

# Woodbridge Town News



## Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper

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CIRCULATION 3790

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020



## Heller Named Chair

*At South-Central Regional Council of Governments*

Woodbridge First Selectman Beth Heller took the gavel as the new Chair of the South-Central Regional Council of Governments at the organization's January 22 meeting. The South-Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) provides a platform for intermunicipal coordination, cooperation, and decision making. SCRCOG is made up of fifteen municipalities: Bethany, Branford, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Meriden, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford,

West Haven, and Woodbridge.

Heller had been the vice chair during the 2019 calendar year and was elected by her peers to serve as chair for the 2020 year. "I'd like to thank my fellow first selectmen and mayors for their confidence," said Heller. "SCRCOG is an essential resource for our towns and these monthly meetings are an important avenue for town leaders to learn from each other. My goal is to foster a cooperative environment and ensure all towns are taking full advantage of these opportunities."



## Beecher Profile: The School Is Great, But Some Stressors Exist

BY BETTINA THIEL  
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

As part of the search for a new principal at Beecher Road School, senior search consultant Mary Broderick published a leadership profile for the school with information gathered last fall from focus groups and a public survey. The profile presents a snapshot of how the school is viewed, from within as well as from the sidelines. It is posted on the school's website (<https://bit.ly/37Ri1s7>).

Some 191 participants offered input, 36 of those in person, she told

the Board of Education when she first introduced the profile at the December board meeting. "The data collected do not constitute a scientific sampling," she said, but "nevertheless the information yields some useful insights for the search process."

Overall the picture that emerges is a positive one: Teachers and parents alike value education, enjoy the company of mostly adjusted kids and an administration that encourages initiative. "Participants talked about

See "Beecher" On Page 30

*The staff of the Woodbridge Town News is saddened to learn of the passing of Irving Spitz, father of our editor, Marlene Silverstein. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Marlene and her family at this trying time. May Irving's memory be a blessing to all those he knew.*



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Please review the map and share your thoughts and priorities through the survey. Data gathered from this survey will inform a plan to make Woodbridge roads more pedestrian - and bike-friendly. The survey is also available online at [Tinyurl.com/WoodbridgeWalkBike](https://tinyurl.com/WoodbridgeWalkBike).

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# THE LINDEN AT WOODBRIDGE



WOODBRIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Pictured left to right: Nick DaPonte, 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher; Fred Hulley, Jamie A. Hulley Arts Foundation; Robert Murphy, 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher; Judy Primavera, Jamie A. Hulley Arts Foundation; Marika Wissink, 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher; Richard Dellinger, Principal

# \$3,000 in Hulley Arts Foundation Grants Received

The Jamie A. Hulley Arts Foundation (<http://jamiehulleyartsfund.org/>) recently awarded Amity Middle School in Bethany \$3,000 in grant awards for three creative proposals to integrate arts into our curriculum.

Eighth grade social studies teacher, Marika Wissink, was awarded \$1,000 for a special interdisciplinary project. Ms. Wissink’s students will work with visiting artist, Heather Stoltz, to create a fiber arts project where students create fiber art to demonstrate their learning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century social reform movements.

Eighth grade social studies teacher, Robert Murphy, was awarded \$1,000

to host singer/songwriter Laura Clapp to collaborate on an inter-disciplinary project where students will create music to demonstrate their learning of reform propaganda and its’ relationship to the 19<sup>th</sup> century social reform movements.

Seventh grade social studies teacher, Nick DaPonte, was awarded \$1,000 to have the Okra Dance Company perform “Journey into Africa”. This is in conjunction with the social studies unit on African Geography and Culture, the English classes reading “A Long Walk to Water”, and the special Global Issues project for all students.



Front row, left to right: Deborah Luo, Benjamin Wang, Landon Smith, Grace Saunders, Amari Clinton. Middle row, left to right: Lilana Esposito, Alexander Klee, Luna Lipnickas, Evelyn Liu, Amara Forstrom. Back row, left to right: Alden Zimmerman, Sheng Russell-Tang, Michael Crisci, Adam Fleischman, Jiayue Sun.

# Southern Regional Auditions for Band, Choir & Orchestra

On Saturday, December 7, 2019 fifteen students from Amity Middle School in Bethany qualified for the Southern Regional Middle School Band, Choir and Orchestra. These students played a rigorous audition including scales, and a solo piece. Judges were music teachers from throughout the state. Each student received a score rating for their tone, technique, and musical expression. Amity Middle School students competed with other

music students from the southern region of the state including New Haven, Hamden, Clinton, Madison, Branford, Cheshire, and other towns. The Festival will be held at North Branford Intermediate School in North Branford, Connecticut on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Amity Middle School Band teachers, Robert Fragione and Kristen Morace, are the Jazz Band co-chairs of the Southern Regional Festival.

# Local Selected as Semifinalist to “Name the Rover” for NASA

Xander Shavers, a local middle school student, has been selected a semifinalist for the Mars 2020 “Name the Rover” contest. Xander’s name entered the next round of consideration to become the official name of the Mars 2020 rover.

This student’s entry was selected as Connecticut’s winner in the middle school category. The suggested name, DIANA-Deep Insight on Adaptation to Natural Assets, and Alejandro’s essay can be viewed at <https://www.futureengineers.org/nametherover/gallery/8240>

The Mars 2020 Rover has entered the final stages of preparation for launch. The currently unnamed Mars 2020 Rover is a robotic scientist weighing more than 2,300 pounds. It will search for signs of past microbial life, characterize the planet’s climate and geology, collect samples for future return to Earth, and pave the way for human exploration of the Red Planet. The spacecraft is targeted for a July 2020 launch and is expected to touch down on Mars in February 2021.



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All articles, photographs and letters must include your name, address and daytime telephone number for confirmation. The Woodbridge Town News reserves the right to reject any advertisement, article, photograph or letter. Letters to the Editor must be unique to the Woodbridge Town News.

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Woodbridge Town News

Below are the next three issue dates and deadlines of the Woodbridge Town News.  
Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

Upcoming Issue Date

Issue Deadline

March 6 | St. Patrick's Day Issue..... February 28

April 3 | Easter & Passover Issue..... March 27

May 1 | Mother's Day Issue ..... April 24

Note: Copy due by 4:00p.m. Thank you.

FROM OUR READERS

Correction

A story in the January 10 edition of the Woodbridge Town News about four local teams participating in the First Lego League competition mistakenly listed the participants of one team under two team names. We regret the error.

The teams and their respective team members were as follows:

The Tsunami Surfers consisted of AJ Browning, Samuel Meng, Janet Fan, Rachel Anderson, Carina Chock, Tony Zhang, Emil Graas, Mila Mejnartowicz, Vilas Mejnartowicz, and Tai Vouras. They are led by Phoebe and Matt Browning.

The Eagles consisted of Jennifer Gu, Evelyn Chen, Jordan Chen, Simon Eberhart, Jonah Konezny, Alina Konezny, Jack Morrison, Ryan Morrison and Jacob Storeygard. They are led by Rachel Morrison.

To the Editor

Do we need to worry about another bait and switch? At the October 17, 2019 Board of Finance meeting, following a presentation of the development proposal for the Country Club of Woodbridge, Board member (and former First Selectman) Ellen Scalettar made a statement that sent shock waves throughout the room, "The town does not have to pay off the debt...we could use it (the money) for another purpose."

Her Board of Finance colleagues all nodded in agreement.

Wait...what?! For months, First Selectman Beth Heller has been promising that if the project is approved, sale proceeds will pay off the Country Club debt. But apparently the Board of Finance is not on board.

Clearly, this revelation caused some consternation in Town Hall, since Finance chairman Matt Giglietti felt compelled to address it directly during the Public Comment portion of his board's next meeting. I fully expected that he would support the First

Selectman's many previous promises. But instead he and his board doubled down, refusing to commit to use sale proceeds to pay off the debt if a sale occurs. In fact, Finance board member Susan Jacobs said, "I don't think the discretion of this board should ever be circumscribed in that way."

The Board of Finance may be justified in retaining its prerogative and flexibility and refusing to guarantee that it will carry out the First Selectman's promises. However, given that they are taking this position, it is disingenuous and misleading for the First Selectman to continue to assert, whatever her intentions and hopes may be, that the debt will be retired if a sale occurs. Because, according to the Board of Finance, it very well may not happen.

After these two Board of Finance meetings, where the First Selectman was in attendance and participated in the discussion, she persisted in promising, in her newspaper column and in her email newsletter, that the debt would be retired with proceeds from a sale. Who and what are we supposed to believe?

In the event there is a referendum, the First Selectman will be publishing a so-called "Fact Sheet" presumably intended to fully inform us about all aspects of the deal. It is imperative that such a publication contain actual, verified facts and guaranteed outcomes, not just intentions, wishes, and hoped-for outcomes masquerading as facts.

Cathy Wick

To the Editor

The citizens of Woodbridge have a long history of strong support for land conservation. We deeply value our open space lands for the contribution they make to our quality of life and the tranquil environment of our town. And yet, a large parcel of publicly owned open space at the former

See "Letters" On Page 24

Woodbridge Town News

WTN LETTERS POLICY

Submit your letters for our "From Our Readers" section to:  
Woodbridge Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477  
or email: [letters@woodbridgetownnews.com](mailto:letters@woodbridgetownnews.com).

Please limit letters to 500 words and include a daytime phone number in case we have any questions. Letters must be exclusive to the Woodbridge Town News for publication. We reserve the right to reject any letter.

WOODBRIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

# Amity High School Advances in International Debate Competition

GLOBAL COMPETITION SPONSORED BY THE BREWER FOUNDATION AND NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Students from Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge have advanced to the “Top 32” round of the International Public Policy Forum (IPPF) debate competition. Sponsored by the Brewer Foundation and New York University, the IPPF is the first and only debate contest that gives high school students around the world the opportunity to engage in written and oral debates on issues of public policy.

By advancing, the students remain eligible to win a \$10,000 grand prize and an all-expenses-paid trip to the IPPF Finals in New York City on April 25, 2020. Amity Regional High School is the only team from Connecticut to advance this round.

“The advancing debaters excel at this unique test of research, writing and advocacy skills,” said William A. Brewer III, chairman of the Brewer Foundation and a founder of the IPPF. “These students now advance to the Round of 32 – and a step closer to the IPPF Finals weekend in New York.”

This year, hundreds of teams submitted qualifying round essays affirming or negating the 2019-20 IPPF topic, “Resolved: When in conflict, a nation’s self-interest should outweigh its international commitments to migrants.” Those essays were reviewed by a committee, which determined the “Round of 64” teams based on the overall quality of each 2,800-word essay.

In November, the “Round of 64” teams then began a single-elimination,

written debate competition. Each team was assigned a position (affirmative or negative) and then volleyed papers back and forth with another team via email. A panel of judges reviewed the essays in the order they were presented and selected the winning teams. In that round, Amity Regional High School advanced over a team from Generation’s School from Karachi, Pakistan.

The “Top 32” round begins immediately. Amity Regional High School will compete in a written debate against Jasper High School from Plano, Texas. This year, the IPPF received qualifying round essays from more than 150 teams, representing schools in 28 U.S. states and 19 countries. In the top 32-round, there are six international teams from schools in Canada, China, Mongolia, Vietnam and the Republic of Korea.

The winning teams will be announced on February 11 and will proceed to the “Sweet 16” round. On March 16, the “Elite 8” teams will be announced. Those teams will travel to New York City on an all-expenses-paid trip to the IPPF Finals in New York City. The Finals will take place on April 25, 2020, at the Harold Pratt House.

The IPPF Finals give students the opportunity to participate in oral debates in front of some of the world’s foremost experts in debate, business, law and politics. The winning team will take home the “Brewer Cup” and a \$10,000 grand prize.

# Preschool Openings Available

Bethany Nursery Group located at 511 Amity Road in Bethany is a preschool program for children ages 3 to 5 years old that has operated in Bethany for over 50 years. Our nurturing and dedicated staff provide a program rich with literature and learning opportunities while still leaving ample time to play, create and explore! Children receive an abundance of academic, social, fine and gross motor skills as they investigate their world. The design of our program provides an appropriate balance of structured and self-initiated activities allowing students to develop self-esteem and independence. We carefully refine our program so that

it not only appropriately meets the specific developmental needs of each of our students, but also follows the guidelines set up by NAEYC and the Bethany Board of Education. Our goal is to develop a strong social and academic foundation and use a child’s natural curiosity and thirst for knowledge to create a life-long love of learning.

Two, three, four and five-day programs with varied hours are available as we aim to meet each family’s individual needs. Families and children are encouraged to come see our school. Call 203-393-3032 or email [bethannurserygroup@gmail.com](mailto:bethannurserygroup@gmail.com) to schedule a visit.

STUDENT NEWS

## Dean’s/President’s List Bucknell University

Lewisburg, PA - Hannah Price, an Undeclared major in the class of 2022, from Woodbridge, CT was named to the dean’s list at Bucknell University during the fall semester of the 2019-20 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean’s list recognition.

## College of Charleston

Charleston, SC - College of Charleston congratulates more than 1,800 students who were named to the Fall 2019 President’s List and Dean’s List. To qualify for President’s List (Highly Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.800 or higher and complete a minimum of 14 semester hours. To qualify for Dean’s List (Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.600 or higher and complete a minimum of 14 semester hours. Those students from Woodbridge named to the President’s List are: Joshua Petro, a General Studies major; Lindsay Dragunoff, a Biology major.

## Connecticut College

New London, CT - The following Woodbridge student has been named to the dean’s list for the 2019 fall semester: Alana Safian, 2023, Dean’s Honors, Undeclared.

## Hamilton College

Clinton, NY - The following Woodbridge residents were named to the Dean’s List at Hamilton College for the 2019 fall semester: Alexis Galinovsky, sophomore; Eva Glassman, sophomore, is a graduate of Amity Regional School District No. 5; and Brian Seiter, a first-

year student, is a graduate of Hopkins School. To be named to the Dean’s List, a student must have carried throughout the semester a course load of four or more graded credits with an average of 3.5 or above.

## Hofstra University

Hempstead, NY - Hofstra University congratulates the students named to the Fall 2019 Dean’s List for their outstanding academic achievement. Students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 during the semester to make the Dean’s List. The following Woodbridge students earned this academic honor: Victoria Staniewicz and Kayla Wuestefeld.

## Iowa State University

Ames, Iowa – A total of 10,066 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the fall semester 2019 Dean’s List. Students named must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work. Woodbridge resident Jason Christopher Luciani, 2, Mechanical Engineering was named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2019 semester.

## Lehigh University

Bethlehem, PA - Stephanie Laugeni of Woodbridge, CT was named to the Dean’s List at Lehigh University in the Fall 2019 semester. Dean’s List status is awarded to students who earned a scholastic average of 3.6 or better while carrying at least 12 hours of regularly graded courses.

See “Student News” On Page 7

Woodbridge Town News

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EDUCATION

“Student News” From Page 6

Quinnipiac University

Hamden, CT - The following Woodbridge students were named to the dean’s list for the Fall 2019 semester at Quinnipiac University: Judah Immanuel; Karalyn Kachmar; and Ayaan Malik. To qualify for the dean’s list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester.

Siena College

Loudonville, NY - John Lumpinski has been named to the Siena College Dean’s List for the Fall 2019 semester. Lumpinski is from Woodbridge, CT. To be named to the Dean’s List, a student’s grade point average for the semester must be between 3.5 and 3.89.

University of Delaware

Newark, DE - Allie Klein of Woodbridge has been named to the University of Delaware’s Dean’s List for the Fall 2019 semester. To meet eligibility requirements for the Dean’s List, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester.

University of New Hampshire

Durham, NH - Jordan Conn of Woodbridge, CT has been named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Hampshire for earning High Honors for the fall 2019 semester. Conn is majoring in Sport Studies. Students named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

University of New Haven

West Haven, CT - The following Woodbridge students were named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Haven for the fall, 2019: Stephen Buda, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Fire Science; Angie Kullira, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice;

Patrick Neumann, College of Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Marine Biology; Kaitlyn Price, College of Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology; and Thomas Yelenik, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice.

UW-Madison

Madison, Wis. - The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester of the 2019-2020 academic year. Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean’s List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Elana Bershtein, College of Letters and Science, received this honor.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Worcester, MA - Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced that Frederick Miller of Woodbridge, Conn., a member of the class of 2023 majoring in computer science, was named to the university’s Dean’s List for academic excellence for the fall 2019 semester. The criteria for the WPI Dean’s List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean’s List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

Graduations Eastern Connecticut State University

Willimantic, CT - Eastern Connecticut State University graduated 227 undergraduate and graduate students at the conclusion of the fall 2019 semester. Among the graduates are Woodbridge residents: Jesse Cala who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education; and James Gagliardi who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Communication.

