

# BRANFORD PARKS & RECREATION HOLIDAY PROGRAMS





# GENERAL INFORMATION



## Branford Parks & Recreation

**Office Hours:** Monday thru Friday 8AM-4:30PM

**Address:** 46 Church Street, Branford CT 06405

**Phone:** 203-488-8304/**Fax:** 203-315-4017

**Web:** [branfordrecreation.org](http://branfordrecreation.org)

**Email:** [recreation@branford-ct.gov](mailto:recreation@branford-ct.gov)

**Follow us:**

 [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/branfordparksandrec)  [BranfordParksandRec](https://www.instagram.com/branfordparksandrec)



**REGISTER  
ONLINE TODAY!**

VISIT US ONLINE AT [BRANFORDRECREATION.ORG](http://BRANFORDRECREATION.ORG)

### REFUND POLICY

The following refund policy is in effect:

- If a program/activity is cancelled by The Parks & Recreation Dept., a full refund will be issued.
- To avoid classes being cancelled at the last minute due to insufficient enrollment & in order to accommodate waitlists, refund requests must be made no later than five(5) business days before a program begins.
- Refunds are generally not given once a program has begun, however, in the event of injury or illness, a refund request will be considered if accompanied by a doctor's note. **No refunds on tickets, trips or pool passes.**
- Absolutely no refunds will be given for any unused portion of a program/activity.
- All refunds are subject to a \$10.00 processing fee.
- When a program/activity is run by a third party vendor, no refunds will be given after 5 business days prior to the start of program/activity.
- All refunds are issued back in the original payment format, except cash.



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**Weather:** If Branford Public Schools are cancelled or dismissed early, all Parks & Recreation programs and activities will be cancelled. If schools have a delayed opening, programs will continue as scheduled, except for programs starting prior to 10am. **Please note:** If the BOE cancels their evening activities, it will be at the discretion of our Department to keep evening programs on as scheduled. For the most up to date information, please visit our website or call the office.



**Do you have questions?  
Contact our Office Staff**

**Alex Palluzzi- Director Parks & Recreation**

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**Megan Cunningham- Administrative Assistant**

[mcunningham@branford-ct.gov](mailto:mcunningham@branford-ct.gov)



### Branford Parks & Recreation "SMOKE FREE POLICY"

"Smoking is prohibited at all properties under the control of the Branford Parks and Recreation Dept. at all times, including but not limited to: buildings, grounds, entrances, sidewalks, parking lots and beaches. Smoking is defined as the use of: cigarettes, pipes, cigars and other devices that produce smoke including electronic cigarettes and water pipes."

**Branford Parks & Recreation / Register online at [branfordrecreation.org](http://branfordrecreation.org)**





# GENERAL INFORMATION



## COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTENDING CLASSES

1. If you do not feel well, stay home!
2. If you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days or if you have traveled within the last 14 days to a state on the "State of Connecticut Advisory List", please do not attend class. <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Travel>
3. Plan to arrive 10 minutes before class time to be checked in. All participants will have their temperature taken and will sanitize their hands. Any participant with a temperature of 99.5 or higher will be sent home and advised to contact their medical provider.
4. Please wear a mask or face covering. Parents /Adults must wear a mask at all times (children under the age of 3 years do not need to wear a mask).
5. Only those registered for the class may attend. If you are enrolled in a parent/child class, only one parent may attend with the child. Unfortunately at this time siblings are not able to attend.
6. Be prepared for limited access to public restrooms and water fountains. Prepare: "Go Before You Go".
7. Please be respectful of other participants.
8. Follow CDC's guidance on personal hygiene prior to attending class.
9. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or cough/sneeze into your sleeve.
10. All participants must adhere to social distancing requirements of 6 feet or more away from another participant.
11. The Parks and Recreation Dept. reserves the right to send any participant home for any reason.
12. If you test positive for COVID-19 and are currently registered for a class you will need to test negative before being able to participate in the program and no earlier than 14 days after you first test positive. Negative test results will be required to be submitted to the Director of the Department.
13. If you test positive, you must agree to cooperatively participate in any contact tracing program required by the Department of Health.
14. Questions related to these requirements may be directed to the Director or Assistant Director of Recreation.
15. The Parks and Recreation Department reserve the right to cancel a program at anytime.

## COVID-19 PHYSICAL DISTANCING IN PUBLIC PARKS AND TRAILS

1. Do not use parks or trails if you are exhibiting symptoms, have been exposed to COVID-19 or have traveled to one of the states on Connecticut's Travel Advisory List.
2. Follow CDC's guidance on personal hygiene prior to visiting parks and trails.
3. Be prepared for limited access to public restrooms and water fountains. Prepare before you visit: "Go Before You Go".
4. Share the trails/parks. Warn other users of your presence and wear your mask as you pass.
5. Avoid touching your face- eyes, nose, mouth. Be careful what you touch.
6. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or cough/sneeze into your sleeve.
7. Observe CDC's minimum recommended physical and social distancing of 6 feet from other persons at all times.
8. Wash often for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. If soap is not available, use an alcohol based hand sanitizer.
9. Wear a face covering or mask.
10. Take out what you take in, or use trash cans to dispose of trash. Do not throw trash on the ground.
11. Follow all posted signs.



## Looking for a Gift Idea?



Looking for a clever gift idea? Need a last minute Christmas or birthday present? We have the answer.....  
**A Branford Parks & Recreation Gift Certificate** or "Spread A Little Sunshine" will make the perfect gift!!!!



### **Spread A Little Sunshine!!**

Special Occasions, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Thinking of You, Congratulations, "Hang In There Sunshine", etc.

**Option 1:** Spread A Little Sunshine with a personalized video. \$10.00

**Option2:** Spread A Little Sunshine by sending the Sunshine Mascot to a loved one. They will receive a special gift and some sunshine. \$25.00

\*Call the office for details; restrictions apply.



**Branford Parks & Recreation / Register online at [branfordrecreation.org](http://branfordrecreation.org)**



# TODDLER PROGRAMS



## Virtual Holiday Toddler Party Ages 1-5yrs

Get into the Christmas spirit with Miss Erica and a very special guest, Santa Claus!!! During this 30 minute virtual party, we will sing holiday favorites, read holiday classic and create a "countdown to Santa" craft. Don't miss the opportunity for your little one to visit with Santa in a fun, safe way from your home! When you sign up for this class, the supplies for the simple craft will be dropped off in your mailbox prior. Space is limited.

