

Woodbridge Town News



Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper

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FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2022



Electric Vehicles Attract Attention at Earth Day Event

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A mini cruise of electric cars attracted attention at the town's Earth Day event on April 23. Organized by Woodbridge resident and Tesla owner Kent Golden, several owners of electric vehicles displayed their cars, and discussed their experiences with anyone interested. Golden displayed his Tesla Model 3, and the other vehicles included a Chevy Bolt, a Hyundai IONIQ, and a Tesla Model Y hatchback.

Speed, safety and comfort were all questions that came up regularly, Golden said. But what worried people most was long-distance driving and the availability of charging stations.

Golden was quick to point out that he charges his car overnight at home, when rates are lower. He can then drive 300 miles until the next charge. Recently, he and his wife took a trip to the Finger Lakes area in upstate

New York, and stopped once midway for some food and rest – and a recharge. It takes about 20 minutes to recharge, he said.

Golden demonstrated how the onboard computer will automatically point out the next charging station, and how many stalls are available. He has access to the Tesla network of superchargers throughout the nation, and for other charging stations he bought an adapter. "We never worry about running out," he said.

In fact, the owner of the Hyundai had a fan hooked up to his SUV, running off the battery. "When there is a power outage, you can use your car to power up," he said. Problem is, of course, if the power doesn't come back before the batteries are dead.

As far as acceleration is concerned, Golden said his car speeds up from 0

See "Electric Cars" On Page 18



Annual Meeting to Be Held at High School

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The town's Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, May 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Brady Auditorium at Amity Regional High School. The town's registrars of voters, Anna Dickerson and Pennel Hamilton, will check people in at the door.

The preliminary budget hearing was held April 18 in the firehouse, with the bays kept open, but the weather was not conducive. "It was freezing," said First Selectman Beth Heller, who presented her "State of the Town" remarks wearing gloves and hat, and a heavy winter coat.

With Covid numbers back on the rise, town leaders were reluctant to use the Center gym, where the meeting has been traditionally held. It is not appropriately ventilated. Plans are being made to use American Rescue Plan funds to upgrade the air handling

system in the Center building, which would allow the town to return to the gym for future town meetings.

That's why the decision was made to use the Amity Auditorium. "They had the shows there in April and everybody did fine," Heller said. At first, they thought of using the high school gym, but the school was concerned about setting up chairs on the gym floor.

Dickerson said they are testing electronic poll books during the Amity budget referendum to see if they can speed up the admission process. Since the Amity referendum is typically slow, with few voters, it will give them a good chance to test the new equipment, along with the paper checker book.

She said the registrars may ask some election poll workers to help with the counting during the annual meeting.

Last year, the meeting was held

See "Annual Meeting" On Page 3



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of trash, picking up along Litchfield Turnpike, from about Konold's Pond to Bond Road. Trash along the roads is often considered an eye sore, but it is also a danger to any wildlife and it may end up buried in the next wetland.



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“Annual Meeting” From Page 1

at the firehouse, after an attempt to conduct it electronically failed, and the decision was made to continue the meeting in person. Attendance at the firehouse did reach the quorum of 250, but with people walking in and out, it was difficult to keep track of, and count. To make changes to the budget the quorum must be met. If there are not enough people in attendance, the Board of Finance will vote on the budget it submitted to the town.

Heller has repeatedly encouraged people throughout the year to voice their concerns early and participate in the process. At the preliminary meeting there were some specific questions regarding the budget, for instance about the scale at the Transfer Sta-

tion and what the Selectmen’s budget entails. Board of Finance Chairman Matt Giglietti, at the April 21 Board meeting, requested that people direct their questions to the Director of Finance ahead of time.

According to the budget overview on the town’s website, the proposed 2022-23 budget is for \$53,824,129, an increase of \$2,2 million or 4.38% over this year’s budget. If approved, the town’s budget will increase by 2.42% to \$20.2 million; the Woodbridge Board of Education budget will increase by 5.51% to \$16.4 million, and the Woodbridge portion of the Amity budget will increase by 5.66% to \$17.1 million.

The mill rate for real estate and personal property will be set at 43.49, an increase of 1.99% from this year’s mill rate of 42.64.





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 A LEISURE CARE COMMUNITY
A Whole Lotta Heart

As we do in Woodbridge every spring, ALL residents are invited (and encouraged) to attend the Town’s Annual Meeting on Monday, May 16 at 7:30 pm at the Amity High School Auditorium. This large space has excellent ventilation, and we thank the Amity Administration for allowing us use of this facility so we might have this most important meeting, and keep folks safe as we do so.

The development and approval of our budget is a structured process defined in the Town Charter. The process extends over more than six months and involves all Town departments, and four other Town boards – the Board of Selectmen (BOS), the Woodbridge and Amity Boards of Education, and the Board of Finance (BOF). The planning activity peaks at the end of March. The proposed budget includes the Town’s fiscal year which runs from the coming July 1 through June 30 of the following year. The BOS recommend a budget to the BOF who then develop our preliminary budget. Our Preliminary Budget Hearing was held on April 18th. Everyone in town was invited to participate, ask questions and make comments on the proposed budget.

At the Annual Town Meeting, residents are again encouraged to ask questions, and make further comments on the Town’s annual budget for Fiscal Year 2023. You may view all the details of the proposed budget on the Finance Department page of the Town website (www.woodbridgect.org). I encourage everyone to participate.

Woodbridge’s annual budget reflects our shared values and is a balancing act of our commitments to provide excellent education for our children and show our respect to taxpayers by careful budgeting and responsible spending on essential Town services.

The Operating Budget is developed by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance in a series of meetings in January and February, with input from all Town departments. The Amity and Beecher budgets are developed by the Boards of Education. A proposed budget comes directly to the Board of Finance after approval by the Selectmen.

Our Town also prepares a debt service budget which covers the annual costs of interest and repayment of principal on the Town’s outstanding borrowings. Our annual Capital Budget encompasses spending for equipment and major infrastructure maintenance needs that typically have an expected

From the First Selectman BY BETH HELLER



useful life of five years or more. The Capital Budget includes items ranging from new trucks for the highway or fire department, road and sidewalk projects, and major building repairs.

Please take the time to view the Town’s new interactive online budget tool on the Town website. Visit the Finance Department’s page on the website to learn more about the Town’s budget priorities, process and history.

Our continued budget challenges stem from a lack of long-term revenue growth. Expenses continue to grow, yet our grand list remains stagnant, coming from decisions made over many, many years to restrict residential and commercial zoning and to conserve open space, which has left us little room for growth. According to our Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development, 25% of the Town’s land area (more than 3,000 acres!) is protected open space and there is another 1,500 acres of open land.

This year was the first year in a decade that our grand list grew by more than 1%. New and diverse tax revenue remains critical to continue to fund our second to none, high-quality education, and other important Town services.

The 2030 Task Force is about to begin working with a consultant to do “placemaking” work in our business district. The goal is to make the area more attractive and pedestrian friendly. I am hopeful these recommendations will attract more businesses. Once the Task Force has developed various ideas, they will hold a community meeting and ask for resident feedback.

Quite soon I anticipate receiving a draft of the Affordable Housing Plan from Our Ad Hoc Housing Opportunity Study Committee. The committee asked, and the BOS agreed, to put the discussion about development at the former Country Club of Woodbridge on hold until the plan is finalized. As a result, Arbor Haven has withdrawn their proposal but indicated they are considering to resubmit after the Town drafts and releases a request for proposals for the property.

The State of Connecticut established a benchmark for each municipality to have 10% of their housing be “affordable.” Currently, only 1.18 percent of Woodbridge homes qualify as affordable. It is important for Woodbridge to provide housing which is not

exclusionary and is affordable. New and diverse housing will help grow the Town’s grand list and it is quite simply the right thing to do.

Our Board of Selectmen Strategic Plan subcommittee (Sheila McCreven and David Vogel) is hard at work outlining the Board’s priorities for the future. I anticipate sharing a draft plan at the Annual Town Meeting. This plan may also direct some of our spending priorities for the \$2.6 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding the Town will receive. The Board will come up with a list of potential projects and ask the public for feedback before making final decisions.

