look. It is an experience I savor, and also a welcome opportunity to support local farmers

while treating myself to "homegrown" nutrition. This is an instance where truly delicious offerings are also good for you. They can be enjoyed alone or become part of a new or favorite recipe. The possibilities and combinations are as plentiful as the produce itself.

However, I'm about to lure you away from the idyllic picture I've painted to get real and reveal a nutrient every fruit and vegetable has in common. This surpasses what you may already know about the fact that they are rich in vitamins, minerals, and have lots of antioxidant power. These are certainly impressive benefits that lie far beyond what meets the eye and pleases the palette; but the benefits of nature's bounty don't stop there. That's right—there's more!

The most overlooked nutrient that just doesn't get enough love is fiber. We may hear of fiber in ads for dietary supplements. We may have heard it referenced in a cereal commercial, or perhaps have seen it listed on a nutrition label where calories or carb content were vying for our attention. Make no mistake, humble fiber is worthy of your attention and delivers an abundance of health benefits that may surprise you. The best part is, it is so easy to add to your daily routine *and* the best sources of fiber come with no labels at all! Fiber sources are not limited to fruits and vegetables. Whole grains, nuts, seeds, beans, and legumes also make the list, but for now we'll focus on farmstand fiber found in fruits and vegetables and end with a fiber-filled recipe.

So what is fiber anyway and why is it so important? The answer is not so glamorous but hear me out. Every food is either a protein, a fat, or a carbohydrate. Dietary fiber is a carbohydrate. It includes the parts of plant foods that the body can't break down to digest or absorb. There are two types of fiber, both soluble fiber (dissolves in water) and insoluble fiber (doesn't dissolve in water). This makes fiber different from nutrients such as fats, proteins, and other carbohydrates including starches and sugars. The body breaks down those nutrients and absorbs them. Instead, fiber passes somewhat intact through the stomach, small intestine, and colon and out of the body. It is sometimes referred to as the digestive system's best friend and can help with constipation. Generally speaking it is also said to have heart health benefits, aid in balancing blood sugar, help with longer satiety, and keep our gut microbiome happy. (The good bacteria in the gut actually feeds on fiber and a happy gut microbiome in and of itself has a host of benefits.) When we follow fad diets and no carb diets that restrict fruits and vegetables, we are often depriving ourselves of this very important nutrient.

As with anything else too much of a good thing is not always a good thing! Ease into adding fiber to your diet over a period of time and drink plenty of water as you do. Fiber works best when it absorbs water. Check with your healthcare professional before increasing fiber and make sure it's right for you. This is especially important if you have certain health issues or specific symptoms.

When you're ready to give it a go, grab a handful of berries or grape tomatoes from your local farm market, savor the sweetness and know you're getting more than meets the senses. You can also try the recipe below.

Jerry's Roasted Corn Salsa (back by popular demand)

4 ears of corn par-boiled and grilled, (remove corn from cob), ½ jalapeno pepper, 1 can of organic, low sodium black beans (rinsed), 1 each red pepper, green pepper, orange pepper, diced, 1 minced small red onion, 1 tomato seeded & diced

Prepare and combine all ingredients in a large bowl, add 1 cup minced cilantro, juice of 3 limes, salt & pepper to taste. Enjoy at room temperature or cold.

Tips: Remove seeds from jalapeno for a milder kick. For a variation, I sometimes use grilled fresh (but not local \Box) pineapple instead of corn which turns it into: *JoAnn's Roasted Pineapple Salsa*

Regardless of where you shop or even if you grow your own, it's always fun to try new ways of preparing your new found harvest. Enjoy!

What are your seasonal farmstand favorites? Please share, I'd love to know. If you try the recipe send pictures and feedback to <u>joann@wellnessfuison.net</u>. Remember these monthly articles are here for you-For the Health of it!

JoAnn Begley is a Certified Nutrition and Lifestyle Coach, Holistic Wellness Practitioner and Reiki Master.

