Woodbridge Town News



Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper

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FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022



Luminarias To Light Up the Town

BY BETTINA THIEL

Woodbridge Town News Correspondent

Woodbridge Together, an initiative founded and supported by local teenagers, is planning to light up the town again with luminarias this Saturday, March 12. "Last year, we turned the day [commemorating the closing down of schools and towns due to Covid] into something meaningful, raising \$3,000 for Covid-19 relief, they wrote on their website https://www.woodbridgetogether.com/shop.

They would like to pull that off again this year, with luminarias lighting up the center of town, in particular around the library and Town Hall, but also private driveways and businesses who sponsored the effort. For those who have not had a chance to purchase luminarias - paper bags with a battery-operated tealight in them - you can do so in front of the library the day of the event. Sets of eight are \$10;

See "Luminarias" On Page 4

Local Elementary School Drops Mask Mandate - For Now

By Bettina Thiel

Woodbridge Town News Correspondent

In a multistep vote the Woodbridge Board of Education did reach consensus on the question of when to drop the mask mandate for folks in the building. Masks are no longer required, but are a choice going forward, with the board members compromising on the effective date.

In a special meeting on February 23 dedicated to the question of masking, School Supt. Dr. Jonathan Budd had asked the board to keep the mask policy in place for a few extra days after the state and the local mandate had been

See "Mask Mandate" On Page 12



Young Farmer Brings Fallow Property Back to Life

By Bettina Thiel

Woodbridge Town News Correspondent

Cristian Mortali is a young man with a vision: He is looking to be a cattle farmer, like his mentor, Jim Zeoli, and preferably near his hometown of Orange. By purchasing the 83 acres that straddle the Woodbridge/Derby/ Orange town line, he took the first step toward making that dream a reality.

A year ago, motorists who drove up Baldwin Road to get to Route 34 noticed a sturdy fence going up along the road frontage, followed by a farmstand in the summertime. In the fall a corn maze and tractor rides attracted quite a bit of attention. A big sign announced Townline Farm.

He couldn't do it alone. Mortali, 25, has the help and support of his parents, Joe and Karen, who are working along with him. Joe Mortali likes the big farm tractor and has been carving walking trails throughout the property. Karen was manning the vegetable tent in the summer.

Cristian's girlfriend, Rachel Holden, is also immersed in the care of the land. Rachel grew up on a farm in Orange, and teaches agriculture at Lyman Hall High School in Wallingford. Together they were collecting the sap from maple trees these last few weeks, hauling large containers back to the truck. The evaporator is set up in the back of Rachel's house. "It takes about 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup," she said.

Like for most local farmers, the farming work starts after the regular work is done. For the 25-year-old Mortali that is a full-time job with Orange Public Works Department. But after 3 p.m. he is out, tapping trees, cutting

See "Farmer" On Page 4

Wareck D'Ostilio Just Added More Horsepower.











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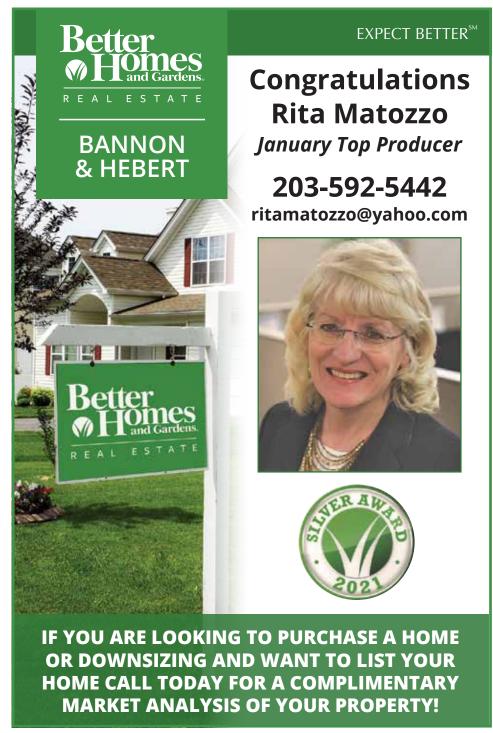
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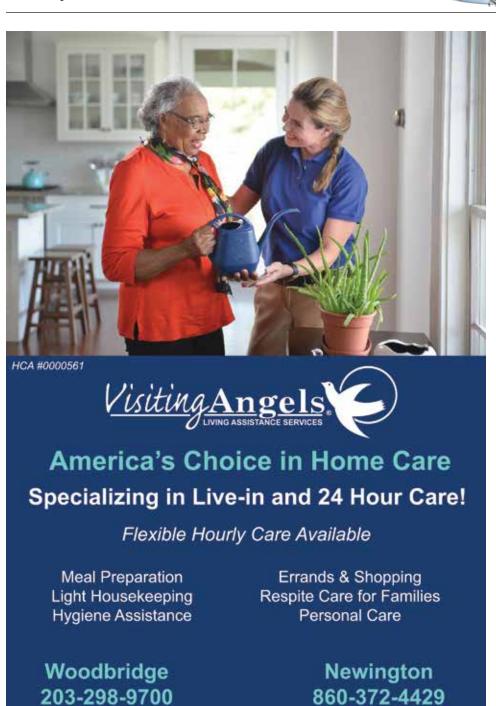
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"You gotta try your luck at least once a day, because you could be going around lucky all day and not even know it." — JIMMY DEAN





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THE LINDEN
AT WOODBRIDGE

This year's budget process has been quite challenging. As a town, Woodbridge is at a crossroads. If all department, board and commission budget requests are granted for next fiscal year, our mil rate will be close to 50, which is not acceptable.

The Board of Finance asked that this year's budget requests should be as close to a zero percent increase as reasonably possible. Currently, the Woodbridge Board of Education is requesting an approximately 9% increase which would require a major tax increase. The Boards of Finance and Education are working together to find ways to lower that request without harming the quality of education.

For a historical perspective, from 2016 to 2022 (6 years), the Town portion of the budget increased by 3.04% while the Amity Regional Board of Education budget increased by 20.5%, and the Woodbridge Board of Education budget by 15.32%. Clearly, Woodbridge supports our schools and education. I believe Woodbridge residents want to continue supporting education, but not to the detriment of other services.

If there is no compromise, the Board of Finance would be put in a terrible position: They could raise taxes significantly to meet the school's request. They could cut the Beecher budget and create only a slight increase in taxes. Or they could make major cuts to the Town's budget (close the Library and the Senior Center, for example or not pave roads or cancel most Recreation programming) to not raise taxes and give the school boards their request.

None of these are palatable. These options pit parents and education advocates against the rest of the tax-

From the First Selectman BY BETH HELLER



payers who don't have children in the public school system.

I encourage residents to pay careful attention to the budget process and voice their opinions. The most effective way for you to share your opinion and/or ask questions is at the Monday, April 18 Preliminary Budget Hearing when the Board of Finance presents its proposed budget. Following this hearing the Board of Finance may make changes to its proposed budget which is then presented at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

Our budget crisis is caused by a long-term revenue problem. If we do not grow our grand list soon, we will continue to face increasingly difficult budget decisions.

The grand list in Woodbridge, our main source of revenue, grew by only 1.7% over the past year. This is the first time in 10 years that it has grown by more than 0.8%. This year's growth is primarily due to the increase in the value of motor vehicles. This lack of meaningful growth does not even keep up with inflation. New revenue is critical to fund our high-quality education and other important Town services. The Town could grow its grand list by expanding the commercial district and also offering new and diverse housing.

The 2030 Task Force, charged with growing our grand list, has referred a proposal to the Board of Selectmen to help with our business district. I am excited to learn more about it and how it could help us bring more vitality and more businesses to the area.

Simultaneously, the Housing Op-

portunity Study Committee just finished a survey of residents and will soon report to the Board of Selectmen with its suggestions on how to diversify the Town's housing options.

The State has established a benchmark which requires 10% of all housing in each municipality be affordable. Currently, only 1.18 percent of Woodbridge homes qualify. It is our Town's legal obligation to provide housing which is not exclusionary and is affordable.

Last year, the Town's zoning laws were challenged. The application implied that our regulations were exclusionary, resulting in a lack of diversity in our population. Our Town Plan and Zoning commissioners did a thoughtful and excellent job balancing the need to provide multi-family and affordable housing with environmental concerns. Woodbridge Zoning Regulations now allow multiple housing units in residential areas, and more density is allowed in areas with sewer and public water.

The former Country Club of Woodbridge (CCW) property is the largest tract of developable land owned by the Town that meets the above criteria, and it would be wrong to dismiss out of hand a proposal that includes affordable housing. It is important to recognize that Woodbridge, along with most municipalities in Connecticut, face legal obligations to encourage this type of housing in residential areas. We cannot ignore this issue. We must act.

I remain committed to controlling the development of the property and

letting voters decide this issue at a town-wide referendum. We MUST act on our own, and avoid having development forced upon us through legal action.

The Board of Selectmen is considering a proposal from Arbor Haven to purchase approximately 100 of the 150 acres at the CCW for \$9 million. The proposal includes building a mixture of housing, some affordable, some over 55, and some single-family homes. All will be for sale, with no rental properties. We currently owe approximately \$3.7 million on the 2008 original purchase price of almost \$7 million. The Town has 10 more years of debt payments. The \$9 million purchase price will fully pay off the remaining debt, and leave over \$5 million for Town services, including education. We are also contemplating a solar farm on part of the property.

Some claim that more housing will attract more school-age children. Smaller "starter" homes, typically, do not bring in many children. There may be some increase in school children, but that is good -- more families and more growth! These homes will also be attractive to empty nesters. Our Town's residents are older than the State average, and we should provide appropriate housing opportunities for our older population, and also create housing options to attract younger residents. Most importantly, THE TOWN will control development. I believe that the Board of Selectmen has an obligation to let voters decide on the issue at a referendum.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions or comments. You can reach me at bheller@woodbridgect.org or at 203-389-3401.

"Farmer" From Page 1

trees, hauling sap.

Mortali praised the state's Farm Preservation Program for making the dream possible. "It gives people like me the chance to do what they want to do," he said. He had been working on Jim Zeoli's farm for years. At first, he was terrified of the cows, he said, until he got to bottle feed a calf. He continued to work in the barns at UConn. "I always wanted my own place," he said. There is a resurgence of young people who want to work the land, but it is difficult to find land, he said.

Several years ago, the Woodbridge Land Trust had started fundraising to buy the development rights from the previous owners of the property, the bulk of which is actually located in Derby, and was zoned industrial. For the Woodbridge Land Trust, it was one way to prevent a large industrial development from setting up shop in the backyard of one of the most scenic spots in Woodbridge. For the state, it

meant preserving some 35-40 acres of farmland soils, which would have been lost otherwise.

"There are woodlands, wetlands and pasture lands here, as well as crop lands, Mortali said. He can build a barn and a house, per the easement, but he can't sell a part of it to be developed.

His next plan is to build a cattle barn and buy the first heads of live-stock, just a few to start, which he will purchase from area farmers. The big fence along Bradley Road serves to keep out the deer, who have been roaming freely here for some 50 years. But it also serves as a second layer of protection to prevent the livestock from straying. Down the road he plans to sell beef along with the vegetables.

This summer he is looking to set up a bigger tent for the vegetables, and he and Rachel have been looking through seed catalogues to get started on new crops. Oh yes, and they will be selling maple syrup. In a few months, look out for the flag to go up at the gate that will indicate that the farmstand is open.

"Luminarias" From Page 1

sets of 18 are \$20. For an extra \$5 organizers promise to deliver it.

Founder Tina Burland said volunteer help is always welcome. There will be a Facebook Live event Saturday evening at 6 p.m., but details were still being worked out. People are also welcome to come to the town green and check out the lights.

The group of some 15, under the name Woodbridge Together Interact Club, is now operating as a subset of the Rotary Club of Woodbridge, with a focus on community growth and wellness. Anyone ages 12-18 living in Woodbridge, Bethany or Westville is welcome to join this student-run initiative. The geographic limitation is dictated by the Rotary Club's reach. The Club meets every Monday at 8 p.m. on Zoom, except the first Monday of the month, Burland said.

The Rotary advisors are also helping the group direct the funds. Last year, the funds collected went to Rotary's Covid Relief Fund. This year, they are looking at local organizations such as the Dog Park and Massaro Farm.

For details, e-mail woodbridgetogether@gmail.com.



Top Ten* Reasons Why Selling Public Land to Arbor Haven is a BAD DEAL for Woodbridge

★Part 1. Top Ten Reasons Part 2 will appear in the next edition.



Deek after week, Woodbridge's First Selectman has told us that selling the former Country Club of Woodbridge for a 145-unit housing development by Arbor Haven is "a major step toward improving the Town's fiscal future." But the finances simply do not add up. Here's why:

Revenue figures are inflated and not guaranteed. Arbor Haven's tax revenue projection of up to \$2.7 million per year is flawed, inflated, and misleading because it is based on unrealistic home prices: Arbor Haven estimates values of over \$700,000 for a 3-bedroom attached home on a tiny lot and a 2,000 square foot two-bedroom home at \$625,000. We live in Woodbridge, not Westport. We know that these values are inflated and Arbor Haven knows it too. When asked at the info session last September how much revenue he would guarantee to the Town, the Arbor Haven CEO answered "none whatsoever."

School costs are under-estimated. Arbor Haven's initial proposal estimated an additional 153 students at a cost of \$12,000 per student per year. When informed that the school expense in Woodbridge is much higher, Arbor Haven simply cut its estimated number of students in half to arrive at the same overall cost for education. The numbers don't lie. The cost of an additional 153 students using the numbers budgeted by our school boards (just under \$20,000 per student per year) will be over \$3 million – which is MORE than Arbor Haven's estimated annual tax revenue.

Other costs are ignored. Arbor Haven's calculations do not include the additional cost of adding residents to the town. In evaluating prior development proposals, Woodbridge's Finance Director estimated this cost to be \$2,000 per person per year. This covers expenses such as police, fire, library, roads, and general government overhead. So, if the proposed development adds even as few as 300 residents to the Town, it will create \$600,000 per year in new expenses. There is no math by which the tax revenue generated by this development will offset its annual expense to the town.

▶ Beecher Road School is currently at its enrollment limit. According to the Woodbridge Superintendent of Schools, we are using "every nook and cranny" in the school building. Adding the number of students who would result from a large housing development would tip the enrollment over the school building's physical capacity, necessitating a large infrastructure project. Building an addition onto the school would cost many millions, far more than tax revenue or one-time profits from a land sale could offset.

Mill rates will not decrease. Current debt service on the CCW property (which will end in 10 years) costs on average \$382,000 per year, or about \$45 per Woodbridge resident per year. Retiring this minor debt will make no noticeable difference in your tax bill. Further, there is no guarantee that the town will actually use the money from the proposed sale to retire the debt. We know this because during discussions of the last development proposal for the CCW, the Board of Finance proclaimed that "The town does not have to pay off the debt...we could use it (the money) for another purpose" (Board of Finance meeting, October 17, 2019).

Moodbridge, we can do better!

Town leaders keep returning to the same tired formula for the CCW; they have ignored clear and repeated feedback that the majority of town residents want a better option than residential development. They haven't even solicited proposals for the property since 2014, but just passively waited until yet another housing developer knocked at the door.

From the Democratic Town Committee

BY LAURENCE GROTHEER



At this writing the declaration from President Biden's first State of the Union address (SOTU) still echoes: "the State of the Union is strong," he said. "We are stronger today than we were a year ago," he continued, "(a)nd we will be stronger a year from now than we are today."

What a relief to receive such reassurance after the four years of chaos and tumult of the previous administration.

Consider the resolute response to Russia's premeditated, unprovoked attack on Ukraine to gauge how much success President Biden's administration has had. Member nations of the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and successful democracies around the world - including even Switzerland - are united to stymie Russia's aggression and impose harsh consequences for it.