I would like to see an HVAC system in the Center Building Gym which will allow us to safely and comfortably resume holding large community gatherings in that space. ARPA is a once-in-a-generation funding opportunity, and I strongly believe it should be used for once-in-a-generation, transformational projects.

In addition to adding ventilation, I would also like to use ARPA funding to add a pavilion to the Library lawn so that outdoor events have a covered space, and I would also like to upgrade our aging playgrounds and/or make investments to the aging irrigation systems at our ballfields. This funding should be used to improve ALL residents’ quality of life.

I have been focusing on funding quality-of-life improvements without increasing the tax burden. This year I have secured more than \$3 million in State grant funding -- \$2 million to renovate the Old Firehouse, \$425,000 total for the Senior Center renovations and \$600,000 for sidewalks and pedestrian improvements in the Town Center!

The Old Firehouse is the gateway to our Town Center Campus but it has been used for storage since a fire in 2006. The \$2 million in State funds will convert the empty building shell into a Community Center for use by all residents with recreation and leisure programs.

I am also hopeful that construction will begin this summer on renovations to the Woodbridge Senior Center. This project is a result of years of planning and will help our seniors remain healthy and engaged, which is a critical goal for our aging population.

We also earned a nearly \$600,000 Department of Transportation grant to install sidewalks connecting Amity Regional High School to the Town Center and to upgrade the asphalt sidewalk that goes around the library lawn.

These physical improvements combined with our successful community events will make our Town Center Campus the beautiful, welcoming, safe and pedestrian-friendly space that our residents want and deserve.

We have three exciting events coming up: On May 14th, the ad hoc Community Council is hosting a bike ride to celebrate the Town’s new bike route. The ad hoc Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is continuing their discussion series, “Mosaic: Woodbridge Reading Together,” with a book discussion on Thursday, May 26 at 7 pm regarding “Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning.” We will also hold our beautiful, annual Memorial Day ceremony, led by veteran Dr. Barry Josephs, on May 30 at 11 am at the Veterans Memorial on the Town Green. I hope to see you at these wonderful events!

Recently, the Town held our second annual Earth Day event where we recycled mattresses, clothing, electronics and craft supplies. We also hosted a tag sale, food truck, clothing swap, Rid Litter Day, Friends of the Library book sale and informational tables from local organizations. This fun community event, organized by the Town’s ad hoc Community Council, brought together residents in our Town center. In addition to building community at the event, we also assisted residents to divert unwanted items from the waste stream.

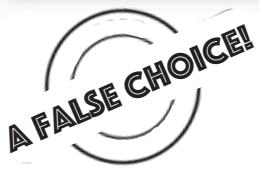
The heavier our trash is, the more we pay to dispose of it. We are working now to divert waste in preparation of these increases.

Recently we applied for a State grant that will help us institute a pilot program to further reduce household waste. If we are awarded the grant, the Town will invite interested residents to opt-in to a program that limits the number of trash bags residents can use and will include curbside food waste pickup. Other towns that have tried this program have seen significant savings due to a reduction in resident trash.

Take time to get out and enjoy springtime in our beautiful Town, and as always, if you have questions or concerns please reach out to me. You may reach me at bheller@woodbridgect.org or 203-389-3401.

“Mama was my greatest teacher, a teacher of compassion, love and fearlessness. If love is sweet as a flower, then my mother is that sweet flower of love.” — STEVIE WONDER

Top Ten Frequently Asked Questions About Affordable Housing in Woodbridge



The First Selectman seems to believe that the Town must choose between increasing housing opportunity and preserving open space. This is a false choice! The state has prioritized BOTH housing opportunity AND open space preservation as important objectives; neither needs to be sacrificed to serve the other.

There's a lot of confusing information out there, so we consulted two zoning expert lawyers to get the facts on the affordable housing law and how it applies in our Town.

1. The First Selectman says the State has "mandated" that every town must have 10% affordable housing. Is that true? NO! The affordable housing appeals law (Connecticut General Statute § 8-30g) created a threshold of 10%. If a town has less than 10% affordable housing, then the law applies. Towns with more than 10% legally affordable housing earn an exemption from the law. Since Woodbridge has less than 10% legally affordable housing, it has not earned an exemption, and thus is subject to the law. There is no legal mandate.

2. So, is Woodbridge in violation of the affordable housing law? NO! A town with less than 10% affordable housing is not breaking any law, it just has a different standard of proof in court if it is sued after denying a developer's affordable housing application. The town must show that the proposed development was denied for significant public health, public safety, or public welfare reasons. The only legal requirement regarding affordable housing that Woodbridge is currently subject to is that it must create a housing plan on paper by June 2022. That process is nearing completion.

3. Are towns always sued if they deny affordable housing, and do they always lose these cases? NO! Woodbridge's Town Plan & Zoning Commission denied the affordable housing application for 2 Orchard Road last year, and was not sued, even though the apparent purpose of that application was not to build the proposed affordable housing but to create a "test case" that Yale law students could argue in court as a class project. Recently, the towns of Fairfield and Easton have both won court cases in which their denials of affordable housing developments were upheld.

4. Is Woodbridge an outlier in having relatively little legally affordable housing? NO! According to the CT Department of Housing's 2021 Affordable Housing Appeals List, only 31 out of 169 towns have surpassed the state's threshold of 10% affordable housing. Woodbridge has 1.18%, Bethany has 0.64%, and Orange has 1.35%.

5. Is Woodbridge housing stock uniformly expensive? NO! Woodbridge actually has diverse housing stock. According to the Town Tax Assessor's 2021 database, there are more than 300 homes in Woodbridge appraised at \$250,000 or less. These "naturally" affordable homes are in every neighborhood. They are not considered "legally" affordable because they are not legally restricted or otherwise enrolled in a government program, and thus do not count toward the Town's official tally.

6. Does the State require towns to build affordable housing themselves or to sell public land for it? NO! The First Selectman seems to believe that the Town is under an urgent legal obligation to provide affordable housing, but she is mistaken. No law requires any town to build or devote public land to housing.

7. Has Woodbridge done anything to encourage affordable housing? YES! Last year, in the wake of the affordable housing application for 2 Orchard Road, the Town Plan & Zoning Commission made the following major changes to the Town's zoning regulations:

- Accessory Dwelling Units are permitted "by right" in every zone;
- Duplexes are permitted "by right" everywhere except in the public water supply watershed, which safeguards drinking water for New Haven area customers;
- Duplexes are permitted in the watershed with TPZ commission review;
- Multifamily housing of up to 15 units per acre is permitted in every zone if the parcel has public sewer and water.

Dominic Thomas, the Chair of the Housing Opportunity Study Committee, praised these changes to zoning, saying they make Woodbridge "a leader" in the state.

8. Are there places in Town other than on public open space where affordable housing could be built? YES! The Housing Opportunity Study Committee has compiled a list of potential locations in town for affordable housing. In addition, the zoning changes summarized above will encourage more diverse housing to be built town wide.

9. Is public open space a good place for dense housing of any kind? NO! All the experts, including the Town's housing consultant David Fink, agree that walkable neighborhoods, with easy access to daily shopping needs and to public transportation, are the best places for dense housing of all kinds, including age restricted housing and affordable housing. In particular, it is important for affordable housing to be walkable to shopping and on public transportation lines, since those who qualify for affordable housing often do not own and cannot afford vehicles.

10. Do we have to choose between diversifying our housing and preserving our open space? NO! The State has two goals that it is asking towns to pursue simultaneously: increasing housing opportunity AND preserving open space. These two goals are NOT mutually exclusive. In Woodbridge, we have the rare ability to have our cake and eat it too – we have already changed our zoning regulations to allow more housing opportunity, AND we can protect our irreplaceable natural resources, such as the land at the former Country Club of Woodbridge.

Woodbridge, we can do better!