North Haven Sons & Daughters of Italy Awards Dinner

North Haven Sons & Daughters of Italy Lodge #2805 recently recognized several individuals. Top photo are Distinguished Service Awardees, Raymond Ciarleglio, Nathan Vestal and State Representative Vincent Candelora, Lower photo are scholarship award winners, Michael D'Angelo II and Ava Sager.







NBIS 8th Grader Bailey Salemme Completes Eagle Scout Project Honoring Local History

On May 17, 2025, Bailey Salemme, an 8th-grade student at North Branford Intermediate School (NBIS), proudly completed her Eagle Scout project—an inspiring tribute to local heritage and community spirit.

Bailey collaborated closely with her favorite teacher, Mary Ellen Dilella, who also serves as president of the Totoket Historical Society. With the help of generous donations from local businesses and community organizations, Bailey designed and constructed a beautiful display area for a historically significant hay rake. The hay rake, an emblem of the Totoket Historical Society, now stands prominently in front of the Gordon S. Miller Farm Museum, located on the Atwater Library campus.

This project not only highlights Bailey's leadership and dedication but also enriches the community's connection to its agricultural roots. The Totoket Historical Society and the greater North Branford community commend Bailey for her outstanding contribution.

SHORELINE CHAMPIONS



GIRLS SOFTBALL 10 CONSECUTIVE SHORELINE CHAMPIONSHIPS



BASEBALL 2ND CONSECUTIVE SHORELINE CHAMPIONSHIP





GIRLS LACROSSE 2ND CONSECUTIVE SHORELINE CHAMPIONSHIP



NBHS Athletes sign Letters of Intent



Lexi Falcioni, Wheaton College - (D3) Softball



Rile Cole, ECSU - (D3) Girls LaCrosse



Adriana Hills, Niagara University (D1) Softball



Sam Melillo, Framingham University(D3) Volleyball



Christina Aneiro, Michell College (D3) Softball



Matt Scalia, SCSU (D2) Baseball



Lily Ardito, Lander University (D2) Field Hockey



Kyle Stegina, SCSU (D2) Baseball

to continue with College Athletics



Jason O'Connor, Bridgeport University (D2) Baseball



Yamil Perez, Bryant (D1) Baseball

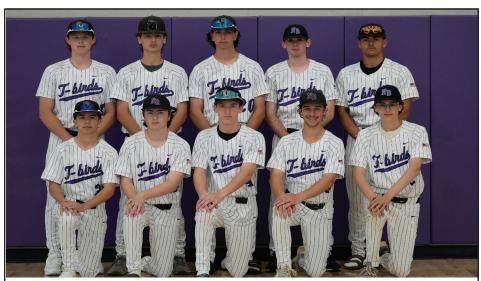


Adam Virginelli, Albertus Magnus (D3) Baseball



Destiney Christie, Bridgeport U (D2) Track

SENIOR MOMENTS



Recently recognized senior baseball players for North Branford High School Front: Ryan Delucia, Kyle Anderson, Adam Virginelli, JJ O'Connor, Brody Minnocci. Back: Kyle Stegina, Jason Cosgrove, Matt Scalia, Larson Dievert, Yamil Perez Photo courtesy of Gina Cosgrove

NorthBranford 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 1**Please send your contact information (name, address and email addr **NOBranfordhsclassof 1975gmail.com** Please share this information vother classmates.



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PeaceLoveACCESSibility Community Access Awareness Day Returns June 28 to North Branford CT, The ADA Coalition of CT, and more • Insights from GT Independence on self-direction and independent living "This event is about celebrating community and showing how easy it is to make inclusion a natural part of everyday life." says Alexandria Bode. Executive Director