President Biden choreographed this extraordinary international effort and restored the United States as the leader of the free world; the previous administration belittled the EU, threatened to withdraw from NATO, and openly admired Russia's maniacal, autocratic leader, Vladamir Putin.

In his SOTU President Biden summarized additional accomplishments of his first year. The American Rescue Plan - passed without a single Republican vote - pulled the nation up from the devastating impact of the global coronavirus pandemic. The resulting 5.7 percent economic growth is the strongest in nearly 40 years, and the 6.5 million new jobs generated are more than in any other year in American history. 678,000 more jobs were just added to that total in February.

Relentless pursuit of a comprehensive public health agenda now has 75 percent of adult Americans fully vaccinated, with hospitalizations down by 77 percent as a result. Tests, vaccines, treatments, and mask use are cited as reasons for so much progress; one is left to imagine an even quicker turnaround had testing, vaccinations, and personal responsibility not been vilified in a culture war orchestrated by those trying to discredit sound science.

Americans are well-served by a

Democratic administration working to shore up the sanctity of truth, the rule of law, and across-the-board prosperity.

Woodbridge residents are similarly fortunate to have experienced, responsible, Democratic leadership steering the (local) ship of state. The Town's budget process is entering its final phase and I find it curious: virtually all those instigated by the Woodbridge Republican Town Committee last year to protest a budget increase were absent from this year's many budget hearings, despite repeated invitations and reminders to participate.

That said, Town leaders once again face challenges on both sides of the budget. Potential spending increases are driven by immodestly higher funding requests from the two boards of education. As an aside, that's curious too, since each board is led by a Republican. Nevertheless, it will be literally impossible to balance the budget on the spending side, especially with those large requested increases in education - always about 2/3 of the budget total.

So, in terms of revenue, putting aside personal opinions about any specific proposal, the Board of Selectmen is duty-bound to pursue and consider opportunities to expand the grand list as the best way to keep the mill rate in check. Unless and until state law and policies change, local governments in Connecticut will be revenue-dependent upon property taxes generated within their jurisdiction.

I find it frustrating to hear and read the constant bleating of those who decry the spending increases and flat revenue that lead to larger budgets and higher taxes while they offer no meaningful suggestions for reduced spending, condemn any effort to enhance the grand list, and repeatedly fail to participate in the months-long budget development process.

I'm grateful for the responsible leadership in both Washington and Woodbridge that takes governing seriously, that works earnestly to address the many, often conflicting needs of those they serve, and does so despite the heckling, the manipulation, and the incessant negativity to which they are subjected at virtually every turn.



Other Side of the Aisle WRTC CHAIRMAN



With Change Comes **Opportunity**

A new state law has changed our municipal elections from May to November, beginning in 2023 (the next local election cycle), so we need to update our town Charter accordingly. Today, our town's Charter is founded on local elections in May of odd numbered years and, therefore, prescribes terms of office beginning July 1 of that same year for both elected and appointed positions. Clearly, the Charter provisions no longer align with the new state law, so we need a fix.

Our Charter authorizes the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to establish a Charter Revision Commission and the time has come for the BOS to do so. Once the Charter Revision Commission finishes its work, town residents will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed revisions, potentially at a Town Meeting but preferably by referendum.

The Charter under which we operate was adopted in 1961. Since that time, there has been some "fine tuning" of the rules under which we govern ourselves (as well as State laws that have minimized home rule), but there have been no consequential updates to our Charter. Since we need to alter some parts of the Charter to address the election date change, we should take advantage of this opportunity to consider other revisions. Nearby towns operate quite differently from ours, in significant ways, and it is worth looking at the way they operate.

Let's start by updating the process by which we approve/reject our annual town budget. Currently, we follow an 18th century-designed process that requires an in-person vote at a Town meeting held in one specific hour on one specific day. Further, voters are not allowed to reject the budget as a whole, but must vote each line item of the budget up or down, and there are hundreds of line items. That's archaic and impractical, to say the least, and flies in the face of our state and country's recent focus on broadening the opportunity for people to vote. Anyone who attended the Town meeting at the fire house last May knows how unwieldy and impractical our budget approval process is today - and it's painfully detailed in the Charter. What's the fix? The Charter Revision Commission should consider changing the town budget approval process to a full day of voting, with machines, ballots, and absentee voting, the same way that we

vote on the Amity budget each year. It will likely allow more than a couple hundred residents who manage to get to a town meeting in one evening to participate in the process.

At the same time the Charter Revision Commission should reevaluate how we place people on the Board of Finance. At present, the members are appointed by majority vote of the Board of Selectmen. In other towns, the Board of Finance is elected. The Board of Finance has the final say on what our town expenditures will be, and thus they set our mill rate. With the specter of high tax increases now looming, as acknowledged by our First Selectman, what better time to let our town residents reconsider how someone becomes a member of the Board of Finance – whether by appointment or by popular vote? We elect state and federal representatives who set our tax rates, yet in Woodbridge, we don't.

Another critical, currently appointed board is the Town Plan and Zoning Commission (TPZ). The TPZ members were recently front and center when faced with the controversial 2 Orchard Road application. The TPZ's final decision on the application included sweeping changes to our town zoning regulations that have opened the door to accessory dwellings, multi-family homes, and denser development, potentially changing the landscape and character of Woodbridge. Whether one agrees with these changes or not, they are consequential and the authority to make such changes should be in the hands of elected individuals as they are in other towns.

Revisions to a town charter are serious business. Recommendations should not be knee-jerk reactions to fleeting town issues but the result of careful review of our town's charter provisions, the charter provisions of other towns, and the pros and cons of each provision. Charter Revision Committee members should represent a diverse approach to the role and structure of local self-government and such a commission should be given a finite time in which to complete its work. We have a timely opportunity to launch a Charter review with the tremendous potential to improve how we do our business, and the Republican party encourages the establishment of a Charter Revision Commission immediately.

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Woodbridge Town News

Below are the next three issue dates & deadlines of the Woodbridge Town News.

Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

<u>Upcoming Issue Date</u>	<u>Issue Deadline</u>
April 15 Easter & Passover Issue	. April 8
May 6 Mother's Day Issue	. April 29
May 27 Memorial Day Issue	. May 20
Note: Copy due by 4:00p.m. Thank you.	

FROM OUR READERS

First Selectman Should Share The Facts

We are confounded by First Selectman Beth Heller's repeated simplistic claim that more housing is good for our town financially because it will grow our Grand List. When we served the town, the Boards of Selectmen and Finance saw the world 180 degrees differently.

The Grand List is the list of all properties subject to town taxation, and consists primarily of homes and businesses (autos represent a very small percent). For many years, the town's Grand List has been around 90 percent residential and 10 percent business property. The problem is this with homes generally come the cost of public education, and education consumes some two-thirds of our Town budget. The per student cost to educate one child at Amity Regional School District is \$19,732, according to the District's approved budget for FY22. The Beecher Road School Superintendent stated last Fall that it costs \$17,500 to \$18,000 on average to educate one child given current federal and state grant support. That means the annual cost of educating just one child substantially exceeds the annual taxes on a typical three-bedroom home (under \$11,000 per year). Further, our town's Finance Director has stated that the cost of other government services (police, fire, library, government programs, public works) amounts to \$2,000 per resident every year.

So while residential development increases the total size of the Grand List, it also increases the demands on the Town Budget. Growing our Grand List doesn't ease a household's tax burden if the growth also increases budget demands. The fact is we need to diversify our Grand List to include more commercial taxpayers, not just make the Grand List larger, if we want to reduce the net tax burden on individual households.

Prior administrations - both Republican and Democratic - understood this. For example, they invested in open space acreage in order to control residential development and the concomitant increase in tax burden. Even Ms. Heller created an Ad Hoc 2030 Task Force aimed at creating "a more robust and diverse grand list by 2030," with a focus on ways to "be more attractive to new businesses, help current businesses grow and succeed." From the Task Force's charge, it sounds like Ms. Heller once understood the need to diversify our Grand List.

We realize that Ms. Heller supports the Arbor Haven proposal to build housing on the former Country Club of Woodbridge, and is actively promoting the Arbor Haven scheme. But Ms. Heller is oversimplifying and overselling when she repeatedly asserts that more housing grows our Grand List and therefore is good for our town. Ms. Heller would better serve our town if she accepted the facts and shared them with her constituents.

Stephen Francis - Board of Finance member, 2002-2005 Amey Marrella - First Selectman, 2001-2006

22nd Annual Woodbridge First Selectman's Youth Award

Woodbridge Youth Services, in collaboration with First Selectman Beth Heller, is accepting nominations for the Twenty-second Annual Woodbridge First Selectman's Youth Award.

Any Woodbridge youth, 18 or under, who is in school, and who, either individually, or as part of a group, has demonstrated positive actions to improve Woodbridge or assist Woodbridge residents is eligible to be nominated for the First Selectman's Youth Award. Areas of involvement may in-

See "Letters" On Page 26



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.

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 HOUCALLON ROUNDUP





Dean/President's List Bates College

Lewiston, ME - Alli Fischman of Woodbridge, CT was named to the dean's list at Bates College for the fall semester ending in December 2021. This is a distinction earned by students whose grade point average is 3.92 or higher. Fischman, the daughter of Barry A. Fischman and Gila J. Fischman, is a 2019 graduate of Hamden Hall Country Day School. She is majoring in sociology at Bates.

Bryant University

Smithfield, RI - Bryant University is pleased to recognize the students who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement. Diego Rodriguez, class of 2023, from Woodbridge, CT, has been named to the Deans' List for the fall 2021 semester. Congratulations to Diego on this outstanding achievement!

Champlain College

Burlington, VT - Annabel Kusnitz of Woodbridge, CT, has been named to the Champlain College President's List for the Fall 2021 semester. Students on the President's List have achieved a grade point average of 4.0 or higher during the semester. Kusnitz is currently enrolled in the Professional Writing major.

Clark University

Worcester, MA - The following Woodbridge residents were named to Clark University's Fall Dean's List: Sage J. Johnson was named to second honors; and Brynn Keevil was named to first honors. Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Endicott College

Beverly, MA - Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, is pleased to announce its Fall 2021 Dean's List students. In order to qualify for the Dean's List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below "C," have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester. Tara Laugeni of Woodbridge, CT, is among those named to the Dean's List at Endicott College for the Fall 2021 semester. Laugeni is majoring in Business Management and Marketing and is the daughter of Elise Laugeni and Greg Laugeni.

Goodwin University

East Hartford, CT - Goodwin Uni-

versity announces 1,049 students achieved Dean's list status for the Fall 2021 session. Those from Woodbridge named to the Dean's List are: Sabrina Colonna, Lindsey Deleo, Cameron Kline, and Renee Pascarelli. Dean's List inclusion requires a student to earn a minimum 3.5 GPA, the equivalent of an A- average, during a given academic session. The student must also be enrolled in a minimum of six academic credits to qualify.

Goodwin University

East Hartford, CT - Goodwin University's President's List for the Fall 2021 Session includes 353 students, all of whom scored a perfect 4.0 GPA. Those from Woodbridge so named are: Lindsey Deleo and Renee Pascarelli.

Rochester Institute of Technology

Rochester, NY - Jess Edwards of Woodbridge was named to the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the Fall 2021 Semester. Edwards is in the illustration program. Full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for Dean's List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of "Incomplete", "D" or "F"; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

Tallahassee Community College

Tallahassee, FL - Isabelle Crane, of Woodbridge, CT was named to Tallahassee Community College Fall 2021 Dean's List!

Tufts University

Medford, MA - Tufts University recently announced the dean's list for the Fall 2021 semester. Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater. Those from Woodbridge named to the Dean's List are: Dana Estra Class of 2023, Ian Glassman Class of 2025, Tracy Lu Class of 2024, Henry Molot Class of 2022, and Siavash Raissi Class of 2024.

University of Maine

Lilly Morrissey was named to The University of Maine's Dean's List honors in the fall 2021 semester. To be eligible for the Full-time Dean's List, a student must have completed 12 or more calculable credits in the semester and have earned a 3.50 or higher semester GPA. Students who have parttime status during both the fall and spring semesters of a given academic year are eligible for Part-time Dean's List. They must have completed 12

Amity Advances to "Sweet 16" in Global Debate Competition

The IPPF is sponsored by the Brewer Foundation and New York University.

Debate teams from around the world entered the 2021-22 International Public Policy Forum (IPPF) competition, but only 16 remain – including a team of students from Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge, Connecticut. By advancing, the students remain eligible to win an all-expenses-paid trip to the IPPF Finals in New York City, where the IPPF World Champion will be awarded a \$10,000 grand prize. The Amity Regional High School team is the only team from Connecticut to advance to this round.

Sponsored by the Brewer Foundation and New York University, the IPPF is the first and only competition that gives high school students from around the world the opportunity to engage in written and oral debates on issues of public policy. "These students analyzed and debated the role of the United States dollar in the world economy," says William A. Brewer III, partner at Brewer, Attorneys & Counselors and a founder of the IPPF. "The 16 teams that remain will compete in another written round of debates - in hopes of advancing to the IPPF Finals in New York City."

The IPPF's 21st annual competition began in October, as teams submitted qualifying round essays affirming or negating the IPPF topic, "Resolved: On balance, the hegemony of the United States dollar is detrimental to the world economy." Those essays were reviewed by a committee, which determined the top 64 teams based on the overall quality of each 2,800-word essay.

In November, the top 64 teams 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 for the next six weeks. A panel of judges reviewed the essays and selected the winning teams. In the "Round of 64," Amity Regional High School advanced over Greenwich High School from Greenwich, Connecticut. In the "Top 32" round, Amity Regional High School advanced over Delhi Public School, R.K. Puram from New Delhi, India.

The "Sweet 16" round is now underway. Amity Regional High School is competing against Mission San Jose High School from Fremont, California. The top 16 teams represent schools from nine U.S. states and Canada, Mongolia, and Singapore.

On March 24, the "Elite 8" teams will be announced. If Amity Regional High School advances, the team will win a trip to New York City to compete in the IPPF Finals on April 30, 2022, at the Harold Pratt House. The IPPF Finals give students the opportunity to supplement their written scholarships with oral advocacy - competing in debates in front of some of the world's foremost experts in business, law and politics. Judges will include Brewer and New York University President Emeritus John Sexton, among others. The winning team will take home the "Brewer Cup" and the \$10,000 grand prize.

The Brewer Foundation is a private, non-profit organization funded by companies, individuals and the national litigation firm of Brewer, Attorneys & Counselors. With offices in New York and Dallas, the Foundation has achieved widespread recognition for its efforts to create, fund and manage a variety of educational outreach programs.

Visit the IPPF at www.ippfdebate. com, www.facebook.com/ippfdebate, on Twitter at @IPPF1, and on Instagram at @ippf1.

or more calculable credits over both terms and have earned a combined GPA in those terms of 3.50 or higher.

Western New England University

Springfield, MA - Western New England University (WNE) is pleased to announce that Alex Wyner of Woodbridge, CT, has been named to the President's List for the Fall Semester 2021. Wyner is one of almost 500 students to achieve this mark of academic excellence. Students are named to the President's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Worcester, MA - Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced that Frederick Miller, of Woodbridge, CT, a member of the class of 2023 majoring in Mathematical Sciences (BS), was named to the university's Dean's List for academic excellence for the fall 2021 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.

Friday, March 11, 2022 Woodbridge Town News Page 9

HUMANN SERVICES



Woodbridge VITA Volunteer Coordinator Michelle Ditzian chats with a client during the in-person tax assistance program through Woodbridge Human Services and the Woodbridge Center

Local Masks and Test Kits: The

Town of Woodbridge will be distributing free COVID-19 at-home test kits, adult N95 masks, and children's masks between Friday, April 1 and Thursday, April 14 for Woodbridge residents while supplies last.