University of New Haven

West Haven, CT - The following Woodbridge students received degrees from the University of New Haven at Commencement ceremonies at the December Commencement ceremony: Nathen Powers, College of Business, Bachelor of Science in Business Management; Sean Robinson, College of Business, Master of Science in Taxation; and Thomas Yelenik, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Law Enforcement Administration.

Did You Know? A New Year, New Numbers to Keep in Mind for 2020

Estate and Gift Tax:

- The federal lifetime exemption for property passing to non-spouse beneficiaries has been **increased to \$11,580,000.00.**
- The Connecticut lifetime exemption for property passing to non-spouse beneficiaries has been **increased to \$5,100,000.00.**
- There is still an unlimited gift/estate deduction for property passing to a spouse; however, to qualify for the unlimited gift/estate tax deduction the spouse must be a U.S. citizen.
- The amount that can be gifted to any one person without needing to file a gift tax return **remains the same at \$15,000.00** per recipient. Additional gifts can be made for qualified medical expenses and qualified education expenses without needing to file a gift tax return.

Long Term Care:

- If one spouse requires Medicaid and the other spouse remains at home (“Community Spouse”), the maximum amount of non-excluded assets the Community Spouse can keep has been **increased to \$128,640.00.**
- If one spouse requires Medicaid the minimum amount of non-excluded assets the Community Spouse can keep has been **increased to \$25,728.00.**
- If one spouse requires Medicaid the minimum amount of monthly income the Community Spouse can keep has been **increased to \$2,113.75**, and the maximum amount it can be increased to, without an administrative hearing, has been **increased to \$3,216.00.**
- If one spouse requires Medicaid the other spouse is living at home the maximum amount of equity in the family home that can be excluded by the Community Spouse has been **increased to \$893,000.00.**

Long Term Care Provided in Your Home:

- The amount of gross monthly income you can have and still be eligible for the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) has been **increased to \$2,349.00.**
- The amount of gross monthly income you may have without triggering a co-pay has been **increased to \$2,082.00.**
- Use of a pooled trust for excess income to establish eligibility or to avoid co-pays remains a viable option.

If you are interested in learning more about how these 2020 numbers affect you and your family please visit our website and read our blog for recent posts. For advice specific to you or your family, please contact the office. We would be glad to meet with you for a no hassle, no charge initial consultation, no matter how long it lasts.



Steven P. Floman, Allison M. DePaola-Drozdz, and Nicole Camporeale of the law firm Floman DePaola, LLC are the authors of this article. This article has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal advice or to create an attorney client relationship. Readers should not act upon the information contained in this article without seeking advice from an attorney regarding the specific facts and circumstances of your case.

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# Byars Presents 2021 Amity Budget

*District Funds Technology Updates and SRO’s, Addresses Social Needs*

**BY BETTINA THIEL**  
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

After several years of moderate budget increases, the Amity Regional School District is requesting a 3.95% increase for the 2020-21 school year.

Woodbridge will be particularly hard hit in this budgeting cycle, as in addition to the budget increase, the town will be sending more students to the Amity system compared to the current school year, while neither Orange nor Bethany have seen similar increases in their student population. For Woodbridge the 2020-21 Amity budget — if adopted — translates

into an increase of more than \$1 million, or 6.82% over the town’s current contribution.

According to this budget proposal, Bethany will contribute \$9.13 million, Orange will pay \$25.36 million and Woodbridge will contribute just under \$16 million. The total budget as presented is for \$51.5 million. To go into effect, the Amity budget must be approved by referendum in all three member towns. This year it is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5.

“The budget is the first since 2014-15 in which the requested amount exceeds contractual increases,” said

School Supt. Dr. Jennifer Byars when she presented the budget at the joint meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance in January. “Six consecutive years of budget requests below contractual increases has resulted in needs in technology, security, and facilities that can no longer be postponed.”

The budget proposal would not only allow the district to maintain the excellence in education it is known for, but improve security by hiring two School Resource Officers, one for each of the two middle schools. The budget would also allow updates to its IT network

and expand the personal laptops for students; it would also allow the district to hire an additional social worker at the middle school level.

**Budget summary:** As in most education budgets, salaries and benefits make up two-thirds of the whole pie. The increase projected for ’20-’21 is \$646,000, a number that includes 3 new full-time certified positions; two 10-month positions for special education coordinators; one social worker and one computer technician.

Purchased services is up by \$580,000

See “Amity Budge” On Page 15

## From the First Selectman

BY BETH HELLER



As we begin the new year, I have been reminded that our small town has come to a very important cross-road. The vote to sell approximately one-third of the former Country Club of Woodbridge for senior housing will eliminate our debt from the purchase of the land and bring in much needed ongoing tax revenue.

I believe there are two major reasons why this is so very important. The first is that we need to provide housing for older residents who would like to stay in Woodbridge, but do not want to or cannot maintain a large home. Secondly, we need to grow our grand list, which has been mostly stagnant for several years.

Selling a portion of the former Country Club of Woodbridge for development would provide us with up to 120 homes for residents 55 and over. Instead of moving out of Woodbridge to other towns with 55 and over (age-restricted) housing, residents will be able to remain in Woodbridge.

We need additional tax revenue to lower the tax burden for our residents. Selling a portion of the former Country Club of Woodbridge for development will provide us with an estimated additional \$1.5M in yearly tax revenue, once all the units are sold.

Equally as important to increasing revenue is our continuous effort to reduce expenses. Even if we do not grant any budget increases to Town departments during this budget cycle, the mill rate will still increase because of the impact of our recent revaluation. Clearly it is time to act.

I believe that we cannot just ease our way out of this problem – we must be proactive, not reactive. We have consolidated many parts of our government and staff and will continue

this important review. It should be noted that approximately 30 percent of our budget goes to the Amity Regional School district and the Town has no control over these expenses. Another approximately 30 percent of the budget goes to our exemplary Beecher School, which is one of our greatest assets.

We also must ensure that Woodbridge remains an attractive place for current and future residents and businesses. Lowering our tax burden is one way to be attractive, and offering meaningful programs and activities is another way.

The Town will continue to own approximately two-thirds of the former Country Club (approximately 95 acres). We could then create a beautiful park on the property with some of the additional monies from the sale. My vision is for a playground, sledding hill, gazebo/pavilion, walking trails, and a fishing pond. If we do not sell the property (for \$5.4M) it will be difficult to convert the remaining land to a park or even properly maintain it.

Our town has limited options to raise revenue and approval of age-restricted housing will result in much-needed additional tax revenue. I strongly believe that taxpayers should have a say on whether senior housing is permitted at the former Country Club of Woodbridge at a referendum. This is one of the most important issues of our time, as we cannot and will not move forward unless a majority of our voters approve.

The draft agreement between the Town and Insite/Wernert will be available for public review at Town Hall prior to the vote. As always, please feel free to contact me with questions or comments about this or other issues.

## From the Other Side of the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE  
WRTC SECRETARY



In the last few weeks Woodbridge taxpayers received a letter from the Town Assessor with a revaluation of our properties. Changes in valuation are a double-edged sword. Increases in value indicate increase equity but change the math for your tax burden – you’ll be paying more if the mill rate stays constant. Decreased value may indicate a tax reduction, also assuming the mill rate stays constant, but equity takes it on the chin. So how did all the revaluations shake out?

According to publicly available data, Woodbridge’s Grand List has taken a \$48M hit over the past five years, which represents a little over a 4% reduction in the total value of all our properties. Digging into the numbers more deeply, 73.31% of residential homes suffered an average 6.66% decline in value between 2014 and 2019. So, while the nation continues to recover from the depth of the 2008 recession that hit home values hard, 7 in 10 of us in Woodbridge still have not. Consider the impact this fact has on your personal finances. Traditionally, the purchase of a home contributes to the growth of personal wealth through the appreciation of the property. Rent is viewed as “a bad investment” because rent payments build no equity. If your mortgage payment isn’t building equity, in some ways it’s the equivalent of paying rent (tax benefits related to interest payments notwithstanding). We are not in the habit of making poor investments, but we have one now.

Why has this economic blow hit us? Taxes. Woodbridge property taxes, driven by a high mill rate. The tax burden on property owners has forced home values down. The typical home buyer looks at the main expenses of the deal – mortgage payment + insurance + taxes. If the tax portion of that formula is high, the only offset is lowering the purchase price of the home, bringing down the size of the mortgage payment. This is precisely

what is happening in Woodbridge.

For years, taxes were a non-issue here. Woodbridge is a wonderful town and the residents were accepting of regular mill rate increases. The perceived wealth of the residence, able to afford these increases, mitigated any pressure town leaders might have felt to keep taxes in check. But just because we could bear these increases doesn’t mean we should. And now that these taxes are impacting property values, sale prices are dealing serious blows to nest egg calculation, it’s time to get serious about the issue. Many long-time residents feel “stuck” here and that’s just not right.

Much of our tax burden is driven by the cost of education, the crown jewel of our town. As was recognized recently by the Board of Finance, our portion of the Amity budget is going up due to rising student population here and shrinking student populations in Orange and Bethany. That’s an issue that will need to be addressed by the regional school board. This leaves taking a much harder look at our Town expenses. Looking for more revenue through pie-in-the sky financial expectations of the pending golf course deal is not the answer.

What should concern every Woodbridge taxpayer is the net reduction of the Grand List. If the spending appetite of our local government is not trimmed proportionally, the obvious path is to increase our mill rate, and thus our taxes, to make up the difference. Now is the time for Town Hall to do the math and figure out how to absorb this reduction in Grand List value without passing it back to already over-burdened taxpayers. Leadership includes managing limited resources, prioritizing and saying no when no is the right answer. That approach would certainly be welcomed by the 73.31% of us feeling the property value pinch today. And it would probably be appreciated by all Woodbridge taxpayers.

# ARTS & LEISURE



**Chard & Chives**  
News from Massaro Community Farm - By The Farm Staff

## Love Your Farmer

Register for Seasonal Vegetable Subscription and Programs

### Know Your Farmer— Subscribe to the 2020 CSA

Drive by Massaro Community Farm this month and it appears dormant, like the landscape. However; appearances can be deceiving. While there are fewer staff on the farm in February, we are busy preparing for all the wonderful produce and events you'll see come spring. Visit the farm in February and you'll find us fixing water spigots and tools, building gates and a passive solar water trough for the goats. Days are packed with coordinating educational programming for the year, crop planning, and so many more things that we don't have time to do in high season when the farm sees most of its visitors. But that doesn't mean there aren't ways for you to be engaged at the farm now. See below for a list of activities coming up this month.

One of the best ways to be engaged and show your love of the planet is to subscribe to our 2020 CSA (community supported agriculture) during February. Securing your seasonal vegetable subscription now helps the farm to plan for the season in advance, and to get administrative work out of the way before spring arrives. Supporting a community farm supports the production of local food, protects open space, reduces your carbon footprint and creates jobs right in your backyard. In Celebration of National CSA Day – February 28, 2020 – Massaro Community Farm will offer a special discount during the week of February 24 for our seasonal vegetable subscription program. The farm offers several options to make it easy for you to enjoy

this produce weekly starting in June. Check our website and social media for subscription and our limited-time discount to secure your spot!

### Valentine Treats at the Farm

Bring your Valentine to the farm on Saturday, February 15 for back-to-back activities – a family Goat Hike at 10:30am and our first Maple Tapping How-To at 11:30am. On a Goat Hikes, walk goats Poppy, Liz, Gen and Pat along the nature trail and around the farm. Our Nature Trail is ~1-mile loop, includes a few small stream crossings, and is 'kid'-friendly. Dress warm, wear sturdy shoes or boots, and bring the whole family! Only steady rain or heavy snow cancels. \$10/family. Stick around for a hands-on workshop on maple tapping. Education Director, Corey Thomas, will teach the basics of tapping maple (or birch or alder) trees and making your very own syrup. We'll again visit the Nature Trail and learn the steps of creating syrup, including tapping and boiling tips. \$10 per individual; \$20 per family (includes tapping kit). Space for each of these is limited; Register through the farm's website or at [www.Eventbrite.com](http://www.Eventbrite.com).

### Winter Vacation Days at the Farm

This winter, Massaro Community Farm is offering School Vacation Days on February 17 and March 20. Children ages 5-11 experience a winter day on the farm, which can include

See "Massaro" On Page 25

## Ansonia Nature Center February Events

To register for all events please call 203 736 1053

### Eco-Art Valentine Workshop

Friday, February 14, 1:30 pm

Create gifts for your loved ones out of recycled materials – Valentine boxes, cards, paper bracelets, and some other sweet surprises. This will be a fun day to share with your family and friends! Call to register for this FREE program. For all ages.

### Winter Wonderland

Tuesday, February 18, 1 pm

Chilly, snowy days are calling your kids outdoors. Come for fun winter activities on this day off from school. There's nothing better than gliding through the cool air on your sled. We will take the whole family to our awesome hill for sledding fun, but toddlers should ride with a parent. Everyone should be well-bundled in layers to stay warm. After our adventure we will come inside for hot cocoa and a chance to meet one of the Nature Center's animals. FREE for families of all ages. Registration required; families must bring their own sleds.

### Nature Explorers

Wednesdays, February 19 & 26; March 4 & 11, 10 am

Join us for this 4-week program for children ages 2-5 with their adult explorer. Participants will have fun exploring nature every week in these outdoor classes. The classes are loosely structured, influenced by the seasons and the interests of the children. We will go outside to explore nature every class so please dress for the weather. Classes will end with a light snack. TUITION: \$40 for all 4 weeks, class is limited to 10 children ages 2-5. Please call to register.

### Little Scientists

Saturday, February 29, 1 pm

Join us for this exciting hands-on program by Little Scientists. Please call to register.

Station 1 (for ages 5-7): "Why Is It

Cold Outside?": During this lesson your children will learn why the weather gets colder and it often snows outside. They will get an opportunity to observe what's different outside when it's cold! Winter conditions are due to the part of the Earth that we live on being tilted away from the sun. The effect of less sunshine is that it's colder. Lakes and ponds freeze over. Short days, snow, and a change in the animals seen outdoors also mark the season. FEE: \$6 per child.

Station 2 (for ages 8-11): "How Do Animals Survive the Winter?" During this lesson your children will learn what animals, as living organisms, do to survive through cold and winter conditions. They will learn about how animals adapt to frigid temperatures and are able to conserve body heat. Different types of animals adjust in different ways, using their protective coverings, such as feathers, fur, and even layers of fat, which help insulate them against the cold environment. FEE: \$6 per child.

### Ongoing Programs Sunday Guided Hikes

Sundays, 1 pm

Join a Nature Center guide on Sunday afternoons for fun, exercise, and learning about our trails! See the above listings for hikes with a specific theme.

### Fiber Arts Group

Tuesdays, 6 pm

Get together with others to work on your fiber arts projects! Bring any kind of fiber work—knitting, felting, crocheting, etc. A great way to dedicate time to your handiwork and socialize too. FREE.

### Creature Features

Saturdays, 12 noon

Come to meet our furry, scaly, and feathery animal ambassadors. You'll have the chance to touch and hold them in this FREE family program for all ages.

[www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com](http://www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com)

## Calling All Artists!

All Woodbridge-based artists are invited to a meeting on Thursday, February 20 at 9 am at Woodbridge Town Hall.

The Economic Development Commission would like to help promote local artists and wants to know how

it could be most useful to them. Items to be discussed at the first meeting include a potential local makers' market, the opportunity for coordinated local art shows and more.

The Economic Development Commission is organizing several business

sector meetings to bring businesses together to discuss common issues, lend support, plan events and coordinate marketing. The Woodbridge Wellness Network meets on the first Friday of the month at 9 am at Town Hall, the Retail and Service Sector meets the

third Wednesday of the month at 9 am at Coachman Square, and Woodbridge daycare directors meet yearly.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Assistant Administrative Officer Betsy Yagla at 203-389-3403 or [byagla@woodbridgect.org](mailto:byagla@woodbridgect.org).

"Kisses are a better fate than wisdom." — e.e. CUMMINGS

# AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



Laurie VanCleft, Director of Dining Services at Jewish Senior Services of Bridgeport, speaks to a group at The Woodbridge Center during a cooking demonstration. The lecture focused on easy preparation techniques and healthy ingredients.