Date	Time	Fee:
Tues. Dec. 15th	9:30-10 AM	\$10
Tues. Dec. 15th	10:30-11 AM	\$10

**Toddler Gingerbread House:** Ages:1-5yrs. Looking to get into the holiday spirit in a creative & fun way with your toddler? Join us for simple gingerbread house decorating! All supplies will be provided & class will have circle time and songs! Space is limited. Class will be held outside weather permitting so please bring a blanket.

Date	Time	Fee:
Thurs. Dec. 3rd	10-11 AM	\$10

## Kidscapades ZOOM Classes

Have fun creating with the Kidscapades staff. Class materials list & ZOOM link will be sent out a few days before the class begins. Be sure to gather your materials in advance.

**Gingerbread Baby:** Ages: 3-4 yrs.

Based on the classic story Gingerbread Baby by Jan Brett, we will take a quick story walk to familiarize the children with that Gingerbread Baby. The rest of class will be spent engaging in Gingerbread Baby centered activities.

Date	Time	Fee:
Wed. Dec. 16th	10-10:30AM	\$15

## Bedtime Stories with Mrs. Claus:

Have a special story read to your child by Mrs. Claus all the way from the North Pole! What a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday season! (Links will be sent the morning of. Pre-registration is required for each night.

<b>Dates:</b> Dec. 4th	Dec. 11th	Dec. 18th
Dec. 24th	Dec. 25th	

## Button Art by ReLoved Designs:

Looking for a fun easy DIY craft project? Button art is the perfect craft. Choose from a Snowman or a Tree. Canvas and supplies are included in the kit. Orders are placed as soon as you register! You will receive a call to pick up your kit from our office. Kits make a great gift for everyone on your list.

**Fee:** \$20/kit



## Holiday Cookie Decorating Kits:

Have fun decorating your very own cookies in the comfort your kitchen. "Sweets on Main" will supply a half dozen cookies, icing, sprinkles and instructions to create your own masterpiece. Pick up kits on Monday Dec. 21st or Tuesday, Dec. 22nd, 7:30-4:30

Date	Fee:
Pre-order before Dec. 18th	\$25

## Let's Celebrate and learn about Hanukkah

### Hanukkah Arts & Crafts with Miss Erica

Enjoy a fun arts and crafts project and story learning about Hanukkah. Craft items will be delivered to your home & the virtual link will be sent prior. Register by Dec. 15th

Date:	Fee:
Thurs. Dec. 17th	\$10



### Hanukkah Bedtime Stories

Curl up for a bedtime story. Children will listen to a story in the comfort of their own home. (Links will be sent the morning of). Pre-registration is required for each night.

**Date:**

Dec. 9	The Night Before Hanukkah
Dec. 12	Latke, The Lucky Dog
Dec. 13	Hanukkah Bear
Dec. 15	Meet the Latke



**Branford Parks & Recreation / Register online at [branfordrecreation.org](http://branfordrecreation.org)**





# NORTH POLE



## Bedtime Stories with Mrs. Claus:

Have a special story read to your child by Mrs. Claus all the way from the North Pole! What a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday season! (Links will be sent the morning of). Pre-registration is required for each night.

**Date:** Dec. 4th      Dec. 11th      Dec. 18th  
Dec. 24th      Dec. 25th

## Calls to Santa: Ages 2-10 yrs.

Would you like to chat with Santa? HoHoHo!! Please register to have Santa call your child.

Date	Time
Mon. Dec. 7th	6:30-8PM
Tue. Dec. 8th	6:30-8PM
Wed. Dec. 9th	6:30-8PM

## Write to Santa:

Write a letter to Santa telling him your Christmas wishes. Drop it off in Santa's special mailbox located at the Joe Trapasso Community House **Red and White Santa Mailbox** or mail to: **Branford Parks and Recreation**

**Santa Claus, North Pole**

**46 Church Street, Branford, CT. 06405**

Letters will be delivered to Santa and he will send a personalized letter to your home. Please include your child's full name & your address. Hurry as Santa will be accepting letters Nov. 29th-Dec. 19th.



## Drive-thru Santa's Workshop

**See SANTA and other special guests up close from the comfort of your car!** You will be able to talk to Santa, take a selfie, deliver letters to Santa in his official "North Pole Mailbox". Check to see if you are on the "Nice List", receive some special reindeer food, meet Rudolph and much more!! Mrs. Claus and her elves will have a special treat for each child.

**Show Santa & his workshop friends some Christmas Spirit! Decorate your car, make a sign, wear a favorite Christmas shirt, sweater, pajamas, dress, etc.**

Date	Time	Fee:
Sat. Dec. 5th	11:00-1:00	\$20/car

**Location:** Joe Trapasso CH- Outside  
Space is limited so please register early  
Weather date: Sun Dec. 6th

## Virtual Visit from Santa Claus

Choose from two different Santa Cam experiences. A pre-recorded personalized video from Santa tailored for your child or a 1:1 personal live video chat with Santa and your child.

**Pre-Recorded Personal Video:**      **Fee:** \$12

Your child will receive a pre-recorded personalized video from Santa. Video sent the week of Dec. 20th

**Date:** Must register before Dec. 18th.

## Live 1 on 1 Video with Santa

Your child will have a live 5 minute interaction with Santa! They will see Santa at the North Pole, share Christmas wishes with Santa and ask a few questions. Video recording included. (You will receive a ZOOM link with time after registering.)

Must register by Dec. 18th.

Date:	Time:	Fee:
Sat. Dec. 19th	Between 10-11AM	\$18
Sun. Dec. 20th	Between 6-7PM	\$18
Mon. Dec 21st	Between 6-7PM	\$18
Tues. Dec. 22nd	Between 6-7PM	\$18

## Holiday Cookie Decorating Kits:

Have fun decorating your very own cookies in the comfort your kitchen. "Sweets on Main" will supply a half dozen cookies, icing, sprinkles and instructors to create your own masterpiece. Pick up kits on Monday Dec. 21st or Tuesday, Dec. 22nd 7:30-4:30

**Date:** Pre-order before Dec. 18th      **Fee:** \$25

## Cards for Seniors & Holiday Heroes:

Looking for ways to spread a little holiday cheer this season and feel good doing so? Take the time to help create a holiday card (or premade is ok) and share in the joy of spreading cheer and the true meaning of the holiday season. Cards should be delivered to the Parks & Recreation Department and put in the black mailbox located at the rear main entrance, or you can mail it to Branford Parks & Recreation, 46 Church Street, Branford, CT. 06405. We will be sure to get them to those who could use some extra Holiday Cheer! Deadline for cards is Dec. 20th. Our goal is to deliver 100 cards!