"We want to ensure that residents remain healthy and safe, especially throughout the April holidays and spring break and do not unwittingly expose their families and friends to COVID-19," said First Selectman Beth Heller. "I thank our Human Services Department for providing these kits to Woodbridge residents at such an important time."

Friday, April 15 is both the beginning of Passover week, Good Friday and Easter weekend and the start to our public schools' spring break. Residents in need of test kits, masks, or both may call 203-389-3429 to make an appointment for pick-up. Proof of residency is required.

Prior to April 1 the Town has test kits and masks available for Woodbridge residents who are elderly, vulnerable or disabled and those with non-licensed childcare (a child taken care of by a family member or nanny, but not at a licensed daycare center). Those residents may call to request a COVID-19 at-home test kit and masks through the Human Services office at 203-389-3429.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA): In partnership with the IRS and the Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS), the Woodbridge Center offers free tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The program runs Tuesdays from 9 am-12 pm through April 12. In this third tax season of the pandemic, taxpayers with low to moderate income, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and

those with limited English now have four options to safely and accurately complete 2021 tax returns. If you have access to a computer and internet, you can complete your own tax return through MyFreeTaxes.com, supported by United Way in partnership with the IRS. If doing your own taxes seems daunting, preparers can complete your return either virtually or in person. If you have a camera phone, you can virtually access Woodbridge VITA tax preparers through GetYourRefund.org/WBSC-CT without leaving home.

If you don't have access to technology, call Woodbridge Human Services for a drive-through or in-person appointment. For more details on Woodbridge VITA services, see the Human Services website at https://www.woodbridgect.org/223/Human-Services-Department.

Energy Assistance Program:

Human Services is scheduling appointments for residents to apply for the 2021-2022 CT Energy Assistance Program administered by TEAM, Inc. Income eligibility requirements must be met. For information, or to schedule an appointment, call Judi Young at 203-389-3429. The deadline for filing applications is May 31.

Emergency Preparedness: To be prepared for weather emergencies or power outages, elderly residents and those with disabilities are encouraged to register for the Emergency Call List by calling the Human Services Department at 203-389-3429.

Food Pantry: Woodbridge residents in need may contact the Human Services Department for access to non-perishable food from the Food Pantry each month. Income eligibility is needed. If you would like to donate to the Food Pantry, these items are currently needed: baking mixes, cooking oil, snack foods, laundry detergent, dish soap, and deodorant.

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



Call 203-389-3429 or email np-fund@woodbridgect.org for information or to sign up for programs. Like us on Facebook: Woodbridge, CT Youth Services.

Job Bank

Spring arrives with the need for yard cleanup and garden prep. Residents may call to hire teens to do odd jobs. Teens who want paid work should contact Youth Services to schedule an interview. The Job Bank is a referral service for residents who offer odd jobs to resident teens ages 13 – 18.

Nominations for First Selectman's Youth Award Sought

If you know a Woodbridge youth (up to 18 years old) who has volunteered their time working to improve the Town of Woodbridge or its residents, consider nominating that deserving resident. Principals, teachers, fellow students, neighbors, group, and religious leaders, etc. are encouraged to make nominations. Parents or family members may not nominate a relative. Nominations are due to Youth Services by April 4th. The winner will receive an award and a gift at a date to be determined later this spring. The nomination form can be found on the Town Website.

Pi Day Celebration

Woodbridge Youth Services will be holding an after-school program to celebrate Pi Day on March 14th from 2:30 to 4:30 at Amity Middle School Bethany. Students will get to make their own individual pizza pies! The cost to register is \$10.00. Permission form and payment are due in advance. See Town website.

We Care Kits

The Amity Middle School Student Council coordinated donations of personal items and gift cards and collated the items into We Care bags for the homeless with assistance from Youth Services personnel. Youth Services delivered over 150 bags to New Reach in New Haven along with masks, personal items, and 20 other bags donated by



Valentines made by local students and residents were a big hit with seniors

high school students and residents. Many thanks to those who donated or took time to care for those in need.

Valentines for Seniors

Youth Services received over 200 valentines made by students, parents and grandparents for our local seniors. Those who attended the recent drivethru luncheon were very grateful for the creative cards and thoughtful messages. Extra cards were delivered to a local senior living facility. These acts of kindness brought smiles to many faces and were very much appreciated.

Paint Party

A paint party is scheduled at the Amity Middle School-Bethany cafeteria from 2:30 to 4:00 on April 29 with instructor Samantha Woodruff who is patient and knowledgeable. Students will paint a spring scene and enjoy a snack while they create. Cost is \$25. Permission form and advance payment required.



Home Alone class offers guidance to adolescents.

Home Alone Class

Home Alone class is offered for Woodbridge students ages 9 – 12 on Tuesday, April 12 from 10:00 to 12:30 in the Woodbridge Library meeting room. Learn what to do in an emergency and when to answer the phone or the door. Guidance is offered regarding house rules, nutritious snack, and internet safety. Cost is \$15. Permission form and advance payment required. Call or see website for information.

Youth Evening Programs 6th Grade Party

Sixth graders from Woodbridge and Bethany schools and other sixth grade residents and are invited to a party at Amity Middle School-Bethany on April 1st from 7:00 to 9:00 pm which will offer an inflatable obstacle course, music, pizza, and a raffle. Cost is \$7 at door. Call to register.

8th Grade Party

Youth Services is collaborating with Orange Youth Services to hold a party at Amity High School for 8th grade residents from Woodbridge and Bethany and all 8th graders attending Amity Middle schools on April 22nd from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. A DJ, pizza, and giant games are planned. Cost is \$7 to be paid at the door.

AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER







1. Coachman Square's Carol Davino assists The Center at the February drive-thru luncheon. Coachman Square at Woodbridge and Opal Stork Home Care generously sponsored this event with Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care providing fun Chinese New Year kits. The highlight were the Valentines, handmade by youths in the community, that were provided by Youth Services and distributed to each of the 95 attendees. 2. Participants of Laura Richling's aerobics class enjoy an upbeat, fun workout. Coachman Square's generous donation enabled all aerobics class participants to enjoy classes at no charge in recognition of February's Heart Health Month. 3. Pickleball players enjoy playing together again at The Center.

Are you over 55 years old? Contact The Woodbridge Center: Call 203-389-3430 or email kmoriarty@ woodbridgect.org for information on all programming. Pre-registration is required for all programming and events.

Facebook: Follow us on Facebook (The Woodbridge Center, Woodbridge CT) for current updates and local information. Look for fun programming photos as well.

Email blasts: Things change quickly-please make sure you are on our email blast list to receive Woodbridge Center updates. Call The Center at 203-389-3430 to subscribe.

covid update at The Center: All in-person programming (except meals) is back at The Center! Masks will be required for all Center programs until the COVID positivity rate for Woodbridge is in the yellow zone for three consecutive weeks.

Drive-thru lunches: St. Patrick's Day Drive-thru Luncheon: A reminder if you have registered, the St. Patrick's Day Drive-thru lunch, sponsored by Coachman Square at Woodbridge and the Holli Shanbrom Team - Coldwell Banker Real Estate, will be on Thursday, March 17 from 12-1 pm.

Spring Drive-thru Luncheon for those over 60 years of age: Celebrate spring at the Spring Drive-thru Luncheon on April 14 from 12-1 pm. Lunch includes: choice of curry chicken salad with mango chutney or seafood salad sandwich, ancient grain salad, and pineapple upside down cake for dessert. This drive-thru is generously sponsored by the law firm of Resnik and Resnik and The Linden at Woodbridge. No charge. Please RSVP by April 7.

Upcoming events/programs:

New! Indoor Cornhole: Sign-up today to participate in this part skill, part luck, all fun activity! Toss a beanbag onto the slanted board get 1 point, in the hole- you get 3 points. This is a game everyone can play! All levels are welcome. Every Wednesday, 10 am – 11:30 am in the Center Building gym beginning April 1. Call to register:

203-389-3430.

The American Armchair Adventure - National Park Series: This in-person monthly series, sponsored by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, will take you to 6 National Parks in 6 months. Each month you will "travel" to one of the most breathtaking parks in the United States. Enjoy simulated tours, interactive discussions, trivia, local cuisine, and more. Preregistration is required for this adventure that will meet the 2nd Friday of each month beginning March 11, with a "trip" to Yellowstone National Park, from 11am – 12pm in the Woodbridge Library's meeting room. RSVP required.

Other adventures include: Yosemite
- April 8, Glacier National Park - May 13,
Grand Canyon - June 10, Zion - July 8,
and Grand Teton - August 12.

Free In-person Virtual Art Tour Series viewing co-hosted with the Woodbridge Town Library: Experience art history via the oldest public art museum in the U.S. Come view the Wadsworth Virtual Art Tour series. Each tour will feature a different docent led theme. Preregistration is required. Please call 203-389-3430 to sign up. The series includes:

- 3/16/2022 @ 1 pm: Women Artists:
 A Women's History Month Spotlight (in the library's meeting room);
- 4/6/2022 @ 7 pm: Milton Avery: A Special Exhibit (in the Center Building, room 16);
- > 5/11/2022 @ 1 pm: Impressionists (in the library's meeting room).

Tag sale: It's time to gather your unwanted items and turn them into cash! On April 23, from 10 am to 1 pm, as part of the Town's Earth Day Celebration, The Center will host a tag sale in the Grove. There is a fee of \$10 for each space which includes one, six-foot table. Space is limited, call 203-389-3430 to reserve your spot.

Exercise

Not sure if a class session is right for you? Try a complimentary class first!

Aerobics Class with Laura Richling: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 am, in the Center Building gym. Come

enjoy a complete cardio and strength training workout to a variety of music. Bring your own 1- or 2-pound hand weights, if you have them, to use during the class. There is a \$3 fee paid at the beginning of each class.

Pickleball: Monday through Friday, 12:30-3:30 pm, in the Center Building gym. New players please call to register. All levels are welcome. Call for more information. There is an annual fee of \$20 for residents, \$25 for non-residents.

Zumba Gold with Amanda Aran- zullo: Fridays, 9:30-10:15 am, in the Center Building gym. Who says exercise can't be fun? This fun "dance party" focuses on all elements of cardiovascular health, muscular conditioning, flexibility, and balance. No prior Zumba experience required. The fee is \$30 for a 6-week session. Join anytime - current session will be pro-rated. Please call to register.

Hobbies/Social

Bridge: Wednesdays and Fridays, 1-4 pm in The Center café.

Computer lab is open Monday - Friday, 10 am - 2 pm. Two-person limit in computer lab. Printing is available (first 5 pages free). Preregistration is required.

Craft Group: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 am - 12 pm, in The Center café. Bring your current knitting, crocheting, or needlepoint project to work on while enjoying a lovely time socializing.

Painting for Pleasure with Carole Abbate: Mondays, 10 am - 12 pm, in The Center café. You will find joy in creating your own paintings as Carole helps inspire beginners to intermediates. Paint the subject of your choice with acrylics or watercolors-bring in a postcard or photo for inspiration. Join anytime for this 6-week, \$36 class, prorated for midsession. Sessions run consecutively.

Pinochle: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 1:30-4 pm, the Center Building, room 16.

Services offered (for Woodbridge residents only):

Tech Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:45-4:15 pm: Need some help navigating your computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone? Not sure where to start? Want to know more about what features you aren't using? Call 203-389-3430 to sign-up for a 1:1 session in The Center's computer lab with patient, knowledgeable, Amity High School student volunteers. No fee.

Transportation for medical appointments is available for those age 60+ or with a long-term or short-term disability, Monday - Friday from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm with limited exceptions. Transportation for grocery shopping, local banking, and pharmacy pick-up is also available. Call to arrange car or wheelchair accessible van transportation. Vehicles are cleaned between each use. Masks are required.

Meals: Healthy, well balanced, flash frozen meals for \$5.25/meal are available. Order by noon on Monday for delivery to your home on Tuesday. Choose from a wide variety of options including chicken parmesan, lemon dill cod, eggplant rollatini, beef pot roast, vegetable frittata, and fresh Cobb salad with grilled chicken breast. Meals include a roll, fresh fruit, and dessert. Two-meal minimum. See website (https://woodbridgect.org/541/Lunch-Meal-Programs) for a complete list of offerings.

Frozen soups are available for \$1.50 per 10 oz. container. Varieties include: Italian wedding, beef orzo, minestrone, harvest vegetable, chicken noodle, and many more. Call 203-389-3430 to place your order.

Friendly Visitor Program: Call Judi Young, Senior Social Worker, at 203-389-3429, to arrange for a friendly visitor.

Medical Loan Closet: Durable medical equipment is available for lending including walkers, wheelchairs, knee rollers, shower chairs, and more. Call for details.

Job Bank: Residents may call Nancy Pfund, Youth Services, at 203-389-3429, to hire a student worker. Schedule now for spring cleanup and more.

TOWN DEPARTMENTS

Town Provides Test Kits for April Holidays and Vacation

The Town of Woodbridge will be distributing free COVID-19 at-home test kits and N95 masks between Friday, April 1 and Thursday, April 14 for Woodbridge residents while supplies last. This distribution will be by appointment only.

"We want to ensure that residents remain healthy and safe, especially throughout the April holidays and spring break and do not unwittingly expose their families and friends to COVID-19," said First Selectman Beth Heller. "I thank our Human Services Department for providing these kits to Woodbridge residents at such an important time."

Friday, April 15 is both the begin-

ning of Passover week, Good Friday and Easter weekend and the start to our public schools' spring break.

Residents in need of test kits, masks or both may call 203-389-3429 to make an appointment. Proof of residency is required.

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Recreation News



Woodbridge Recreation Camps

Woodbridge Recreation Summer camps will run June 27 through August 5, 9 am - noon at Beecher Road South School for campers entering grades 1-8. Camp offers a wide range of activities including arts and crafts, drama, fitness, and more. Registration begins April 18th.

<u>Resident</u>
\$600
\$550
\$500
\$450
\$375
\$275

April Food Explorers Camp

Join Food Explorers for a half day of tasty cooking camp with the Woodbridge Recreation Department! You'll make two delicious snacks with Miss Lara and learn all about food and cooking. You'll be making Pancake Skewers and 7 Layer Dip! Each child will make their own portion, all recipes are nut free but will contain dairy and eggs. April 12, 2 to 4 pm, \$55.

Chess Wizards Chess Camp

- > July 18-22nd
- > 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm: \$210.00
- > Grade: 1st-5th or 6-12 years old
- > Student to Teacher ratio: never more than 14 to 1
- Beecher South School

Spring/Summer league Volleyball teams wanted

We have enough interest to run a Spring/Summer league both indoors and outdoors at the sand court. Email Jim Franco, jfranco@woodbridgect.org, for more information or if you have a team. Limited spots remain in the outdoor league.



WILEY ETTER DOYON ATTORNEYS

How many Probate Courts are there in Connecticut and which Probate Court do I use for a decedent's estate?

There are fifty-four (54) Probate Districts and six (6) Regional Children's Probate Courts in the state of Connecticut. The Connecticut Probate Courts oversee the administration of a decedent's estate after death to ensure that an executor or administrator is appointed to be responsible for the decedent's estate, that the decedent's assets are properly managed and distributed, and that all required expenses and creditors are paid. Here is some general information about Connecticut Probate Courts:

- Some towns/cities have their own Probate Court while other
 Probate Courts may be shared by two or more towns.
- The Probate Court's jurisdiction over a decedent's estate depends on where the decedent resided at the time of his or her death. For example, the estate of a decedent who resided in Orange, Connecticut, would be administered in the Orange/ Milford Probate Court. The estate of a decedent who resided in Branford, Connecticut would be administered in the Branford/North Branford Probate Court.
- Each Probate Court uses the same Probate Court Forms which can be found online at http://www.ctprobate.gov/

While the Connecticut Probate Court Forms are easily accessible online and the staff of the Connecticut Probate Courts are often friendly and helpful, the staff cannot provide legal advice on how to properly complete the probate forms. Therefore, it is often beneficial to consult with a Connecticut probate attorney who is familiar with the Connecticut probate process to ensure that the forms are completed correctly and submitted in a timely manner. If you are interested in learning more about administering a decedent's estate in a Connecticut Probate Court 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.