Mary Ellen LaRocca, Director of Human Services, stands with Human Services Commission Chair Susan Davidson, left, and Commission member Janet Ciarleglio during her recent retirement party. Mary Ellen retired after 31 years of dedicated service to the Town and its residents. Town officials, fellow employees, seniors, family and friends gathered to wish her well at The Woodbridge Center.

The Woodbridge Center provides a program of health, recreational, educational, and social activities for residents 55 years of age and older. The Center offers a luncheon program as well as a transportation program. Call us to find out more or sign up to receive our newsletter by mail or email. Please contact us at 203-389-3430 or [jglicksman@woodbridgect.org](mailto:jglicksman@woodbridgect.org).

### Mindfulness

Feb. 19- Apr. 1 (no class 2/26)

This 6-week class, taught by Dr. Jennifer Botwick of the New Haven Naturopathic Center, meets Wednesdays, 6-7 pm in Center Building, Room 13. Mindfulness can help relieve stress, lower blood pressure, reduce chronic pain, improve sleep and health. Fee is \$25.00, RSVP is required by 2/14.

### Beginning Bridge

March 18-April 29 (no class 4/8)

This 6-week class, taught by Wendy Frieden, meets 1-3 pm in Center Building, Room 13. It covers bridge basics including bidding, play and defense. Fee is \$75.00, RSVP is required by 3/11.

### Nosh & Knowledge Lecture Series

**February 26: Medical Marijuana—Unraveling the Mystery**

With Canna Care Docs Education Center of Milford, lecture begins at 6:00 pm in the Woodbridge Library.

**March 25: Chronic Disease Management**

With Cary Carpino, R.N., Griffin Hospital Senior Health & Wellness Coordinator, lecture begins at 10 am in the Woodbridge Library. This lecture will be followed by the option of a 6-week class: Live Well with Chronic Health Conditions.

### Special Programming

RSVP is required one day prior

unless otherwise noted. Please call 203-389-3430 or email [jglicksman@woodbridgect.org](mailto:jglicksman@woodbridgect.org).

**February 10:** AAA Roadwise Driver program 9-1 in The Center Lounge.

This nationally recognized defensive driving course may qualify attendees for a discount on auto-insurance. Check with your auto insurance provider to verify if you are eligible for a discount. The class is offered at no charge. RSVP is required, please call to register: 1-866-901-8457.

**February 11:** Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Tuesdays through April 14.

VITA is a free tax preparation service available to low-income individuals, people who have a disability and those who speak limited English. Call 203-389-3429 for information on required documents and to make an appointment.

**February 11:** Valentine's Day

Lunch party with entertainment by Jim Sheehan at 12:15 in The Center café.

**February 17**

The Center is closed for Presidents' Day.

**February 18:** 2020 US Census talk at 12:30 – 1 pm in The Center café

Come and learn what types of questions will be asked in the census and how to easily complete your Census form.

**February 19:** Mindfulness

With Dr. Jennifer Botwick of the New Haven Naturopathic Center, Class meets 6-7 pm Wednesdays for 6 weeks in Center Building, Room 13, \$25 fee.

**February 24:** Trip! Spring wreath making

At New England Young at Heart in Oxford, including lunch prepared by Elim Park Health Care. The van will leave The Center at 10:30 am and return by 1:30 pm. Fee is \$20 including transportation.

**February 25:** Lunch entertainment With Nicky D begins at 12:15 pm.

RSVP required.

**March 3:** Lunch entertainment

With Pierce Campbell begins at 12:15 pm. RSVP required.

**March 8:** Trip!

Women's Basketball Tournament with UCONN Women's Huskies—semi-final game at Mohegan Sun Arena. Call for details. RSVP by February 7.

**March 9:** AARP Safe Driver Training class

9 am-1 pm in The Center lounge, \$15-members; \$20—non-members.

**March 10:** Intergenerational program

With Beecher Road Student Council members from 11 am—1 pm. Lunch is \$3.00. Come play Bingo with the kids!

**March 17:** Annual St. Patrick's Day celebration!

Entertainment provided by Larry Batter at 12:15 pm, a delicious traditional meal for \$6.00. RSVP by 3/12.

**March 18:** Beginning Bridge

With Wendy Frieden, 6 weeks-Wednesdays 1-3 pm in Room 13, Center Building. RSVP required along with \$75.00 payment by March 11. This course introduces the basics of bridge. Instruction includes the mechanics of the game and covers bidding, play and defense. Learn a game for a lifetime of enjoyment.

### February Lunch Menu

Lunch is served Tuesday and Thursday at The Center café, at 12:15 p.m. Cost is \$3 for dine-in meals, \$4 for take-out. RSVP is required by noon one day prior. Meals include bread, juice, coffee/tea and dessert. If eating in and taking left-overs to-go, please bring a plastic container with you. The fee for each to-go container is \$0.50.

2/4 Chinese New Year Party! Egg drop Soup, Teriyaki Glazed Salmon, Vegetable Lo Mein, Fried Rice, Egg Rolls, 2/6 Mushroom bisque, home style beef stew, bowtie pasta, chocolate pudding pie, 2/11 Valentine's Day

Italian wedding soup, cheese lasagna, roasted zucchini, blueberry cobbler, 2/13 Five onion soup, herb roasted turkey, corn bread stuffing, garlic green beans, apple pie, 2/18 Pumpkin soup, meatloaf with gravy, mashed potatoes, garlic toast, sautéed zucchini, banana cake, 2/20 Potato leek soup, stuffed shells marinara, garlic green beans, Italian bread, peanut butter brownie, 2/25 Beef orzo soup, oven fried chicken, baked yam, creamy spinach, glazed lemon pound cake, 2/27 Escarole and bean soup, veal bruschetta, baked potato with sour cream, garlic broccolini, carrot cake.

### Ongoing Programming

**Calling all poker, canasta and spades players**—call The Center and share your interest. The Center will put a group or a game together!

**New! Beginning Bridge class with Wendy Frieden**

Begins March 18, Wednesdays 1-3 pm in Room 13, Center Building. This is a 6-week beginner class for \$75. RSVP required by March 11.

**New! Mindfulness**

With Dr. Jennifer Botwick of New Haven Naturopathic Center from 6-7 pm in Room 13 of the Woodbridge Center building. This is an educational and fun 6-part series to improve focus, sleep, memory and comfort. Class meets 2/19, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1(note no class 2/26). RSVP is required and the fee is \$25.00.

**T'ai Chi**

With Bill Banick, Fridays 10-11 am in the Center Building, Room 16 (beginner, intermediate levels). Current session ends February 28. Fee will be prorated for those joining late. Next session begins March 13. This class is designed to increase balance and stability, prevent falls and help manage arthritis. Ten weeks for \$50.

See "Woodbridge Center" On Page 11

# TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

## Presidential Primary Deadline

In order to be eligible to vote in the presidential primary on April 28, you need to be registered in the appropriate party.

Voters already registered with a party, can vote in that party's primary. Voters who wish to vote in another party's primary need to change their party affiliation three months in advance. January 28 was the last day to change from party to party and vote in the Presidential Primary.

Voters registered as Unaffiliated

can register with a party up to the day before the primary election.

Voters who are registered with the Independent Party must follow the three-month rule for changing prior to a primary. Independent Party is not the same as Unaffiliated.

Voters may change party affiliation online using voterregistration.ct.gov or visit Woodbridge Town Hall (11 Meetinghouse Lane) and fill out a registration card at the Town Clerk's office.

### "Woodbridge Center" From Page 10

#### New! Gin Rummy

Thursdays, 1-3 pm in The Center café, no reservation needed.

#### Weekly Craft Group

Thursdays, 10 am - 1 pm, in The Center lounge. Calling all knitters and crocheters to join the group. No RSVP necessary. Consider donating your unused, clean yarn and circular knitting needles (sizes 6, 7, 8) to The Center.

#### Yoga for Healthy Aging Class

Meets Fridays, 11:45 am - 1 pm, in the Center Building, Room 16, with instructor Julie Luciani. Current session ends February 28. Fee will be prorated for those joining late. New session begins 3/6 and runs 12 weeks for \$75. Class combines seated and standing postures and is safe for all.

#### Mahjong

Monday & Friday, 10 am, Center Building, Room 13 for advanced players; Room 11 for beginner and intermediate.

#### Exercise with Laurie

Workout includes a combination of strength training, cardio, flexibility and balance. Bring weights if you have them. Class meets in the Center Building gym on Tuesday and Thursday, 10-11 am. No need to sign up—just pay a drop-in fee of \$2.

#### Book Club: (Note Change!)

The book club meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 11 am at the Library. The next meeting is February 4. The book will be "Less" by Andrew Greer. The following meeting is March 4 and the book will be "Woman of Trouble-some Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson. New members are welcome.

#### Art Class

Class meets each Wednesday, 10 am - 12 pm, in The Center café. The class is taught by local artist Graham Dale. Current session ends 3/11. Fee will be prorated for those joining late.

#### Tuesday Movies

Following lunch in The Center lounge at 1 pm: 2/4 "Overcomer," 2/11 "Harriet," 2/18 "Playing With Fire," Film Favorite: 2/25 "LBJ".

#### Thursday Movies

Oldies, musicals, classics following lunch in The Center lounge, 1pm.

#### Ask the Nurse

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 11 am - 12:30 pm, blood pressure screenings, weight and conversation with a registered VNA Community Healthcare Nurse in The Center lounge. No reservations needed.

#### Duplicate Bridge

Mondays, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, in The Center café.

#### Bridge

The Center's Wednesday bridge group invites new members! Join in for a friendly card game, no reservations—just come to The Center café, 1-4 pm.

#### Pinochle

Monday, Wednesday or Thursday, 1-4 pm, in The Center lounge. Come any day—the group looks for new players and is willing to bring rusty players up to speed!

#### Pickleball

Meets Monday-Thursday in the Center Building gym for group play, 12:30-2:30 pm and Friday, 12:30-3:30 pm. Paid annual members may arrange playing times with others. Annual membership is \$20 for Woodbridge residents and \$25 for non-residents and is due in January. Stop by the office to make payment.



## Woodbridge Rec Department Has A Fitness Center

The Woodbridge Recreation Department Fitness Center is open daily from 9 am to 12 noon, including Saturdays and Sundays., and is open in the evenings Monday through Friday 4 pm to 9 pm. It is located in the Center Building at 4 Meetinghouse Lane. There are memberships available, or a daily drop in fee. The Fitness Center offers Stair Master, Life Cycle Bike and Treadmill, 16 Station Universal, Nautilus Equipment, Extensive Free Weight Equipment, and a Knowledgeable Staff.

Find out about the Recreation Department's new Live Well Senior Program which provides access to the Fitness Center and Town Pool. Work out on easy to use fitness equipment and swim in the beautiful Town Pool

with dedicated senior times and experienced staff. Socialize with other seniors and build strength. Call the Woodbridge Recreation Department at 203-389-3446 for more information.

Fitness Room Supervisor, Sue Falcone explains that the use of a fitness center is essential for seniors. Weight bearing exercise and a cardio workout regimen can help seniors maintain the ability to live independently and reduce the risk of certain health conditions. Also, emotional health by socializing with their peers can greatly impact the life of a senior citizen. As we age seniors need to feel their best and keep their bodies strong. Sue is pictured demonstrating one of the fitness room machines.

## Baldwin Road Has A New, Lower Speed Limit

The speed limit on Baldwin Road has been lowered to 30 mph from 35 mph. The change came from a concern expressed by a Baldwin Road resident to Woodbridge Police.

The police then conducted enforcement details and a traffic study. The issue was reviewed by the Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners/Local

Traffic Authority. Following that the Connecticut Department of Transportation conducted a traffic investigation report and granted the request.

"I'd like to thank our Police Department and the State for being responsive to residents' concerns regarding safety on our streets," said First Selectman Beth Heller.



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Call 203-298-4399 to place your ad!

# TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

## From the Sustainability Committee

The sour milk, the moldy bread, the putrefying baby lettuce mix, the mysterious forgotten fuzz filled container in the back of the refrigerator. What do you do with it? Well, most people toss it in the garbage with some serious environmental and financial consequences. Take this quick quiz to learn more about food waste.

**The average American family wastes \_\_\_\_\_ of the food they purchase annually or about \$1500. That's enough food to fill a 90,000-seat stadium.**

- a. 5%
- b. 10%
- c. 25%
- d. 50%

**How much of the food produced in the United States is never eaten?**

- a. 20%
- b. 30%
- c. 40%
- d. 50%

**What is wasted when food is thrown in the trash?**

- a. Water
- b. Fuel
- c. Land resources
- d. All of the above

**What can you do to prevent food waste?**

- a. Plan meals and only buy what you need
- b. Eat leftovers
- c. Purchase the misshapen produce sold at discount rates
- d. All of the above

**Rotting food waste accounts for almost \_\_\_\_\_ of global greenhouse gas emissions.**

- a. 5%
- b. 10%
- c. 15%
- d. 20%

**If livestock are not available to eat food waste, what is the next best way to dispose of it?**

- a. Compost it
- b. Burn it
- c. Bury it
- d. None of the above

**How can you learn about composting?**

- a. Future workshops sponsored by the Sustainable Woodbridge Committee
- b. Books and internet articles
- c. Learn from a Master Composter on May 2 at The Woodbridge Sustainability Day
- d. All of the above

Answers: 1c, 2c, 3d, 4d, 5b, 6a, 7d

## Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



### Eighth Grade Only Mardi Gras Party at Amity High School

Eighth grade residents from Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge are invited to a Mardi Gras Party at Amity High School on February 21<sup>st</sup> in the cafeteria from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Snow date is 2/28. Fee of \$5; offers DJ, Best Hat Contest, selfie station, pizza and snacks. Beads and masks provided. Free raffle with awesome prizes including a drone donated by the Woodbridge Police Union,

and an action camera. Receive your introduction to Amity High School and to new friends. Sign up early for extra raffle ticket: Woodbridge and Bethany residents call (203) 389-3429. Orange residents call (203) 891-4785.

Parent volunteers and High School juniors and seniors are needed to help. Register at 203-389-3429 or email Youthone @woodbridgect.org.

### Do You Know An Outstanding Woodbridge Student?

Woodbridge Youth Services, in collaboration with First Selectman Beth Heller, is accepting nominations for the First Selectman's Youth Award. The annual award, now in its twenty-first year, will be presented to a deserving young Woodbridge resident at the Human Services Volunteer Tea on Thurs-

day, April 23. Call 203-389-3429 for more information or find the nomination form on the Town's website at <https://www.woodbridgect.org/160/Youth-Services>. Please submit nominations to Woodbridge Youth Services at 11 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525, by Monday, March 13, 2020.

### Job Bank Teens Looking for Work

Woodbridge Youth Services has teens who want to do odd jobs in Woodbridge like snow shoveling, yard

work, babysitting, and tutoring. Residents may call 203-389-3429 for assistance.

## JOB POSTING

### Youth Program Coordinator – Part Time

Develop and implement Youth Programs (occasional evening, in-school and after-school programs). 15 - 19 hours per week for 40 weeks/school year. \$16.95/hour.

Responsibilities include program planning, hiring, supervision, volunteer recruitment, publicity, purchasing, and timely reporting. Computer, organization, communication and excellent inter-personal skills required. Some physical/lifting abilities and occasional use of personal automobile are necessary.

#### Education/Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in social services, education, recreation, human services or related field with 2 years experience or
- Associate Degree with 4 years experience.

#### Send resume by 2/21/20 to:

Woodbridge Human Services  
4 Meetinghouse Lane  
Woodbridge, CT 06525  
Email: [humanservices@woodbridgect.org](mailto:humanservices@woodbridgect.org)  
EOE

## Town of Woodbridge Meetings for the Month of February 2020



(Subject to Change, Check with Town Clerk's Office, 203-389-3422)

2/10	Library Commission .....	6:30 PM	Library
	Zoning Board of Appeals .....	7:30 PM	Town Hall
2/11	Police Commission .....	6:15 PM	Police Department
2/12	Board of Selectmen .....	5:00 PM	Town Hall
2/13	Economic Development Commission .....	7:00 PM	Town Hall
2/18	CUPOP .....	6:30 PM	Town Hall
2/19	Inland Wetlands Agency .....	7:30 PM	Town Hall
2/24	Recreation Commission .....	7:00 PM	Beecher Rd School So.
2/25	Gov't Access TV Commission .....	7:30 PM	Town Hall

## SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

Tell them you saw their ad in the Woodbridge Town News.