**Branford Parks & Recreation / Register online at [branfordrecreation.org](http://branfordrecreation.org)**



# HOLIDAY FAMILY ACTIVITIES



## Light –Up Branford / Reindeer Route

Do you love to decorate for the holidays? Be part of Branford's Reindeer Route! Let's "Light Up" Branford for the holidays! Register your house/business to get on the **"Reindeer Route"** and share your holiday spirit! Prizes awarded for Most Creative, Holiday Spirit, Colorful, Original and more!!! Decorate, be creative, and share your lights!!!

(Open to Branford residents & business owners only)

**Date:** Nov. 25-Dec. 11th

\*Visit us on line, [www.branfordrecreation.org](http://www.branfordrecreation.org) or call the office at 203-488-8304 to register by December 11th. The Reindeer Route Map will be available by December 14th on-line and will start on the Town Green with the Holiday Tree and Menorah. Prizes awarded by Dec. 22nd.

**Tag us on social media #BranfordReindeerRoute2020**

## Holiday "JUKEBOX" Bingo at Home

From the comfort of your own home, join us for a night of Holiday BINGO with music. This is a fun interactive game. Can you guess the songs and unscramble the letters to get BINGO?! Prizes will be awarded.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Fee:</b>
Dec. 16th	6:30-7:30PM	Free

\*Pre-registration is required. Space is limited.

## Holiday Family Scavenger Hunt

Gather your family around the ZOOM Yule Log to play with our host, Colin Sheehan. This virtual scavenger hunt will be fun, fascinating, fast-paced and FESTIVE. Colin will ask for specific items around your home to be found and brought into the ZOOM meeting. May the fastest family win!

<b>Dates:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Dec. 9th	6:00PM	\$5

\*Pre-registration is required. Space is limited



## Drive-in Movie Nights

Join us for a holiday drive in movie. Each week we will feature a holiday movie to enjoy in the comfort of your vehicle.

### **"Santa Claus is Coming to Town"**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Fee:</b>
Tues. Dec. 8th	6:30-7:30PM	\$10/car

### **"Frosty the Snowman"**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Fee:</b>
Tues. Dec. 15th	6:30-7:30PM	\$10/car

### **"Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer"**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Fee:</b>
Tues. Dec. 22nd	6:30-7:30PM	\$10/car

**Location:** Joe Trapasso Community House Parking Lot.

\*Pre-registration is required. Space is limited.

**Subject to change**

## Ugly Sweater Contest:



**Dates:** Dec. 14th Last day to register.  
Winners announced Dec. 16th!

**Branford Parks & Recreation / Register online at [branfordrecreation.org](http://branfordrecreation.org)**





# NORTH POLE & YOUTH PROGRAMS



## Holiday Pottery with Fired-Up:

Have fun painting your own holiday pottery piece. Keep it for yourself, or give as a gift. Pick from a variety of projects. Each kit comes with 5 colors to choose from. (Additional colors can be purchased for \$1.00 each)

### Pottery Pieces:

	Fee:
4 Inch Flat Ornament	\$15
5.25 inch Mini Tree	\$23
5.75 inch Snowman	\$23
12 oz. Snowflake Mug	\$25
Lighted Christmas Tree:	\$70-\$140

Small (9 in), Medium (14 in) Large (17 in)  
Paint Color Choices: (pick 5 included) Black, Brown, White, Cream, Red, Orange, Yellow, Dark Green, Light Green, Dark Blue, Light Blue, Pink, Purple.

**Final date to Order:** 12/10 **Kit Pick up:** 12/11  
**Kit Drop off to be Fired:** 12/14 (in time for Xmas)  
**Final Product Pick up:** 12/18-12/22

## Holiday Button Art by ReLoved Designs

Looking for a fun easy DIY craft project? Button art is the perfect craft. Choose from a Snowman or a Tree. Canvas and supplies are included in the kit. Orders are placed as soon as you register! You will receive a call to pick up your kit from our office. Kits make a great gift for everyone on your list!

**Fee:** \$20/kit

## Kidscapades ZOOM Classes

Have fun creating with Elena Biglo and the Kidscapades staff. Class materials list and ZOOM links will be sent out a few days before the class begins. Be sure to gather your materials in advance.

### Gingerbread Baby: Ages: 3-4 yrs.

Based on the classic story Gingerbread Baby by Jan Brett we will take a quick story walk to familiarize the children with that Gingerbread Baby. The rest of class will be spent engaging in Gingerbread Baby centered activities.

Date	Time	Fee:
Wed. Dec. 16th	10-10:30AM	\$15

## Kidscapades ZOOM Classes Cont.

### Grinch Day: Ages: 5-8 yrs.

Don't let the Grinch steal Christmas! Kidscapades will lead this fun filled class of Grinch activities! Each child will pour and mix their own bag of magic Grinch dust, complete with directions on where and when to sprinkle the magic dust to keep the Grinch away. We then stir up a cup of exploding Grinch punch to help keep the Christmas magic in the air!

Date	Time	Fee
Wed. Dec. 16th	4:30-5 PM	\$15

## Candy Cane/Hanukkah Candle Hunt

Step out into Branford and search for 9 Hanukkah Candles & 9 Christmas Candy Canes! All candles and candy canes will be placed throughout Branford Parks and in the center of town. **Your Mission:** Discover each location to seek out candles and candy canes, then figure out the missing words for each message! Upon registration you will receive a list of parks and a helpful hints page.

Each Candy Cane & Hanukkah Candle has a letter on it. Find all 9 candy canes and all 9 candles, unscramble the letters to spell out the missing words to complete the sentence. Pre-registration is required to get a packet.

Date:	Fee:
Dec. 10th -Dec. 16th	Free

**NOTE:** Turn in your answer sheet before Dec. 18th to be entered to win a prize. You can place your answers in the Santa Mailbox.