Peace Love ACCESSibility (PLA) invites the community to its second annual Community Access Awareness Day on Saturday, June 28th from 1 PM to 4 PM at 1 North Street, North Branford, CT. This inclusive and engaging event is designed to bring people together through food, fun, and an opportunity to learn how small changes can make a big difference in building accessible communities for all. Attendees will enjoy live music from The Mediums, sample a delicious lunch, and explore a wide variety of interactive experiences, including: • Adaptive bikes and assistive technology demos • A mindfulness tent for quiet reflection • Lawn games and family-friendly fun • Informational booths from Disability Rights

sights from GT Independence on self-direction and independent living "This event is about celebrating community and showing how easy it is to make inclusion a natural part of everyday life," says Alexandria Bode, Executive Director of PLA. Thanks to the generous support of sponsors - Alexion AstraZeneca Rare Disease, GT Independence, Branford Community Foundation/ Guilford Savings Bank, The Peter Crisp Family Foundation, ADA Coalition of CT, Gaylord Specialty Healthcare, Buckley, Wynne & Parese, and the New Haven Community Foundation, the event offers something for everyone. Tickets are available online at: https://www.zeffy.com/ en-US/ticketing/community-access-awarenessday--2025 Stay up to date on Facebook: https:// www.facebook.com/PeaceLoveACCESSibility Bring a friend, bring your family, and bring your curiosity—because access benefits everyone

THEY MAKE US PROUD

John Pollock received a Bison Excellence Award at Nichols College Annual Student Life Awards ceremony. It recognizes outstanding juniors and seniors who fully embody the mission of Nichols College and the spirit of student life.

Gabrielle Senerchia and Chelsea Shatto-Ranz were named to the President's List at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, NH.

Marcus Williams graduated from the College of Holy Cross in Worcester, MA.

Robert Mullins was named to the dean's List at Assumption University in Worcester, MA.











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CHURCH Totoket Times June 6, 2025 CHURCH

DEATH NOTICE - WENDY ROSE SKELTON



It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Wendy Rose Skelton, age 65, at her home in Guilford, Connecticut. She was freed of her earthly pain on April 27, 2025 after a lengthy battle with breast cancer. A private celebration of life was held at Rose Vineyards on May 5th.

Born in 1959, Wendy grew up on the Rose farm in North Branford. She is survived by her loving hus-

band of 45 years, David Skelton, whom she met at Southern Connecticut State University and then built a wonderful busy life in Guilford. She also leaves behind her children; Aaron, Avery, Emma, and Alden Skelton; sisters Sara Querfeld (Rose) of Guilford and Diane Nunzianto (Rose) of North Branford, and her brothers Alfred and Robert Rose of North Branford, along with their respective families. Her children and grandchildren were the center of her world, she supported and loved her family deeply and never gave anyone opportunity to doubt it.

Wendy graduated from North Branford High School in 1977, where she was active in field hockey, track, and played the trumpet. She continued to appreciate any musical composition featuring the trumpet for the rest of her life. Her father nicknamed her Nurse Jane Fuzzywuzz due to her affinity for animals – she once raised a heifer named Picadilly and always ranked the cow as her favorite "pet."

Wendy was a master at making simple things special, with a low threshold to declare a party (it only takes one visitor to have a party!). She enjoyed simple pleasures: a glass of iced tea in the sun, working in her enviable perennial garden, time with family, having her favorite fried shrimp from Lenny and Joe's Fish Tale. She never took anything for granted and often remarked how lucky she was. Wendy coached youth soccer for Soccer Club of Guilford for many years, enjoyed membership to the Goodspeed Opera House, and was known for putting together a great Halloween costume – a skill she took to the next level when she annually transformed herself into the Witch of Sandy Hollow for the Rose Orchards Haunted Hayride. Her creativity and love for fun were apparent in everything she did.

Wendy loved the outdoors, on two occasions having traveled the US for months on end to hike and camp in the US National Parks. Her favorites were Acadia, Yosemite, Tillicum National Forest, and some special others we cannot share because she wanted to keep the best

campsites secret. She visited Grand Canyon, but only peeked over the edge before disappearing to the motorhome to busy herself with making an apple pie—a distraction from her fear of heights. She was a ski instructor at Powder Ridge and hiked up Mount Washington multiple times, once even bringing ten of her young nieces and nephews along with her. Wendy valued camaraderie and hard work, stemming from her childhood on the dairy farm. When the barns burned to the ground in 1977, the farm transitioned to fruits and vegetables. Wendy relished the agricultural work and continued to do so into adulthood, picking and packing bin after bin of apples, hosting school field trips to the orchard, managing the pie bakery and creamery, and doing it all while being an exemplary mother to four children with daunting extracurricular schedules.