Kathy Adamovich (on left) Woodbridge Road Race Coordinator for the Woodbridge Recreation Department presented a check from the proceeds of the Annual Road Race to Mary Ellen LaRocca, (on right) Director of Human Services to benefit the Town of Woodbridge Food & Fuel Fund. The Fund provides qualified Woodbridge residents with emergency assistance with their primary heating source and emergency food.

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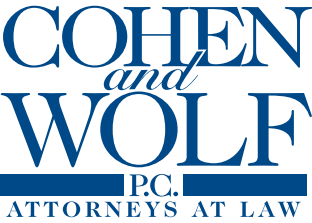

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 <p><b>WOODBIDGE 158 PECK HILL ROAD</b> <b>SOLD! For 94% of the LIST Price in 7 days!</b> <i>Thinking of Selling? Let Me Guide You to Success Through My Strategic Pricing and Preparation Process.</i> <b>PAT CARDOZO 203-824-2177</b></p>	 <p><b>NORTH HAVEN 15 CELLA TERRACE</b> <b>A MUST SEE! \$369,000</b> Sun filled beautiful, spacious (3559 square feet) colonial with contemporary flair. Open floor plan, high ceilings. 4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths. <b>DALIA COLEMAN 203-824-2849</b></p>
 <p><b>WOODBIDGE 160 PECK HILL ROAD</b> <b>SOLD! For 97% of the LIST Price in 8 days!</b> <i>Thinking of Selling? Inventory is Low! I Have Buyers! Call me for a complimentary market evaluation of your home!</i> <b>PAT CARDOZO 203-824-2177</b></p>	 <p><b>WOODBIDGE 10 NORTH PEASE ROAD SOLD!</b> Custom built masonry 3 Bedroom Ranch, located on a beautiful, flat lot in the center of town. <i>Thinking of Selling? Inventory is Low! I Have Buyers! Call me for a complimentary market evaluation of your home!</i> <b>KATHY DEMATTIE 203-376-1449</b></p>
 <p><b>WOODBIDGE 15 TWINBROOK DRIVE</b> <b>5 ACRES on Cul-de-sac \$529,900</b> Spacious 4BR 2 full &amp; 1½ bath Colonial on over 5 acres on a cul de sac in central Woodbridge. Finished third floor with Skylights. <b>WAYNE HUGENDUBEL 203-605-2946</b></p>	 <p><b>WOODBIDGE 66 CENTER ROAD</b> <b>Completely Turnkey with City Water \$769,000</b> A casually elegant 4 bed 2.5 bath, 4043sf colonial with 9 ft ceilings, high end appliances, brand new Furnace, AC &amp; Water Heater, gorgeous stone fireplace and more! <b>JAMIE DAWN 203-376-9115</b></p>
 <p><b>BETHANY 340-350 AMITY ROAD</b> <b>2 HOMES! LIVE in one, rent the other! \$600,000.</b> Spacious Tudor with 4BR, 3.1BA and private guest house with 2BR, 1BA. Main home offers formal LR w handsome fireplace, DR w built-ins, remodeled kitchen &amp; baths. 2 car detached garage, barn w/5 stalls, paddocks. <b>CAROL CANGIANO 203-605-4480</b></p>	 <p><b>NAUGATUCK 1251 RUBBER AVENUE</b> <b>SOLD! FOR 95% of the List Price.</b> 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath Col. w/wrap around porch. *Represented the Buyer <i>Thinking of Selling? Inventory is Low! I Have Buyers! Call me for a complimentary market evaluation of your home!</i> <b>SANDRA MCSHERRY 203-415-2102</b></p>
 <p><b>BETHANY 340 SPERRY ROAD</b> <b>SOUGHT AFTER AREA! \$295,000</b> Wonderful handy man opportunity in much sought-after Sperry Road area! Sprawling 4 Bedroom, 3.1 Bath Ranch on 2 Acres with wonderful possibilities. Live in and fix over time or great for a handyman! <b>CAROL CANGIANO 203-605-4480</b></p>	 <p><b>BETHANY 46 NORTHROP ROAD</b> <b>SOLD! For 98% of the List Price</b> Secluded 4 Bedroom, 3 Full Bath split level on 2.41 Acres. <i>Thinking of Selling? Inventory is Low! I Have Buyers! Call me for a complimentary market evaluation of your home!</i> <b>DARLENE EATON 203-671-3012</b></p>






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leslie@getreadytocruise.com or 203-387-7245



Leslie Marsh, ECC



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Woodbridge Town News

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# Darling House Update

FROM THE AWHs BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We want to share with your readers what is happening to the Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society (AWHS) and the Thomas Darling Historic House Museum. We believe that the long-term preservation of the Darling Museum and property is in jeopardy and we need the town's support to preserve this important historic site.

For 45 years we have been the stewards of the house and property and are mostly responsible for its restoration and maintenance. When the Society first took on this role, we built, with our own funds, a caretaker residence adjacent to the museum in order to have live, onsite security for the property and the Society's collections. In 2015 our most recent caretaker requested, and was granted, the additional benefit of farming the land for free. We experimented with allowing farming on site because we thought it could be a complement to our historic house museum, but it ultimately failed for many reasons. As farming instead of caretaking became his priority, the property began to suffer both from lack of attention by the caretaker and the incompatibility of 21<sup>st</sup> century farming with a historic house museum. The farmer's needs, as expressed at a recent BOS meeting, also directly interfere with our ability to implement the Good to Great grant we received from the state to complete a capital project at the museum with a total budget of over \$64,000. Those moneys would be used to improve and preserve this town resource at no expense to taxpayers with a significant financial contribution from the Society. Thus, as its appointed agents, we asked the Town, as the owners of the building, to give the farmer notice that his residential lease would not be renewed and serve him a notice to quit. In direct contradiction to our current long-term AWHs-Town agreement that allows us to choose our onsite caretaker, they voted to allow the farmer to remain another six months, depriving us of a new caretaker and putting the grant project in jeopardy. That was last June! Since then, our non-profit Society has been forced not only to pay out of its own funds for the maintenance of the property, but is also expected to pay for the utility costs for the farmer to run his for-profit farm. The below-market rent that we collect from the farmer is not enough to pay for site maintenance and security as well as his increasing farm and residential utility costs. The harm to the property and the Society has gone on for too long so, recently, we sent a letter to the Board of Selectman requesting that our managerial authority be restored. The following is an excerpt from that letter:

*The historical society has been waiting to return to the positive working relationship that it has had with the town for 45 years. We have done what was asked of us. We have explored every option available, and we cannot wait indefinitely. Without further delay the Board of Selectmen must decide if the Historical Society will continue to be entrusted with the preservation and sole occupancy of the Darling House Property, and we request that you answer this question at your next scheduled meeting, February 12, 2020, if not before.*

*Specifically, we call upon you to:*

- › Approve the new version of the agreement, reaffirming the role and responsibilities of the historical society and the town in the management of the darling house property, including the caretaker's residence.
- › Give the tenant, Mr. Ethan Schneider, the 30 days-notice required for him to quit the property in its entirety as soon as possible, and absolutely no later than your regularly scheduled February BOS meeting on February 12, 2020.
- › If the Board of Selectmen does not take these actions at or before its February 12, 2020 meeting, our plan is to proceed immediately with the following steps:
- › Notify the state historic preservation office that we cannot retain the Good to Great grant because we will not have sufficient control and use of the property to properly execute the project.
- › Publicly confirm that the museum will continue to be closed to any functions including tours, open houses, school field trips, and other events and notify any groups with scheduled events that they must be cancelled.
- › Accelerate plans to relocate the most valuable and irreplaceable pieces of our collections for safety. This may involve long-term loans to other museums or historical societies.

*The Society continues to hope that the town will reverse its actions of the last nine months and return to the successful operating structure that existed between the Society and the Town for 45 years.*

We ask Woodbridge residents to attend the BOS meeting in Town Hall on February 12 at 6 p.m. and voice your support for the Historical Society and its efforts to preserve Woodbridge history at the Darling House Museum. Without your support, this wonderful heritage site that is part of the public trust may be irrevocably changed and thus lost to future generations. Please visit our website [www.woodbridgehistory.org](http://www.woodbridgehistory.org) and Facebook page or email us at [info@woodbridgehistory.org](mailto:info@woodbridgehistory.org) for more detailed information.

**celebrity  
extra**  
by Dana Jackson

**Q:** Is it true that there will be a sequel to “**The Big Lebowski**”? Will Jeff Bridges be in it? -- Anon.

**A:** There is what is being called a “spinoff” of “**The Big Lebowski**,” but it won’t be directed by the **Coen Brothers**. It will focus on **John Turturro’s** “**The Big Lebowski**” character Jesus Quintana and also will star **Jon Hamm** and **Bobby Cannavale**, with Turturro also directing. “**The Jesus Rolls**” will be in theaters starting Feb. 28.

Turturro has been getting accolades for another project of his, the HBO series “**The Night Of**,” which was originally supposed to star **James Gandolfini** (“**The Sopranos**”) until his untimely death. It’s based on the BBC series “**Criminal Justice**.” Gandolfini is still listed as an executive producer for the American version for the work he did behind the scenes before he passed away.

**Q:** When will “**Mindhunter**” be back on Netflix with new episodes? I just rewatched them all and can’t wait for more. -- R.F.

**A:** “**Mindhunter**,” a fictional drama that is based on true-crime cases, is about an FBI agent who confronts some of America’s most notorious serial killers. It’s been several months since the second season was uploaded to Netflix, but a third season has been put on hold while executive producer **David Fincher** completes his other projects.

In the meantime, leads **Jonathan Groff** and **Holt McCallany** aren’t being tied down to the show, so it’s possible that if “**Mindhunter**” comes back, it might have new stars. The reason, Netflix stated, is that Fincher “felt it wasn’t fair to the actors to hold them from seeking other work while he [Fincher] was exploring new work of his own.” Hopefully they all can time their other productions so that they can regroup and continue with a third



John Turturro [Depositphotos]

season of “**Mindhunter**” by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, look for the upcoming movie “**Mank**” on Netflix directed by Fincher, which is about screenwriter **Herman J. Mankiewicz’s** efforts to bring **Orson Welles’** “**Citizen Kane**” to the big screen. It will star **Gary Oldman** and **Lily Collins**.

**Q:** When will the Obi-Wan Kenobi series begin on Disney+? Will **Ewan McGregor** play him again, or will it be about Obi-Wan’s younger or older life? -- X.M.

**A:** There are plans for a live-action series centered around Obi-Wan Kenobi on Disney+. After the success of “**The Mandalorian**” on that same streaming service, fans are eager for more “**Star Wars**” series in addition to motion pictures. All that’s known so far is that the scripts for each episode have been completed and that it will begin filming some time in 2020. Best of all, McGregor stars in it. However, no other cast members or a specific premiere date has been set.

In addition to this series and an upcoming second season of “**The Mandalorian**,” Disney+ plans a show centered around the character of Cassian Andor, who was featured in the movie “**Rogue One**.” **Diego Luna** will reprise the role.

Send me your questions at [NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com](mailto:NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com), or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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*Save the Dates*

**Flyways Project Presentation:**  
A musical chronicle of the great bird migration from Africa thru Middle East to Eurasia  
**Thursday, March 19**  
5:00pm Reception  
6:30pm Presentation  
Jewish Community Center  
of Greater New Haven  
360 Amity Road, Woodbridge

**Paul Winter Consort**  
**Sunday, March 22**  
3:00pm Pre-concert Reception  
5:00pm Concert  
Church of the Assumption  
61 North Cliff Street, Ansonia

Earth-themed art on display both days

**Paul Winter**  
**Spring Equinox Event**  
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**Apartments For Rent**

**Woodbridge:**

Thank you ! We’re accepting names for our waiting list. Applicants must be 62 or older or disabled. One Bdrm-\$1063/mo; Two Bdrm-\$1112/mo incl utilities. On-site laundry, patios with garden area, off-street parking, handicapped accessible. CHFA Financed. EHO. Gibson Assoc., Inc. 175 East Mitchell Ave, Cheshire, CT 06410. Ph: 203-272-3781. TDD 1-800-545-1833 Ext 165

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BULLETIN BOARD

Please Note: If you have an event for the Bulletin Board, please send it along no matter how far in advance it is. We will include it in the appropriate issue(s) until the event has taken place.

**Gentle Yoga Classes**, Monday and Wednesday mornings 10:30-11:45 and Monday evening 5:30-6:45, (no Monday holiday classes) Room 16, old Center School (next to Fitness Room at 4 Meetinghouse Lane), \$10/drop-in. Give it a try. Questions? yogadiane@gmail.com or contact Woodbridge Recreation Dept.

**Boy Scout Troop 63**, meetings Monday nights 7:00pm-8:30pm, Our Lady of the Assumption “Mother” Church, 1700 Litchfield Turnpike (Route 63), Woodbridge; September-April and May-June outdoors at Camp Whiting, all boys ages 10 and up or who have completed the fifth grade are welcome to stop by and see what we’re all about. For more information, visit <http://www.troop963.org> or email [Troop63CT@gmail.com](mailto:Troop63CT@gmail.com).

**Shelton Art League** (formerly

Bridgeport Art League), meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, noon, Shelton Community Center, 41 Church Street, Shelton, CT, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, room #2, a diverse group of artists, future meetings include acrylic landscape, watercolor and oil painting demos. Visit <http://www.sheltonartleague.org> for additional information. Guests are always welcome.

**Bereavement Support Groups**, Tuesdays 4:00-5:30pm and Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm, Griffin Hospital, 130 Division Street, Derby, support groups for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one. Contact Janice Lautier at 203-732-1100 or [jlautier@griffinhealth.org](mailto:jlautier@griffinhealth.org) to register.

**Networking Opportunity**, Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30am, Solun Tapas Bar Restaurant, 245 Amity Road. Do you want more hot referrals? Come as our guest; unlimited free coffee; bring business cards. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Elyce Siegel at 203-668-3019 or [elyce.siegel@hibu.com](mailto:elyce.siegel@hibu.com).

**Woodbridge Republican Town Committee Meetings**, second Tuesday of each month, 7:30pm, Center Cafeteria. Visitors welcome and we urge you to join us. For information, go to [www.woodbridgegop.org](http://www.woodbridgegop.org).

**Cancer Support Group**, meets the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of the month at Coachman’s Square, 21 Bradley Road, Woodbridge. If interested contact: Lucille Ranciato [lranciato2@yahoo.com](mailto:lranciato2@yahoo.com) or Bernie Siegel, MD [bugsyssiegel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bugsyssiegel@sbcglobal.net) for details.

**Trap Falls Kennel Club Obedience Classes**, every level, AKC STAR Puppy (obedience for dogs under 12 months) and Family Manners Classes/Obedience & Canine Good Citizen; Wednesday and Thursday evenings, Pawz for Wellness in Shelton. For registration and/or information, call 203-450-9485 or email [tfkctraining@gmail.com](mailto:tfkctraining@gmail.com). Trap Falls Kennel Club is a non-profit member club of the American Kennel Club (AKC).

**Boy Scout Troop 907**, Come find out why Troop 907 has been Making

a Difference in the Life of Scouts since 1968. Meetings Thursday nights 7:00-8:30PM at the First Church of Christ in the Parish House (enter via back parking lot), 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge next to Town Hall. Boys aged 10 and older or who have completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to visit an upcoming meeting and join the adventure of scouting. For more information, visit our website [Troop907.org](http://Troop907.org) or use the website “contact us” link to communicate directly with troop leadership.

**Alzheimer’s Community Caregivers Support Group**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, 5:00pm, Arden House, Conference Room, 850 Mix Avenue, Hamden. Call Maria Paduano, Program Director to RSVP or for more information at 203-281-3500, ext. 7669; [www.genesisihcc.com](http://www.genesisihcc.com).

**Woodbridge Rotary Club Meetings**, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of the month, New Members wanted! The Woodbridge Rotary Club has changed its meeting places. Please go to the website to see current meeting dates and event dates: <https://woodbridgerotary.org/> Contact the Club President Diane Millan or Secretary Karen Bellamy for any updates.

**Goat Yoga**, every Saturday at 9am, 10:15am and 11:30am, Locket’s Meadow Farm, Bethany, \$25.00. Stretch and pose with our sweet baby goats (and pigs and puppies and who knows who else will wander through) and learn what the goat hype is about! All funds from our programs go directly to support the rescued animals of Locket’s Meadow as well as to help fund our programs for special needs individuals. Please bring your own yoga mat, but if you forget, we have a few extra.