# NORTH POLE & FAMILY ACTIVITIES



## Virtual Gingerbread House Competition

A Gingerbread family needs a home. Create a one of a kind gingerbread house out of anything that can be eaten. Join the fun by using your imagination & decorating skills. Create your edible structure for a chance to win a prize. You must register no later than Dec. 10th. Photos of your gingerbread house along with the name of your creation, names of the builders and your contact information must be submitted to: [recreation@branford-ct.gov](mailto:recreation@branford-ct.gov) before December 15th. Judging will be open from Dec. 16th to Dec. 20th. Winners will be announced on Dec. 21st. Have fun and good luck!

**Voting categories:** Kids (under 18), Adult (over 18) or Families (all ages)

## Virtual Cookie Recipe Swap Party:

Tis the season for baking and sharing with the ones you love! We're hosting a virtual cookie swap to help you find the best recipes to give and exchange with your friends, family, and coworkers. Get ready to bake! From thick and chewy to light and flaky, cookie recipes represent the best of the best. Share your recipes with us and a photo before Dec. 20th. Email: [recreation@branford-ct.gov](mailto:recreation@branford-ct.gov)

## Send a Holiday Greeting To the Parks & Recreation Staff:

Share a holiday greeting with us! A card or have fun making video greeting to send to the Recreation Staff! We would love to hear from you. Email us at [recreation@branford-ct.gov](mailto:recreation@branford-ct.gov).

### GINGERBREAD DOUGH

Whisk together thoroughly:

- 6 cups all purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 4 teaspoons ground ginger
- 4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves or allspice
- ½ teaspoon salt

Beat on medium speed until very fluffy and well blended:  
12 Tablespoons (1½ sticks) unsalted butter, softened  
1½ cups packed light brown sugar

Beat in until well combined:  
2 large eggs  
1 cup dark molasses  
1 Tablespoon water

Beat half the flour mixture into the molasses mixture until well blended and smooth. Stir in the remaining flour, then knead the mixture until well blended. If the dough is soft, stir in more flour until it is firmer and more manageable but not at all dry.

Place the dough in a sealable plastic bag or airtight container. Set aside in a cool place, but not the refrigerator, for at least 2 hours or up to 6 hours. Or, refrigerate the dough for up to 3 days: bring to room temperature before using.

### MAKING AND BAKING THE HOUSE PIECES

Preheat oven to 350.

Roll out dough to ¼" thick on a large sheet of parchment paper. Rub a small amount of flour on surface of dough and cut out pattern pieces as desired, saving scraps in a sealed plastic bag to prevent drying. Cut paper around pieces and transfer to cookie sheet. Bake until pieces are tinged with brown and just beginning to darken at the edges, 11 to 15 minutes for large pieces, 6-8 minutes for smaller pieces. Be sure gingerbread is thoroughly cooled before beginning construction – pieces should be very stiff and solid!

### ROYAL ICING WITH POWDERED EGG WHITES

*(You will probably need to double the following recipe)*

Beat together until stiff peaks form:

- 1½ cups powdered sugar
- 1 Tablespoon powdered egg whites
- 2 Tablespoons water

*Color if desired with liquid or powdered food coloring.*

**Tips:** Avoid making icing on humid days. Be sure that any container or utensil that comes in contact with the icing is grease free, and do not store the icing in a plastic container. While working, keep the bowl of icing covered with a damp dishtowel and, when not piping, cover the tip of the icing bag as well to prevent drying. Tightly covered, this keeps up to 2 weeks.

### SIMPLE SUGAR GLUE ICING

*(You may want to double or triple the following recipe)*

If you don't have or want to use egg whites or powdered eggs, try this simple recipe below. This recipe is too thick for a pastry bag. It may not be as fluid or decorative as royal icing recipes that use egg whites, but it will create a mixture that holds the gingerbread house together. You may need up to 10 batches for one house, but do not mix all 10 batches at once or the mixture will dry out.

Mix until you have a cement-like mixture:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2-3 tablespoons of water

If it is too thick you can add more water. If it is too thin, add more sugar.







## ***Santa Gift Delivery***

### **Branford Parks & Recreation & Branford Firefighters Christmas Delivery!**

***"Everyone is a kid at heart"***

Imagine how excited your child or that special adult will be to have Santa Claus arrive at their house on a fire engine this 2020 Christmas season with a special gift!

A new tradition is coming to town to spread some holiday cheer while helping to support the Branford Parks & Recreation Department and the Branford Fire Department. Santa Claus will hand deliver gifts on a firetruck to residents of Branford. He can only make deliveries to Branford addresses, but that doesn't mean that you have to live in Branford to surprise someone with Santa at their front door. How about having Santa deliver a special gift to someone special? Space is limited, reserve your spot now.

**How it works:** Submit a completed registration form on-line or by calling the office at 203-488-8304. Drop off your pre-wrapped small gift (no bigger than a shoebox, large gifts will not be accepted) to the Branford Parks and Recreation Office, 46 Church Street no later than December 11th. One delivery address per form. (**Note:** hours of operation: Monday – Friday 7:30-4:30)

**Fee:** \$25.00 per household. Cash, credit card or checks, payable to Treasurer, Town of Branford, are accepted.

**Gifts:** Drop off your pre-wrapped small gift clearly labeled with recipient's name. (Gifts should be no bigger than a shoebox, large gifts will **NOT** be accepted) Gifts dropped off that are not wrapped or labeled will not be delivered. Once delivery routes have been made they cannot be changed.

**Delivery Dates:** Week of December 13th. Dates and times will be emailed prior.

**NOTE:** Schedule is subject to change due to weather and/or emergency calls.

Peppermint, The Parks and Recreation Elf will be visiting the Shops in the Center of Town.

Be sure to watch for clues to be released each day to see if you can spy where he might be!  
Be the first to spot him and submit a selfie for a chance to win a prize. The more  
selfies you submit, the more chances to win!

Share a special wish with him so that he can deliver it back to the North Pole.

Have fun!