Wendy was known for her vibrant personality and always wore colorful outfits to match her happy disposition. Her defining characteristics were her constant smile and zest for life, her empathy, and her ability to keep the goal in mind when faced with a challenge. She could see the forest through the trees, and she was unstoppable. Her legacy is the unconditional love she showered on her family. We invite you to remember her not with sorrow, but with the same enthusiasm and laughter she brought into our lives. In lieu of flowers, donations in Wendy's memory may be made to the National Park Foundation (nationalparks.org), whose mission is to protect and enhance the parks Wendy loved.

K of C Giant Tag Sale/Flea Market Same style - New Venue



The Knights of Columbus, St. Ambrose Council 6801 will have their Annual Spring Giant Tag Sale / Flea Market on June 7th (rain date June 8th) at Augur Feild across from the new Police Station.

It will run from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., free admission and parking.

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

Hope Christian Church (we are an Assemblies of God affiliated church) 211 Montowese Ave., North Haven CT <u>www.hopeag.com</u>. 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!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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 1 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. 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. 4/2/202

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.secbranford.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

The next Electronics drop-off will be on July 12th. We will be taking electronics, mattresses and empty propane tanks.

The next Bulky Waste won't be until November 3rd. Please make other arrangements for your bulky trash to be disposed of.

Hazwaste Central opened on Saturday May 17th
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 17th through mid-October. They are closed on the weekends of 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 every-day 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 <u>https://www.rwater.com/in-the-community/hazwaste-central</u> for a complete list of what is accepted along with the online registration form. You can also call 203-401-2712 or email <u>ask.hazwaste@rwater.com</u>.

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.

Balloons

We all love celebrating life's special moments with creative colorful displays. Balloons can bring joy and festivity to birthdays, weddings, and countless other events. When balloons are released into the sky (whether intentionally or not) they eventually come back down - often landing in sensitive habitats. Wildlife can mistake deflated balloons for food, potentially leading to choking or digestive blockages. Birds and marine animals also become entangled in the attached strings. For any balloons you do use, ensure they're properly deflated and disposed of in the trash, they are not recyclable. Removing or cutting strings helps prevent wildlife from becoming tangled.

There are many ways to have fun and celebrate with environmentally-friendly alternatives.

- Instead of letting balloons float away, use them for photo-worthy backdrops, arches, or columns that can be properly disposed of afterward.
- Reusable Decorations: Paper pompoms, ribbon dancers, streamers, giant bubbles, garden spinners and lawn signs are a few examples.
- Memorial Trees & Flowers: Consider planting a tree or flowers as a more sustainable way to commemorate a loved one or celebrate a milestone.
- By choosing not to release balloons and exploring more earthfriendly celebrations, you can still create memorable moments while safeguarding our planet. Let's celebrate responsibly and work together to keep our oceans, wildlife, and communities healthier for everyone.

Please Don't Feed the Storm Drain

Is your storm drain covered with leaves or grass clippings? Please take a few minutes to rake them off so the water can flow into it.

Town Council Approves Additional Budget Reductions

NORTH BRANFORD – In a Special meeting held May 27th, the North Branford Town Council approved additional reductions to their 2025-26 Recommended Budget following rejection of the budget in the Annual Budget Referendum. The new budget adjustments make another \$446,499 in reductions to the Town operating and capital budgets. No additional reductions were made to the Board of Education budget.

The changes result in a \$64,693,639 budget, representing a 4.62% increase over the prior year, and a new mill rate of 27.61. According to the Town Charter, the Council had until June 1, 2025, to pass a new budget following rejection at the referendum. The Charter makes no provision for additional referendums and Council's action is final.