**Ansonia Nature Center Events**, 10 Deerfield Road, Ansonia; call 203-736-1053 to register for all events.

**Donate Your Car, Truck or Van**, help raise funds for a local private school; FREE, FAST, TOW AWAY; Running or Not Running; Can be used for a charitable tax deduction. Call Charter Oak Education DBA Sterling Education at 860-643-1100.

**Bethany Nursery Group’s Annual Pajama Hop Fundraiser**, Sunday March 1, 2020, 4:00-6:00pm, Bethany Town Hall. Join us for a “breakfast for dinner” buffet, silent auction, raffles and fun! Auction items include tickets for family events, gift certificates to local restaurants, themed baskets, memorabilia from professional sports teams and more! Tickets will not be sold at the door so get yours now by emailing [bethannurserygroup.com](mailto:bethannurserygroup.com) or calling 203-393-3032.

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# CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

## JFSGNH Names Honorees For Spring Celebration

Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven (JFSGNH) is proud to announce its honorees for its Spring Celebration, which will take place at Congregation B'nai Jacob, on Thursday April 23, 2020, from 6-8pm. Debra and Richard Epstein and Betsy Flaherty will be recognized for their outstanding, ongoing commitment to JFSGNH. In their various roles as board members, volunteers, program founders, advocates and donors, these three individuals have worked diligently to improve the lives of children and families in our community who rely upon JFS's vital programs and services.

The accomplishments of the 2020 honorees also serve as inspiration for the Spring Celebration's fundraising goals. All proceeds raised will benefit these essential JFS programs: Child and Adult Mental Health Services, Food Assistance Programs (Pantry and Food4kids), Social Work Outreach Services Program (SOS) and the Holocaust

Survivors Program.

JFS CEO Amy Rashba feels privileged to honor both the Epsteins and Betsy Flaherty. "I was so impressed with Betsy's personal touch and compassion," she says. "When she posted a Facebook photo of our nearly depleted Food Pantry shelves, our community was stirred to quickly fill them! And long-time JFS supporters Rick and Debbie are so passionate about feeding hungry school children over the weekends with our FOOD4KIDS program. All three honorees are the embodiment of all that is great within Greater New Haven. They genuinely understand the critical needs of our clients, the significance of these fundamental programs and through their actions, encourage others to support the entirety of JFS. I invite everyone to join us on April 23 to honor their amazing efforts."

For more information - <https://jfsnh.org/>.



## Garden Club Awarded Certificate of Appreciation

The Garden Club of Woodbridge received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and the Osborne Homestead Museum for participating in the Osborne Homestead Museum's annual holiday celebration in Derby from November 29 to December 21. "Nature's Friends" was the theme, and showcased pollinators. Several garden clubs and nonprofit organizations participated in decorating assigned rooms in the Homestead with a pollinator. Emily Cosenza and Muffy German (in photo) took the lead for The Garden Club of Woodbridge in adorning the living room and solarium with butterflies.

On December 10, the club held its annual holiday luncheon at a member's home. Members enjoyed the

delicious food and camaraderie. Also, four members' arrangements, based on the "Design of the Decade" in honor of 2020, were critiqued by a Federated Garden Club judge. Each designer had to choose a decade from the 1930s (when The Garden Club of Woodbridge was founded) to the present.

At the club's January meeting, Sharon Bender, Master Gardener, Garden Club member and award winner presented a slide show of creative, winning designs from past Connecticut flower and garden shows. Sharon showed a variety of designs, and pointed out the components that made the designs "ribbon worthy."

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club of Woodbridge, please contact Judy at [jsmam@aol.com](mailto:jsmam@aol.com).

## "Thinking Like A Reporter To Avoid Rookie Mistakes" Webinar

*Presented by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut*

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut invites you to in interactive afternoon at Temple Sinai, 41 West Hartford Road, Newington, CT 06111, on Sunday, February 16, 2020, from 1:30 until 3:00 pm. We are pleased to have our presenter, Jennifer Mendelsohn, share her knowledge and experiences in "Thinking Like a Reporter to Avoid Rookie Mistakes" via webinar from her home in Maryland.

This talk will lay out how 25 years' worth of journalism experience has helped to guide Jennifer as a genealogist and taught her to conduct fruitful searches. We will talk about using the Law and Order method (follow the dun duns!) to track down information and how relying on simple principles like Occams Razor that the most likely scenario is the least complicated can help you get further.

A native Long Islander now based in Baltimore, Jennifer Mendelsohn has experience with both traditional and genetic Jewish genealogy. She serves on the board of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Maryland, is the administrator of Facebook's Jewish genetic genealogy group and is a veteran of many Jewish unknown parent searches. She is the creator of the social media movement known as #resistancegenealogy, a project that uses genealogical and historical records to fight disinformation and honor America's immigrant past. Her work has received international media attention, including being featured on CNN, The New Yorker, The Washington Post, and Yahoo News.

This program is free and open to the public. In the event of poor weather, information on connecting directly to the webinar will be sent via email.



## THE WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS ONLINE

Online Version of the Woodbridge Town News  
[www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com](http://www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com)

## Snowflake Dance Fundraiser

*Hosted By The Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association*

If staying inside has you going stir crazy, come on out and have some fun while benefitting your volunteer fire fighters! The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Snowflake Dance & Auction benefitting the WVFA is Saturday, March 7, 2020 at the JCC. The WVFA's largest fundraiser of the year will feature the Rum Run-

ners cover band as well as a silent and live auction.

To advertise in the ad book, donate an auction item, and purchase tickets call Tina O'Connor at (203) 389-3441 x100, email [snowflake@woodbridge-fire.com](mailto:snowflake@woodbridge-fire.com), and visit [www.woodbridge-fire.com/snowflake-dance](http://www.woodbridge-fire.com/snowflake-dance).

## Garden Club February Meeting

The Garden Club of Woodbridge invites all to its February 11, 7 pm, meeting at the Woodbridge Town Library, 10 Newton Road, Woodbridge to hear a representative from

the Wildlife Division of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection speak about "Living with Connecticut's Large Mammals."



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LOCAL BUSINESS



Pictured left to right: Jeremy Rosner, Frank D'Ostilio, and Ted Schaeffer, CID chair.

D'Ostilio Presented With CID Award

Frank D'Ostilio, partner of Real Living Wareck D'Ostilio was presented with a CID award for "Largest Mixed-Use Deal of the Year 2019". The property was located at 490 Prospect Street in New Haven and was sold to Albertus Magnus University to be used as additional dorms.

This institutional property of combined office and residential use, adjacent to Yale University consists of 3

buildings on 1.38 acres which include 24 dwelling units, office space, meeting and guest rooms.

A spokeswoman said that, with the purchase, housing immediately will be available for 27 residents. Additionally, the facility will provide additional classrooms and office space for faculty and staff.


The property was listed at \$5,650,000 and closed at \$5,000,000.

Woodbridge Town News

**THE WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS  
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21st Annual  
**Snowflake Dance  
& Auction**

Benefitting the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association

Featuring **THE RUM RUNNERS** cover band  
playing the dance tunes!!

Saturday, March 7, 2020  
7:00 pm to midnight

The JCC of Greater New Haven  
360 Amity Road, Woodbridge

\$25 per person or \$175 for a table of 8

Bring your favorite food & drinks \* We provide beer & dessert  
**Silent & Live Auction Items\***

\*We take VISA/MC/AMEX

Call (203) 389-3441 x100 or email [snowflake@woodbridgelifire.com](mailto:snowflake@woodbridgelifire.com) for tickets

Enjoy a great night out & support your volunteer firefighters!

[WoodbridgeFire.com](http://WoodbridgeFire.com) and [Facebook.com/WoodbridgeFire](https://Facebook.com/WoodbridgeFire) for more info.



**Love  
Your Local!**

**Love Your Local Businesses  
This February**

Love is in the air and more than one dozen Woodbridge businesses are sharing their love with customers through special deals listed on the "Love Your Local" business promotion. Specials are valid through the month of February.

The promotion idea came from the monthly meetings of local business-

es in the retail and services sector. Those meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 9 am at Coachman Square and any Woodbridge-based business in those sectors are invited to join.

For more information, contact Betsy Yagla at [byagal@woodbridgect.org](mailto:byagal@woodbridgect.org).

# HEALTH & FITNESS

## Avoiding Injuries In Young And Growing Athletes

BY KYLE BRANDAY MSPT

As the days of summer turn into fall, a new season is upon us. And for most adolescents and teenagers, it's the dawn of a new sports season. In the past it also signified a transition from the end of summer sports to the beginning of autumn and winter sports. However, in recent years, more and more kids are playing a single sport year-round. Is it to better their skill set? Of course it is! Anyone who has played a sport or performed an activity at a high level of skill knows that repetition is critical to improvement. But what are the costs of giving up playing multiple sports in favor of focusing on a single athletic endeavor?

Though the "change of pace" is a nice way to give kids a variety of activities, the systemic problems lie much deeper. In outpatient orthopedics, we have seen a tremendous spike in repetitive overuse injuries. This spike has shown a direct correlation with the advent of the single sport athlete. Where young athletes would get a change from the overhead throwing of baseball to the lower body taxation of soccer, we now see the continual repetition creating dysfunction in athletes who are not physically developed enough to withstand the rigors of a single sport year-round.

Repetitive and overuse injuries can occur throughout the body for a very wide range of reasoning. However, with our young athletes, problems such as rotator cuff injuries, hip flexor and Achilles tendinitis, and spinal pain are becoming overwhelmingly common. The answer to why is simple: Over development of very specific muscle groups used in one sport; and under development of muscles in multiple sports which would be otherwise strengthened and supported through different isolation and combined movement patterns.

Variation of exercise is a fundamental principle that extends into simple weight training up through differentiation in sporting activities. Cross training across athletic lines creates variability in a young athlete's ability to strengthen. Take an overhead throwing athlete such as a baseball player. Conventional wisdom would say in order to throw the ball harder, strengthen the arm and in particularly the rotator cuff. But if you delve deeper into the mechanics behind a throwing athlete,



Kyle Brandy MSPT

we realize that core stability and lower body strength play equally as big of a role. That generates biomechanical power to improve distance and velocity with throws, whether pitching or making the throw from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> base when younger baseball players make the transition to the big field. Without proper lower body strength and a strong core, a player is forced to rely solely on creating power from their arm, hence creating a tremendous strain on their body.

In the rehabilitation setting, we offset these issues by strengthening the under developed muscles. This is necessary to support areas susceptible to overuse injuries, and improve range of motion otherwise limited due to using only a few select movement patterns while playing a lone sport. As AAU, travel teams, and the various town leagues can dominate a schedule and leave little precious time for other athletic endeavors. But let's not forget a basic principle of athletics: the stronger you are throughout your body, the better you will perform, and the less likely you are to sustain injuries.

*Kyle Brandy MSPT is a licensed physical therapist and partner at Amity Physical Therapy in Woodbridge. He is a graduate of Quinnipiac University with his Masters in Physical Therapy. He works with patients of all ages and ability levels, treating athletes with fractures and sprains to gait and balance dysfunction in the elderly. Amity Physical Therapy was founded fifteen years ago by Michael Dow MSPT and CEO/Director. The practice has three offices: Woodbridge, Hamden and Branford. Kyle Brandy can be reached at 203-389-4593 or visit amitypt.com.*

"Amity Budge" From Page 15

11. Amity also provides the opportunity for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students to take the pre-ACT and for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students to take the PSAT.

As part of her presentation, Dr. Byars pointed out how the towns' financial support has helped build excellence in all "Three A's" — Academics, Athletics and the Arts.

Amity placed first in New Haven County in terms of academics, and fourth in the state, Dr. Byars said. In terms of its teachers, it ranks fifth in the state. Close to half of the student population enrolls in Advance Placement (AP) classes and 92% of graduates go on to attend a four-year college.

In the athletics, the girls Volleyball team last year clinched the SCI-AC Class LL championship, and three

other teams made it to state tournament runners-up. In all, the school counted 24 All-State Student Athletes, Byars said.

In the Arts, 15 students from Middle School in Bethany recently qualified for the Southern Regional Middle School Band, Choir and Orchestra. Last spring, the high school production of "Catch Me If You Can" got 8 nominations at the Sondheim Awards, with an award going to Andrea Kennedy for her choreography.

"This proposed budget is a clear indication of our efforts to offer the excellent educational programs and services that are consistent with Amity Board of Education goals, community expectations and are delivered in the most cost-effective manner, the superintendent wrote in her summary.

### Woodbridge Town News

## WOODBIDGE RESIDENTS!

Have an Upcoming Birth Announcement, Anniversary, Engagement or Wedding?

Send it to us with a photo and we will publish it FREE.

Woodbridge Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477

Email: [edit@woodbridgetownnews.com](mailto:edit@woodbridgetownnews.com)

## DEATH NOTICES

### Woodbridge Town News

## DEATH NOTICES

The Woodbridge Town News will publish Death Notices for Woodbridge and Bethany families free of charge as a service to our readers. Family members please email notice (limit 250 words, please) to: [edit@woodbridgetownnews.com](mailto:edit@woodbridgetownnews.com)

### TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE

## Notice of Board of Assessment Appeals

The Board of Assessment Appeals of the Town of Woodbridge will be holding their annual appeal meetings on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The meetings will be held at the Town Hall to hear appeals relating to assessments for Real Property & Business Personal Property on the Grand List of October 1, 2019. All persons claiming to be aggrieved by the actions of the Assessor on said list are hereby warned to make their written appeal to said Board by February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Written applications are **MANDATORY**, no appeal will be heard without one. Applications may be obtained from the Assessor's office Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All original applications must be filled out and returned to the Assessor's office **NO LATER THAN 4:30 PM FEBRUARY 20, 2020**. All persons filing proper applications shall be notified by March 1 of the day, time & place of their appeal hearing.

You must appear in person or you must send a duly authorized representative who must bring evidence of authorization & their own personal identification. If you are appealing the assessed value of your property you must present documents as evidence in support of your claim or an appraiser's analysis of your property value based on 2019 (the revaluation year) comparable sales. Comparable sales are those of similar style, size and location and must be from the year 2019.

If you have any questions concerning the Board of Assessment Appeals, please call the Assessor's office at 203-389-3416.

**CALL TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE!**

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# HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

## Congregation B'nai Jacob Programs

### Learning and Prayer Bread & Torah

Every Shabbat Morning Before  
Services, 9:00 – 9:45am

Rabbi Shapiro explores the weekly Torah portion and how its story relates to our own. She is currently teaching “The Story of King David.” Lively discussion over bagels and coffee. No experience necessary.



Congregation B'nai Jacob

### Ongoing Learning Pirkei Avot, The Ethics of the Fathers

Rabbi Rona Shapiro

Monday nights, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm  
Ongoing classes: February 10; March 2, 16, 30; April 6, 13, 27; May 4, 18

Using the new Rabbinical Assembly edition, with commentary by Raba Tamar Elad-Appelbaum and Rabbi Gordon Tucker, we will explore this foundational text in the Jewish canon. Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary. Nonmembers \$100.

### Adult Ed Speakers Tu B'Shvat and Climate Justice

Gavriela “Gavi” Reiter

Sunday, February 9 at 10:00am

Gavi, who grew up at B'nai Jacob, is the NYC Delegation Leader at Sustain Us, an organization empowering youth to advance sustainability. Sustain Us notes that “Gavi’s first encounter fighting for justice and sustainability was when she was 10 years old in New

Haven, where a local power company attempted to build a high voltage power line in her Jewish community... [and she] has continued fighting for environmental and climate justice.” Gavi will present a wonderful program to celebrate the New Year of the Trees, explaining the youth climate movement as it relates to Judaism.

### Shabbat Disengaging Sacred Ideas Dr. David Begelman

February 22 after Kiddush

Accomplished academic, actor, author, drama and film critic, and practicing psychologist, Dr. David Begelman, whose recent work include books about spirituality, will discuss the need to distinguish among three ideas in the history of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Eastern religions: faith, spirituality and religion. Traditions as diverse as Atheism and Mysticism will be touched upon as well as the weakness of some anti-religious arguments.

## February Events at Temple Emanuel

### Tot Shabbat and Potluck Shabbat Dinner

February 28, 2020 at 5:30 pm

Come celebrate Shabbat with Rabbi Michael Farbman in the beautiful Temple Emanuel sanctuary with songs and stories. This service is meant for children 5 years old and under and their families. Members and non-members are welcome. Tot Shabbat will be followed by a dairy potluck Shabbat dinner, allowing congregants of all ages to interact and enjoy the meal! We will have some teens to help out during dinner so parents can have a chance to get to know more adults at TE. Our regular Kabbalat Shabbat service will follow dinner. Please register for dinner at [www.tegnh.org](http://www.tegnh.org) so we can be sure to have enough food for everyone.