Allison M. DePaola Drozd and Steven P. Floman of the law firm Wiley Etter Doyon, LLC is the author 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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"Mask Mandate" From Page 1

lifted on February 28, for a variety of reasons. Dr. Budd said he wanted to use an upcoming faculty meeting to communicate with teachers on implementing the shift, and possibly to communicate with families. Some parents had already reached out to the administration, asking for more information to make an informed decision for their child. Rather than dropping the mask mandate at the first possible moment – March 1 – more communication would allow for a stronger collaboration, he said.

After two unsuccessful attempts at a vote, the board finally agreed to drop the mask mandate effective Monday, March 7. However, students will be required to continue wearing masks on the school bus until at least March 18.

The one-week delay in suspending the mask policy also allowed the district to distribute a Covid test kit to each child and each adult, asking everyone to test for the virus before they enter the building the morning of March 7. The idea is "to make sure we are entering the new phase successfully," Dr. Budd said. Even so, the district relied on the "honor system," expecting people to act responsibly when they test positive and stay home.

Prior to the February 23 board meeting, the district had sent out a survey to both parents and teachers to determine which preferences prevailed. Kris Hart Rooney, a Multi Age Group teacher, presented the survey results. She said 586 parents and 99 staff members responded, with remarkably similar results. Forty-two percent of the parents and 44% of the teachers felt confident to do away with the masks as of March 1; 29% (24%) favored holding off until the end of the school year and 16% (10%) wanted to wait until after spring break.

The survey also inquired about the vaccination status as one important factor in determining the vulnerability of the community. Ninety-nine percent of staff at the school are fully vaccinated and 68% of K-6 students are as well. As for the community at large, 85.6% of the Woodbridge residents were reported fully vaccinated, 7.42% partially vaccinated.

Dr. Budd said a number of other Covid mitigation strategies would be lifted gradually, provided the numbers continue to trend in the right direction. Among those strategies are quarantining and contact tracing; "cohorting" at recess and allowing several grades to eat lunch in the cafeteria simultaneously, rather than the current two. In fact, one parent felt these strategies to be more ill-advised than the masks. In a letter to the board, she noted that students are allowed to watch movies during lunch in order to keep them quiet while the masks are off. And the practice to keep classes apart during recess in an effort to prevent the virus from spreading between cohorts often results in kids not having adequate outdoor time, she wrote in a letter to the board.

As the numbers continue to decrease the district will drop social distancing in classrooms and return to more conventional interactions, Dr. Budd said, and finally, reduce or do away with restriction on assemblies and field trips; restrictions on band/chorus; and restriction on visitors in the building.

The discussion among board members was overall respectful, although passions did flare up on occasion. The first vote was whether to suspend or eliminate existing mask policies. Brooke Hopkins, Sarah Beth DelPrete and Jeff Hughes supported eliminating the policies at the earliest date possible. Board Chairwoman Lynn Piascyk said, "I don't think it is an unreasonable request [to wait until March 7]," and voted against the motion, together with Maria Madonick, Michael Strambler, Erin Williamson and Jay Dahya.

Maria Madonick then introduced a motion to suspend the policies effective March 18, with the stipulation that the administration work out a metric that would trigger the board to consider reinstating the mask mandate should the district face a future surge.

Jeff Hughes argued against, pointing out that most other districts in our area – including Amity – were instituting mask choice.

This vote ended in a 4-4 tie, with Piascyk joining the no-vote. Piascyk then motioned to suspend the policies effective March 7, and the motion again failed, 4-4.

The board members finally rallied, unanimously suspending the mask policies as of March 7, with the addendum that the district "devise a data-based metric to provide thresholds of risk that will convene a meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Education to discuss potential reinstatement of the policies should the district face a future surge."



ATTENTION WOODBRIDGE 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

TOWN DEPARTMENTS

Recycling Bin to Recycle Glass at the Transfer Station

The Town now has a bin for residents to recycle glass separately at the Transfer Station. Separating glass from other recyclable items will help to make the Town's recycling more marketable and reduce the amount the Town pays to recycle by reducing the weight. Please be certain all recycled glass containers are thoroughly cleaned with

labels, lids, and plastic rings removed.

Broken glass is a main source of contamination in recycling. Broken glass particles attach themselves to other recyclables, and non-broken glass is contaminated with bits and pieces of other trash items. For that reason, most glass sent to landfills is never recycled into a new bottle or jar.

Save The Date!

The Woodbridge Housing Opportunity Study Committee will be hosting a public forum on Wednesday, March 30, from 7PM to 9PM to report on current progress for developing an affordable housing plan as mandated by the State of Connecticut. The results from the local housing survey will also be presented. The Commit-

tee hopes to have this informational forum in person at the Jewish Community Center, located on 360 Amity Road, pending the COVID-19 status of the town being in yellow category for 3 consecutive weeks. If this status is not achieved, the event will be held virtually. Please check Woodbridge's town website for updates.

Town of Woodbridge Meetings for the Month of March 2022



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

3/14	Library CommissionZoning Board of Appeals		Library Town Hall
3/15	2030 Task Force	.6:00 PM	Town Hall
3/16	Diversity & Inclusion Committee	.6:30 PM	Library
3/17	Board of Finance		Town Hall Town Hall
3/21	Fire Commission		Police Dept.
3/22	Gov't Access TV Commission	.7:30 PM	Town Hall
3/23	Inland/Wetland Agency	.7:30 PM	Town Hall
3/24	Conservation Commission	.7:30 PM	Town Hall
3/25	Board of Assessment Appeals	.6-9:00 PM	Town Hall
3/26	Board of Assessment Appeals	.8AM-12PM	Town Hall
3/28	CUPOPRecreation Commission		Town Hall Beecher Rd School S
3/30	Board of Assessment Appeals	.6:00-9:00 P	M Town Hall

Spotlight on Anxiety Forum

The Yale Child Study Center's Anxiety and Mood Disorders Program will be holding the 8th Annual Spotlight on Anxiety Forum for Concerned Parents and Professionals on Thursday, April 21. This year's theme is "The 'Other Pandemic': Anxiety in the Time of COVID-19." The forum will provide attendees with cutting-edge, clinically informed information about childhood anxiety and its increased prevalence since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some topics will include genetics, irritability, failure to launch, parenting children & adolescents, and somatic symptoms. To learn more and/or register, visit https://www.eventbrite. com/e/8th-annual-spotlight-on-anxiety-the-other-pandemic-tickets-25050 6600987?aff=affiliate2.

The Anxiety and Mood Disorders Program at the Yale Child Study Center offers comprehensive evaluations and treatments for children and adolescents ages 6 to 14 years. Services are provided at no cost to families who are eligible to participate in research but can otherwise be provided for a fee (with a sliding scale plan also available). The program treats a range of anxiety disorders and fears, such as excessive worrying, social anxiety, separation anxiety, anxiety relating to school (e.g., taking tests, speaking in class, attending school, etc.), and specific fears (e.g., heights, dogs, thunder, etc.).

The program currently has three large clinical trials. The first is looking for children 10-14 years old to study how children with and without anxiety pay attention to pictures of faces. If eligible, your child will complete computer tasks while we measure

their attention. You and your child will also respond to surveys. Eligible participants will be compensated up to \$350. The second trial is for children 6-12 years old and includes two effective treatments for childhood anxiety - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Supportive Parenting for Anxious Childhood Emotions (SPACE), a parent-based treatment. Families enrolled in this research are randomized to receive SPACE or Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for 12 weekly sessions. Study participants receive evaluation and treatment at no cost and are compensated up to \$250. The third trial, for children 10-14, is testing the effects of a brief computer-based training that targets attentional processes to reduce social anxiety in children. Attention training is a promising treatment for anxiety disorders because the hope is to train the child's brain to divert from threatening stimuli. Participants will complete the computer program twice a week for four weeks. Study participants receive treatment at no cost and are compensated up to \$600.

The Anxiety and Mood Disorders Program is led by Wendy Silverman, PhD, Alfred A. Messer Professor of Child Psychiatry and Director of the Yale Child Study Center Program's Anxiety and Mood Disorders Program, and Eli Lebowitz, PhD, Associate Professor in the Child Study Center and Associate Director of the Anxiety and Mood Disorders Program. If interested, please feel free to call (203) 737-4644 or email anxiety.csc@yale.edu to learn more about the Anxiety and Mood Disorders Program at the Yale Child Study Center.

Pandemic/Winter Sedentary Precautions

By Michael Demetriades DPT

As the winter and cold months are approaching in conjunction with a pandemic, many people are slowing down, not going out as much and ultimately move their bodies less. This can be the perfect combination to allow muscle weakness to set in. Between moving less, outdoor household chores, and weather conditions; there are many ways to stay active and keep yourself safe during this time of year.

During this pandemic and now the winter approaching, people are staying inside more, becoming less active, which could lead to falls. There are a number of ways to combat this without leaving your home during this vulnerable time. Several body weight exercises can be performed in your home for people of every skill and disability level. Physical therapists can take an assessment and provide you with a great home exercise program tailored for your specific needs and skill level which can be done in clinic or through an E-visit (internet visit/phone). In my experience, patients that tend to be more active using specific home exercises overall fall less frequent. Some general exercises that most people are able to do would be sit to stand transfers from a chair, straight leg raises in bed, going up and down one step, lunges performed at your counter are just a few options. For a more specific plan contact a physical therapist.

As snow starts to fall this time of year, there can be more work around your house. These winter activities shoveling snow and winterizing your house can be very taxing on your body. Prior to going out in the elements, make sure you are having a proper meal, drinking plenty of water and performing light stretching. Also, when performing these activities do smaller, more frequent rounds of the task, instead of leaving one daunting, big clean up. In my experience, I have seen many patients come in with injuries related to shoveling and raking when they leave everything for one big clean up. A good recommendation would be to go out a few times during the snow storm to keep up with it while there is less accumulation as opposed to try to shovel 12 or more inches at one time. This can be a hazard to pulling muscles and more importantly heart attacks.



Michael Demetriades DPT

Finally, with the weather conditions getting worse in the winter, proper preventative measures can be made in order to avoid falling. A few ways to prevent falls would be to salt and sand walkways and driveway before and after snowfall. This small amount of traction can help avoid a slip and fall injury. Another way would be to purchase attachments for your shoes which have small spikes or grips which will allow you to walk over ice with significantly less chance of falling.

In the chance of an injury that occurs during the winter months or anytime for that matter, physical therapy is a great option that requires no prescription. Injuries will improve quicker when treatment intervention occurs sooner in the process. There are also E-visit options available during this pandemic as well.

These few tips and preventative measures can keep you safe this winter. If there are questions about any of the content above, I can be contacted at Amity Physical Therapy in Braford at 203-433-4683.

Michael Demetriades DPT received his doctorate degree from Quinnipiac University. He has experience in working with all ages and injuries. Michael is a previous varsity hockey and baseball player who is well versed in the modern athlete. Amity Physical Therapy was founded by Michael Dow MSPT, CEO/ Director 17 years ago. The practice now has four offices: Branford, Woodridge, Hamden and Milford. Michael Demetriades can be reached in Branford at (203) 433-4683.



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CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS





Searching For Clues

Cub Scouts from Pack 902 engaged in a scavenger hunt for clues about historic items when they visited the Amity Woodbridge Historical Society exhibit at the Town Library.

Nancy Mull and Lynn Piascyk talked to them about how the items

in the pictures were used - such as a hetchel to make yarn or a stereopticon to make 3D pictures. In a second part of the program Mull introduced them to Native American traditions, including a song and a game resembling a game of dice.



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News from Troop 907

The scouts of Troop 907 Woodbridge have been working hard in the start of 2022 after finishing 2021 strong. In early December the boys camped out at Scout Camp Wah Wah Taysee at the foot of Sleeping Giant in Hamden. They worked on an orienteering course their scoutmasters put together. This helped them navigate their way into the new year.

The boys plan their campouts and events weeks in advance. They camped out at Deep Lake in Killingworth the weekend of January 28-30. This was the weekend of a blizzard. With the motto of "Be Prepared", the boys took all the proper precautions and set forth on a journey they won't soon forget. They camped out in tents the first night and spent Saturday, hiking, cooking, sledding and just enjoying the out-

doors. Saturday night was spent in a cabin but only after a long day outside.

The troop also went skiing the weekend of February 11-12 in Vermont and conducted a fellowship campout at Camp Whiting in Woodbridge the end of the month. The troop has three potential Eagles Scouts this year and the winter Court of Honor was held on Thursday, February 24 where advancement and merit badges were awarded.

Troop 907 is always welcoming new members and information can be found at WWW.TROOP907.ORG. The troop meets every Thursday at the First Church of Christ in the Parish House, rear entrance, on Meeting House Lane, Woodbridge center. The troop hopes to see your sons at Thursday weekly meetings soon and welcomes boys aged 11-17.

Community Fun Bike Ride

Save the Date for the first Community Fun Ride on Saturday May 14. This non-competitive bike ride is organized by the Woodbridge Ad Hoc Community Council.

The free event will take place on the Library lawn. The bike ride will have two routes – a short ride that goes to Beecher Road School and back and a longer route that will follow the Town's bike route from the Library along Center Road to Pease Road, Ansonia Road, Beecher Road and back to the Library.

The Town's bike route was made possible by generous donations from

residents and a matching grant from Sustainable CT. The route connects major destinations in the center of town including the high school, Town Center Campus, Fitzgerald Tract, Beecher Road School, former Country Club of Woodbridge and Pease Place Playground.

Helmets will be required, and costumes and bike decorations are encouraged. The committee is looking for volunteers to help at the event. If you are interested in helping, please let Betsy Yagla know at byagla@woodbridgect.org.

More details will be coming soon – stay tuned!



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PEACE OF MIND





"I lived with my son after my husband passed, but it was lonely when he was at work. My daughter and I visited Maplewood. We toured and had lunch and I thought, I like this place — the people were all friendly. I made my decision to move in. While I'm still independent, I know help is there when I need it. I love the activities and decided I could either sit in my room and not participate, or I could go out and try everything. So that's what I did. I love the hand chimes; my mother used to play them. I enjoy playing cards. I do an exercise class and I'm looking forward to taking physical therapy soon which will focus on balance. The meals are delicious. The chefs come out into the dining room to see how your meal is going. I like to engage with other residents, participate in the programs, and be part of the community. It is lonely living on your own and living here is a great solution. Your children only want the best for you and at a certain point, we have to admit we can't do it on our own but we can still live a great life."

— Africia, Resident

With a renowned reputation and unrivaled services and amenities, Maplewood Senior Living communities offer residents an exceptional lifestyle. No matter what our residents need, we provide the right level of support and the added peace of mind families are looking for.

Our VistasTM program was designed specifically for those looking for some extra support in their daily lives. Expert caregivers are available to lend a hand with personal care, such as dressing, bathing, and grooming, or with more comprehensive support, such as medication oversight. We also offer a variety of health and wellness activities, a full schedule of social and cultural programs, fine dining experiences, scheduled transportation, and more. We take care of everything so our residents are free to explore their interests and pursue their passions.

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Kathy Hoyt Announces Candidacy For State Senate

Kathy Hoyt, a local small business owner, and longtime community volunteer and activist from Hamden, to-day announced her candidacy for State Senate in the $17^{\rm th}$ District.