The budget year was made especially challenging owing to the statemandated revaluation process which saw residential property increase in value significantly- something happening to all surrounding towns that have recently gone through the revaluation process.

Cuts made by the Council last night included the elimination of a parttime library position, and significant reductions in hours in the Libraries, Town Clerk's Office, Parks & Recreation, and Public Works Departments.

The Council also acted on over \$16,000 of savings from the renegotiation of the Animal Control agreement with the Town of East Haven, and \$15,000 of good faith concessions from the town's trash hauling company, John's Refuse, with no impact on service. Over \$30,000 of savings were realized by reducing brush cutting, guardrail repair and outside plowing in the Public Works budget.

Increases in the budget are driven largely by inflation, increased costs in materials and supplies, contracts, insurance, and personnel, as well as increasing debt service mostly associated with the new high school and police department projects. This is coupled with a significant decrease in state aid in the Governor's proposed budget.

The budget passed the Town Council on a rollcall vote of 5-4 and takes effect July 1, 2025.

Michael P. Downes Town Manager

Totoket Historical Society Hosts Tilcon Quarry Tour June 25

The Totoket Historical Society is sponsoring a bus tour of the Tilcon Quarry in North Branford on Wednesday, **June 25**th at 6:00 pm. Stone from this quarry has played a vital role in building infrastructure throughout Connecticut. The 90-minute tour will give participants a chance to ask questions of the Tilcon guides and walk the quarry floor, weather permitting.

The cost of the tour is \$30. Checks made payable to the Totoket Historical Society, Inc. should be mailed to 909 Foxon Road, North Branford, CT 06471 ATTN: TILCON. **Please include a phone number with your check.** Reservations are confirmed only on receipt of payment. We recommend no children under the age of 10. For information and reservations, please call or text Lynn at 203-214-9172 or Jessica at 203-895-6655.

Tour participants should arrive at the North Branford Town Hall, 909 Foxon Road (Rt 80) by 5:45 pm to check in. The tour will start promptly at 6:00 p.m.

Proceeds from the tour go towards the upkeep of the historic buildings in the care of the Totoket Historical Society Inc. in North Branford.

The mission of the group is Teaching, Preserving, and Building Community. We hope you will join us to learn more about this quarry that plays a vital role in our community.

Please clean the street of grass clippings. Blowing grass clippings onto the road is dangerous to drivers, motorcycles, and bicyclists, and also harms aquatic life when the chemicals from the clippings go into the storm drains.

Can I recycle it?

Connecticut has a website to help with recycling questions: www.recyclect.com.

They also have an app.

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

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

Thank You for Your Participation



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A new name, the same incredible summer – get ready for the best one yet!

FIELD HOCKEY CAMP

JUNE 30 - JULY 3 9:00AM - 11:00AM NORTH FARMS PARK SOCCER FIELD GRADES 2-8 \$80 RES / \$85NR

Instructor: Cheryl Canada-Associate Head Coach at Quinnipiac University, USA Field Hockey Level II Accreditation, CPR and First Aid Certified

Open to boys and girls of all skill levels that are new to the sport or looking to enhance their skill level. This camp is designed to develop the basic skills each athlete has by focusing on tactical game awareness, 1v1 defense, elevated passing, elimination and shooting skills. This camp is fun, exciting, and creates player synergy no matter what age or skill level. Equipment needed: Stick, mouth guard, shin guards and goggles (optional). Sticks can be provided if necessary. Please let us know at time of registration.



Grades 3-8 June 16-June 20 Monday - Friday, 8:45 - 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 38 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.