**Peppermint will be in town Dec.7 to Dec. 21**

(Pre-register before Dec. 6th in order to receive the daily clue)





# HANUKKAH FAMILY ACTIVITIES



## Eight Nights of Hanukkah: December 10– December 18th

Join us as we celebrate Hanukkah~ The Festival of Lights



**Night #1:** First Night Virtual Candle lighting

**Night #2:** Latke Making Mindy, pre-registration required (see below)

**Night #3:** Virtual Performance of "Oh Hanukkah" by David Rosenthal

**Night #4:** "Top That" Virtual Dreidel Game, pre-registration required (see below)

**Night #5:** Interactive Hanukkah Story (see more Bedtime Story options below)

**Night #6:** Join the BHS Music Makers Virtual performance of S'vivon.

**Night #7:** Virtual Hanukkah Arts and Crafts and Special Story with Miss Erica (pg.4 & 10)

**Night #8:** Final Candle Lighting & Learn 8 Hebrew words and their meaning.



## LEARN ABOUT HANUKKAH



### "Top That" Virtual Dreidel Game

It is customary to play games at Hanukkah. Dreidel is a traditional game played during the eight-day holiday. A dreidel is a spinning top with a Hebrew letter inscribed on each of its four sides. Join us for fun and learning the game. Must register by Dec. 10th

**Date:**

Dec. 13

**Fee:**

\$10

Includes: dreidel, instructions, and chocolate gold coins.

### Bedtime Story

Curl up for a bedtime story. Children will listen to stories in the comfort of their own home. Links sent the morning of. Pre-registration required.

**Date:**

Dec. 9 The Night Before Hanukkah

Dec. 11 Latke, The Lucky Dog

Dec. 13 Hanukkah Bear

Dec. 15 Meet the Latke



### Materials:

- Gelt (pennie or other small objects).
- Dreidel

### How to Play:

- Each player put one piece of gelt in the center or in the "pot"
- Players take turns spinning the dreidel.
- Players do that the letter on the dreidel indicates. See chat. For example, if a player lands on a gimel, they take everything from the pot
- If a player runs out of gelt, they lose
- The player with who ends up with all the gelt, WINS!

נ

nun  
none

do nothing

ג

gimel  
all

take everything  
from the  
middle

ה

hay  
half

take half of  
everything in  
the middle

ש

shin  
put in

put some in  
the middle



### Latke Making with Mindy

Join us for a fun virtual pre-recorded cooking class on making latkes. Latkes are potatoes-based pancakes constructed with salt, onions, eggs and spices. Participants will receive a shopping list and a link for video instructions.

**Date:** Register by Dec. 8th.

### Hanukkah Arts & Crafts:

Enjoy a fun arts and crafts project and story learning about Hanukkah. Craft items will be delivered to your home & the virtual link will be sent prior.

Register by Dec. 15th

**Date:**

Thurs. Dec. 17th

**Fee:**

\$10

**Branford Parks & Recreation / Register online at [branfordrecreation.org](http://branfordrecreation.org)**





# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



## LIGHT-UP BRANFORD



### LIGHT-UP BRANFORD~2020

Do you love to decorate for holidays? Be part of Branford's Reindeer Route! Let's "Light Up" Branford for the holidays! Register your house/business to get on the "Reindeer Route" and share your holiday spirit! Prizes awarded for Most Creative, Holiday Spirit, Colorful, Original and more!!! Decorate, be creative, and share your lights!!!  
(Open to Branford residents and business owners)



Visit us on line, [www.branfordrecreation.org](http://www.branfordrecreation.org) or call the office at 203-488-8304 to register by December 11th. The Reindeer Route Map will be available by December 14th on-line and will start on the Town Green with the Holiday Tree and Menorah. Prizes will be awarded by December 22nd.

Tag us on social media #BranfordReindeerRoute2020



[facebook.com/BranfordParksandRec](https://www.facebook.com/BranfordParksandRec)



@branfordparksandrecreation

### Candy Cane/Hanukkah Candles Hunt

Step out into Branford and search for 9

Hanukkah Candles & 9 Christmas Candy Canes! All candles and candy canes will be placed throughout Branford Parks and in the center of town. **Your Mission:** Discover each location to seek out candles and candy canes, then figure out the missing words for each message!

Upon registration you will receive a list of parks and a helpful hints page.

Each Candy Cane & Hanukkah Candle has a letter on it. Find all 9 candy canes and all 9 candles, unscramble the letters to spell out the missing words to complete the sentence.

Pre-registration is required to get a packet.

**Date:**

Dec. 10th–Dec. 16th

**Fee:**

Free

**NOTE:** Turn in your answer sheet before Dec. 18th to be entered to win a prize.

You can place your answers in the Santa Mailbox.



**Branford Parks & Recreation / Register online at [branfordrecreation.org](http://branfordrecreation.org)**



# ADULT PROGRAMS



## Holiday Pottery with Fired-Up:

Have fun painting your own holiday pottery piece. Keep it for yourself, or give as a gift. Pick from a variety of projects. Each kit comes with 5 colors to choose from. (Additional colors can be purchased for \$1.00 each)

Pottery Pieces:	Fee:
4 Inch Flat Ornament	\$15
5.25 inch Mini Tree	\$23
5.75 inch Snowman	\$23
12 oz. Snowflake Mug	\$25
Lighted Christmas Tree:	\$70-\$140

Small (9 in), Medium (14 in) Large (17 in)  
Paint Color Choices: (pick 5 included) Black, Brown, White, Cream, Red, Orange, Yellow, Dark Green, Light Green, Dark Blue, Light Blue, Pink, Purple.

**Final date to Order:** 12/10    **Kit Pick up:** 12/11  
**Kit Drop off to be Fired:** 12/14 (in time for Xmas)  
**Final Product Pick up:** 12/18-12/22

## Holiday Button Art by ReLoved Designs

Looking for a fun easy DIY craft project? Button art is the perfect craft. Choose from a Snowman or a Tree. Canvas and supplies are included in the kit. Orders are placed as soon as you register! You will receive a call to pick up your kit from our office. Kits make a great gift for everyone on your list!

**Fee:** \$20/kit

## Holiday Family Scavenger Hunt

Gather your family around the ZOOM Yule Log to play with our host, Colin Sheehan. This virtual scavenger hunt will be fun, fascinating, fast-paced and FESTIVE. Colin will ask for specific items around your home to be found and brought into the ZOOM meeting. May the fastest family win!

Dates:	Time:	Fee:
Dec. 9th	6:00PM	\$5

\*Pre-registration is required. Space is limited.



**BRANFORD PARKS & RECREATION PRESENTS**

# UGLY Sweater contest

Dec. 2nd-Dec. 14th  
Winners announced  
Dec. 16th.