For background documentation and more information, visit our website: UnitedforWoodbridge.org
unitedforwoodbridge@gmail.com Follow us on Facebook: United for Woodbridge
Paid for by United for Woodbridge, Paul Harrigan, Treasurer

From the Democratic
Town Committee

BY ELLEN SCALETTAR



Listening to Each Other and Working Together Works!

Listening to each other and working together works! That’s what the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance, the Woodbridge Board of Education and the Town’s various Departments did to come up with the fair and responsible budget that was presented by the Board of Finance at the Preliminary Budget Hearing on April 18th. At the hearing, no objections were raised as to any line item in the budget (other than the Amity School District budget, over which the Board of Finance has no jurisdiction). You can view the video of the hearing and the details of the preliminary budget on the Town website: <https://www.woodbridgect.org/428/Annual-Budgets>.

The bottom line: a 1.99% increase to the Town’s mill rate, which for the owner of an average priced home in Woodbridge equals an annual increase of about \$240. This will be the budget recommended at the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 16th at 7:30PM, to be held in the Amity High School Auditorium, 25 Newton Road.

One question that did come up at the Hearing, though not directly related to any budget item, pertained to the State requirement that 10% of a town’s housing be affordable. “What if we don’t meet the requirement?” was the question. Many of us, of course, and as was pointed out by another speaker at the Preliminary Budget Hearing, believe that a more diverse housing stock and a more diverse community should be our goals, regardless of legal requirements. Still, it is a legitimate question to ask about the remedies for failure to act.

At the request of the Chair of the Board of Finance, Matt Giglietti, Town Counsel Gerald Weiner attended the April 21 Board of Finance meeting to answer that question. Attorney Weiner explained the consequences of failing to meet the goal of 10% affordable housing units, or alterna-

tively of making legitimate, good faith efforts towards that goal. Here are a few take-aways from his presentation, which you can view on the WGATV79 YouTube link for “Finance 4/21/22” @ 28.02 minutes:

In traditional land use appeals, in the event a town rejects a development application and the developer takes an appeal, it is the developer that must convince a judge that the town acted inappropriately. That is, the developer has the burden of proof;

In the case of affordable housing development cases, however, in the event a town rejects that application, it is the town that must convince a judge that its denial of the application was appropriate. That is, the town has the burden of proof;

“This shift in the burden of proof is significant and makes it much more difficult for a municipality to deny developers’ projects and, in effect, provides developers with an advantage in [affordable housing] cases over traditional zoning appeals;”

In the event a town can demonstrate good faith efforts to increase the number of affordable units, the town can apply for a moratorium of the law for up to four years.

In Woodbridge, fewer than two percent of our housing units are considered affordable. We are among the lowest in the State. It has become clear over the years that there are deep divides in our Town about not only how to increase our affordable housing stock, but even as to whether we should try to do so.

Now is the time to listen to each other and work together to make Woodbridge an increasingly diverse and welcoming town.

If you are interested in learning more about the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee, please get in touch with us by email: woodbridgeCTdems@gmail.com or visit our website: woodbridgeCTdems.org.

Other Side of the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE
WRTC CHAIRMAN



Another Opportunity for Leadership

The withdrawal of the development proposal for the Roger Sherman Farm by the Arbor Haven group gives us yet another opportunity to decide the future of the property after 12 years of myopic focus on selling some or all of the property for housing. Without reviewing how many “bites at the apple” we have had over the past to make a decision, it is fair to say now is the time for leadership, not “followership”, which has been the administration’s ineffective practice.

The First Selectman has announced the town will issue a Request For Proposal (RFP) for what to do with the property. The big question is: “what will we request?” RFPs typically indicate a desired outcome and the responses are evaluated by how effectively that outcome is achieved. Issuing a RFP for the Farm, thus, requires an indication of what outcome the town wants. Formulating priorities is tough work, but it’s a lot better than backing the now-defunct Arbor Haven unsolicited proposal, as our First Selectman did. Jumping on the bandwagon of an unsolicited development proposal is not leadership.

Today, there is an opportunity to follow another path. It should start with listening to the abundance of ideas available from town residents. For example, let’s reconsider two ideas which were functionally kicked to the curb in favor of Arbor Haven. One, which had the backing of 300+ signatories on a petition, suggested allowing commercial development of 10 acres around the clubhouse while protecting the balance of the property for open space. The second, presented jointly by the Woodbridge Land Trust and Woodbridge Park Association, offered a relatively small amount of cash to the town in return for an easement to keep the property as open space. In the end, the RFP should be based on a consensus of the BOS after listening to the many ideas already circulating among town residents.

There are likely other ideas worth considering for all or part of the prop-

erty, and they should be heard through an organized, time-limited process. Ideally, the process will not be confined to a narrow focus on the property, but instead take into account the range of challenges and opportunities facing our town. The future of this town asset should be considered as part of a strategic plan for Woodbridge. Those who endured the April 18 Budget Review “Freeze Out” at the firehouse heard the difficult truth that our mill rate is destined to increase unless the town improves its revenue through commercial development and expansion. At the same time, a new \$2.6 Million federal grant gives us the opportunity to invest in improvements that will positively impact our town’s finances long term (hint: invest the money so that it generates commercial tax revenue).

The Board of Selectmen is currently developing a strategic plan. Shouldn’t the future of the Farm be considered within the context of that plan? And shouldn’t town residents be invited – indeed encouraged – to offer their ideas on the plan for our town’s future?

Tying major issues such as commercial development to increase tax revenue; the best use for the farm property; and how to address the affordable housing challenge before us is the task of our Democrat leaders. As mentioned in the previous “Other Side” column, ideas not coming from the majority party have been stifled to the town’s detriment. Woodbridge is a small town. We local Republicans want it to succeed. We take no joy in seeing our leadership flounder in tackling what are arguably the two biggest issues in town – the future of the farm and the financial pressure of an ever-growing mill rate. There are good ideas coming from our side of the aisle, and surely there are many more coming from fellow residents. Let’s take advantage of the creativity and brain power available to address our challenges – and that starts with listening to residents and ends with distilling the input toward a sensible direction forward.

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“A mother’s love for her child is like nothing else in the world. It knows no law, no pity. It dares all things and crushes down remorselessly all that stands in its path.” — AGATHA CHRISTIE

Woodbridge Town News

Woodbridge’s Exclusive Newspaper

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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.

Upcoming Issue Date	Issue Deadline
May 27 Memorial Day Issue	May 20
June 24 Independence Day Issue.....	June 17
August 26 Labor Day + Back to School Issue	August 19

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

FROM OUR READERS

Family Talk About Drinking for Proms and Graduations

Prom and graduation season is important for many high school students. Both events serve as memorable celebrations and the next step in their journey to create their own futures. But these events can also come with a lot of pressure and feelings of anxiety for many teenagers. That’s why Anheuser-Busch and Dichello Distributors Inc. are building on their long-standing commitment to promoting responsible drinking by encouraging parents to talk with their kids on how to create memories with friends safely.

Before this season arrives, it’s always a good idea to sit down with your teen to talk about a plan of action if they are confronted with underage drinking, establish expectations, and answer any questions so that they can have a safe and fun night with their friends. Parents are the biggest influence on their teens’ decisions about underage drinking, and special occasions like prom and graduation are great opportunities to build confidence and trust.

For more information and resources on how you can devote quality time to talk with your teenagers about underage drinking, Anheuser-Busch and Dichello Distributors, Inc. encourage you to learn more through the Family Talk About Drinking program. This essential resource for parents can help you connect with your teen through honest and open-ended conversations while providing tips for talking with children and teenagers through every stage of life.

Here’s where you can find Family Talk About Drinking resources online to help start these important conversations:

www.familytalkaboutdrinking.com;
www.facebook.com/ABFamilyTalk;
www.twitter.com/ABFamilyTalk.

As prom and graduation season approaches, make sure you talk with your teen, so they are prepared to celebrate safely.

