

Columbus Day Heritage News

May 2019

“Every ship that comes to America
got its chart from Columbus.”

Christopher Columbus Celebration Moves to Branford

Over five hundred years ago the voyage of Christopher Columbus, the navigator and explorer, along with the seamen of the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria discovered the shores of the new world. The voyage continues as the Columbus Day Committee of Greater New Haven moves the annual celebration to the Town of Branford. Several events including the Kickoff Reception, Italian Cultural Night, Wooster Square Walking Tour, Columbus Heritage Dinner, Wreath Ceremony, Parade and Award Ceremony will be part of the 2019 celebration. First Selectman James B. Cosgrove stated “We are honored to be host of this years parade as we celebrate the 375th Anniversary of the Town of Branford and our citizens look forward to supporting this festive occasion and its many activities associated with the Italian culture.”

2019 Kickoff Reception

The Kickoff Reception, with entertainment, will be held on Thursday June 20th from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Woodwinds Banquet Facility at 29 School Ground Road in Branford. Tickets for the affair are \$25.00 and are available at the Selectman’s Office, Branford Town Hall; Branford Recreation Department; Paul Criscuolo (203) 710-2223 or email bigpaulie06405@gmail.com; and Terri Valette (203) 444-4324 or email fasttrack822@gmail.com. Additional information: www.columbusdaynewhaven.org.



Passing of the Flag

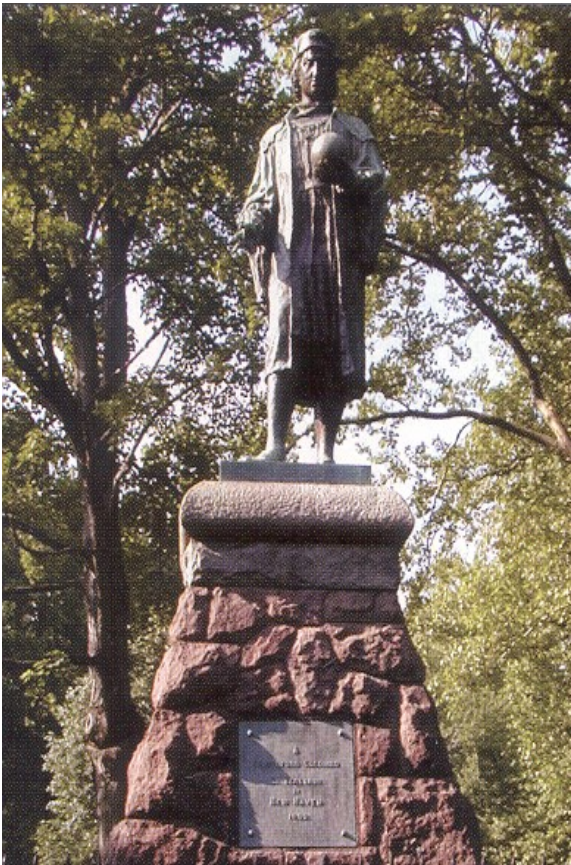
Mayor Toni Harp of the City of New Haven, host of the 2018 parade, passes on the Italian Flag to Branford First Selectman James B. Cosgrove. The 2019 Columbus Day festivities will enhance the 375th Anniversary of the Town of Branford with a large parade of marchers and music in the Center of Branford on Sunday October 13th.

Important Facts About Christopher Columbus

- † In 1492, he left Spain for his first voyage. He landed in San Salvador at Cap-Haitien and returned home to Palos, Spain, in 1493.
- † In 1493, he left Spain for his second voyage. He landed on Marie-Galante, then went again to Cap-Haitien, St. Ann's Bay, and returned to Cadiz, Spain, in 1496.
- † In 1498, he left Spain for his third voyage. He landed in Santo Domingo, and returned home again to Cadiz, Spain in 1500.
- † In 1502, he left Spain for his fourth and final voyage. He landed on the Bay Islands off of Central America, Portobelo, and then returned home to Sanlucar, Spain, for the final time.
- † He later died in 1506.

Columbus Day Celebration Has Deep Meaning

- † It recognizes the achievements of a great Renaissance explorer who founded the first permanent European settlement in the New World. The arrival of Columbus in 1492 marks the beginning of recorded history in America.
- † It is one of America's oldest holidays, first celebrated on October 12, 1792 when the New York Society of Tammany honored Columbus on the 300th anniversary of his first voyage.
- † In 1971 Columbus Day became a federal holiday in all 50 states after Congress passed a law declaring the second Monday in October Columbus Day.
- † Columbus Day is the only day on which the nation recognizes the heritage of an estimated 26 million Italian Americans.
- † Columbus Day commemorates the arrival on these shores of more than 5 million Italians a century ago. Today, their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren constitute the nation's fifth largest ethnic group.
- † America has more monuments to Columbus than any nation in the world.
- † Columbus Day is a patriotic holiday. The Pledge of Allegiance was written in 1892 in honor of the 400th anniversary of his first voyage.



Columbus Wreath Ceremony

The Columbus statue, located at Wooster Square in New Haven, was erected in 1892 at a cost of \$1,500 subscribed solely by Italian residents. It was refurbished in 2004 by the Knights of Columbus. The annual wreath ceremony in 2019 will be held on Saturday, October 12th. Wreaths will be presented at the statue by Italian-American societies, civic organizations and government leaders. A blessing of the wreaths will take place at Saint Michael Church at 11 a.m. followed by a procession, led by a fife and drum corps, across the Wooster Square Green to the statue. For many years one wreath was presented at the statue. The event has grown to thirty-five wreaths. Following the ceremony a reception will be held at the Church Hall.