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!**

visit us at [www.branfordrecreation.org](http://www.branfordrecreation.org) or call the office at 203-488-8304

**SUBMIT YOUR PHOTO ON OR BEFORE DEC. 14TH TO ENTER... SEND PHOTOS TO RECREATION@BRANFORDCT.GOV**

## Miracle on Main Street

The Branford Community Foundation presents **"Miracle on Main Street"**, a short film to highlight our beautiful community and share the true meaning of the Holiday Season! This collaboration between the Branford Parks & Recreation Department, Shoreline Theatre Company, Studio One and BCTV is sure to melt the hearts of all! Stay tuned for a video link through our Facebook pages the week of December 21st.



## Kind Calls:

If you or a loved one would like someone to talk to on the phone, please let us know. A staff member will call individuals, as requested to chat and provide resources. Call the office for more details and to schedule a time: 203.488.8304



**Branford Parks & Recreation / Register online at [branfordrecreation.org](http://branfordrecreation.org)**





# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



## "FILL A BOX"

- Nov 30: Can of Soup
- Dec 1: Beef Broth
- Dec 2: Can of Vegetables (Low Sodium)
- Dec 3: Applesauce (Unsweetened)
- Dec 4: Barbecue Sauce
- Dec 5: Chicken Broth
- Dec 6: Canned Chicken
- Dec 7: Jar of Tomato Sauce
- Dec 8: Snacks & Cookies
- Dec 9: Oatmeal (Individual Packets)
- Dec 10: Can of Beans
- Dec 11: Peanut Butter
- Dec 12: Oil (Olive or Vegetable)
- Dec 13: Maple Syrup
- Dec 14: Bag/Box of Rice (Brown)
- Dec 15: Fruit Cups
- Dec 16: Snack Size Pretzels or Chips
- Dec 17: Pancake Mix
- Dec 18: Mayo
- Dec 19: Granola Bars
- Dec 20: Pasta (Elbow)
- Dec 21: Drop Off Your Box

Please join the Branford Parks and Recreation Department for our 1st "Fill A Box" to support the Community Dining Room during the Holidays. Boxes can be dropped off at the following locations:

Joe Trapasso Community House 7-4p,  
Community Dining Room 9-2p or the  
Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library 10-7p  
Drop off day is Monday, December 21.  
Please email [recreation@branford-ct.gov](mailto:recreation@branford-ct.gov) or  
call 203-488-8304 with any questions.

Made with PosterMyWall.com

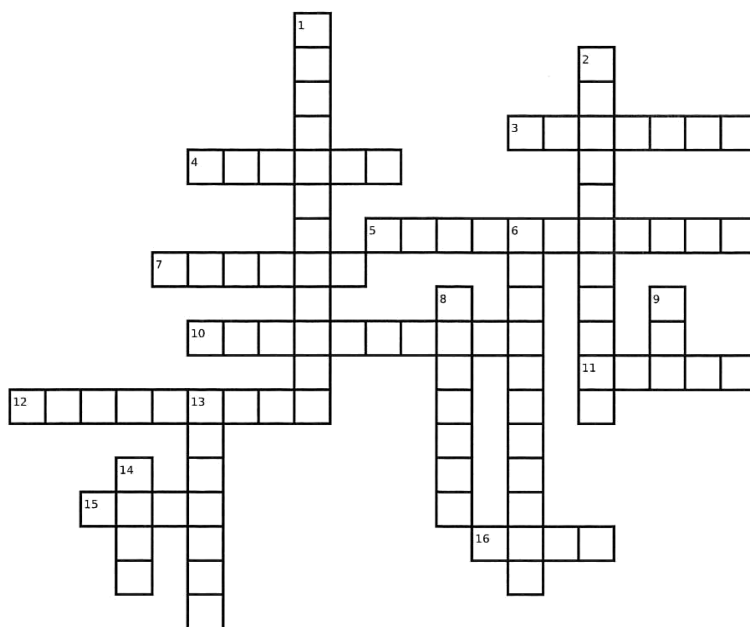
**Branford Parks & Recreation / Register online at [branfordrecreation.org](http://branfordrecreation.org)**



# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



## Crossword Holiday Puzzle



### Down:

1. A warm drink
2. House made of frosting and candy
6. Another name for Santa
8. Famous Reindeer
9. Yule
13. Special treat for Santa
14. Mistletoe

### Across:

3. Special Jewish Candle holder
4. The first reindeer Santa calls
5. Day after Thanksgiving
7. Frosty's nose
10. Danced in children's heads
11. what is put at the top of a Christmas Tree?
12. What is red and white
15. Cookies
16. Elvis sings about this type of Christmas



# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



Hanukkah

## Word list

F	A	Z	L	E	D	I	E	R	D	J	H	H
E	M	F	D	E	K	O	I	F	B	E	A	A
S	A	R	L	I	A	J	G	Q	L	D	N	R
T	C	E	G	F	V	U	H	P	I	V	U	O
I	C	E	L	P	M	E	T	M	A	M	K	H
V	A	D	I	K	P	C	U	B	G	I	K	H
A	B	I	G	J	O	R	D	E	K	R	A	S
L	E	S	H	I	M	E	N	O	R	A	H	A
G	E	E	T	A	L	V	J	T	I	C	F	M
A	E	K	S	R	J	U	D	A	H	L	I	M
N	H	T	C	G	T	E	K	I	G	E	U	A
S	T	A	R	O	F	D	A	V	I	D	H	H
I	T	L	M	L	C	P	N	C	L	Q	F	S

Festival

Judah

Menorah

Hanukkah

Star

Miracle

Dreidel

Temple

Oil

Eight

How many words can you make out of  
CHRISTMAS AND HANUKKAH?