Tony Lota
Alcohol Awareness Coordinator
Dichello Distributors, Inc.
Orange CT

A Solar Farm on Half of the Country Club

As our town leaders now consider issuing an RFP for the use of the Country Club property, I urge everyone to consider the possibility of a solar farm on the eastern half of the property, and a lovely park for the community on the Johnson Road half of the property.

Preliminary estimates are that a solar farm on half of the Country Club property could generate as much as \$500,000 per year every year in revenues to the town without any of the expenses to the town that new housing implies. Solar does not create added costs for our schools, library, police, fire, town hall, or roads. We could lease the solar panels from a solar company, and in so doing, the town would not need to spend a dime to get them, install them, or maintain them.

We also would not need to sell the land. Should we need to use the property for something else at the end of the lease period in 15 - 20 years, we would retain that option. By using removable structures that do not mar the landscape with concrete, we could ask the solar company to take them away at the end of a lease and the land would not be damaged.

With the revenues from a solar farm, we could pay for the remaining debt on the Country Club property, maintain a lovely park on the Johnson Road side, and help stabilize our mill rate. Future revenues from a solar farm could also help pay for more affordable senior housing in the business district without building more market rate housing, and thereby help us make real progress on our affordable housing goals.

See “Letters” On Page 23

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.

WOODBIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

STUDENT NEWS

Achievements Curry College Welcomes Amanda Moran into Sigma Theta Tau

Milton, MA – Curry’s School of Nursing welcomes Amanda Moran of Orange CT, Class of 2023 into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing’s Theta-at-Large Chapter. Members must be in the upper 35 percent of their class and have completed at least half of the nursing curriculum. Sigma Theta Tau’s mission is to advance world health and to celebrate nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service. The Theta-at-Large Chapter, which includes Curry College, Boston University, and Simmons College, has more

than 900 active members and supports local nursing scholars through its ongoing research and academic awards program.

Dean’s List Colgate University

Hamilton, NY - Simon Khairallah, a member of the Colgate University Class of 2025, has earned the Fall 2021 Dean’s Award with Distinction. Khairallah is an International Relations major from Woodbridge, CT, and is a graduate of Amity Regional High School. Students who receive a term grade point average of 3.6 or higher while completing at least three courses during the Fall 2021 semester earn the Dean’s Award with Distinction.

Coping With Sibling Rivalry

Siblings are the first friends many children have. A close relationship with a brother or sister can lay the foundation for a happy life and provide a built-in support system that only grows and matures as siblings age.

According to a 2014 study at the Family Studies Center at Brigham Young University that examined relationships between siblings in more than 300 families, a quality relationship with a brother or sister may lead to children being more selfless. But this is only one of the many benefits of being a sibling.

Parents know that relationships between siblings are not always smooth sailing. In fact, sibling rivalry is a component of many family dynamics. Parents may find that maintaining peace in the household when siblings bicker can be challenging. Yet there are ways for parents to mitigate sibling rivalries.

Identify the causes of sibling rivalry. Before parents can get to the business of handling a sibling rivalry, they first need to understand what’s behind it. According to the Mayo Clinic, sibling rivalry tends to develop as siblings compete for their parents’ attention, respect and love. Rivalries can be affected by the age gap of children (those close in age may battle more often), and their places in the family dynamic (middle children may not feel they are getting the same share of privileges or attention as their older and younger siblings). Children of the same sex also may be more likely to compete against one another.

Take a hands-off approach at first.

Experts say that parents should first stay out of the rivalry. They should let children learn skills related to conflict resolution on their own. Parents can refresh their children’s minds on the importance of being patient and expressing emotions in a calm manner, according to the education company Discover Point. Parents shouldn’t be quick to mediate as soon as an argument occurs. If things get out of control, then parents can step in and serve as neutral parties in the dispute.

Avoid labels and comparisons. It’s human to want to categorize or organize things in our lives. Children inadvertently may be given titles, such as “the jock” or “the brain” of the family. Sometimes parents do not even realize they are labeling their children, such as when lamenting that a son or daughter always makes the family late, or that one seems to be a happy helper. These seemingly harmless observations may be setting up rivalries, especially if one child feels he or she is getting the short end of the stick. Parents should make every attempt to avoid voicing comparisons or labeling kids.

Offer one-on-one time. Families can and should do things together, but parents also can devote special and equal one-on-one time with each child. This can foster strong relationships and help each child feel respected and loved.

Sibling rivalry is a dynamic within many families. Certain strategies can diminish the likelihood of rivalries developing or help quash disputes.

New Howard Jacobson Scholarships

The Cable Advisory Council of Area 2 (CAC) will bestow two new scholarships in memory of former longtime Chairperson Howard Jacobson. One high school and one college student studying film, mass communications, and television or media studies will receive \$1000 to help further their studies.

CAC, which serves the towns Fairfield, Bridgeport, Stratford, Milford, Orange and Woodbridge promotes quality Community Access Television. The Council is an ongoing asset for Cable Area 2 with the support of Altice/Cablevision.

Scholarship Qualifications & Criteria - Applicants must be able to prove:

- › They currently reside, and/or are students attending high school, community college, college, or university in one of the six CAC area towns: Fairfield, Bridgeport,

Stratford, Milford, Orange or Woodbridge;

- › They have declared a major in the mass communications, or media studies. Along with pursuing a career in this field, they are taking classes or engaged in independent studies;

- › They are in good standing with their academic institution;

Entry rules: Entrants must submit a short essay under 500 words describing their creative coursework, portfolio or project and how it relates to this scholarship award. Supplemental links to media projects are welcome. Winners will be selected on the basis of their overall academic performance, portfolio and their personal statement.

Deadline to apply is June 30, 2022. To apply, please email: info@cacarea2.com.

Healthy And Fun Rainy Day Activities For Kids

There are numerous reasons for children to spend time outdoors. Soaking up sunlight and fresh air can do everything from reduce stress to improve cardiovascular health.

Unfortunately, not every day is tailor-made for spending time outdoors. When inclement weather threatens, some creative thinking may be necessary to keep kids happy and occupied. As the COVID-19 pandemic is still affecting communities, there’s the added challenge of ensuring indoor activities are conducted in a safe manner. Here are a few ideas for getting started.

Plan a scavenger hunt. Parents or caregivers can hide an item and set children on the course toward finding the treasure by providing clues that incrementally lead to the final hiding place.

Visit the library. Libraries have a host of activities ideal for rainy days. Apart from various genres of reading materials, there are movies to rent, informational classes, rooms for club meetings, and even arts and crafts events. Check to see if your local library requires masks to participate indoors.

Establish an indoor campsite. Camping is a popular outdoor activity that can go on rain or shine. Those who are averse to camping in the rain can recreate the magic of camping indoors. Set up a tent or make a lean-to from blankets and sheets. Use a fireplace or stove to roast marshmallows and make indoor s’mores.

Make homemade playdough. Invite a few of the children’s friends over and mix up a batch of homemade playdough. A handy recipe can be found at www.iheartnaptime.net/play-dough-recipe/. Children can spend hours molding the playdough into imaginative creations.

Visit a museum. Communities across the country are home to various museums, some showcasing ancient artifacts and others touting novelties. For those concerned about indoor crowds, try visiting shortly after doors open or an hour or two before doors close. Foot traffic tends to be lower at these times.

Host an outdoor movie viewing. Homeowners with covered awnings or outside porches can project a movie onto a screen and have movie-goers watch from their sheltered locations. Serve plenty of healthy snacks and a few sweet treats to munch on during the film.

Play in the rain. Just because it’s raining doesn’t mean outdoor fun needs to be entirely curtailed. Children can gather in a garage with the door left open. Then they can take turns dashing out to stomp in puddles or dance in the rain showers. Just have plenty of towels on hand and choose a warm rainy day so kids won’t catch a chill.

Poor weather necessitates having indoor activities ready for kids. Thankfully, there’s plenty of entertaining ideas to keep them occupied.

WOODBIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Racial Slur Allegations Lead to Student Protest at Amity

In Addition to Disciplinary Actions, Administration Adopts Restorative Practices

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A group of some 100 Amity students participated in a sit-in in the main hallway at the high school on April 6, to draw attention to persisting problems around racial discrimination among students, and the lack of consequences against those who engage in it. The protest was in reaction to three incidents of racial slurs used against students of color, both openly in the hallway, and in texts, said one of the organizers, Black Student Union president Kwasi Adae.

A video of the protest was posted online and was viewed by this reporter, but has reportedly been removed since. The sit-in was billed as a silent protest, even though the sharing of experiences was encouraged. For the most part participants did sit quietly and listened to what the speakers had to say.

Several of the participants shared their own experience with such incidents, such as hearing the n-word and other derogatory language used against them. "People are saying slurs with little or no consequences," Kwasi said.

"So many kids are using racial slurs," said another student participating in the protest. "Kids grabbing your hair." She said when she reported it, she was told to be the bigger person and disregard the slight. "I don't think that's fair," she said.

One student resented being called on during Black History Month. "It's not my job to educate the school about Black History. We should be participating in it, but not initiating it."

Protest organizers called on the administration to pay more attention to the problem, and called on the Board of Education to institute policies that will punish students who engage in it, especially repeat offenders.

"The climate for black and brown students is unacceptable," Kwasi said in his impassioned speech at the sit-in. "We need change and we need it now."

School Supt. Dr. Jen Byars said in a phone interview that the district already has a policy on the books that governs student behavior. Policy 5131 lists the use of obscene or profane language or gestures as one behavior potentially leading to disciplinary action. The action recommended ranges from a warning to suspension.

What irked several students at the protest was that in their perception the issue is handled as a publicity issue. "Kids who are athletes get away with this stuff," said one student.

Another student shared how a kid in Chem class was playing the Russian anthem, which did not go over well with a student of Ukrainian background. When they confronted the student who played the music, passions flared, and the student ended up hitting them. The teacher did not report the incident, they said. Instead, they were told that "there is always two sides to the story." "There is not two sides to being insensitive," the student said.

Dr. Byars and her team of administrators are often caught in the middle of these situations. She said there is a perception that students do not receive consequences, because those consequences are not shared publicly. Sometimes the allegations cannot be proven; often they turn out to be different than originally perceived. "That fuels the perception that nothing was done."

In addition to disciplinary actions, the administration adopts restorative practices, she said. In these instances, it might facilitate conversations between the two parties involved to promote a pathway to better co-existence.

Amity to Compete in International Debate Contest Finals in NYC

STUDENTS VIE FOR \$10,000 GRAND PRIZE

Students from Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge, Connecticut, are packing their bags for an all-expenses-paid trip to New York City to compete as finalists in the 21st annual International Public Policy Forum (IPPF) global debate competition.

The team has advanced to the "Elite 8" round of the IPPF, a global debate contest sponsored by the Brewer Foundation and New York University (NYU). Students are debating the topic, "Resolved: On balance, the hegemony of the United States dollar is detrimental to the world economy."

The IPPF Finals will take place on Saturday, April 30, at The Harold Pratt House in New York City. Amity Regional High School will be one of eight teams – representing schools from five U.S. states, Canada and Singapore – competing for the right to be named the "IPPF World Champion" and a \$10,000 grand prize.

"These students earned an opportunity to compete in a debate forum unlike any other – the IPPF Finals," says William A. Brewer III, chairman of the Brewer Foundation and founder of the IPPF. "They will now supplement months of written scholarship with oral arguments in pursuit of the title of 2022 IPPF World Champion. We are eager to return to New York City – and host what promises to be one of the most exciting debate events of the year."

The IPPF is the 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. The debate competition was founded in 2001 by the Brewer Foundation to promote academic achievement and public advocacy.

This year's competition began in October 2021, as more than 120 teams submitted qualifying round essays on this year's topic. The 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 "Round of 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. The next two rounds also took place in written form.

The IPPF Finals give students the opportunity to participate in oral debates in front of some of the world's foremost experts in debate, business, law and politics. This year, IPPF judges will include Brewer, NYU President Emeritus Dr. John Sexton, NYU Stern School of Business Dean Raghu Sundaram, Above the Law Senior Editor Kathryn Rubino and Miha Andric, an international debate coach and communication teacher based in Slovenia. The winning team will take home the "Brewer Cup" and the \$10,000 grand prize.

A competition bracket for the IPPF Finals is available on the IPPF website: www.ippfdebate.com.

- The "Elite 8" teams are:**
- › Amity Regional High School from Woodbridge, Connecticut
 - › Bergen County Debate Club from Fort Lee, New Jersey
 - › The Davidson Academy of Nevada from Reno, Nevada
 - › Extraordinary Education Centre from Toronto, ON, Canada
 - › Pine-Richland High School from Gibsonia, Pennsylvania
 - › Potomac Oak from Rockville, Maryland
 - › Ministry of Education, Singapore
 - › North Allegheny Senior High School from Wexford, Pennsylvania

About the IPPF and the Brewer Foundation:

The IPPF was founded in 2001 by the Brewer Foundation and is now jointly administered with New York University. The program is available to all high schools around the world – public and private – for free. The IPPF is endorsed by leading forensic agencies, such as the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues, the International Debate Education Association, the Impact Coalition, Associated Leaders of Urban Debate Leagues, and the National Debate Coaches Association.

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, or on Twitter at @IPPF1.

www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com

ATTENTION TEACHERS!

We want to know what's going on in your classroom!
Let us know about any fun activities or holiday projects.

You can also send us your pictures.
(Parental consent required)

Orange Town News
P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477 • edit@OrangeTownNews.com

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES



Sgt. Brian Pedalino and Chief Frank P. Cappiello

Promotion – Sgt. Brian Pedalino

On April 11, 2022, at a Special Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners, the Board voted unanimously to promote Officer Brian Pedalino to the rank of Sergeant. Chief Frank P. Cappiello presented

Sgt. Pedalino with his new badge and on behalf of the men and women of the Woodbridge Police Department, extended congratulations and best wishes for success in his new position as Sergeant.



Woodbridge Dispatchers (L-R): Shaun Fallon, Stephanie Sullivan, Donna Carr, Craig Arpino



Woodbridge Dispatchers (L-R): Donna Carr, Jennifer Arpino, Craig Arpino

National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week

In conjunction with National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week, we recognize the dedicated Dispatchers of the Woodbridge Police Department. Although often unseen, they truly are the crucial link vital to gathering critical information, dispatching appropriate

resources, and ensuring not only the safety of the “caller”, but that of all the town’s Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Service First Responders. We thank our Dispatch staff for their role in providing public safety and on-going delivery of professional services.



Woodbridge Town News

ATTENTION WOODBRIDGE RESIDENTS!

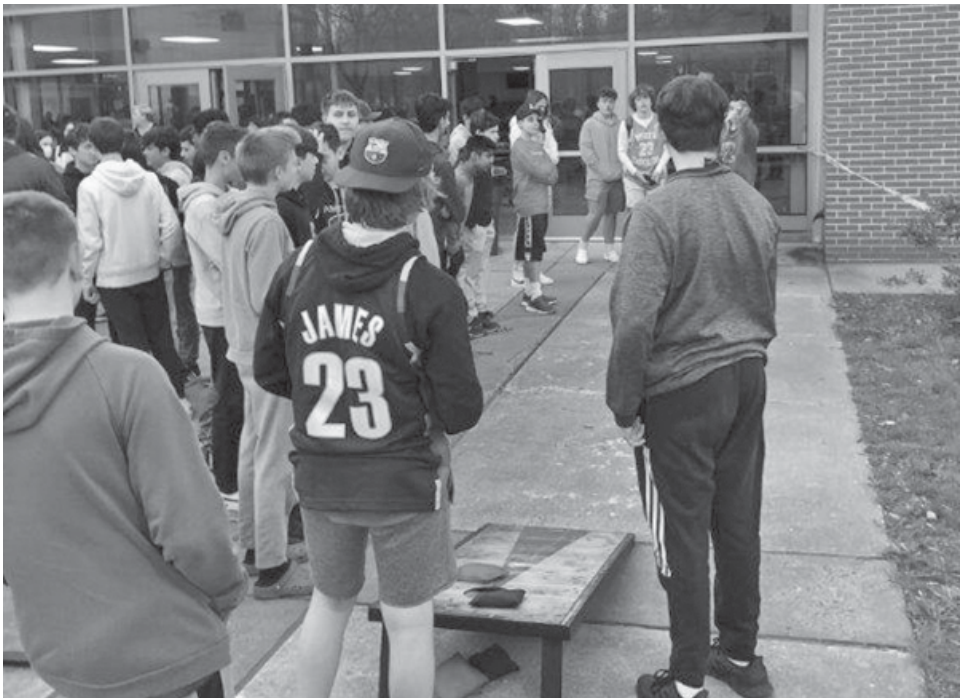
Have an Upcoming Birth Announcement, Anniversary, Engagement or Wedding?
Send it to us with a photo and we will publish it FREE.