YOGA TO RELEASE THE WEEK

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

STW Yoga Room

Thursdays June 12 - July 31 6:30-7:30pm Ages 18+ Cost \$75 res/ \$80 nr







une 12 5:30-7:00pm

STW COMMUNITY CENTER

FREE: 1332 Middletown Ave. Northford

Register at nbrecreation.com by 6/6/25 : (203) 484-6017

With Entertainment by The Boomers



FREE to Residents Age 55+ \$5 for Non-residents Age 55+ Co-Sponsored by North Branford Rotary Club



Hot Dogs, Hamburgers & Salads

Dessert & Watermelon

Transportation available *Residents Only* Please let us know



Window Sill Gardening

Tuesday, June 17th

STW Senior Room - 1:00-2:00pm - FREE

Find out how Gardening Helps Your Body, Mind, and Spirit with a hands on planting experience. Please register by 6/13

In the Kitchen with Kathy

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

Easy, Homemade Pop Tarts!

Thursday, June 19th

12:30-2:00pm - FREE

STW Gym/Cafe Please register by 6/16

ROOT BEER TASTING PARTY June 20th STW Cafe

12:30—1:30pm - FREE

Participants will blind taste samples of popular root beers, we will rate each sample and try to guess the brand. The winner (the person who guesses the most brands correctly) will receive a chilled bottle of their favorite root beer. Register by 6/16

Totoket Times June 6, 2025

CLASSIFIED AD RATES Personal, For Sale, Help Wanted, Tag Sale, and all non-business classified 1 issue \$9.00 2 issues \$12.00 3 issues \$15.00 20 words or less, not including phone #. \$.05 per word, per run, after 20 words Lost and Found FREE Business Classified Ads & Real Estate 3 issues \$35.00, 6 issues \$60.00, 12 issues \$100.00

\$.10 per word, per run, after 20 words Payment MUST accompany all ads. The advertiser must notify this

newspaper of any errors.

Send ad along with your check to:

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

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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.

LANDSCAPING

Mone Landscaping LLC, is now accepting new accounts for lawnmowing, trimming, mulching, planting, etc. We are licensed and fully insured. Call Joe at 475-201-7041 for a free estimate.

PLUMBING

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

Public Stargazing at Young's Park \The Astronomical Society of New Haven is hosting a free stargazing

event on Saturday June 7th after 8pm at Young's Park, 60 Blackstone Ave. in Branford. Admission and parking are free. All are welcome, including children and grandparents. The telescopes will be pointed at an almost full



moon, Mars, the Hercules star cluster and some pretty double stars. Learn where to find some constellations including Gemini and Leo.

Directions and cancellation due to weather (including clouds) will be posted to our website, www.asnh.org or call 866-808-ASNH.

"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:

On May 27,2005, at 10:07PM, Big Ben's Clock Stopped.



Food Pantry Receives Bench from Plastic Film Recycling Program



The Food Pantry of North Branford was recently presented with the latest bench NB has earned from the Plastic Film Recycling Program, sponsored by the Trex Company and supported by our NB Big Y. This NB's 16th bench.

A big thank you to the NB Fire Companies, who were scheduled to receive this bench, but graciously deferred, so patrons of the Food Pantry have a comfortable place to rest, while awaiting to be serviced. Public Works lent an assist by delivering the bench.

Thanks to everyone who participates in the Plastic Film Recycling

Program. The collection bin at Public Works seems to be working out well. Please continue to be diligent in placing only acceptable items in the collection bins and turn all bags inside out.

The purpose of North Branford's Solid/Hazardous Waste and Recycling Committee is to develop and implement environmentally sound solutions and best practices for solid waste disposal and recycling management on behalf of our town. PHOTO: Rita Nev poses with the Food Pantry's new bench.(photo by Hank Petroskey)

CT Trails Day Hike With the NB Land Trust



Join the NBLCT on Saturday, June 7, on a walk to experience the newly established Angeloni Woodland Preserve in North Branford. You will also hike part of the Kampmeyer Preserve in Guilford.

This forested land has some inclines, streams, glacial deposits and rocky cliffs. The initial part of the hike will take you by NBLCT's Notch Hill Brook Trails, so keep that in mind for a later date. From there, you will continue along an old trol-

Meet by 9:15am at 60 Ciro Rd, North Branford. There is sufficient parking around the cul-de-sac on Ciro Rd. Rain date, June 8.

Pre-register at: https://trailsday.org/events/angeloni-woodland-preserve/