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## Word list

Holiday      Mistletoe  
Wreath      Sleigh  
Elves      North Pole  
Card      Family  
Stockings      Santa Claus  
Greetings      Spirit  
Singing      Ornaments  
Kids      Happiness  
Christmas      Rudolph  
Party      Peace  
Snowman      Chimney  
Love      Gingerbread  
Cookies      Milk  
Reindeers      Holly  
Gifts      Star

N D C V O A R F P P D S J Q I E P R E S E N T S  
P U I Y Q A H H T S T N E M A N R O M O G W U D  
Y J F Y T U M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S T R E E  
B L O S V T K I D S J V C K O D S T H G I L V X  
H G I Y M H O L L Y X M Y L E N E R G Y N B D P  
A C J M F Y S N O W M A N I H N O R T H P O L E  
N C X H A U B J S W Y S U M Y A T C P X D W T B  
Y C T I D F L S E L I M S S D T I Q G N A K E Q  
E H F I R E P L A C E E V N G H R N R E E P S B  
N R N E W Y E A R S P O B A R G I O G W R R U G  
M I G I F T S M E I J T H S E I P I Z Y B T A N  
I S R H E E J V D N V E O E E E S T M E R Z L I  
H T W C L B I D F G I L L I T L X A S A E B C X  
C M C V D E Y D E I T T I K I S V R G R G E A A  
X A E K L O E T B N V S D O N H P O N S N C T L  
R S F E U T C X R G G I A O G S W C I E I A N E  
I E B H I E D I J A J M Y C S M Z E K V G E A R  
V V N C O M Y H A P P I N E S S M D C E Q P S Q  
I E X O Q B A Z D Q B W O N S R U D O L P H Y S  
G E F J E W R E A T H D R A C S A M T S I R H C  
J U H J X L E S C R I A M O A K T Z S H O M A J  
P H A D C A R O L T I Y V N M O Y J Z L W M F L  
L L A U G H T E R S F M T S Y M L O V E J Z H U  
I S A M T S I R H C M A H S R E I N D E E R S Y

**Branford Parks & Recreation / Register online at [branfordrecreation.org](http://branfordrecreation.org)**





# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR HOLIDAY TRIVIA

- What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose?
- How many ghost show up in *A Christmas Carol*?
- The movie *Miracle on 34th Street* is based on a real-life department store. What is it?
- What are the two other most popular names for Santa Claus?
- Elvis isn't going to have a white Christmas he's going to have a....
- What do people traditionally put on top of a Christmas tree?
- In *Home Alone*, where are the McCallisters going on vacation when they leave Kevin behind?
- In the movie "*How The Grinch Stole Christmas*", the Grinch was described with three words.
- What words follow "Silent Night" in the song?
- Which Hollywood actor played six different roles in *The Polar Express*?
- In Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, what was the first name of Scrooge?
- Which Christmas song contains the lyric "Everyone dancing merrily in the new old-fashioned way?"
- What are you supposed to do when you find yourself under the mistletoe?
- Which one of Santa's reindeer has the same name as another holiday mascot?
- Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
- In the song "Winter Wonderland," what do we call the snowman?
- In the movie *Elf*, what was the first rule of The Code of Elves?
- According to the song, what did my true love give to me on the eighth day of Christmas?
- What was the highest-grossing Christmas movie of all time?
- Whose eyes are all aglow in "The Christmas Song?"
- How many gifts in total were given in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song?
- How do you say "Merry Christmas" in Spanish?
- What is the name of the last ghost that visits Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*?
- Visions of which food danced in children's heads as they slept in "'Twas The Night Before Christmas?"
- What gift did the Little Drummer Boy give to the newborn Christ?
- What is the best-selling Christmas song ever?
- Who wrote, "Christmas doesn't come from a store, maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more?"
- Three of Santa's reindeer's names begin with the letter "D." What are those names?
- What was Frosty the Snowman's nose made out?
- In the 1964 movie *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, what was the name of Rudolph's elf friend?
- What popular Christmas song was actually written for Thanksgiving?
- What was the first company that used Santa Claus in advertising?
- In "The Christmas Song," who did the narrator see kissing Santa Claus under the mistletoe?
- In the movie *Elf*, how does Buddy get to the North Pole?



# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



## HOLIDAY CONVERSATION STARTERS

 BESIDES CHRISTMAS WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY?	 HOW WOULD YOU DECORATE A SNOWMAN?	 HAVE YOU BEEN NAUGHTY OR NICE THIS YEAR?	 WHEN DO YOU START PLAYING CHRISTMAS MUSIC?
 WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE IT BE COLD AND SNOW ON CHRISTMAS OR IT BE WARM AND SUNNY?	 DO YOU PREFER WHITE LIGHTS OR COLORED LIGHTS ON YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE?	 WHAT IS THE BEST GIFT YOU HAVE FOUND IN YOUR CHRISTMAS STOCKING?	 IF YOU COULD FIND ANY PET UNDER YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE WHAT WOULD IT BE?
 WHEN DO YOU OPEN YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS?	 WHAT DO YOU LEAVE OUT AS A SPECIAL TREAT FOR SANTA AND HIS REINDEER?	 DO YOU PREFER HOT COCOA OR EGG NOG?	 WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS MOVIE?
 DO YOU PREFER A REAL CHRISTMAS TREE OR AN ARTIFICIAL TREE?	 HOW DO YOU OPEN YOUR PRESENTS? OPEN THEM FAST OR TAKE YOUR TIME	 WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS COOKIE?	 WHAT IS YOUR CHRISTMAS WISH?
 HOW DO YOU SPREAD CHISTMAS CHEER?	 SHARE YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION?	 WHAT IS THE WORST PRESENT YOU HAVE RECEIVED?	 WOULD YOU RATHER GET A LOT OF SMALL PRESENTS OR ONE BIG PRESENT?

## *Holiday*

- ◇ SMILE AT SOMEONE
- ◇ WRITE A LETTER TO SOMEONE
- ◇ MAKE A HOLIDAY CARD "CARDS FOR SENIORS/HEROS"  
\*collection at Parks and Recreation
- ◇ COMPLIMENT SOMEONE
- ◇ HOLD THE DOOR FOR SOMEONE
- ◇ MAKE & GIVE COOKIES TO A NEIGHBOR
- ◇ DONATE PET SUPPLIES TO AN ANIMAL SHELTER
- ◇ DROP OFF HOMEMADE TREATS AT THE FIRE HOUSE
- ◇ PACK A CARE PACKAGE FOR A SOLDIER OR HEALTH CARE WORKER
- ◇ DONATE OUTGROWN CLOTHES
- ◇ TAKE CAN GOODS TO THE LOCAL FOOD BANK
- ◇ CALL A RELATIVE TO SAY HELLO
- ◇ SAY SOMETHING NICE TO YOUR SIBLING

## RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

- ◇ DROP OFF TREATS TO THE POLICE STATION
- ◇ SAY A PRAYER FOR SOMEONE
- ◇ WRITE A THANK YOU NOTE TO YOUR TEACHER
- ◇ DONATE UNWANTED BOOKS
- ◇ LET SOMEONE AHEAD OF YOU IN LINE
- ◇ DONATE UNWANTED TOYS
- ◇ HIDE A HAPPY NOTE FOR SOMEONE TO FIND
- ◇ PICK UP LITER
- ◇ LEAVE A CANDY CANE FOR SOMEONE
- ◇ HELP SOMEONE LOAD OR UNLOAD THEIR GROCERIES
- ◇ SAY "THANK YOU"
- ◇ WRITE A CHALK HOLIDAY MESSAGE ON A SIDEWALK OR DRIVEWAY

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# 40 Christmas Activities Your Family Will *Actually* Enjoy!