Temple Emanuel

### Regular Weekly Services

- › 6:30 pm on the first Friday of the month, Family Shabbat service

- › 7:30 pm on all other Fridays, Kabbalat Shabbat Service
- › 10:00-11:30 am on the first Saturday morning of the month, Shabbat Morning Minyan
- › 10:00-11:30 am on all other Saturday mornings, Weekly Torah Study

For more information about services and celebrations at Temple Emanuel, please go to the TE website, [www.tegnh.org](http://www.tegnh.org). Temple Emanuel is located at 150 Derby Avenue in Orange.

## The First Church of Christ Happenings

### Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus Joins us for Worship February 9<sup>th</sup>

Please join us on Sunday February 9, at 10 a.m. when Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus of Congregation Or Shalom in Orange will be joining us in worship to speak, along with the Reverend Shepard Parsons, about the trip they led to the Holocaust Museum in New York City for Amity High School juniors and seniors last November. The students who went on the trip have also been invited to join us. Rabbi Wainhaus and Reverend Parsons will be sharing a message during the service and there will be an opportunity for conversation with Rabbi Wainhaus and the students after the service.

As always, we invite all members of the community to join us at 5 Meeting House Lane, Woodbridge for our regular weekly services and special events:

**Sunday Services** – 10 a.m. including our Intergenerational Service the first Sunday of each month. Nursery care for small children is available during the Sunday services.

**Church School** – Sunday at 10 a.m. the second through fifth Sundays



The First Church of Christ


during the school year, presently with children aged 3-6 with older children helping with the younger children until we hire a new Director of Christian Education.

**Middle School Youth Group** for 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be reforming later in the school year.

**Boy Scout Troop 907** – meets weekly on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

**Weekly Bible Study** - Wednesday, 10-11 a.m. in the Parish House. We study both Old and New Testament passages based on the Lectionary.

For more information on these events, please contact us at (203) 389-2119 or [office@uccw.org](mailto:office@uccw.org).




### THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Whoever mocks the poor  
shows contempt for  
their Maker; whoever  
gloats over disaster  
will not go unpunished.

PROVERBS 17:5

Detail of lithograph by Käthe Kollwitz (1924)



### ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

Send us your organizations events listings and items of interest.  
We will publish them for free.

Woodbridge Town News – P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477  
[edit@woodbridgetownnews.com](mailto:edit@woodbridgetownnews.com)

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# HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

## Congregation Or Shalom Events

### Weekly Services

#### Minyan Services

- › Sunday 9:00 AM
- › Monday 7:30 AM
- › Thursday 7:30 AM

#### Healing Circle

- › Wednesday 7:30 AM

#### Shabbat Services

- › Friday 7:30 PM
- › Saturday 9:30 PM

#### Social Mah Jongg

Looking to learn or play Mah Jogg? We play on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm. Call the office if you are interested 203.799.2341.

#### Zumba Gold at Or Shalom

Congregation Or Shalom announces the continuation of ZUMBA GOLD on Tuesday nights at 7 PM. ZUMBA Gold is an easy to follow dance movement program that incorporates music from every decade to create an upbeat and fun exercise class. Burn lots of calories, meet new friends, and have a blast. No experience needed and classes are on a drop-in basis. Contact Robin at [zumbarobin@gmail.com](mailto:zumbarobin@gmail.com) or call 203-314-8176 or temple office at 203-799-2341.

We are happy to add Zumba Gold with Danielle Pettit. Zumba Gold is perfect for active older adults who are looking to dance and have a good workout, while increasing balance, range of motion and coordination. TUESDAYS 10:15 AM, 10- class punch card \$70, drop-in class \$8.00; [daniellepettit75@yahoo.com](mailto:daniellepettit75@yahoo.com), 203-509-3683 (cell).

#### Coffee and Learn with the Rabbi Wainhaus

Every Wednesday, (please call the office for schedule) Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus teaches an hour-long class



Congregation Or Shalom

focusing on the ancient texts of our heritage and the light they shed on current issues. The class begins at 11:00 am and ends at 12 noon sharp. All Welcome. Synagogue office: (203) 799-2341, Website: [orshalomct.org](http://orshalomct.org), email: [info@orshalomct.org](mailto:info@orshalomct.org) (no class February 19). If bad weather, please look out for notifications via tv and email.

#### Movie Series

**“Everything Is Illuminated”**

Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:30PM

In this biographical drama-comedy, starring award-winning actor Elijah Wood, a young Jewish-American man journeys to the Ukraine to find the woman who saved his beloved grandfather. Guided by a Ukrainian local, he ventures deep into the countryside, trying to shed light on his grandfather’s experiences during World War II. His journey turns into a powerful series of revelations -- the importance of remembrance, the perilous nature of secrets, the meaning of friendship and, most importantly, love. “Everything is Illuminated” was adapted from the best-selling novel of the same name. Run Time: 100 minutes. Discussion to follow, for those who wish to remain. Snow date February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sponsored by Adult Education.

205 Old Grassy Hill Road • Orange, CT 06477 • 203.799.2341 • [www.orshalomct.org](http://www.orshalomct.org)



© Sanjeet Chowdhury

## Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

### Daily Services

- › Sunday 9:00 am and 5:45 pm
- › Monday 7:00 am and 5:45 pm
- › Tuesday 7:00 am and 5:45 pm
- › Wednesday 7:00 am and 5:45 pm
- › Thursday 8:15 am and 5:45 pm
- › Friday 7:00 am

### Shabbat Services

- › Friday 6:00 pm
- › Saturday Morning 9:15 am
- › Saturday Children’s Services 10:45 am
- › Saturday Afternoon 1:00 pm

### Abraham’s Tent

As in past years, BEKI will host Abraham’s Tent, a community-based program with the Columbus House shelter. For the week of February 10-17, BEKI will provide shelter, meals, and fellowship for 12 men. The program is named as a reminder of Abraham’s hospitality to strangers in the book of Genesis.

*If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he was a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. Leviticus 25:35*

### Jewish Calcutta

Jael Silliman, who was born in Calcutta into a Jewish Baghdadi family,



Congregation Beth-El Keser Israel

will lead a discussion about that Jewish community and about the current exhibition in the BEKI Art Gallery, *Sanjeet Chowdhury: Photographs of Jewish Calcutta*. Her presentation will be Saturday, February 22 at 12:45 pm after the weekly Kiddush lunch. Shabbat rules will be observed.

Although only about twenty Jews currently reside in Kolkata (as it is now known), the city retains the traces of Jewish culture. Many monuments, including a cemetery in North Kolkata, where gravestones are occasionally written in three languages, remain and are cared for by non-Jewish Bengalis, many of them Muslims. Nahoum’s, the Jewish bakery, remains one of the city’s favorites.

Located at 85 Harrison Street (corner of Whalley Avenue – Route 63 – in Westville)

RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE TODAY. CALL US AT 203-298-4399.

## Orange Congregational Church Services

Orange Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, invites you to join us at 205 Meeting House Lane in Orange for worship on Sundays at 8 a.m. in the Chapel and 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, which means we welcome all people into the full life and leadership of the church regardless of race, class, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or family type. We love kids and teens and welcome them with

love into our community, too. During the 10 a.m. service, children are invited to gather upstairs in our kids’ area for a variety of fun faith-based activities.

Please join us for the beginning of our 2020 Lenten season. Our annual Shrove Tuesday



Orange Congregational Church

Pancake Supper will take place on Tuesday, February 25 from 5-7 p.m. in the John Ho Dining Room. Tickets for adults will be \$8; ages 5-17 will be \$5, and kids 4 and under eat free. On Ash Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, we will

gather at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel for worship with the imposition of ashes. Each Wednesday night during Lent, starting on March 4<sup>th</sup>, we will gather at 6:00 p.m. for a community supper of soup and bread and a simple prayer service with communion. A free will offering for supper will be accepted. As an Open and Affirming community of faith, we welcome you. You can learn more at [www.orangecongregationalchurch.org](http://www.orangecongregationalchurch.org).

“Letters” From Page 5

Country Club of Woodbridge (CCW) is currently threatened by large scale development.

How did we get here? Over the course of ten years Town Hall has repeatedly proposed some version of cluster housing for the CCW, while failing to seek expert advice on the best use of the property and ignoring voters’ repeated rejection of this use for the land. Several development proposals have been overwhelmingly rejected by residents, largely because of concerns that the required zoning change would open the rest of the town to similar dense development and destroy the town’s character.

More than a decade ago, the failing Woodbridge Country Club’s mortgage was taken over by David Reis, a developer who proposed to construct age restricted housing on the site. Residents turned out in droves at the Annual Town Meeting on May 18, 2009 to prevent development and approve instead the purchase of the property by the town (93% in favor to only 7% opposed).

In a letter to town residents dated April 30, 2009, First Selectman Ed Sheehy encouraged support for the purchase of the property. He wrote, “If the purchase is approved the town will acquire 150 acres of beautiful open space to be enjoyed by residents for generations. It would be irresponsible for the Board of Selectmen to allow the property to fall into the hands of developers.”

Notwithstanding this promise to preserve the land as open space, in 2011 Sheehy promoted a Toll Brothers proposal to purchase 17 acres for a 58-unit age restricted development. Voters soundly rejected that plan at a referendum by a 2-to-1 margin.

Next, First Selectman Ellen Scalettar solicited another proposal from Toll, this one for 80 units of over-55 cluster housing on 42 acres. That plan failed when the Woodbridge Selectmen decided in August 2016 to abandon negotiations with Toll “because of zoning and other concerns,” according to the town website.

During these years, the Selectmen hosted several large public hearings to present the various development proposals to residents. At every single one of these meetings, they heard overwhelming opposition to this type of development. Nevertheless, the majority of Selectmen seemed to ignore the clearly expressed views of the people.

Finally, in early 2018, First Selectman Beth Heller distributed a survey to residents seeking their input on the property’s fate. The survey results showed that only about one-third of respondents were interested in age-restricted housing.

Ignoring those results, Beth Heller has put before us another proposal for age restricted housing, this one the largest of all: 120 units on 60 acres. Based on the consistently negative

response of voters to these proposals, it is clear to me that leadership is going in the wrong direction.

You might ask, what is the best use for this property? Unfortunately, there is no way to answer this question because none of the First Selectmen have engaged in a systematic, good faith attempt to explore the Town’s options. Leadership keeps going back to the same tired formula for the Country Club: age restricted housing. They have ignored clear and repeated feedback that the majority of town residents want a better option. They haven’t even issued a Request for Proposals since 2014 – 2014! – but just passively waited for yet another housing developer to approach the town with yet another proposal for what HE thinks is the best use for our land.

In the meantime, when the town received a proposal to lease the land for a solar installation at the CCW—which would bring in substantial income, cause no expenses, require no risky zoning change, and allow for a different future use at the end of the lease term— it was not explored. Why not?

Woodbridge residents deserve a better vision for this property – one that avoids the serious risks of a zone change, protects the neighborhood, and supports quality of life and property values for everyone in the town.

Maria Kayne

Maria Kayne served on the Woodbridge Conservation Commission from 1995–2009, and on the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen from 2015–2017. Since 2010, she has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions.

To the Editor

As of this date, negotiations between the Town and the Amity Woodbridge Historical Society continue, with no resolution.

At issue is a grant for \$48,000 which has been approved by the State of CT for the Society to use for the property. This is State tax money that Woodbridge residents have already paid. It will only be disbursed if the Society has control of the property, including the caretaker’s apartment. The policy of the Town may cost the Society that grant, which will then have to come out of Woodbridge tax funds, taxing the residents twice. This is not fiscal responsibility.

It should be noted that:

- › There is no other town land leased to farmers where the town has taken such an active interest;
- › There are no other town owned lands leased to farmers where the Town has considered financial involvement or accommodation;
- › There were at least three other tenants of the Darling House who were asked to leave, threatened with eviction, or evicted. In all of these cases, the Town declined to get involved; and
- › It is common practice for farmers

to lease land and not live on the premises, as discussed by me with professional farmers.

It is for the Board of Selectmen and the Amity Woodbridge Historical Society to resolve the issue of control. The needs of the tenant farmer’s for-profit business should not be the focus of these negotiations.

David Lober

To the Editor

The townspeople of Woodbridge should be upset about the horrid mismanagement of the Thomas Darling House and the Woodbridge Country Club {WCC} clubhouse by the Weiner/Heller regime. The town attorney, first selectman, and Board of Selectmen should be protecting, maintaining and preserving these assets for all Woodbridge residents.

The WCC clubhouse has a leaking roof, the town government and Heller have taken no steps to simply tarp-off the roof to protect this significant, beautiful mid-century modern structure designed by a town resident, the highly regarded architect Herb Newman. The town government is violating the public trust with its neglect, Woodbridge residents have not even decided by referendum that we want to sell off the WCC land for the senior condos as well as demolishing the clubhouse. Our Board of Selectmen, Heller, and Weiner are creating the self –full-filling prophecy that the clubhouse building will be so degraded from deterioration and water damage that we will have only one option, to tear it down. Many people in town would rather get a state grant because the building is designed by a renowned architect, and restore the building, clay tennis courts, and the pool for a variety of town uses.

As I drive by the elegant and historic Thomas Darling House on my daily commute to my office, I have noticed that this locally famous structure has taken on a trashy and neglected appearance. After discussing the situation with some friends in the Amity-Woodbridge Historical Society, I was told that the resident caretaker was not honoring his duties of maintaining this historic treasure. He had shifted his attention to farming the property which is not one of his duties. The plastic greenhouse and plastic covered field areas are incompatible and degrade the historic appearance of the Darling House. At a Board of Selectmen meeting I watched in horror as the town attorney and first selectman complicated the situation by supporting the neglectful caretaker instead of maintaining their long standing relationship with the Amity-Woodbridge Historical Society in maintaining the Darling House.

Woodbridge residents should flood our first selectman and Board of Selectmen with complaints to protect both these valuable town assets and stop violating their duty to protect the public trust.

Michael D. Broderick

To the Editor

In her December 13, 2019 column in this newspaper, First Selectman Beth Heller tried to bolster her argument for condos on the Country Club of Woodbridge (CCW) with a quote from the town’s 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). This reference to the POCD needs a deeper dive.

What Ms. Heller omits from her column is the process by which the POCD was changed in 2015. Adding in the ability to consider condos at the CCW was part of a coordinated political effort between the administration and its allies on the Town Plan and Zoning Commission to set the table for their development plans. The goals of the updated POCD were supposed to be based on resident input gathered at a series of “charrettes” organized by consultants Milone & MacBroom between May and September of 2014.

I attended all of those meetings. Residents broke into small groups, discussed ideas for the town’s future and presented them while a moderator recorded the ideas. The part of town that elicited the most comment was the Business District with ideas for both housing and economic development. Open space was often cited as a hallmark of Woodbridge. Discussion of the future of CCW was limited and largely against zoning change and condos. It was primarily real estate agents who spoke in favor of cluster development. Even that was surprising since the featured charrette speaker, David Fink, a housing expert from Hartford, stated in his opening remarks that 55-and-over housing was “overbuilt” in this area, and that he did not recommend it, especially in locations such as the CCW.

It is clear that the 2015 POCD text advocating high density development on CCW, in addition to contradicting the Town Plan and Zoning Commission’s own invited expert, misrepresents the desire of the majority of Woodbridge residents. Instead, it presents the plans of an administration deaf to any other option for the property but cluster housing. On January 28, 2015 at the Public Hearing for residents to comment on the POCD draft document, Town Plan and Zoning commissioners heard three solid hours of speakers opposing this aspect of the new POCD. The purpose of the Public Hearing is for the Commissioners to include the public’s opinions in the document – but since they had a predetermined political agenda, they completely ignored the public input. I specifically requested removal of the CCW development and zoning change proposals since they did not accurately represent the majority will of the townspeople. Nothing was changed.

The Board of Selectmen was also supposed to hold a Public Hearing on the new POCD, but rather than hear more opposition, Scalettar refused to schedule such a meeting.