Woodbridge Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477
Email: edit@woodbridgetownnews.com

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



Eighth graders from Bethany, Woodbridge, and Orange came to Amity High School for a party on April 22nd.

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

Job Bank: Woodbridge Teens Work for Residents

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. Build your resume and gain skills. Parent permission is required.

Residents are encouraged to call to hire teens to do odd jobs in Woodbridge like yardwork, babysitting, and animal care.

Youth Evening Programs: Big Daddy's Racing at Bethwood 7th & 8th Grade Party- May 13

Seventh and eighth grade residents of Woodbridge and Bethany will have a ball at this bash. Non-residents who attend Amity Middle School-Bethany 7th or 8th grade are also invited. Enjoy a party with a DJ and Big Daddy's Car Racing and games on May 13th on the field behind Amity Middle School-Bethany from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Rain brings program into the gym. Pizza, snacks, and a free raffle for awesome prizes are included for a \$7 fee. Check our Town's website or our Facebook for any additional information. Register in advance by 5/12 to receive an extra raffle ticket by calling 203-389-3429.

Volunteers needed: Contact Youth Services to chaperone, donate, or help with food or registration.

BOW 8th Grade Party

Over 200 eighth graders from Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge attended

the BOW party at Amity High School recently sponsored by Youth Services Departments in Woodbridge and Orange with some financial support from the Town of Bethany. The volunteers are always a crucial part of these programs. Many thanks to those who assisted either at the program or by donating raffle prizes. Prizes included gift cards to Starbucks, The Vault Virtual Reality, Dip Top, and finally an Amazon Dot. Students were happy to connect with students they may see in high school in the fall.

Awareness Week at Amity Middle School-Donations Needed

Students at Amity Middle School-Bethany celebrated Awareness Week from 4/25 – 4/29 sponsored by Woodbridge Youth Services and the Town of Bethany. The Student Council chose themes of Pride, Team Building, Day of Silence, Appreciation of the Environment, and Canstruction to provide food for those in need. Many thanks to teachers Kathy Habersang and Marika Wissink for their support of this event.

BOWDAAC-Let's Talk Prevention

BOWDAAC (Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge Drug/Alcohol Action Committee) is a grant-funded Local Prevention Council serving the communities of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge. Its mission is to reduce underage drinking and substance use by promoting awareness through educational programs and community collaborations. New members are welcome. For more information or to join our committee, email info.bowdaac@gmail.com or check out our website www.bowdaac.org

HUMAN SERVICES



Mary and Bob Breitenstein receive their COVID-19 booster vaccines at the QVHD clinic hosted by Woodbridge Human Services in the Center Building Gymnasium. Close to 80 residents received their booster vaccines over two days of local clinics.

May is National Dental Health Month!

Many older Americans do not have dental insurance due to lost benefits at retirement or no routine coverage through Medicare. If you need dental care but don't have insurance, there are options for free dental clinics and providers offering a sliding scale available at the Area Agency on Aging South-Central Region's Resource Center at 203-785-8533 (choose option 4).

Ask the Pharmacist

Human Services will partner with the Quinnipiac Valley Health District (QVHD) & the Connecticut Pharmacists Association (CPA) to host individual Medication Review Sessions with residents on Thursday, June 9, 10 am to 3 pm at the library. A pharmacist will be available to answer questions and address concerns through a personal medication review. These recommendations can be further discussed with your doctor. All information will be kept confidential. To RSVP, please contact 203-389-3429.

Masks and Test Kits

The Human Services Department will continue to distribute free COVID-19 at-home test kits and N95 masks for Woodbridge residents while supplies last. Residents in need of home test kits, masks, or both may call 203-389-3429 to make an appointment to pick up. Proof of residency is required.

Living Treasure Committee Volunteers Sought

The Human Services Department will hold the 4th annual Living Treasure

event this fall. The event will honor a few residents age 60 or over, who have demonstrated positive actions to improve the quality of life in Woodbridge, have contributed and may continue to contribute their time to enhance our community, and has performed this work on a volunteer, unpaid basis. Members of the community are welcome to join the event planning committee which meets frequently during the months of June, July, August, and September. Please contact Jeanette Glicksman at 203-389-3429 to volunteer. Donations of gift certificates to local businesses are welcome!

Food Pantry

Residents in need may contact Human Services for access to non-perishable food each month. The food pantry is currently looking for donations of canola and olive oils, ground coffee, baking mixes/snacks, salad dressing, deodorants, and laundry detergent. Kindly check all expiration dates prior to drop-off.

Emergency Preparedness

In the event of a weather emergency or power outage, 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. The Department will provide outreach to all on the list prior to anticipated emergencies.

Volunteer Appreciation Event

The Human Services Dept. will honor or volunteers at the 32nd Annual Volunteer Recognition celebration. Many thanks to all receiving this honor for their generous volunteer contributions.

AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



Photo 1: Woodbridge Center’s Jessica Esposito and Director, Kristy Moriarty distribute meals to attendees of the Spring Drive-thru luncheon. The beautiful weather and upbeat music added to the enjoyment of the drive-thru generously sponsored by the law firm of Resnik and Resnik, and The Linden at Woodbridge. | Photo 2: Participants in the last Armchair Adventure National Park program, Yosemite, offered by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, explore their artistic side painting a watercolor scene from the park. | Photo 3: Sergeant Pedalino shares information about how to stay safe at the Crime Prevention Presentation. Participants received a safety keychain courtesy of the Woodbridge Police Union.

Are you over 55 years old? Contact The Woodbridge Center: Call 203-389-3430 or email kmoriarty@woodbridgect.org for information on all programming. Preregistration 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: 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 luncheon: Father’s Day Drive-thru Luncheon (for Woodbridge residents over 60 years of age): Everyone is welcome to celebrate all fathers at the Father’s Day Drive-thru Luncheon on Thursday, June 16 from 12-1 pm. Enjoy choice of sandwich:

BBQ pulled beef or chicken Caesar wrap, macaroni salad, and a special dessert. This drive-thru is generously sponsored by Coachman Square at Woodbridge and Amity Physical Therapy. Also enjoy a treat provided by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. No charge. Please RSVP by June 9.

Upcoming Events & Programs

New! 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 Monday and Friday, 10-11:30 am in the Grove, weather permitting. Call to register: 203-389-3430.

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 last Wadsworth Virtual Art Tour in the series focused on Impressionists on

May 11, from 1-2 pm, in the Library’s Meeting Room. Preregistration is required, call 203-389-3430 to sign-up.

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. Adventures include: Glacier National Park - May 13, Grand Canyon - June 10, Zion - July 8, and Grand Teton - August 12. Program meets 11 am – 12 pm in the Library’s Meeting Room. Please call to sign-up for any or all of the remaining parks.

We are Celebrating YOU! All Woodbridge residents over 55 years of age are invited to come to this fun outdoor social! Play a game of BINGO with prizes! Have a free muffin courtesy of Coachman Square at Woodbridge, and cup of coffee or tea in the Grove. Play

a game of corn hole, bocce, or shuffleboard. All to celebrate Older American Month! May 11 from 10 am – 12 pm. Rain date will be May 18. Please call 203-389-3430 to register.