## Family Together Time

- Cut or choose Christmas tree
- Have an ugly sweater competition
- Make a holiday greeting video and send it to friends and family
- Go on a Christmas themed scavenger hunt
- Have a Christmas movie marathon
- Make a Christmas song playlist and have a family dance party
- Take family photos with Santa
- Have a silly, Christmas- themed family photo shoot
- Take a ride to look at Christmas lights in the neighborhood
- Attend your community's tree lighting event
- Go to a Christmas show
- Go on a sleigh ride
- Read stories together by the Christmas tree
- Plan a red and green day
- Game night with hot cocoa and candy canes

## Christmas Cheer in the Kitchen

- Have a hot cocoa bar
- Have a cookie decorating party
- Make Christmas cookies
- Make reindeer treats
- Decorate a Gingerbread house

## Christmas Acts of Kindness

- Adopt a family for the holidays
- Donate new toy to charity
- Visit a nursing home and sing Christmas carols
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen
- Donate towels and blankets to an animal shelter
- Donate canned goods to a food pantry
- Leave a 'thank you' note for your mail carrier
- Send care packages or holiday cards to troops overseas

## Christmas Crafts for Kids

- Make Christmas tree ornaments
- Decorate a wreath
- Make your own ugly sweater
- Design Christmas cards
- Make mason jar snow globes
- Design and decorate gift tags
- Make paper snowflakes
- Write a letter to Santa

## Christmas Decorating Fun

- Decorate the Christmas tree
- Hang Christmas lights outdoors
- Deck the halls with Christmas decoration
- String popcorn garland and put on Christmas tree

2015 kiddiematters.com





# ***DRIVING HOLIDAY iSPY HUNT***

Put on your favorite Holiday Pajamas and get ready to “spy” all the holiday lights, trees, and decorations. How many can you find? Can you guess the number of light bulbs on the Town’s Holiday Tree? Submit your guess below.

Santa

Snowman

Reindeer

Gingerbread Man

Christmas Trees

The Grinch

Polar Bear

Gifts

Icicles

Bell

Red Lights

Blue Lights

Penguin

Menorah

Giant Santa

The Town’s Christmas Tree

Green Lights

Cross

Toy Soldier

Nativity Scene

Snowflakes

Candy Canes

Wreath

Sleigh

Bows

Star

Yellow Lights

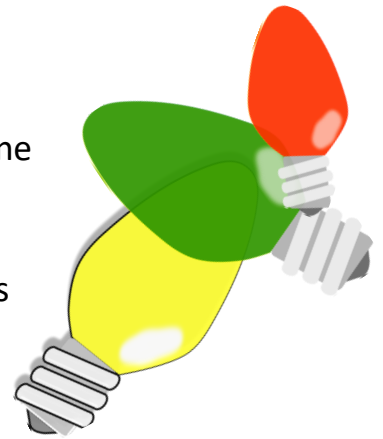
Giant Ornament

Train

Window Candles

Garland

North Pole Sign



How many lights do you think are on it? Submit your answer to the Parks and Recreation Department’s Mailbox for a chance to win a prize.

Entries must be received before December 20th. One entry per person.

## **Christmas Bulb Entry Form:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**My Guess:**



# UPCOMING COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



## Do you want to build a snowman?

Create a snowman..... to be displayed on the Town Green throughout the month of February. Our Department, with your help will bring this tradition to the Town's center!

Let's get as many to participate as possible. Who can build the best snowman? Calling all residents, organizations, families, classrooms and/or business owners to gather and build a snowman or snowwoman for the Town Green. The sky is the limit! Be creative! Please register your Snowman-Snowwoman to be eligible for a prize. Prize categories include: Most Authentic, Most Creative, Most Colorful, Most Stylish, & Best Use of Items Found in Nature, etc.



## Miracle on Main Street

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This collaboration between the Branford Parks & Recreation Department, Shoreline Theatre Company, Studio One and BCTV is sure to melt the hearts of all!

Stay tuned for a video link through our Facebook pages the week of December 21st.



## Important Contacts

**Little League**  
Scott Villa  
203-415-1208

**Lacrosse**  
Vinnie Giordano  
203-627-6182

**Cheerleading**  
Judy Barron  
203-868-1443

**Babe Ruth Baseball**  
Steve Prota  
203-494-4632

**Girls Softball**  
Mike Barbour  
203-843-4090

**Branford Soccer**  
Gary Sharp  
203-500-0953

**Youth Football**  
Jamie Wieland  
203-687-2794

**Flag Football**  
Joe Ball  
203-589-0085

**Youth/Travel Hoops**  
Joe Chandler  
203-980-8021

**Branford Walkers**  
Leo Cristofar  
203-214-5824

**Footie Park**  
Andrea Kenney  
203-488-8304

**Parker Park**  
Matt Radulski  
203-627-1063

**Supply Pond**  
Ainsley Highman  
203-483-6939

**Stony Creek Assoc.**  
Dan Bullard  
203-488-2147

**Youngs Pond Assoc.**  
Jeff Hotz  
203-410-5764



### **Branford Parks and Recreation Closings**

Thur.	Nov. 25th	Thanksgiving
Fri.	Nov. 26th	Day after Thanksgiving
Thurs.	Dec. 24th	Christmas Eve(Closing at noon)
Fri.	Dec. 25th	Christmas
Thur.	Dec. 31st	New Year's Eve(Closing at noon)
Fri.	Jan. 1st	New Years Day
Mon.	Jan. 18th	Martin Luther King Day
Mon.	Feb. 15th	President's Day

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