"Every day I talk to people in the community and hear they are struggling to make ends meet. They are consistently burdened with the continuing demands of inflation, expensive healthcare, taxes and fees. The rise in crime, unsustainable cost of living and the decline of personal freedoms have people frustrated, and concerned with the current leadership of our state. Many are moving elsewhere to live their lives and raise their families. I will stand up and advocate for solutions to bring balance, affordability, safety, and common sense back to Connecticut. Our state must be financially stable and respectful of people's personal rights and choices for themselves and their children. Our citizens deserve to feel safe in their communities. I will work for the people of the 17th District, who work hard to provide for their families and care for their communities," said Kathy.

Kathy is proud to be born, raised and educated in Connecticut. Her grandparents immigrated to America to provide her parents, and eventually, Kathy with a better life. Her father was an honored veteran who served in World War II to protect this country. Kathy's life began in nearby New Haven and she grew up right here in Hamden. Kathy earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Central Connecticut State University. She chose to raise her sons, Shane and Logan, in Hamden so they could also benefit from the public school system as well as community and recreational opportunities.

"My experiences professionally and as an active community member have provided me with the pleasure of getting to know people from the area. I have committed my entire adult life to helping people find a way to thrive in Connecticut with a home that they are able to afford and enjoy. Achieving the American Dream through job opportunities, home security or connecting with the aid services an individual needs is my passion. The 17th district needs a representative who will bring that same energy and vision to state policy," said Kathy.

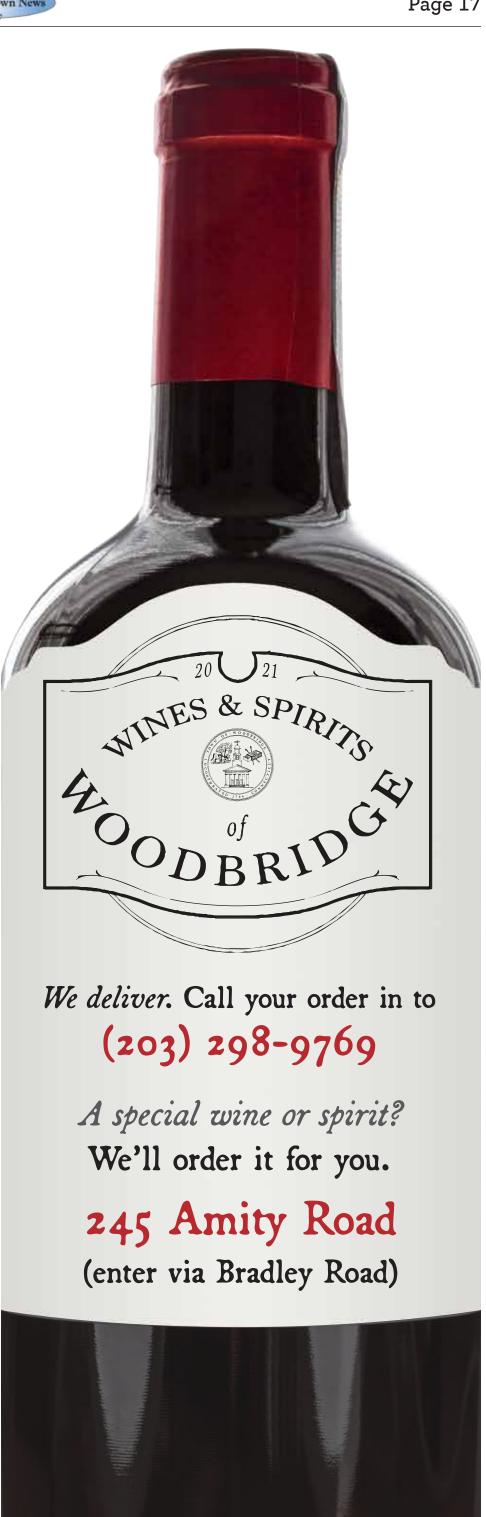
"My focus over the next months will be on getting out and meeting more members of the communities I hold so dear. I want to hear peoples' concerns, opinions and hopes for our state. Service and solutions are what inspired me to run, and those are the exact tenets I will carry every day as the next State Senator for the 17th District. This part of the state deserves active leadership who will not be afraid to stand up and offer a better way when we keep hitting the same roadblocks. Things have to get better, we just need a government willing to look at 'how'," said Kathy.

"Kathy has a long history of working to improve our community and a passion for doing what's right. She has been a breath of fresh air locally, and I am excited for her to bring that same outlook to our State Capitol," said Frank LaDore, Chairman of the Hamden Republican Town Committee. "We need change, we need action, we need Kathy."

Former State Senator George Logan said, "The people of the 17th District deserve a State Senator who is engaged, present and ready to advocate for re-

See "Hoyt" On Page 27









"They won't break me because the desire for freedom, and the freedom of the Irish people, is in my heart. The day will dawn when all the people of Ireland will have the desire for freedom to show. It is then that we will see the rising of the moon." — BOBBY SANDS



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ARTS & LEISURE



Pictured in Center of photo are Fred Hulley, sponsor, and Judy Primavera, sponsor

Spartan Players Spring Production Announced!

With a generous grant from their headlining sponsor, The Jamie A. Hulley Arts Foundation (jamiehulleyartsfund.org), The AMSO Spartan Players (Orange Campus) are pleased to announce its production of Mary Poppins, Friday, March 18, and Saturday, March 19, at 6:30 PM. The AMSO Spartan

Players look forward to bringing this timeless story to life!

The Squarefoot Theatre Company's Patrick Laffin has teamed up with over 50 students to bring this amazing show to the stage! Tickets are \$10 and will be on sale at the door for all performances.



Shirlala Family Concert Presented by B'nai Jacob

Date: Sunday, March 27 **Time:** 4-5 PM

Price: FREE **Location:** Congregation B'nai

Jacob, 75 Rimmon Road, Wood-

bridge, CT 06525

Congregation B'nai Jacob, in partnership with PJ Library, is thrilled to present ShirLaLa live in concert! Shira Kline is a performance and ritual artist, recognized as a revolutionary educator and named one of the new re-engineers of Jewish life today. She tours with her band extensively, playing stages locally and globally from Los Angeles to Australia,

from Tel Aviv to Texas. ShirLaLa's award winning albums along with her parent and teacher resource center, "Blog Sameyach," are played in homes, schools, classrooms, dance parties, and on the way to Grandmothers' houses, worldwide. Audiences of all ages are swept up by her love for the music, so bring your dancing shoes and get ready for this wiggle giggle love fest! This event is made possible by a generous gift from an anonymous donor

Registration Link https://jewish-federationofgreaternewha.regfox.com/4pm-shirlala-family-concert.



Hulley Foundation Keeps the Arts Blooming

The Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation announces its second annual KEEP THE ARTS BLOOMING virtual raffle campaign. 100% of the proceeds will be dedicated to local educational programs, scholarships, and community projects. During the 2021 pandemic shutdown, we provided much needed financial assistance to youth hoping to continue their training in the visual & performing arts, to early career professionals with original projects to fill the void of unemployment, and to our local school & community partners developing new and innovative approaches to arts education and performance. This year, Keep the Arts Blooming 2022 is focused on bringing back the arts safely, bigger, better, and more vibrant than ever.

Give big, win big. There are ten chances to win! Raffle prizes are VISA gift cards valued at \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500, \$200, and \$100. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased online on the foundation's website: www.jamiehulleyartsfund.org. Winners will be drawn live on the foundation's Face-

book page on the first day of spring, Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 7 pm.

The Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation provides life-changing educational opportunities in the arts to hundreds of youths and adults each year through its educational programs, scholarships, and community projects. The foundation's educational programs provide unique enrichment opportunities to Amity schools as well as schools in the greater New Haven, Bridgeport, and Valley areas. The Foundation also provides financial support for artists, middle school through the early career years, to develop their talents in the visual and performing arts as well as sponsoring numerous arts programs in the local community.

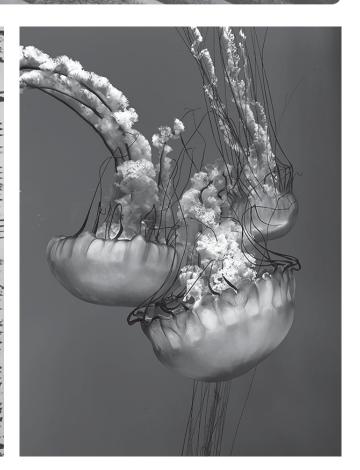
Just as Spring is a time of renewal and rebirth, the arts are breaking through the pandemic-imposed hibernation and bursting with creative energy to fill our hearts with joy and hope. Please join us and TAKE A CHANCE! Together, we can keep the arts blooming!



ARTS & LEISURE











Left to right: Ben Frazier Submission, Eveleen Submission, Amanda Koola Submission, Grace Lodewick Submission, Alexandra Louros Submission

2022 Scholastic Award Winners

Every year Amity High School enters the CT Scholastic Art Awards competition. Schools that have 7-12th graders can submit a selection of works in different categories. There are single artwork submissions and

portfolio submission opportunities for each school as well. This year our Amity students did a great job, and the visual art department is proud of them.

The three Photography awards

went to Alexandra Louros, 12, of Orange, Amanda Koola, 10, of Woodbridge and Ben Frazier, 11, of Bethany all received the Silver Key. Grace Lodewick, 12, of Woodbridge, received an Honorable Mention in Drawing, and

Eveleen, 12, of Orange, received the Silver Key in Printmaking. Congratulations to the above-mentioned students, their exceptional work and the manner in which they represent Amity.

"If you're Irish, it doesn't matter where you go - you'll find family." — VICTORIA SMURFIT

Tickets Available for Amity's Spring Musical Mamma Mia!

The award-winning Amity Regional High School Theater Department, under the direction of Robert and Andrea Kennedy, is thrilled to announce the production of Mamma Mia!.

Mamma Mia! is the hilarious story of a young woman's search for her birth father. This sunny and funny tale unfolds in a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago. The story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter, and friendship, creating an unforgettable show.

Performances are April 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9 at 8:00 p.m. at the John J. Brady Center for the Performing Arts at Amity

Regional High School, 25 Newton Road in Woodbridge. Tickets are \$20 and are available online at www.amitytheater-department.com or by contacting the box office at 203.392-2019 or email amityboxoffice@gmail.com.

This year's corporate sponsors include BENDER, Burns Insurance Group, Coldwell Banker Realty, Disruptive Nutrition, Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation,

JTF Holdings Excavation, Laticrete International, Inc., Milford-Orange Times, New England Performance Insulation, Rick's Plumbing Service, Total Mortgage, and Total Realty Services. All proceeds raised go to the self-funded Amity Theater program.

For further information, please call the box office at 203.392.2019 or email amityboxoffice@gmail.com.

ARTS & LEISURE

Celebrate the Solstice with Farm Events

As the spring solstice approaches, we're excited to share a list of engaging activities hosted by Massaro Farm. Information about all activities listed can be found on our website: MassaroFarm.org.

Maple Tapping How-To

Join us Saturday, March 12 (rescheduled from February 26) at 2:00pm for this beginner how-to on making homemade syrup. We'll give you the tools you need and the basics for tapping and boiling syrup from maple and other tree varieties to make your own delicious syrup. Registration fee includes the cost of a tree tapping kit to use at home. Sliding scale tickets \$15-\$25/pp. Eventbrite.com.

Winter Goat Walks

Sign up early for the next installment of Winter Goat Walks on Saturday, March 26. Come take a walk along the trail or along the farm's perimeter with our five resident goats. This is a lovely small-group social activity and a great way to get some fresh air and exercise. \$5/person or \$10/family. SignupGenius.com.

Two Nights Out to Benefit the Farm: Restaurant Night and Comedy for a Cause

On March 16, 2022, Olives and Oil of Seymour is offering a restaurant night to benefit education on the farm. On that day, the restaurant will donate 10% of all dine-in and take-out orders to the farm (excluding Uber Eats, Grub Hub, & other apps). This is a great way to support the farm while enjoying a delicious dinner. Mention Massaro when you order and your donation will be applied.

We are pleased to join efforts with The Strand Theater in Seymour to bring you *Comedy for a Cause* on Saturday, April 2. This night of fun and laughter features four talented comedians and their host in an event to raise funds for a new educational pavilion on the farm. The performers are Dan Kalwhite,



Beau McDowell, Nick Scopoletti, and Rafi Gonzalez. Host: Chris Warren. The evening will also include a cash bar and 50/50 raffle. Doors open at 7:00pm; showtime at 8:00pm. \$25/pp general seating. Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite.com.

Earth Day Action

We're pleased to partner with environmental consultant Tory Ruttenberg of Climate Action Group to bring you a two-part virtual workshop on climate change March 22 and April 5 at 7:00pm. If you're looking to have a positive impact on climate but struggle with where to begin, Talk/Act for Climate Change is for you. Tory will moderate two sessions: the first session will focus on finding your niche; the second session will guide you on where to take action. This virtual workshop is FREE but you must register to receive the Zoom link and join the conversation. For more background on Climate Change Group, visit their website: www.climatechangegroup.org. Register on Eventbrite.com.

Become a Melonhead! We're gearing up for another Rock to Rock Earth Day Event and we'd love for you to join our team. Join us over the months of March and April as we walk, run or ride in support of clean energy initiatives. On April 30, we'll come together for group rides from Massaro and celebrate Earth Day with snacks, prizes and entertainment. A good time is guaranteed, so join us for some fresh air and long overdue socializing all in

support of a fantastic organization. You can also win some great Massaro swag in the process. All proceeds will directly support our hunger relief and sustainability initiatives. Contact Lindsay Browning or Caty Poole in the farm office to join in the fun: (203) 736-8618.

Get Ready for Garden Season

Soul to Soil is an invitation for anyone interested in getting involved in any one of the 12 Grow Your Own community gardens across the Valley. We'll give an intro in community garden rules and tools and go over how Massaro can support you. We'll also make painted rock garden markers. This free family-friendly event will be held at Ansonia Public Library. Please RSVP by calling the library at (203) 734-6275 or registering on Signup-Genius.com.

Sign up for one of the remaining garden workshops hosted by Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) in New Haven. March 12: Seed Starting; March 19: Essential Flowers & Herbs for Vegetable Gardens. 10:00am-12:00pm via Zoom by Advanced Master Gardener Rachel Ziesk. Register on Eventbrite.com.

Summer Camp Registration Open

Registration is now open for Summer Camp on the farm. Camp for ages 5-11 will run from July 11 - August 19, 2022. Hours are Monday through

Friday, 8:30am-3:30pm. Please note campers must turn 5 by May 1, 2022. Campers will spend the entire day outdoors on the farm exploring the fields and woods, caring for farm chickens and goats and learning about sustainable food production. There will be crafts, healthy snacks and all kinds of farm shenanigans. \$275/week per child (includes t-shirt). Sibling discounts and scholarships available. Please read the full page of camp info on our website and follow instructions carefully to ensure your spot in the week(s) of your choice.

Subscribe for your 2022 Seasonal Vegetable Subscription (CSA)

Subscribe to our 10- or 20-week CSA now to assist our farmers in planning for the coming season. For the first time, we are offering our CSA with scaled pricing; you choose the price point that's right for you. 20-week share: \$440-795. 10-week flexible share: \$240-425. Fruit option from High Hill Orchard in Meriden: \$110. Last year's CSA sold out early; therefore, we encourage your reservation by April 1 to secure your spot. Print out and return a subscription form or pay online with a credit card at www. MassaroFarm.org.

The farm is also now accepting EBT cards. Call the farm office at (203) 736-8618 to arrange to make payment.

Massaro Community Farm is a nonprofit, certified organic community farm on 57 acres of land whose mission is to keep farming, feed people, and build community. In addition to growing vegetables for seasonal subscribers, the farm donates thousands of pounds each year to hunger relief. The farm serves as a hub of education for all ages and shares its space with the community. The farm's nature trail is open to the public 365 days a year. For more information visit our website at www.MassaroFarm. org or contact Executive Director Caty Poole at 203-736-8618 or at caty@ massarofarm.org.