Both the Scalettar and Heller ad-

See “Letters” On Page 25

“Letters” From Page 24

ministrations have also chosen to ignore a clear statement of public opinion in the form of a petition requesting no zoning change on CCW. In late 2014 my neighbor Roger Sherman and I created this petition to alert voters to the consequences of development at CCW. Upon reading and signing it, many residents volunteered to help disseminate the petition. Within weeks into early 2015, we gathered 400 signatures from all parts of town. This widespread response proved that residents understood the importance of our zoning laws in protecting the town from uncontrolled, unwanted development. I turned in the petitions at a 2015 Board of Selectmen’s meeting and they were totally ignored.

Why is this history worth recounting? Simply put, the issues are the same in 2020 as they were in 2015. First Selectman Heller and Attorney Weiner are following in lockstep the Scalettar administration’s single-minded effort to sell off country club property for condo development necessitating zoning change. Once again, in pursuit of their own misguided agenda for the property, the current administration shows flagrant disregard of residents’ reiterated opposition to cluster housing and zoning change. We voted it down in 2011; it was wrong in 2015; and it is still wrong for CCW today. When the Referendum comes, remember and vote NO.

Martha German

To the Editor

I’m concerned that the Board of Selectmen has not done its due diligence on Insite Development and the proposed condo development at Woodbridge Country Club. The first selectman has promoted the developer as experienced and the project as a windfall to tax payers, nothing could be further from the truth.

The Board of Selectmen has presented Insite as an Architect and an experienced developer while simple investigation and questioning would reveal Insite is not an Architect, not an Architectural Corporation, not a developer and has no experience in developments such as being proposed. Insite has unachievable expectations for the sales prices and sales absorption rates for the condos because they have not done market research and a feasibility study which is a first step conducted by experienced developers. Comparable units in the area sell for far less money and at a much slower rate which will result in lower tax revenue to the town than promised. Comparable sized units at 55 and over developments such as Fieldstone, Oxford Greens and Meadow Brook have sold for between \$169 and \$180 per square foot which would translate to \$350K to \$360K per unit at the Country Club of Woodbridge while Insite expects to sell his units for \$225 per square foot for an average selling price of \$505K per unit. Again, an experienced developer would not start a project with such wildly unrealistic and un-researched assumptions.

The Board of Selectmen has promoted the deal as a financial windfall for the town. The members have not questioned the developer’s inflated estimate of tax revenue to the town and the assertion of no additional costs to the town. If the town assumes more realistic sales prices for the condos comparable to similar developments in the area, the development only provides \$1.2M in revenue if all the units are eventually sold and before expenses to the town. The developer estimates 30% of the 120 buyers of the condos will be current residents of Woodbridge who sell their homes (36 homes) to move to the condos. The buyers of the 36 homes vacated by these empty nester residents moving to the condo can reasonably be expected to have chil-

dren that will be in the school system because that’s who predominately buys homes in Woodbridge. Assuming conservatively only 2 children per household, 2 children x 36 homes equals 72 new children in the school system. The Town of Woodbridge is allocated the cost of the Amity system based on the number of students from Woodbridge at Amity, one student at Amity costs \$18,698 per year. The cost to taxpayers will be over \$1.35M in additional school costs for these new families, not to mention the costs for other additional services such as police and fire among others for the condo residents. It is abundantly obvious the expenses to the town exceed the potential tax revenue and will increase the mill rate long term which could have been easily ascertained by the Board of Selectmen before promoting the deal as a windfall to taxpayers.

I implore the Board of Selectmen to go back and do its due diligence on the developer and this project before wasting more money promoting a bad idea.

Paul Harrigan CPA

To the Editor

Here we go again. I have written a number of times over the years on this, your selectmen keep coming back to residents for approval for developing the Country Club of Woodbridge (CCW), even though it has been turned down previously. This proposal is based on the town’s inability to create a breakeven business plan and manage the property over the years for the golf course, clubhouse and recreational facilities such as outdoor pool and tennis courts. Several developers have come in to town with proposals and backed away once they understood the lack of value to them. Never did the town publish a Request for Proposal for development.

The chief argument presented is that development and creation of 120 clustered homes will yield an estimated

additional \$1.5M in yearly tax revenue, \$12,500 assessed annually to each housing unit. This is not worth it; it will be many years before all of these units are constructed and sold and these revenues, which also represent additional demand on public services, are realized. As time goes on, residents will have to endure never-ending construction and, as units are constructed and sell, causing further competition with our already significantly reduced property values. And we will open the door significantly to clustered development throughout Woodbridge, perhaps in your neighborhood.

I see this property as extremely historic and worthy of preservation due to it being formerly owned by Captain John Beecher and the original Beecher family in America, Patriot & Statesman & signer of four articles of independence, Roger Sherman (who named it Clover Hill Farm) and James Hillhouse, Revolutionary War Commander, Representative and Senator.

For residents who desire to live in these clustered homes, possibly paying more than their present home’s value, and living near the parkway noise, I say this; is it worth it to FOREVER change the zoning in this town for your very short-term interest in living at the CCW clustered development? Please consider that your vote will make a big difference and the needs of our time including sustainability, historic properties and open space preservation, should outweigh personal interest.

I commend all who have written letters against clustered housing development, and gotten together to discuss the many negatives, they clearly exceed those expressing opinions in favor. Let’s recreate the golf course, clubhouse and pool and do it right this time, managed by a private firm (not the town), or sell the property if necessary, with an open space development easement applied.

Richard Forselius

MICHAEL J. PAOLINI, CPA

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“Massaro” From Page 9

learning wilderness skills, animal feeding and care, and seasonal harvesting. Participants also enjoy arts and crafts, nature walks, and planning for the growing season ahead. Runs 8:30am-3:00pm; \$50/child per day, with sibling discounts available. Register at www.Eventbrite.com.

Registration Opens in February for Spring/Summer Programs

Registration opens on February 20 for our spring after-school and summer camp programs. After school programming runs every Thursday from 3:30-5:30pm, with bussing from Beecher Road School. The upcoming session will run for eight weeks and likely be-

gin the first week of April. \$150/child. The farm is planning some special improvements to its summer camp for 2020, but we don’t want to spoil the surprise! Visit our website at the end of the month for announcements and registration to Farm Camp 2020.

Massaro Community Farm is a non-profit, certified-organic farm on the border of Woodbridge and Ansonia, CT. It is committed to supporting the legacy of farming, feeding neighbors in need, and engaging community through events and hands-on education for all ages. Pledge your support now to the farm’s continued food donation and farm education programs. More information can be found by calling the farm office at (203) 736-8618 or visiting the farm’s website at www.MassaroFarm.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

TOP 10 MOVIES

1. Bad Boys for Life (R)

Will Smith, Vanessa Hudgens
2. Dolittle (PG)

Robert Downey Jr., Antonio Banderas
3. 1917 (R)

Dean-Charles Chapman, George MacKay
4. Jumanji: The Next Level (PG-13)

Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black
5. Star Wars: Episode IX -- The Rise of Skywalker (PG-13)

Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill
6. Just Mercy (PG-13)

Marcus A. Griffin Jr., Michael B. Jordan
7. Little Women (PG)

Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson
8. Knives Out (PG-13)

Daniel Craig, Chris Evans
9. Like a Boss (R)

Salma Hayek, Rose Byrne
10. Frozen II (PG)

animated

TOP 10 V.O.D.

1. Joker (R)

Joaquin Phoenix
2. Once Upon a Time in Hollywood (R)

Leonardo DiCaprio
3. Hustlers (R)

Constance Wu
4. Judy (PG-13)

Renee Zellweger
5. Rambo: Last Blood (R)

Sylvester Stallone
6. Ad Astra (PG-13)

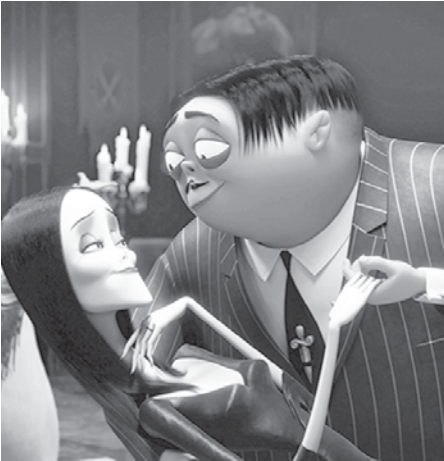
Brad Pitt
7. The Lighthouse (R)

Willem Dafoe
8. Angel Has Fallen (R)

Gerald Butler
9. Downton Abbey (PG)

Maggie Smith
10. Abominable (PG)

animated



Scene from “The Addams Family”  
[Universal Pictures]

“**The Addams Family**” (PG) -- America’s kookiest family goes head to head with a makeover design TV host in this cute, if relatively mild, animated tale. After being chased out of town after town, the Addamses settle in an abandoned, haunted mental institution on a hill in New Jersey to raise a family, safely away from the judgmental eyes of others. But in the valley below, egomaniacal Margaux Needler (Alison Janney) has built a whole idyllic town to film and sell, marred only by a view of the Addams house. The pressure is on to oust Gomez and Morticia, as children Wednesday and Pugsley fight their own adolescent battles.

“**Zombieland: Double Tap**” (R) -- In 2009, four forces of nature -- Tallahassee, Columbus, Little Rock and Wichita (Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg, Abigail Breslin and Emma Stone, respectively) -- banded together

and formed a makeshift family, a little slice of heaven in a world overrun with zombies. But it’s been a long 10 years and they could use a few fresh faces. Back out on the road and once again facing threats from zombies, other tough survivors and weird dop-pelgangers, the crew is just as funny and dangerous as ever.

“**Jay and Silent Bob Reboot**” (R) -- The convenience-store-lurking duo who made their iconic debut in “Clerks” return to the screen with another misadventure featuring inside jokes, self-deprecating humor and inside jokes. Did I mention the inside jokes? Jay (Jason Mewes) and Silent Bob (Kevin Smith) were immortalized in comic book form as Bluntman and Chronic, which Hollywood then monetized without shame. Now, famed director “Kevin Smith” is rehashing the buddies for a movie reboot, and the pair have three days to stop it, with a cavalcade of celebrity cameos along the way. If you love Kevin Smith movies, it’s more of what you already love. But for everyone else, it’s packed with 25 years’ worth of references that aren’t funny if you don’t “get it.”

“**Countdown**” (R) -- The latest craze in smartphone apps is a countdown to your own death. Just plug in your identifying information and the app will tell you, to the second, when you will die. It seems like harmless fun, in the vein of a BuzzFeed quiz -- everybody’s doing it and sharing their results. So Quinn (Elizabeth Lail) downloads the app and is given less than three days until her time is up. She links up with stories of other short-timers and tries to find a way to beat the clock. A few fun jump scares are included, but mostly you’ll be wishing for a shorter countdown to the end of the movie.

1. Name The Who guitarist who is known for smashing his guitars during performances. How did that get started?

2. Why did Bob Dylan stop touring between 1966 and 1973?

3. What was Wicked Lester?

4. The Polka Tulk Blues Band ended up as what band?

5. Name the television show that used these lyrics in the theme song: “Just sit right back and you’ll hear a tale, A tale of a fateful trip.”



The storyline tells of castaways who ran aground on an island during a storm while on the charter boat SS Minnow. “Gilligan’s Island,” which aired for three seasons from 1964-67, a total of 98 episodes. The first season was in black and white. 2. He was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident, crashing his Triumph Tiger 100SS. Later, however, he was quoted as saying he’d wanted to get out of the rat race. 3. The original name of Kiss, with a short period (1970-1971) being called Rainbow. Look for a 1972 bootleg album called “The Original Wicked Lester Sessions.” 4. Black Sabbath. 5. Peter Townsend. He accidentally broke the head off a guitar during a show and afterward continued breaking guitars (albeit cheaper ones).

Sports Quiz

BY CHRIS RICHCREEK

1. Who was the last Oakland A’s player before Khris Davis in 2018 to lead the American League in home runs for a season?

2. How many times has a Tampa Bay Rays pitcher won 20-plus games in a season?

3. Who scored the first rushing touchdown in Super Bowl history?

4. Name the last Division II men’s college basketball player to be selected in the NBA Draft.

5. Which player won the most Stanley Cups without ever playing for the Montreal Canadiens?

6. In 2019, the U.S. women’s national soccer team set a record for biggest margin of victory in a World Cup game (13 goals). Which country had held the mark?

7. Of WBC heavyweight boxing champion Deontay Wilder’s 43 pro bouts, how many have ended with Wilder recording a knockout?

1. Mark McGwire hit 52 homers to lead the A.L. in 1996. 2. Twice -- David Price won 20 in 2012, and Blake Snell won 21 in 2018. 3. Green Bay’s Jim Taylor, in the second quarter of Super Bowl I in 1967. 4. Robert Whaley of Walsh University was selected with the 51st pick in 2005. 5. Red Kelly won eight Stanley Cups, four with Detroit and four with Toronto, between 1950 and 1967. 6. Germany won a World Cup match by 11 goals in 2007. 7. Wilder has recorded 41 knockouts on his way to a 42-0-1 record.

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Sudoku answers  
on page 28

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		9		4		1	2
	6	3	5				8
2				9	8	3	
		1	7				6
4	2			6		9	
	8			9		4	
3			4			1	
6	1			7		3	
		5		2		6	9



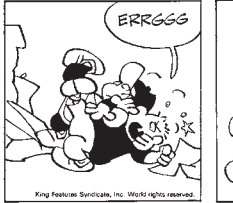

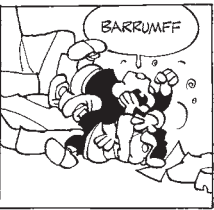
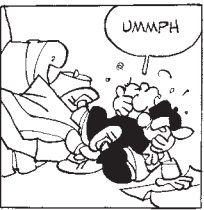

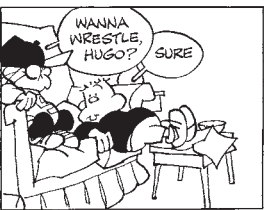
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

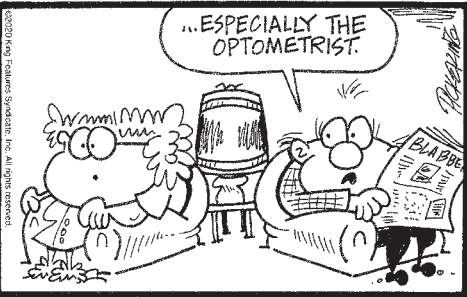

# COMICS/CROSSWORD/HOLLYWOOD

## TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

## The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

## Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

## King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Item on stage

5 Relaxation

9 "Help!"

12 Emanation

13 Picture of health?

14 Demonic tyke

15 Dance lesson

16 Green land

17 Grazing area

18 Loafer, e.g.

19 Wrestling surface

20 Small horse

21 Tear

23 Eggs

25 Ought not

28 Plunder

32 Jellied dish

33 Flat

34 Neptune or Poseidon

36 Makes baby food, maybe

37 Id counterpart

38 Allow

39 "Ironside" star

42 Definite article

44 "Phooey!"

48 Past

49 Desktop symbol

50 Sheltered

51 Under the weather

52 Filly's brother

53 Mountain goat

54 Caustic

DOWN

1 Just say no

2 Naomi's daughter-in-law

3 Sandwich treat

4 Empty threat

5 Free from a duty

6 Met melody

7 Tailor, humorously

8 Storm center

9 Missile shelter

10 Portent

11 Fix, in a sense

20 Evidence of fraud

22 Disguised, for short

24 Cost

25 "More," to Jose

26 Work with

27 Hot tub

29 Word implied in "been there, done that"

30 Born

31 Golfer Ernie

35 E-business

36 More than enough

39 Kind of bond

40 Pre-swan

41 Portrayal

43 Ian or Celeste

45 Jessica of "Fantastic Four"

46 Prepared to drive

47 Alluring

49 Lemieux milieu

chemical

TV trophy

"— and the Tramp"

Storm center

Missile shelter

Portent

Fix, in a sense

Evidence of fraud

Disguised, for short

Cost

"More," to Jose

Work with

Hot tub

Word implied in "been there, done that"

Born

Golfer Ernie

E-business

More than enough

Kind of bond

Pre-swan

Portrayal

Ian or Celeste

Jessica of "Fantastic Four"

Prepared to drive

Alluring

Lemieux milieu

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## HOLLYWOOD

BY TONY RIZZO

Regina King, who won a supporting actress Oscar for "If Beale Street Could Talk," announced she'll direct the civil-rights drama "One Night in Miami," based on the book and stage play by Kemp Powers. The film, set in 1964, will have Malcolm X, Cassius Clay (pre-Muhammad Ali), Jim Brown and Sam Cooke played by actors. King has come a long way since playing Marla Gibbs' daughter, Brenda Jenkins, for 107 episodes in the 1985-90 TV series "227." She's directed TV shows such as "Southland," "Being Mary Jane," "Scandal," "The Catch," "Animal Kingdom," "This Is Us" and "The Good Doctor." In addition to her Oscar, she's won a Golden Globe and three prime time Emmy Awards for acting.