AAA Driver Improvement Class: Members and non-members may be able to lower their auto insurance costs while improving their driving skills when they enroll in AAA’s Driver Improvement Program which teaches the basics of defensive driving and provides current driving practice updates. This class is offered, free of charge, on May 16 from 9 am – 1 pm in the Woodbridge Library’s Meeting Room. Space is limited; pre-registration is required.

FREE Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance (TJQ:MBB): TJQ:MBB is a research-based fall prevention exercise program which uses Tai Ji Quan based movements to improve strength, mobility, balance, and daily function to prevent falls. It is designed for older adults and people with balance difficulties. Classes are

See “Woodbridge Center” On Page 13

“Woodbridge Center” From Page 12

taught by trained local instructor, Bill Bannick, in a supportive environment. This program can accommodate individuals who need some assistance with walking, such as with a cane. No prior experience with Tai Chi is needed. This 24-week (48 class) program is offered in partnership with the CT Healthy Living Collective and funded by the State of CT Department of Aging and Disability Services State Unit on Aging. The program begins June 6 and will meet Mondays and Fridays, from 10-11 am in the Center Building gymnasium. Call 203-389-3430 to register.

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 and outside 7 days/week. 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.

Hobbies/Social

Bridge: Wednesdays and Fridays, 1-4 pm in the Library’s Meeting Room.

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 Woodbridge room of the Library or outdoors on the lawn adjacent to Newton Road weather permitting. 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 Library’s Meeting Room. You will find joy in creating your own paintings as Carole helps inspire be-

ginners 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, 1-4 pm and Thursdays, 1:30-4 pm, the Center Building, room 16.

Services Offered

For Woodbridge residents only

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 order with a ten meal limit. 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, including walkers, wheelchairs, knee rollers, shower chairs, and more, is available for lending. Donations of wheelchairs and transport chairs are needed. 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.

WILEY ETTER DOYON ATTORNEYS

What happens in the Connecticut probate process?

Probate is the term describing the legal process of transferring probate assets to the intended beneficiaries (if there is a Will) and/or heirs at law (if there is no Will, or an incomplete Will). When someone dies, his/her estate typically has to “go through” the probate process to clear title to assets and/or transfer those assets to the intended new owners. This is especially true if the decedent owned real property (even if jointly with another person or in a Revocable Trust).

The probate process is the Probate Court’s supervision of the estate to make sure that the decedent’s assets are appropriately identified, managed, and distributed and required debts are paid.

Every probate experience is unique, but for most, the general process includes:

- Filing documents with the appropriate Probate Court to “open” probate.
- Identifying, locating, and notifying beneficiaries and/or heirs of the estate (interested parties) that the estate is being probated.
- Providing interested parties with the opportunity to contest a Will or the proposed Executor/Administrator.
- The Probate Court appointing an Executor (if there is a valid Will, or an Administrator if there is no valid Will) who will be responsible for the estate.
- Identifying, securing, valuing and managing all estate assets.
- Providing notice to creditors so that creditors can bring timely claims against the estate.
- Reviewing and paying creditor claims in whole or in part or denying claims and defending the position of denial.
- Managing and selling assets, such as real estate, vehicles, stocks, bonds, etc.
- Reporting to the Probate Court throughout the process using required probate court forms.
- Timely paying the required statutory probate court fee, and, if applicable, paying any federal or state gift and estate taxes due.
- Transferring assets to beneficiaries or heirs-at-law.
- Notifying the probate court that the estate has been appropriately administered, all debts have been paid and assets distributed and the estate can be officially closed.

If you are interested in learning more about the Connecticut probate process, or would like assistance navigating a probate matter, please call the office to schedule your no hassle, no charge initial consultation, no matter how long it lasts.



Allison M. DePaola Drozd 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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Ron & Ree

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Mosaic: Woodbridge Reading in Community

The Woodbridge Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, in partnership with the Town Library, invites residents to a discussion of the New York Times bestseller, *Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning* on May 26 at 7 pm.

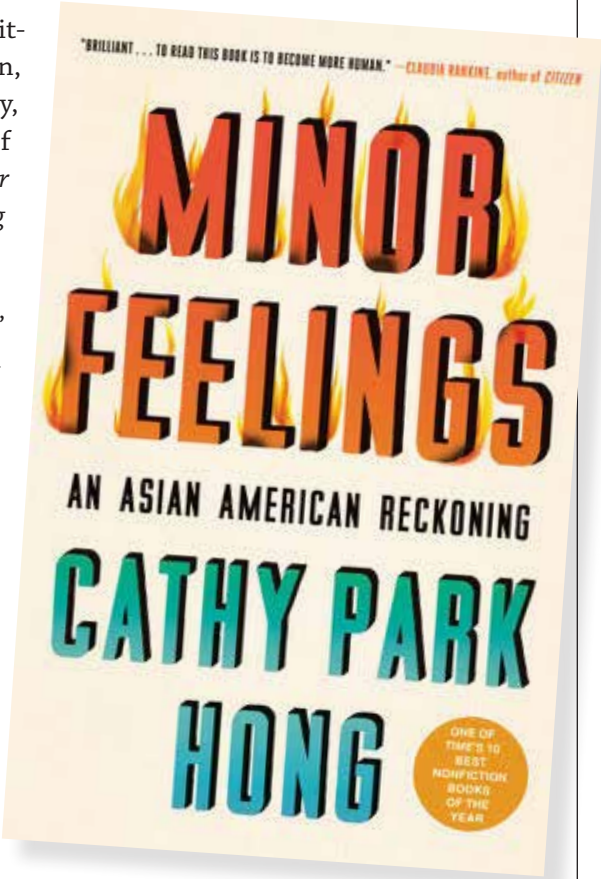
The event is a part of the “Mosaic: Woodbridge Reading in Community” discussion series facilitated by resident Reverend Antona Brent Smith.

The goal of the series is to offer an opportunity for residents to have thought-provoking conversations with their neighbors that deepen our understanding of each other and the diversity of our community.

Minor Feelings: an Asian American Reckoning by Cathy Park Hong is a blend of memoir, cultural criticism, and history that focuses on identity and racial consciousness. Copies of the book are available for check-out at the Woodbridge Town Library.

While *Minor Feelings* will be the starting point for discussion, participants are encouraged to attend even if they have not had a chance to read the book.

The event, which coincides with



Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, will be held outdoors on the Center Building Lawn (4 Meetinghouse Lane) or, in case of rain, in the Woodbridge Town Library meeting room. RSVP to Betsy Yagla at byagla@woodbridgect.org for event updates.

Woodbridge Celebrates Connecticut Trails Day

On June 4, from 9-10 a.m., in celebration of Connecticut Trails Day, the Woodbridge Land Trust will host a family-friendly guided walk of our Wepawaug Falls trail. Join us as we explore the flora and fauna of the headwaters of the Wepawaug River.

This easy, 2-mile hike will start and end at the trailhead between the First Church of Christ and the Woodbridge Town Hall.

For more information, readers can visit our website at <http://woodbridgelandtrust.org/WLT/>.



Celebrate National Bike Month

Celebrate National Bike Month with Woodbridge’s first Community Bike Fun Ride on Saturday May 14. This non-competitive bike ride is organized by the Woodbridge ad hoc Community Council.

The free event will start and end 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.

Interested cyclists should register on the Town website. Signing up will keep riders in the loop with event details, including any potential weather-related cancellations. It will also help with planning purposes.

Helmets will be required, and costumes and bike decorations are encouraged. The event will begin at 10 am with a bike decorating station and bike safety inspections.

Families participating in the short ride will be treated to a brief entertainment break at the school, thanks to the Beecher Road School Parent Teacher Organization.

Following the ride, participants will be invited to stay for live music, lawn games and food trucks.