Bake Sale and Raffle Donations

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION - CAN YOU HELP?

We are in need of Bake Sale items for our Earth Day Celebration taking place on Saturday, April 23rd from 10 am to 3 pm. Baked items can be dropped off the week leading to the event. Baked goods must be individually wrapped.

Raffle Donations can be dropped off any time during our hours of operation.

If you or someone you know is interested in helping us, please email ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org for details.

Thank you so much for your help.

Ansonia Nature Center "Friends" and Staff

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Or Shalom Happenings

"Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Door"

Staying Connected

Attend religious services and most other events in person or by Zoom.

To register for a Zoom link, please see the information below.

Join Us For Weekly Services Morning Minyan

- Sunday 9:00 AM In person and Zoom'd
- > Monday 8:30 AM Zoom'd
- > Thursday 8:30 AM Zoom'd

Shabbat Services

- > Friday 7:30 PM In person and Zoom'd
- Saturday 9:30 AM In person and Zoom'd

Please call the synagogue office at 203-799-2341 or email coshalom@sbcglobal.net for more information).

Virtual Learning This Month ZOOM &...LEARN! "THE 5 SCROLLS AND THE SEASONS OF OUR LIVES"

Wednesdays, Beginning March 2nd, 11-12 Noon, in person or Zoom

The Bible's "Scrolls" or "Megillot", read in synagogue at various times of the year, have also been seen as responses to the different seasons of life. Indeed, they chart a path of healing for us as we move through the trajectory of our lives. Come explore the timeless messages embedded in these five ancient scrolls!

JOIN A NEW BOOK GROUP IN 2022!

"Rising Out of Hatred" by Eli Saslow

Thursday, March 17th, 7-8 pm Discussion led by Sarah Darer

Rising Out of Hatred tells the story of how white-supremacist ideas migrated from the far-right fringe to the White House through the intensely personal saga of one man who eventually disavowed everything he was taught to believe, at tremendous personal cost. With great empathy and narrative verve, Eli Saslow asks what Derek's story can tell us about America's increasingly divided nature. This is a book to help us understand the American moment and to help us better understand one another. Please call the office for Zoom information. 203.799.2341.



Congregation Or Shalom

Service

Join us at Congregation B'nai Jacob in Woodbridge this year as we celebrate Purim with our combined "Yahad" religious school program.

- 5:00 pm Children's Megillah reading w/special performance by each Yahad class.
- > 7:00 pm Full Megillah Reading

Purim Program

Celebrate Purim with an introduction to Jewish humor! Thursday, March 17th, 8:00p.m. on Zoom only. This program, titled "An Umbrella Full of Holes", is a short history of Jewish humor.

Why is it that so many comedians and satirical writers are Jewish? What, exactly, is unique about Jewish humor? In his talk, Dr. Avinoam Patt, Ph.D., will seek to answer these questions by tracing the history of Jewish humor from Europe to America and Israel, where Jewish comedians transformed the cultural landscape. We'll also look at how Jews have used laughter as a coping mechanism against pogroms, forced migrations and even the Holocaust.

Presenter: Avinoam J. Patt, Ph.D., Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies at UConn; Director, UConn Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life; and Expert on Jewish Humor.

Please call the office for Zoom information. 203.799.2341.

Social Action

For March we are collecting non-perishable foods for Passover and will donate them to Jewish Family Services for distribution. We're also collecting prom dresses and gowns and men's tuxedos and suits to bring to My Sister's Place in Ansonia. If you would like to donate, please contact the office 203-799-2341.



Congregation Or Shalom Shows Off Its New Banner

Congregation Or Shalom in Orange is proud to share our newly arrived roadside banner.

It brought smiles to the faces of Or Shalom's Rabbi, Alvin Wainhaus and Synagogue President, Bob Spaulding. Its beautiful rainbow Star of David is meant to let all know that we are a colorful and heterogeneous Jewish community, embracing diversity, equality and inclusivity without prerequisites. Our motto, of course, says it all: Open minds, Open hearts, Open doors!



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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



HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Beth El - Keser Israel Events

Purim Celebration

The reading of Megillat Esther will be at 7:00 pm in person and on Zoom Wednesday, March 16, and will be repeated at 7:30 am Thursday morning March 17. Costumes are encouraged for adults and children. A child-friendly Megillah reading, costume parade and light supper prior to the evening service will start at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, March 16.

BEKI requests that only vaccinated people come into the building and that they wear a KN-95 or better mask.

Children's Programs

Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, and Junior Congregation meet in person at 11 am on Saturday mornings. To receive her weekly newsletter, email Youth and Family Programming Director Annie Norman-Schiff at anormanschiff@beki.org.

Pesach with Children

Annie Norman-Schiff will lead a workshop about making Passover



more fun and meaningful for children, on Wednesday, April 6 at 7:30 pm. She will share ideas for enriching not only the Seder, but also

other parts of the holiday and its preparation. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

First Friday at 5:30

BEKI Kabbalat Shabbat In-Person services will be at the kid-friendly time of 5:30 pm on Friday, April 1.

Challah Baking

Both experienced and new bakers are invited to bake vegan challah in the BEKI kitchen on Sunday, March 13, from 10 am to 2 pm. Some loaves will be for an upcoming BEKI Shabbat meal, but everyone will take some home. RSVP to office@beki.org.

New Siddur

Siddur Lev Shalem for Shabbat and Festivals brings new levels of access and engagement in prayer. Join BEKI's Rabbi Eric Woodward and Katharine Baker, publications director for the Rabbinical Assembly, for a virtual tour of this new prayer book on Wednesday,



Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

March 23 at 7:30 pm. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

Rabbi Installation

A tradition for rabbis in their first year with a congregation, the instal-



lation of Rabbi Eric Woodward on Sunday morning March 27, starting with morning prayer at 9:00 am, will feature remarks by Rabbi

Woodward as well as Rabbi Ravid Tilles, Director of Jewish Life and Learning at Schechter Boston. RSVP to office@beki.org or call 203.389.2108 x114.



Artist Talk

Naomi Safran-Hon will speak about her current exhibit at BEKI, Going Home, on Saturday, April 2 at 12:45 pm. Her paintings depict neglected rooms, halls, and passageways with traces of their former inhabitants and the external forces that brought about their desolation. These structures, which were the homes of Palestinians until the Arab-Israeli War of 1948 and the creation of the State of Israel, stand as ghosts of the past in a neighborhood that has never recovered. Born in Oxford, England, Safran-Hon grew up in Haifa, Israel, then received her B.A. from Brandeis University and her M.F.A. from the Yale School of Art. Her exhibition will run through June 4.

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

"Be true to your work, your word, and your friend." — JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY

Upcoming Events at Temple Emanuel

Special Events

- Wednesday, March 16 at 6:00 pm
 Purim Megillah Reading. Come in costume or participate online.
- Saturday, April 2 at 7:30 pm Shir Magic with Noah Aronson and a special appearance by members of the TE Band. Go to the TE website for tickets and for more information about this kickoff event for the 60th anniversary of Temple Emanuel, TE@60.
- Friday, April 15 at 6:30 pm Temple Emanuel Passover Seder. Please check the TE website for details as they become available.

Services

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. All of these events are both in person and online. Please check the



Temple Emanuel

TE website or contact the TE office for links to Zoom and YouTube. All listed services and events are open to both members and non-members.

Our current COVID-19 precautions still include a requirement for masks for everyone over the age of 2 for indoor events. Adults are expected to be fully vaccinated. For more information about services and celebrations at Temple Emanuel, and to register or purchase tickets for special events, please go to the TE website, www.tegnh.org or call the office at 203-397-3000. Temple Emanuel is located at 150 Derby Avenue in Orange.

Orange Congregational Church Happenings

Orange Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, invites you to join us at 205 Meeting House Lane in Orange for worship, or on YouTube at Orange Congregational Church, UCC for our livestreamed services. Our regular in-person Sunday worship is at 10:00 a.m. in our Sanctuary. Indoor seating is limited to 100 people and a sign-in attendance sheet is provided; you may contact the church office (occhurch@snet.net or 203-795-9749) to register prior to worship.

During Lent, we will also be offering in-person Lenten Mid-week Worship in the Sanctuary on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. from March 16 through April 13.

We are currently offering virtual church school, in-person youth group, in-person before worship Bible study at 8:30 a.m. Sundays, a Zoom evening Praying the Bible group, a virtual Book Club, an "Art of Scripture" Zoom group, and a Monthly Meditation



Orange Congregational Church

group by Zoom.

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. Anyone interested in joining our choirs or other groups can email occhurch@snet.net or visit orangecongregationalchurch.org for more information. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!



CALL TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE!

Display ads start at only \$110 per issue. Call 203-298-4399 to place your ad!

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

The First Church of Christ, Woodbridge (FCCW)

The First Church of Christ welcomes you to our Worship Service every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Meetinghouse

Zoom Option: The option to attend Sunday Service via Zoom continues to be available. To receive an invite, please email the office or log on to our website and add your name to our church email list. All people in the community are welcome in person or via Zoom.

*If you would like assistance gaining access to Sunday Services, please call us by Friday morning, at 203-389-2119, or email us at office@uccw.org.

Office Hours: The Church office in the Parish House is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Sanctuary Décor Restoration:

The John Canning Company has completed the Phase One sanctuary restoration. Please attend a Sunday service and see the restored ceiling, rosette, cornices, and the north wall. The new décor is glorious.

Interim Minister: The Rev. Susan Murtha has been the new Interim Minister at FCCW for just a few weeks now, and already has made quite an impact. Worship has been filled with God's Holy Spirit in music and prayer, in God's Word and sacrament. Plan a visit to see what is "happening." You can also read about her on our website. We are honored to welcome such an extraordinary individual!

*The Rev. Janice Touloukian has graciously offered to continue on as our On Call Pastor, helping with visitations and congregational needs when Rev. Murtha is not available.

Weekly Bible Study: Bible Study meets at the Parish House each Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. All are invited!

Join the FCCW Choir! New members are always welcome. Join us for rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:30PM.

Boy Scout Troop #907: Regular scout meetings are held every Thursday, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish House. Stop by with the young man in your family (ages 11-17 years old) and meet



The First Church of Christ Woodbridge

our great scouts! New members are always welcome. For more information go to www.troop907.org.

Pre-school space is available:

Pre-school/day care space is available in the Parish House at 5 Meetinghouse Lane. Three rooms, 1,200 sq. ft., and an outside fenced playground.

For More Information: Visit our website at www.uccw.org for resources such as our calendar of events, monthly newsletter, ministry and volunteer opportunities, photo galleries, scout info, and much more! Follow us on Facebook and stay up to date with parish happenings, including memorials and baptism announcements.

Feel free to email us or call the office with all your questions. We are happy to hear from you!

First Church of Christ 5 Meetinghouse Lane Woodbridge, CT 06525 Phone: 203-389-2119

*Email: office@uccw.org

Website: www.uccw.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/uccwoodbridge

*For online or media related questions, please email Lisa Tartaglino at office@uccw.org.

FCCW SUNDAY SERVICE MINISTER SCHEDULE

Mar. 6 Rev. Susan Murtha

Mar. 13 Rev. Greg Mobley

Mar. 20 Rev. Susan Murtha

Mar. 27 Rev. Raquel Irizarry Apr. 3 Rev. Susan Murtha

Apr. 10 Rev. Greg Mobley

(Palm Sunday)

Apr. 17 Rev. Susan Murtha

(Easter)

Rev. Karl Duetzmann

Woodbridge Town News

Apr. 24

ATTENTION WOODBRIDGE 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



Noah Aronson at Temple Emanuel - Shir Magic 2022

Please join us on Saturday, April 2, at 7:30 PM for the return of Shir Magic, an annual concert held at Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven, honoring the memory of our late Rabbi Emeritus, Jerry Brieger, z"l. Noah Aronson is the featured performer this year, with a special appearance by members of the Temple Emanuel Band. This concert is the kickoff event for TE's 60th anniversary celebration, TE@60. Noah Aronson earned a degree in Jazz Composition and Piano from the Berklee College of music. He started his career as Composer-in-Residence at Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley, MA, and has gone on to become a sought-after soloist and song leader. Songs from his numerous albums and books of contemporary Jewish music can be heard in synagogues and at Jewish communal events and summer camps all over the country. He has created music videos for children and families and has partnered with numer-

ous organizations to create community-building experiences that combine music and movement.

Rabbi Jerry Brieger was the spiritual leader of Temple Emanuel from 1977 to 2009, and Rabbi Emeritus from 2009 until his death in 2016. He was known not only for his vast knowledge of all things Jewish, but also for his sleight of hand tricks and his love of music. He loved to study, to teach and to sing, and so it is fitting that Noah Aronson, whose music has been incorporated into the musical repertoire of Temple Emanuel under the leadership of Rabbi Michael Farbman, will headline the return of this concert series. Tickets for the concert are \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door and \$10 for teens. There is no charge for kids under 12. Please go to the TE website, www.tegnh.org to purchase tickets, or call the TE office at 201-397-3000. Temple Emanuel is located at 150 Derby Avenue in Orange.

Scholarship Offered by the Holy Infant Church Women's Guild

The Holy Infant Church Women's Guild is offering two \$1,000 scholar-ships this year. The scholarships are open to female high school students who are active parishioners of Holy Infant parish. The applicant must provide proof that she has been accepted to a 4-year college/university

for September immediately following this year's graduation. Applications are available on the Holy Infant Church website, www.holyinfantorangect.com and at the doors of the church. The deadline for the application is April 18 by 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Sue D'Orso at 203-874-1739.

WOODBRIDGE LIBRARY



WOODBRIDGE TOWN LIBRARY



All information accurate at press time. Be sure to check our website woodbridgetownlibrary.org or call us before your visit for any changes to our hours or events.

Library Announcements Our NEW Hours and Holiday Closings

We have returned to our pre-pandemic hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm; Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. We hope to see more of you soon.

Library Information

Visit the Library website 24/7 to access digital resources - woodbridge-townlibrary.org

What's available at the Library:

- In-person browsing: come see all of the new books, audiobooks, and DVDs!
- Computers: one hour per user; no appointment needed;
- > Printing, copying, faxing, and scanning;
- Periodicals: recent newspapers and magazines;
- Reference help: including getting started/troubleshooting our digital library services (hoopla, Kanopy, Libby, Creativebug);
- Ancestry Library Edition: use this popular resource to explore your family history. Use our computers or bring your own device to work anywhere in the building on our wi-fi.

The Woodbridge Room is NOW OPEN! The study room is available for one-hour reservations; please call the reference desk to book your time. Seating throughout the Library is limited and no puzzles or children's toys are in use.

Call or email to place holds, ask questions, find out information, and more. You may need to leave a message if calling; please do so, we WILL call you back!

Department phones and emails:

- Adult Services/Reference: 203-389-3434; reference@woodbridgetownlibrary.org;
- Children's Department: 203-389-3439; childrens@woodbridgetownlibrary.org;
- Circulation/General info: 203-389-3433; circulation@wood-bridgetownlibrary.org.
- Not sure who you need? Email askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Socialize with us!

- > Facebook: @woodbridge. town.library;
- > **Instagram:** @woodbridge-

townlibrary;

TikTok: @woodbridge_ town library.

Library Events

Art Exhibits have returned to the Library's Meeting Room! March's exhibit features the students of Palette Art School, and will be here in April as well. Stop by the meeting room during open hours now through the end of April to see the artwork—both in the meeting room and the Bookstore Alley. See more information: https://woodbridge.lioninc.org/events/art-exhibits/.

We will be featuring a different artist every month; stop by and check out these talented artists. Interested in having your artwork displayed? Fill out the form here: https://woodbridge.lioninc.org/events/art-exhibits/. Contact Kira Edic at kedic@woodbridgetownlibrary.org for more information.