Regina King [Depositphotos]

sad they've only recovered \$58 million of their \$90 million investment.

\*\*\*

Also sad is Lana Wood, 73, sister of the late Natalie Wood, whose biggest film role was in the 1971 James Bond epic, "Diamonds Are Forever." She sent out an "SOS" via Facebook: "Please ... I don't have much money monthly, but I really feel to be able to live a peaceful life ... I must leave my home. I must take my dog and go. I would like a small private place, and I can pay rent. I really can't handle this abuse any longer. Help?" Our prayers are with you Lana ... and hope you find the peace you're seeking.

\*\*\*

In happier news, some of your favorite TV stars are returning to television. Pauley Perrette ("CSI") has her own mid-season comedy series on CBS in "Broke." Kim Cattrall ("Sex and the City") and "Simon & Simon" star Gerald McRaney preem in May in "Filthy Rich" on Fox. "Nurse Jackie" Edie Falco returns Friday, Feb. 6, on CBS in "Tommy," and "The Nanny" herself, Fran Drescher, becomes "Indebted" with "Wings" star Steven Weber, at NBC. And the horses are at the gate ...

www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com



King Crossword Answers on Page 28



# WOODBRIDGE LIBRARY

For the latest news and information, visit our website at [www.woodbridge-townlibrary.org](http://www.woodbridge-townlibrary.org), like us on Facebook @woodbridge.town.library, or sign up for our e-newsletter. Don't forget to follow us on Instagram @woodbridge-townlibrary

- ✓ We are open Monday – Thursday: 10 am to 8 pm, and Friday and Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm.
- ✓ We will be closed on Monday, February 17 for Presidents' Day

### Courtesy Renewals Now in Effect

The Woodbridge Town Library began offering courtesy renewals to our patrons on February 1, 2020. The change was recommended by the LION Consortium which is committed to sharing, expanding and promoting excellent library resources and services. Courtesy renewals means that a few days before checked-out items are due, all that are eligible will be automatically renewed.

Materials will not be eligible for courtesy renewals if:

- Another patron has a hold on the item
- The item has reached its maximum number of allowable renewals
- Renewals are not allowed for the item (e.g. museum passes or items in a bestseller collection)
- The relevant patron account is expired or suspended

This service does not apply to downloadable or streaming materials. Only items owned by the Woodbridge Town Library, or those of another LION library that have enacted courtesy renewals, will automatically be renewed. Library staff is happy to answer any renewal questions—stop by at any time.

### Long Wharf Theatre Pass Program

The Woodbridge Town Library is pleased to participate in the popular Long Wharf Theatre Pass Program again! The Long Wharf Theatre Library Pass helps libraries in Connecticut increase the opportunity for their patrons to see Long Wharf Theatre per-



WOODBRIDGE  
TOWN LIBRARY

formances. The next batch of tickets will be released in early March for The Chinese Lady, which starts on March 18. As in years past, only one pass will be given out per performance date. Each pass is good for two adult tickets. Please stop by the reference desk to see the performance calendar. First come, first served. No holds. You must bring your valid Woodbridge Library card to check out the pass. All performance dates subject to availability and are not guaranteed available. Please see the reference desk with any questions.

### Special February Holiday Programs for Adults

For more information about our events, or to register, please contact the reference desk at 203-389-3434. Registration is also available on our website.

Welcoming the Chinese New Year with Phoenix Performing Arts Saturday, February 15 at 1:30 pm The vibrant and dynamic Phoenix Performing Arts will usher in the Chinese New Year (Year of the Rat) on Saturday, February 15 at 1:30 pm. The members are committed to deliver quality dancing, music and martial arts to serve their communities over the past decade. They have a broad spectrum of Chinese classic and modern dancing styles including, but not limited to Classical dance, Minority dance (Tibetan, Mongolian, Dai, Miao, Korean, and Yi dance, etc.) and Folk dance (Fan, Handkerchief, Ribbon, and Umbrella dance, etc.) . They also present traditional Chinese musical instruments and Martial Arts as well. Please register online or at the library.

### Wine and Chocolate: A Valentine's Day Celebration

Monday, February 24 at 7 pm Kim Larkin from Klassic Kreations is back—and this time with wine! A

Perfect Pairing will be featured on Monday, February 24 at 7 pm. This belated Valentine's Day celebration is a fun, educational program highlighting the history and health benefits of dark chocolate and wines with insights from Kim's commercial chocolatier background. Included in the program is trivia, a cheese board primer and a wine bottle display. Chocolates, food, and wine pairing samplings are provided. Due to alcoholic beverages that will be served, attendees must be age 21 and up. Please register online or at the library.

### Coming in March — Details to Come

March Madness Adult Reading Game: Monday, March 2 through Tuesday, March 31. Information and sign ups start at the end of February.

--The Kerry Boys return to the library with a concert in time for St. Patrick's Day! Wednesday, March 11 at 7 pm. Space is limited.

Thursday Night Film Screenings Join us at 7 pm in the meeting room; registration is not required.

- February 6: Harriet 125 minutes; PG-13
- February 13: Motherless Brooklyn 144 minutes; R
- February 20: Joker 122 minutes; R
- February 27: Roma 135 minutes; R

### Children's Activities & Events

For more information on our Children's Events, please visit our website or call 203-389-3439.

### Nutmeg Book Club

(Grades 4-7)

Thursday, February 13 at 5:30

Pick up a copy of Unbound by Ann E. Burg and come ready for a discussion! We will have a snack from the book and make constellation lanterns. For grades 4 to 7. Registration

required—online or in person at the Children's Desk.

### Valentine's Day Craft

Friday, February 14 at 3 pm

Make and take a heart tree to give to your valentine! For ages 3+ with adult. No registration required, just drop in!

### Math Maniacs

Tuesday, February 18, 2 to 3:30 pm

Join us for a fun afternoon of math! Play board games, enjoy a snack, and test your problem-solving skills! For grades K to 6. Registration required—online or in person at the Children's Desk.

### Save the Date for the Rescheduled Date! Jay Mankita's Playful Engineers Traveling Makerspace

Friday, March 20 at 1 pm

The December date was cancelled due to weather, but Jay Mankita will be here on Friday, March 20 at 1 pm! Spend your day off from school designing, building, and testing your own contraptions. The Playful Engineers is a traveling makerspace for ages 5 and older, with parents/caregivers. Please register online or at the Children's Desk.

### Ongoing Childrens Programming Baby Rhyme Time

(0-18 months)

Every Wednesday, 10:30-11 am

Join us for songs and rhymes, fun for little ones. No registration.

### Rhythm and Rhyme

(18-36 months)

Every Thursday, 10:30-11 am

Talking, singing and reading to build vocabulary and a love of books! No registration.

### Saturday Preschool Storycraft

(3-5 years)

Every Saturday, 11-11:30 am

Stories and crafts for ages 3 to 5 with an adult. No registration.

## Trail Volunteer Training

Potential trail volunteers are invited to a training on Monday, March 2 at 6 pm at the Woodbridge Town Library.

A committee of Land Trust, Parks Association and Conservation Commission members along with the Town's new Trail Master, Andy Danzig, have drafted a new Trail Manage-

ment Guide for the Town and a plan to manage the Town's more than 35 miles of trails.

This guide follows a survey in which more than 100 residents shared their thoughts about the Town's trail system which is managed by the Town, Land Trust and Parks Association. The guide

will help clarify what work should be done and how. It is also an effort to provide a uniform level of maintenance throughout the town regardless of a trail's ownership.

Several survey respondents expressed interest in helping to maintain the trails. Volunteers will be an integral

part of maintaining the trails going forward both through reporting problems and through volunteer work days.

Anyone interested in volunteering on the trails should attend the meeting. Contact Betsy Yagla at [byagla@woodbridged.org](mailto:byagla@woodbridged.org) or 203-389-3403 with questions.

**“The Eskimos had fifty-two names for snow because it was important to them: there ought to be as many for love.” — MARGARET ATWOOD**

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“Beecher” From Page 1

‘the Beecher Way,’ where a strong, supportive community generates a spirit of caring, love, inclusivity, and support for children and staff alike,” Broderick wrote. And, even though the school building is large, it is child-centered. “This warm culture is combined with very high expectations and a deep commitment to excellence. High standards are maintained without stressing the children,” she said.

One hundred and eight current parents responded to the survey, and 29 parents of former students. About half of the teachers (33) participated and ten support staff; 51 Woodbridge residents also took the time to respond.

Ninety-one (91) focus group and survey participants mentioned the excellent staff as one of Beecher Road’s greatest strengths. Teachers at Beecher are considered “top notch,” highly skilled, caring professionals who have a great deal of expertise. Many participants (18) mentioned the Multi-Age Group (MAG) in particular as an exceptional learning option. This program offers project-based, collaborative learning with students in Grades 1 to 4.

Broderick also spoke warmly of the larger community. “Beecher Road School is the ‘crown jewel’ of the town, and its heart,” she wrote. Many residents are highly educated and support education. Parents have high aspirations for their children and want to contribute to the school. Open House events draw nearly 100% of the parents.

The PTO raises about \$70,000 annually to support the school. “Parents want to be a part in shaping a positive culture at the school.”

Challenges: These strengths can also present challenges, especially for an incoming administrator. Differentiating instruction for instance, aims to build interest and growth in naturally curious youngsters. But with anxiety, depression and trauma on the rise, more time is spent dealing with emotional needs instead.

“Students are generally more socially anxious, manifesting effects of depression, anxiety, and trauma. Social media and the internet in general seem to play a role in generating anxiety. Students are also at school, in some cases, from early morning into evening. The results may be risky or extreme behavior and disruption to the education process,” she wrote. Teachers are increasingly challenged to provide the social and emotional support students need while addressing learning needs of students at all levels, and are looking to administrators for direction.

At the same time the administration, pressed by the town to keep budget increases low, is trying to avoid outplacement costs, and choosing instead to accommodate youngsters at the local school. The situation creates concern among some parents that resources are diverted from regular education to special education. “Eleven (11) participants would like to see more resources and programming for high achieving students and encouragement for students to exceed expectations,” she wrote.

It also becomes an issue of morale and school climate. Respondents have pointed out the challenge of dealing with this trend with just one principal and one assistant principal. “It’s hard to focus on a school vision when you also are responsible for curriculum development and implementation, professional development, PowerSchool, the budget, policy development, student discipline, human resources, parent relationships and communication, and making school feel like a community. The principal is also responsible for conducting about 30 teacher evaluations each year. “In Woodbridge, the position is considered a 24 hour/seven day/week responsibility because of all the responsibilities coupled with the high expectations of the community,” the profile reads.

That said, besides functioning without sleep, the most desired quality survey respondents wanted to see in the new administrator was “Cultivates and promotes shared vision to move all students to excellence” (28.9%); followed by “Builds trusting relationships with students, staff, and community” (21.1%). There was a tie for a distant third between “Is responsive to concerns or suggestions raised by stakeholders” and “Has broad base of knowledge of educational issues & practices” (both 9.2%).

What they are looking for is an accessible person who will be visible in the school and the community. The successful candidate will be a passionate educator, leader and manager, who will build an inclusive environment. “The position will require careful balancing of competing demands,” she wrote. “The successful principal will love the work...and a challenge.”

As far as the search is concerned, School Supt. Robert Gilbert said the Search Process is moving into the Interview phase. “Over the next month, we will review applications, select candidates to be interviewed and will conduct first and second round interviews.” The committee is comprised of representatives from the Board of Education, parents, teachers, teacher assistants and administrators.

Salome's Stars

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** You need to be certain that all the right conditions are in place before you take that first step. It can't hurt to listen to good advice from those who have your best interests at heart.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** Be careful not to get involved in other people's disputes unless you know the facts behind the disagreements. That's the best way to be assured of making wise and honest decisions.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** You still need to be careful about how you're going to spend those energy reserves you finally got around to restoring. Best advice: Avoid overdoing it. Let things take their course.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Your aspect continues to favor travel -- alone or with that special person. So if you've been putting off making those getaway plans, it's still a good time to get started on them.

**LEO (July 23 to August 22)** Those so-called golden opportunities that continue to dazzle the Lion still need to be carefully checked out. Be suspicious about anything that looks like the "perfect" prospect.

**VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** Changes at the workplace could make it more difficult to do things the way you prefer. But the wise Virgo who shows some flexibility could find it paying off in a big way.

**LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)**

You might want to check out the explanation you were given for a sudden shift in your duties. There's a possibility that you haven't been told all the facts that you deserve to know.

**SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** Having confidence in your abilities is important, especially when you could be facing a new challenge, whether it's in the workplace or in a personal relationship. Good luck.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** A new work-related opportunity might not be all that it seems. Before making any decisions, you might want to check with others who have had some experience in that area.

**CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** A situation involving someone close could benefit from your timely intervention. Avoid being judgmental. There'll be plenty of time later for those "little talks" you like to have.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** Travel could be a surprise element in that new project. Be prepared for other previously undisclosed aspects that also might come to light as you proceed with the work.

**PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** Try to balance your work-related responsibilities with the time you're spending on your recently revived social life. An old friend might be planning to return after a long absence.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** Your sensitivity makes you aware of the needs of others. Have you considered a career as a counselor?

Reconnecting With Your Senior Dog

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** My large mixed-breed dog "Hatchet" is 12 years old, and his discipline has slipped quite a bit in the past couple of years. That's probably my fault, because I've been consumed with running a new business and barely have time to walk him. But this year I've resolved to get back on track with our daily walks. Trouble is, Hatchet will not listen or come when I call him, especially at the park. Can he be retrained? -- Doug L., Austin, Texas

**DEAR DOUG:** Giving Hatchet refresher training in basic obedience is a great idea! Once you start working with him daily, he should pick those skills right back up -- especially if you use positive reinforcement methods. Committing to that daily walk with him is the best thing you can do to

improve his behavior and response to commands.

Because Hatchet is a senior dog, he may tire more easily on your walks and may not respond to commands as snappily as he did when he was a puppy. Be a little patient with him. If he isn't responding well to the "come" command at the park, keep him on his leash during walks and work with him on that command while in the park.

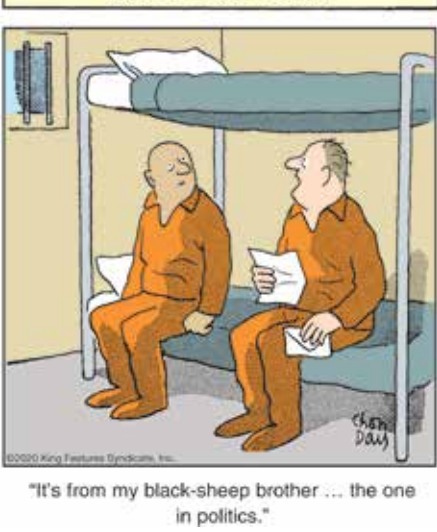
If Hatchet doesn't improve, if he seems lethargic or perhaps a little snappy with other dogs, or if he just seems off, take him to the veterinarian for a checkup. Senior dogs can develop physical issues that distract them from training -- things like arthritis pain or endocrine problems. Make sure those aren't getting in the way of his outdoor time. Best of luck!



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



LAFF-A-DAY



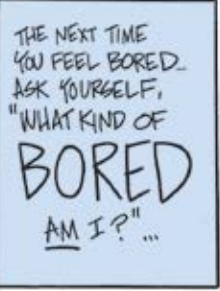
R.F.D.



by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

**top ten**

**America's Favorite Cheeses**

1. Italian
2. American
3. Processed
4. Neufchatel/Cream Cheese
5. Cottage Cheese
6. Swiss
7. Hispanic
8. Muenster
9. Feta
10. Blue/Gorgonzola

Source: USDA

**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Tie is different. 2. Wall is shorter. 3. Belt is missing. 4. Pants are different. 5. Jacket is different. 6. Tree is moved.

**The Garden Bug** **Roses in the Middle Ages**

Roses were widely grown in medieval gardens. They were used medicinally, but also served as symbols and reminders of religious devotion and romantic love. The red rose represented the blood of Christ and of those martyrs dying for the faith. The Virgin Mary was often compared to a white rose. -- B. Weaver

Source: www.theenglishgarden.co.uk



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