From Adult Services Transcendent Kingdom

Transcendent Kingdom Book Discussion, part of All CT Reads

Tuesday, March 15 at 6 pm

Join us as we discuss *Transcendent Kingdom*, Yaa Gyasi's affecting meditation on loss and the empty spaces between the spirit and reason. All are welcome; please register so that we know to expect you. Books are available at the library.

Read the book description, and hear a snippet from the audiobook About Yaa Gyasi More about All CT Reads

Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art Virtual Tour: Women Artists

Wednesday, March 16 at 1 pm

Co-hosted with The Woodbridge Center; held at the Library. Experience art history via the oldest public art museum in the U.S. (which happens to be in Connecticut!). Join us to view the Wadsworth Virtual Art Tour series in the meeting room. Each tour will feature a different docent lead theme. Join for any or all of the free tours. Registration is required—call the reference desk or visit our website. Details available for at-home-participation on our website as well.

NEW! Writer's Workshop

Every fourth Tuesday of the month, 3 to 5 pm. March's meeting is on March 22

Are you a writer looking for inspiration, feedback, or support for your work? At the Woodbridge Writer's Workshop, you can share your writing and get feedback from a friendly, positive group. We can also help you find the resources to make your writing

journey easier. All genres welcome—poetry, stories, memoirs, fiction, journalism, etc. Please register at the reference desk or via email: warmstrong@woodbridgetownlibrary.org

Plant Swap!

Saturday, March 26, 10 am to 1 pm

Have plants that don't spark joy anymore? Extra pots laying around the house? Seeds you don't plan on planting? Drop them off at the library on March 24 or 25. Return on Saturday to find new (to you) items! There will also be a potting and pot-decorating station. All ages welcome! Registration required; you can do that on our website, or by calling 203-389-3434.

Peeps in the Library Diorama Contest

Starts Monday, March 28

We're back once again with our seventh annual Peeps in the Library Diorama contest! Register between Monday, March 28 and Friday, April 8. Completed dioramas can be dropped off up until Friday, April 15. Voting will take place the week of April 18. See the Reference Desk for your starter package of Peeps and for more information.

Passports to Libraries

Starts April 1

Over one hundred Connecticut libraries will participate in the Connecticut Library Association's Passport to Connecticut Libraries Program. To celebrate National Library Week during April, the Passport to Connecticut Libraries Program invites you to visit all of the participating Connecticut public libraries. Take the opportunity to explore each library's architecture, ambiance and collection. The program is open to adults and children, encouraging you to explore the many different libraries in Connecticut.

To participate, visit the library to pick up your Passport. Show us your library card and we will stamp the Passport to get you started. You will receive a free token gift. Then, take your Passport along as you visit other participating libraries. At each visit, you must show your library card, and then the library will stamp your passport.

Visit at least five participating libraries and return your passport by early May (exact date to be determined), to be entered into one statewide drawing for a chance to win a \$150 Visa gift card for adults (18 and up) and a \$100 Visa gift card for children (under 18). Visits must occur between April 2 and April 30. This is a statewide contest where four winners will be selected: one adult and one child from a random drawing from all who

visited at least five libraries, and one adult and one child from a random drawing from all who visited the most libraries.

Tax Free Retirement

Wednesday, April 6 at 5:30 pm

At this educational workshop you will learn how taxes can change the outcome of your retirement. We will discuss current tax law, potential changes to tax law and strategies to get to as close to "tax-free" in retirement as you can. Samples of retirement analysis and strategies to transition to a more favored tax position with your savings and "tax-free" legacy concepts to consider.

In-person Virtual Art Tour

Wednesday, April 6 at 7 pm. at the Woodbridge Center

Experience art history via the oldest public art museum in the U.S. Join us to view the Wadsworth Virtual Art Tour series at the Woodbridge Center. This tour will be about artist Milton Avery. PLEASE NOTE: it is at the Woodbridge Center in Room 16, and not at the library.

Time to Pivot

Wednesday, April 13 at 6:30 pm

Join author and filmmaker, Steve Hamm, for a short documentary about Connecticut's Mill River and a discussion about how communities can address climate change at a local level. Registration required.

From The Children's Department

Celebrate Women's History Month with Take-Home STEAM Activities!

Three separate kits each with its own focus within STEAM. Online registration required for each kit—find out the details for each on the events page. Sign up now, pick up the kit on a different week in March. More details and registration.

Indoor Story Time Has Returned

Join us on the carpet in the children's room for fun stories, music, and props! Every Wednesday at 10:30 am, for infants to age 3 and their caregivers.

Make a Shamrock Wand!

Thursday, March 17, drop in from 3 to 7 pm. - Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us! No registration necessary.

In-person Story Craft returns on Saturdays!

See "Library" On Page 27



"Letters" From Page 7

clude group or individual volunteer work aimed at improving the quality of life in the Woodbridge community.

Principals, teachers, fellow students, neighbors, group leaders, clergy, and volunteer agencies are among those who may nominate a youth for consideration. Parents or family members may not nominate a relative.

If you, or any of your staff, know of a youth who meets the above criteria, please make the nomination by completing the attached nomination form and return to:

Woodbridge Youth Services Department 11 Meetinghouse Lane Woodbridge, CT 06525

The date to submit nomination is Monday, April 4, 2022. Forms may be found online at https://www.wood-bridgect.org/160/Youth-Services. Questions may be directed to Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3464 or email np-fund@woodbridgect.org. Your nomination will make a difference in the life of a young person!

Thank you for your participation.

Nancy Pfund

Woodbridge Youth Services Director

People of Woodbridge - Follow the Money

Why has no-one asked Beth Heller to provide an accurate accounting of the anticipated tax revenues/losses that would be generated from the development proposal and has relied completely on the developer who has provided false numbers? Not optimistic or slightly exaggerated, but completely irrational and yes, dishonest numbers. Just look at them. Any competent proposal brought to referendum should have these numbers fully vetted. If there were actually a significant positive revenue generation, this might gain some support. Though I believe that a real study will reveal this is not an economically viable plan, and those that have been supporting this are likely to be thoroughly disappointed when seeing the real numbers.

The possibility of age restricted two bedrooms selling in Woodbridge for the numbers suggested is totally unsupported by anything that has happened in Amity or New Haven County. Why do our elected official base a decision on this ridiculous number? If the developer is so certain of this, let them guarantee it, and provide the town with rights that allow the town to place a senior lien or take possession of any units that do not sell at that price and maintain that tax basis. I am certain the builder and their financers will not agree to this, they typically ask for rights to sell for less if they can't generate inflated numbers.

The estimated number of children that would likely occupy the free-market housing units is likewise unsupported by any historical precedence. The provided cost estimates per pupil are completely fabricated with no basis in reality at less than half of what

this would actually cost. We have a fixed cost for every Amity student, and the addition of students is not free as the developers suggest as just a minor increase in class sizes that will be absorbed for free.

There have been no expense estimates provided for other increased town services for so many units. Significant EMS responses are common for age restricted housing, road maintenance, police services, etc., etc. None of this has been accounted for.

Ms. Heller proposes that this project will generate much needed tax revenue, but fails to provide any rational evidence to support this. On multiple occasions I have asked the town to provide an accurate revenue and expense analysis on the proposal, yet the town has never done this. What I am asking is not difficult and completely reasonable.

I have been working in the real estate development field for thirty-five years, and I will warn the people of Woodbridge to do the most important thing here. Follow the money. It is the only reason a project like this is pushed after repeated overwhelming town support to purchase this piece of land and leave it undeveloped so we preserve the nature of our town and don't lose money based on false promises. I have closed over \$30B in real estate transactions and I would be happy to provide a rational, unbiased analysis. If the numbers justify, we support. If they do not, let's put this to bed for good and leave it open space which is what the town originally voted for, and overpaid for this property for. Kevin Tatro

Resident Opposes FCCW Project Proposal

The Town of Woodbridge was recently granted \$600,000 of Federal Transport Use funding for new bicycle and walking paths. The Town is proposing to construct a new sidewalk (approximately 350' long and up to 13' wide) on the east lawn of the First Church of Christ (FCCW) property along the western edge of Newton Road beginning across from the Amity HS driveway and extending to the southeast corner of the church property at the junction of Newton Road and Meetinghouse Lane. At this time, church officials have received no notification of this proposed use of its property. City curbs, storm drains, and street lighting are already in the proposal. Will traffic lights and crosswalk lights at the intersection eventually complete the urbanization of the center of Woodbridge?

Since 1954, students have walked from the high school across the east lawn and labyrinth on the church property either to their homes, the library, or to a parent's vehicle waiting on the driveway that fronts the church or on Meetinghouse Lane. In the winter, when the lawn is snow-covered the church driveways and walkways are kept snow-free, students walk up the driveway at 20 Newton and take the

lighted, redbrick pathway around the east side of the church to the front driveway. They may continue on the path across the church green to Meetinghouse Lane where, if they intend to cross, they can clearly see oncoming traffic. These existing walking routes are far safer for students than the proposed sidewalk which would run along the very edge of busy Newton Road and have them cross Meetinghouse Lane at a very dangerous, five-lane, intersection where school buses and many other vehicles are turning in all directions. I encourage parents, high school students, and concerned citizens to express their concerns to the Woodbridge First Selectman.

The First Church of Christ, Woodbridge campus is a civic, historic property that is protected by its listing both on the National Register for Historic Places and as part of the Woodbridge Historic District. The proposed use of the eastern border of First Church of Christ property would be considered a 'Last Resort' under the National Advisory Guidelines put forth by the Department of Interior who work in tandem with the Federal Highway Administration to enforce Section 4 (F) of those Guidelines that protect historic properties. The justification for this sidewalk is absent.

For all the reasons stated herein, I strongly oppose the proposed project on the FCCW property and request that the Town of Woodbridge WITHDRAW THIS PROPOSAL FOR AN UNNEEDED AND DANGEROUS SIDEWALK and consider instead the urgent need for such sidewalks in the Woodbridge business district.

B. Joyce Simpson Woodbridge resident and member of the FCCW

Readers Respond to Recent Letter

A recent letter by Robert Sharrer outlined four reasons why the author supports the sale of the former Country Club of Woodbridge (CCW) to Arbor Haven for a large housing development. Unfortunately, these claims just reflect the developer's sales pitch.

Claim #1: The sale will avoid a tax increase. Not necessarily. A sale would provide a one-time cash payment, but we have no guarantee from the town for how that money would be used. In fact, during discussions of the last development proposal for the CCW, the Board of Finance contradicted the First Selectman's promises and refused to guarantee that it would even use the money from a potential sale to pay off the CCW debt.

Claim #2: Tax revenue from new homes will exceed expenses. This claim relies on the developer's assertions. Tax revenue from residential development does not necessarily exceed the expenses created by new homes. Can Mr. Sharrer cite independent studies of real-world examples? The town leaders commissioned a study from the independent consultants Milone & MacBroom, who concluded that the

Toll Brothers proposal would produce a \$500,000 annual deficit for the town. Any cash from a sale would quickly be eaten up by this annual deficit. (The Toll Brothers proposal was for a smaller development than Arbor Haven, but the results prove why Woodbridge needs a serious, independent study of the question.)

Claim #3: Affordable housing. This is an important goal. The Arbor Haven proposal, however consists mostly of high-priced homes and will do little to advance that goal. The town will reach its 10% affordable housing requirement more effectively if it finds a different developer whose focus is actually on affordable housing, not McMansions.

Claim #4: We already have enough open space. Woodbridge's most compelling feature is that it is the only town in Connecticut that is adjacent to a city but has retained its rural atmosphere. It is essential to preserve this rural feeling if the town is to retain its appeal. Open space is a true public good that benefits everyone here in Woodbridge and in the larger community. If we are going to lose some of it, we need to make sure that doing so serves other important goals.

We favor either developing a smaller portion of CCW with truly affordable housing, or pursuing another use, such as a solar farm.

Jenny Krauss Tim Guinnane

The Consensus Is Clear: Responsible Towns Do Not Sell Land for Housing

Why, do you suppose, is it impossible to find an example of a Connecticut town selling public land for a housing development? The answer is obvious: No thoughtful, responsible town government would consider such a misguided course of action. Rather, towns are buying land to prevent residential development.

We need only look to our neighbors in Orange to see why. Having grown up in Orange, I keep track of open space and development issues there. A decade ago, the Hubbell Corporation proposed selling its land in Orange for a 225-unit housing development. Instead, the town voted overwhelmingly (83% in favor) to spend \$7.2 million to preserve the land. Orange residents gladly accepted a cost of \$100 per household for 20 years to purchase the land because they understood the alternative, "If Hubbell were to develop the property it could cost a household \$500 a year due to the projected drain on town services," according to Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli (New Haven Register, 7/12/2011).

One year ago, Orange residents again demonstrated their wisdom by voting to spend \$8.6million to purchase the Racebrook Country Club rather than see it developed for residential use. The purchase received bipartisan, unanimous support from the

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Orange Selectmen, who understood that "taxpayers can't afford not to buy the club...because if the club fails the land could be sold to a developer and become a sea of houses. Such a move would change the character of the town and create a greater demand for educational and emergency services, therefore, sending taxes even higher" (New Haven Register, 2/16/2021).

Similarly, just last year voters in Simsbury overwhelmingly supported the purchase of a 288-acre parcel called Meadowwood to prevent its development, with 87% of the votes cast favoring the purchase.

If selling land for housing is a good idea, why isn't anyone else doing it? The answer is obvious.

Beverly T. Bettencourt

The View from My Front Door

From my home on the corner of Johnson & Ansonia Roads, I've watched the changing fortunes of the Country Club of Woodbridge (CCW) over the past 60 years. For decades CCW was a handsome, manicured and highly praised golf course, but by 2009, the club was failing and on the brink of being sold to a developer.

Instead, First Selectman Ed Sheehy suggested town ownership, writing, "The Board of Selectmen carefully analyzed the proposed purchase [of CCW] and recognized the importance of maintaining the property as open space." Residents responded by voting overwhelmingly in favor of the purchase.

Since then, Woodbridge residents have endured a seemingly endless parade of development proposals, each one worse than the last.

In 2011 residents rejected (by a 2 to 1 vote margin) the first proposal by Toll Brothers to build 58 "town homes" on 17 acres of the property. In 2014 a much larger Toll Brothers proposal was withdrawn. In 2018-19 a plan (125 condos on 54 acres) by Sachs (of Fieldstone Village) was dropped due to residents' opposition. In 2019 a third plan (120 homes on 60 acres) failed to reach a referendum because, once again, residents spoke out strongly against residential development. Town leaders have shown neither broad vi-

"Hoyt" From Page 17

sponsible public policy. Kathy has the right mindset and experience to be the community's voice. She will ask the right questions about how state law changes will impact us here at home. Both her career and volunteer work have given her a close-up understanding of the challenges people are facing, and she will do the necessary work to support people in finding the help or resources they need. I am thrilled she is running and know she will be a great representative for us in Hartford."

Hoyt has filed candidate registra-

sion nor basic respect for the CCW property, intentioally allowing it to fall into disrepair and overgrowth.

Now, we are faced with a massive proposal by "Arbor Haven" to purchase all of CCW and cover that majestic landscape with 145 dwellings. This is clearly the least credible of all the development plans. Take an indepth look at the numbers: it would be a financial disaster for Woodbridge, with costs far outweighing all potential revenue.

Today, as I look out my front door at the still-magnificent sweep of open space, I share Ed Sheehy's 2009 view, "It would be irresponsible for the Board [of Selectmen] to allow the property to fall into the hands of developers." *Martha German*

To Board Members

Jeffrey Kennedy, Robert Klee, Yonathan Zamir, Lawrebnce Greenberg, Paul Schatz, and Andrew Skolnick CC: Beth Heller

As we congratulate Beth Heller for the successful approval of the new cell tower in Woodbridge which she fully supported, can we now look at the revenue generation that should accompany this project? While the town gave up the right to place this on public property and receive direct lease payments, we can still recognize significant revenue from the property valuation.

Clearly this residential parcel now becomes one of the most valuable properties in Woodbridge and as the development on the property is commercial in usage on a long term NNN lease, will the town require the leased ½ acre parcel be carved off and zoned industrial, or will it be viewed as a residential property with an attached ground lease/easement? Valuation of this property should be measured accordingly.

At any level, a typical triple net AAA rated long term lease trades at approximately 2.5%, giving the property a value of approximately 3.8MM for every \$100,000 of revenue. This should be reset as additional antennas are added to the property, as they certainly will. I assume this parcel will be taxed on the appropriate valuation at the leased property commercial value? *Kevin Tatro*

tion paperwork with the State Elections Enforcement Commission and has indicated she will participate in the Citizens' Elections Program where she will accept smaller dollar individual contributions to her campaign, largely from the towns she will represent, and campaign and serve free from the implied pressures of special interest money.

The 17th Senatorial District consists of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, and Woodbridge as well as portions of Hamden and Naugatuck. Hoyt is challenging current Senator Jorge Cabrera who was elected in 2020.

"Library" From Page 25

Begins Saturday, April 2, promptly at 10:30 am - Join us for a special story time session just for children ages 3-5. We will gather in the craft room for stories followed by a simple craft. No registration necessary; come every week or when you can!

April Eco Crafts

Starts April 4

Every Monday at 5 pm throughout April come make a craft using biodegradable or recycled materials! Grades 3 and up. Online registration required.

Make a Pine Cone Bird Feeder Saturday, April 9

Drop in to the library any time from 2 to 4 pm. No registration necessary.

Make a Flying Peep Catapult Saturday, April 16 at 2 pm

A STEAM activity featuring your favorite spring time candy! Ages 5 and

up please. Online registration required.

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News From The Friends Of The Library

The Friends have reopened its donation collections throughout the month of March. Please bring your clean, gently used items to the Library any time during March, including books, music CDs, audiobooks, puzzles, and DVDs—but PLEASE no items that have been stored in a basement or garage as mold and dampness can spread!

The Friends Bookstore Alley is open any time the library is, with ever-changing displays and fresh inventory. We can't wait to see you! We are also accepting donations of your gently used books, DVDs, CDs, etc. You can also lend support by shopping on Amazon via Amazon Smile, and selecting Friends of the Woodbridge Library as your designated charity. The Friends also accept donations via Pay-Pal. Supporting the Friends supports the Library—thank you!

Clean Out Your Closets this Earth Day

Clean out your closets this Earth Day – residents are invited to bring many recyclable and reusable items to the Library Lawn on Saturday, April 23 from 10 am -1 pm. There is no rain date. This event is organized by the Woodbridge Ad Hoc Community Council.

"I hope residents take advantage of this wonderful event to find ways to reuse household items instead of throwing them in the trash," said First Selectman Beth Heller. "I'm proud that we are able to offer these useful services and to encourage people to reduce, reuse and recycle!"

Residents are invited to participate in the Town's second annual tag sale. Interested vendors may sign up on the Town website (woodbridgect.org). For a \$10 fee, vendors will be granted a spot in the Grove (the area between the Old Firehouse and Library) and provided with one Town-owned table.

New this year is an electric vehicle car show. Local resident and car enthusiast Kent Golden will bring several styles of EV cars. Owners will be available to answer questions.

There will be a craft materials swap. Residents will be encouraged to bring craft supplies in good condition. They will be made available for free to anyone who would like them. Leftover materials will be donated to Goodwill.

The Town, in partnership with the South-Central Regional Council of Governments, is offering discounted compost bins and rain barrels to residents. Backyard composting is an excellent strategy for homeowners to reduce waste and lower their carbon footprint. Compost enriches the soil and helps retain oxygen and nutrients. Composting also diverts food waste from the landfill. Use this link to pur-

chase: scrcog.compostersale.com. Any resident who purchases a compost bin, rain barrel or other item must pick it up at the Earth Day event.

Friends of the Woodbridge Library will hold its annual book sale. Donations are accepted now through March at the Library. The Friends will only accept clean books without odors, and without smoke damage and books that have not been stored in a garage.

Take 2 Recycling, a certified electronics recycler, will accept electronic items, such as printers, TVs, DVD players, fax machines, phones, microwaves and other small appliances.

Goodwill will have a truck at the event to accept donations of household items.

Residents are also asked to participate in Rid Litter Day in which residents pick up roadside litter. Volunteer Kathy Barkin will be at the event with a town map, trash bags and a list of roads in need of attention. Rid Litter participants will be asked to estimate where they'll finish and drop off their trash bags which will be collected the following week by Public Works.

Woodbridge residents may, at any time, drop off unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs. The Woodbridge Police Department has a drug take-back box in the lobby. Visitors must be buzzed into the lobby.

Residents may dispose of any of the following items in the box: Prescription medications, ointments or patches, over-the-counter medication, pet medication and vitamins. Not accepted are syringes, thermometers, inhalers, lotions or liquids, aerosol cans, hydrogen peroxide or medications discarded from businesses or clinics.

More details to come – stay tuned!

LOCAL SPORTS



Beth-Wood Baseball League Board President Dwight Rowland presents Woodbridge First Selectman Beth Heller with the League's annual donation to the Town

Town Receives Donation from Beth-Wood Baseball League

The Beth-Wood Baseball League presented its annual donation to the Town of Woodbridge recently. The \$3,000 check, given by the League's Board President, Dwight Rowland, helps the Town make improvements to and maintain the baseball fields and to cover any overtime put in by the Woodbridge Public Works Department to ensure the smooth operation of the League's baseball season.

This is the Beth-Wood Baseball League's $50^{\rm th}$ anniversary.

"The Town truly appreciates the League's annual donation," said Woodbridge First Selectman Beth Heller. "Beth-Wood Baseball is a wonderful community resource for our young people and the Town is delighted to partner with the League each and every year."

"We have a really great relationship with the Town after working together for so many years," said Rowland. "We do it all for the kids."

The League's Opening Day Ceremony will be held on April 30 at the Town Center Green. Local elected officials will be present to celebrate the 50th anniversary and Opening Day Ceremony which starts with its parade of players.



ATTENTION WOODBRIDGE RESIDENTS!

Have an Upcoming Birth Announcement, Anniversary, Engagement or Wedding? Send it to us with a photo and we will publish it FREE.

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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

LOCAL BUSINESS

Shannon Webb Joins Amity Physical Therapy's Milford Office

Shannon Webb, a clinician with experience as a Certified Lymphedema Therapist has just been added to the staff of Amity Physical Therapy.

With special concentration in women's health, Shannon has been trained in outpatient orthopedic settings with more recent experience in pelvic health and oncological conditions. She also has certification in LsVT for Parkinson's Disease and brings a specialized dimension to Amity Physical Therapy's practice.

Always upgrading and broadening her professional talents as a therapist, she integrates health and healing with the utilization of Reiki Level 2, individualizing her treatment of each patient with a holistic approach.

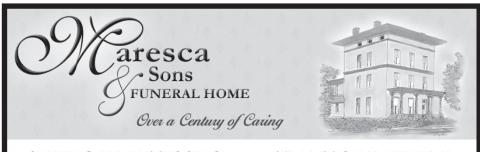
Amity Physical Therapy was founded seventeen years ago by Michael Dow MSPT and CEO/Clinical Director. The



Shannon Webb

practice now has four offices in Milford, Woodbridge, Hamden and Branford. Shannon Webb can be reached in Milford at 203-693-2350 for an appointment or visit www.amitypt.com.

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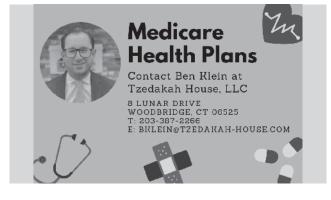
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Proposed Amity FY 22-23 Budget Would Significantly Impact Taxes

Amity's Inaccurate Budget Process Impacts Taxes of all Three Member Towns

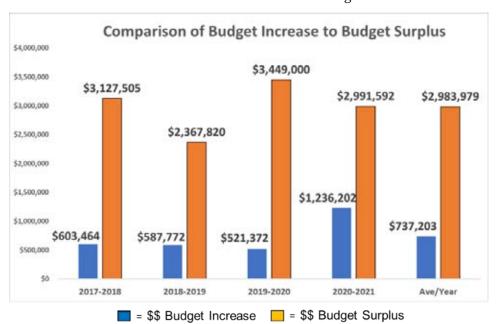
The following opinion article was submitted by Jim Leahy, who serves as Vice-Chairman of the Orange Board of Finance

The objective of this article is to share information across the Amity member Towns: Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge. On January 24, the Orange Board of Finance (OBOF) met with Amity Administration to review the initial proposed Amity budget for FY 22-23.

OBOF Supports up to a 0.41% INCREASE in AMITY BUDGET for FY 22-23

As explained a prior article (02-10-22, Woodbridge Town News), Amity's current budget (FY 21-22) contains an 8.2% increase from Actual-to-Budget. Moreover, in the last 4 years Amity surplus dollar amount was over FOUR TIMES the budget increase dollar amount. This fact means that in each year the **Amity school system provided excellent educational services for its students without a need for ANY INCREASE in each of those years.** And not only that, they still would have had a **significant surplus**.

This habit of excessive budgeting has caused unnecessary tax increases in Orange, Woodbridge & Bethany. If Amity just keeps the previous budget with a modest increase or in fact a zero increase, history shows that Amity would have more than enough to provide quality education for our students and our towns would not be forced to raise taxes to cover a bloated budget estimate.



Kevin Moffett, long-time OBOF member, put it this way: "Budgeting should be based on ACTUALS because – as seen by the Amity surpluses – the prior year's budget is inflated to begin with."

OBOF ACTION: At the January 24th meeting, the Orange Board of Finance (OBOF) **unanimously** approved a motion to support an **Amity FY 22-23 budget of up to \$51,910,170, an increase of \$211,963, a 0.41% increase.** This vote came after an in-depth review & discussion of the budget details of the Proposed Amity Budget for FY 22-23, an extended dialogue with Amity leadership, and a thorough & systemic review of both current & historical Amity data & information. I encourage you to view this 2-hour OBOF meeting at https://youtu.be/h-n_iW7zlvU

	Amount	Increase	% Increase
FY 20-21 Actual Spent	\$47,792,917		
FY 21-22 Budget	\$51,698,207	\$3,905,290	8.2%
Proposed Amity: FY 22-23	\$54,243,108	\$2,544,901	4.92%
Orange BOF Supports: FY 22-23	\$51,910,170	\$211,963	0.41%

Amity Proposed Budget for FY 22-23. Key Points to Consider:

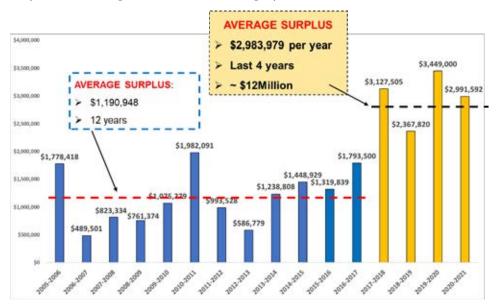
- 1. Overall, **68 fewer students** down to 2,164 lowest in 20 years, 6 fewer students from Woodbridge
- 2. Yet Woodbridge share of Amity students goes UP from 32.23% to 32.59%
- 3. Proposed adding 7.2 staff positions
- 4. Proposed spending increase of \$2,544,901 to \$54,243,108, a 4.92% spending increase is more than DOUBLE the 2.35% average increase for the past 16 years

- 5. One year Impact to Woodbridge taxpayers is an increase of \$1,078,903, **a 6.63% increase**
- **6.** On 02-28-22, the Amity Finance Committee passes a 3.99% spending increase. One year Impact to Woodbridge taxpayers: an increase of \$874,964, a 5.38% increase to Woodbridge.
- 7. For FY 23-24, Amity is forecasting ANOTHER significant "Budget-to-Budget" **increase of 4.49%.**
- 8. Four-year budget forecast **INCREASE** to **Woodbridge taxpayers is** \$2,566,394

AMITY SURPLUSES ARE RAISING YOUR TAXES

In the last 4 years, Amity has a TOTAL aggregate surplus of \$11.9 MILLION averaging \$2.983,979 per year. Since Woodbridge pays \sim 33% of Amity, that means Woodbridge taxpayers have spent \sim \$1,000,000 in TAXES in each of the LAST 4 YEARS for what ended up being a SURPLUS. These amounts are an UNNECESSARY burden to every Taxpayer of Woodbridge, Bethany, and Orange.

Kevin Houlihan, Chairman of the Orange Board of Finance, expressed a growing concern, "The continual overbudgeting at Amity filters down to our Town Departments and the Board of Education. In essence, Amity is taking money – that only results in surplus — that could be deployed elsewhere."



What does this AMITY Increase Mean to WOODBRIDGE TAXPAYERS?

Thought Experiment: Consider the impact on Woodbridge Taxpayers: What if all Town departments and the Woodbridge Board of Education followed the lead of Amity & presented budgets similar to what Amity has proposed for FY 22-23? How would that impact **YOU**, the **TAXPAYER? What if all budgets had a 5.38 % or a 6.63% impact?** The tax increases required to meet these budget requests are listed below.

Amity Proposed Budget & the Impact on Woodbridge Taxpayers					
Property Value	Current Tax at 42.4 mill rate	Taxes with "Amity Rate of Impact" Budget Increases		Tax Increase for FY 22-23	
value	42.4 mili rato	5.38%	6.63%	5.38%	6.63%
\$400,000	\$11,872	\$12,511	\$12,659	\$639	\$787
\$500,000	\$14,840	\$15,638	\$15,824	\$798	\$984
\$600,000	\$17,808	\$18,766	\$18,989	\$958	\$1,181
\$700,000	\$20,776	\$21,894	\$22,153	\$1,118	\$1,377
\$800,000	\$23,744	\$25,021	\$25,318	\$1,277	\$1,574
\$1,000,000	\$29,680	\$31,277	\$31,648	\$1,597	\$1,968

Personal Perspective

To avoid unwarranted tax increases, our town governments do everything in their power to **accurately budget** to fund Town services without budget requests that are well beyond our actual needs. Essentially, we need the Amity Regional School district to budget accurately with a keen eye on its impact on taxpayers.

As always it is up to you, the taxpayer, to judge if the Amity budget request best serves the people of the district. You – the taxpayer – get to vote on that question on May 3.





Innovative Program To Reduce Chronic Disease

Minority-Owned Local Non-Profit Is Now Offering A CDC-Recognized Lifestyle Change Program Free Of Charge To Seniors.

Dana Wade, M.D., M.B.A., announced today that his non-profit, Monitor My Health, is now offering its comprehensive lifestyle change program free of charge to seniors. The program, led by a certified lifestyle coach, includes 26 weekly sessions on healthy eating, weight loss, stress management, physical activity, and more. Participants also receive individual counseling with a Registered Dietician, culinary medicine cooking classes, and fitness sessions.

Of his non-profit's recent growth, Dr. Wade said, "With generous support from the South Central Agency on Aging, we are able to expand the reach of our vital programs. Our programs have been proven to cut the risk for developing type 2 diabetes and heart disease by 71% for participants over the age of 60. There has never been a better time to reduce health risks in our communities."

Group sessions will be conducted at 4 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525 starting February 22, 2022. Sessions will run every Tuesday from

This program is free of charge to all participants over the age of 60. Participants can register for the program by signing up online at www. monitormyhealth.org/register or by calling Kate at 475-888-3205.

Monitor My Health, Inc. is a minority-owned non-profit founded in Bridgeport, CT. Since 2016, it has been offering health education and lifestyle change programs to diverse populations throughout the US. Monitor My Health, Inc. is a CDC-recognized Diabetes Prevention Program Provider.



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