Amity High School Students Stage Mock Fatal Car Crash

BY MELISSA NICEFARO
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Amity High School's SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) club staged a mock fatal car crash with students acting out the parts of victims of a drunk driving crash. It was a powerful visual reminder of what can happen when poor decisions are made, especially in the spring and summer months with prom, graduation and other celebrations occurring. The over encompassing theme of the event was to be safe and keep others safe.

Narrated by Retired Deputy Chief of Orange Police Anthony Cuozzo, the mock crash showed first-hand the consequences of distracted driving to Amity's juniors and seniors. Held in the handicapped parking area by the athletic fields, two cars that had been damaged in real-life serious accidents were positioned so that they appeared to have hit head-on and student actors played out the scene.

"These two cars must have been involved in a high-speed collision on Amity Road. A witness to the crash called 911 and emergency personnel have been dispatched to the scene," Cuozzo told the crowd.

Police from Orange and Woodbridge appeared, lights and sirens blaring. An ambulance followed.

"The driver of the grey car, Ryan, is a 17-year-old male. He and his passenger Lucia had been drinking at a private home in Orange and were on their way home. Due to his impairment, he ran a red light and impacted another vehicle at the intersection," Cuozzo said.

Ryan was the only one in the car

wearing a seat belt and although he was conscious, he was screaming 'wake up!' at his friend who wasn't responding.

"Upon impact, Lucia's body was thrown forward through the front windshield because she was not wearing her seat belt. She hasn't answered to her friend's screams and it appears that she may be dead," Cuozzo said.

Lucia Belbusti, a senior, laid perfectly still on the ground on the cold windy morning with a pool of blood formed around her head. The vision was so realistic that it brought gasps and even tears from students who were extremely respectful and focused during the event. Around Lucia's lifeless body, emergency crews focused on the victims in the other car.

The driver of the other car, a 17-year-old female, was conscious at first and appeared dizzy and confused. She was the only person in the car wearing a seatbelt.

"Unfortunately, the unrestrained front seat passenger was thrown with such force that she is pinned under the dashboard with severely crushed legs and head trauma," Cuozzo said as the ambulance pulled up, followed by Woodbridge Fire Department.

"I need back up quick," said the police officer who was surveying the scene. "This is a severe crash involving multiple victims. The injuries are severe, please send EMS as soon as possible, this may be a fatal of one or more victims."

The fire department worked on freeing the girls in the other car, using the Jaws of Life to remove each door, and peel the shattered windshield



off of the car. In the meantime, Ryan undergoes a field sobriety test and is arrested for DWI.

Cuozzo spoke about the consequences of distracted and impaired driving from his experience as an Orange Police Officer. "I've been the one in the middle of the night to ring the doorbell and tell parents that their child had been in a terrible accident," he said.

Following the crash, the students gathered in the theater to hear a presentation by Ray Raw, who lost his only daughter to a drunk driving crash. Meri-Lyn was 18 years old and had been drinking at a club in New Haven on February 26, 2006. She dropped her boyfriend off and hit a tree on her way home. "She died on impact. I can't say what happened. She was raised in a home with love. I had no idea she was drinking," Ray said. "Everything changed in my world and nothing is ever going to bring her back."

Due to graduate from St. Joe's High School in the spring, an empty chair sat with white roses where she should have sat. "It all ended in one brief moment. It was all over," Ray said. He graduated from Amity in 1972 and has one clear message for the students, "Please be careful."

Gary Lindgren, a counselor at the high school who oversees the SADD Club reiterated Ray's thoughts. "Always think about how precious life is. We think life is invincible, but in one instant it can be over. That's how fragile it is," he said.

In his closing statement, Cuozzo spoke not only as a police officer, but as a parent. "I lost my best friend in 1988 and I still remember that call. Don't be self-centered. Think about the impact your death would have on the people who love you. Avoid risky behavior. You have your whole lives ahead of you. Go forth, lead wonderful lives and be successful," he said.

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Decorative Tree Donations Sought

The Town of Woodbridge is seeking donations of flowering trees to replace trees cut back in 2018.

“One of my goals is to make the Town Center Campus a more attractive public gathering space,” says First Selectman Beth Heller. “This row of flowering trees will help us beautify the entryway to our Town Center Campus.”


The tree donation program came into being following United Illuminating’s removal of trees under power lines at Fitzgerald Tract along Center Road. Heller asked staff to look into the possibility of replanting the denuded area along Center Road with trees that would not interfere with the power lines and would add to the space’s natural beauty.

Since the program began, several residents have donated to the planting program at Fitzgerald and three others donated trees that were removed from

the Town Green. Until local nurseries receive their tree stock for the season it is difficult to pinpoint a price, but the Town estimates that a donation of \$500 will cover the cost of a tree, delivery fee, installation and a plaque to thank donors. The plan is to line Fitzgerald Fitness Tract along Center Road with alternating groups of flowering dogwoods and crabapples. There are already five dogwoods and five crabapples. The next group purchased will be crabapples.

Anyone interested in the tree donation program should contact Betsy Yagla at byagla@woodbridgetown.org or 203-389-3403 or fill out on the tree donation form which can be found on the Town website (woodbridgetown.org) on the Town’s Public Works Department page and through the Recreation Department page.

Bring Us Your Pain!



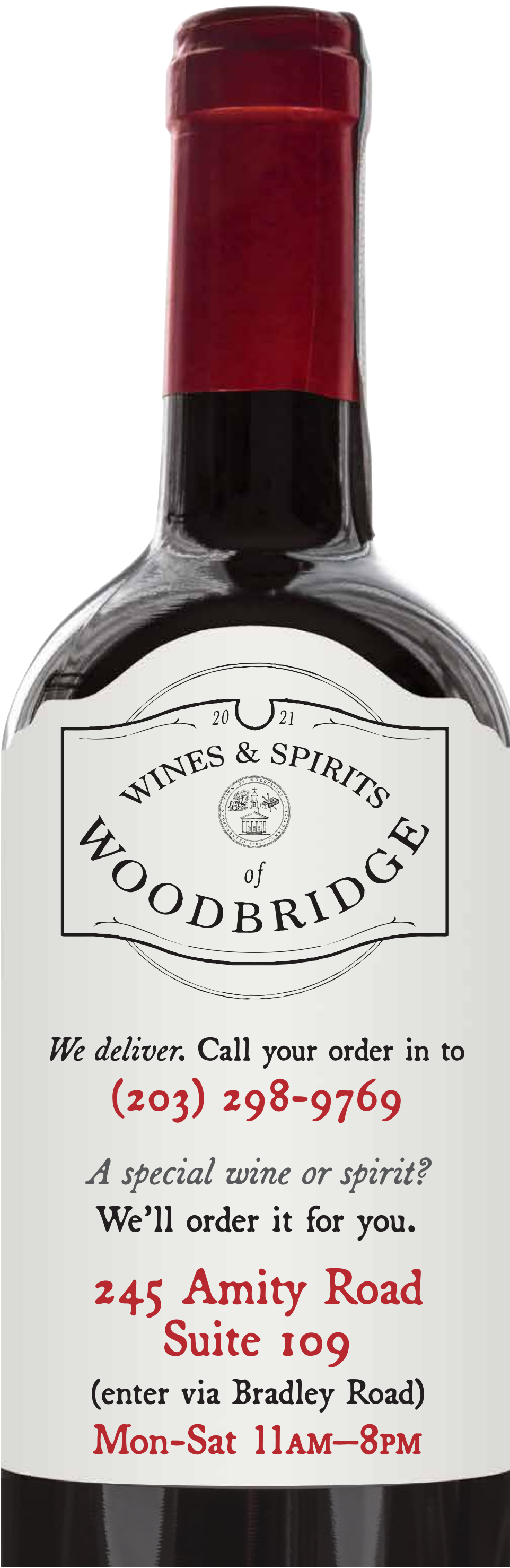
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“Electric Cars” From Page 1

to 60 in 3.2 seconds. “Getting on the Merritt is no problem,” he said.

With the batteries installed at the bottom, the vehicle is remarkably roll-over safe. Insurance tests have found electric cars to be “at least as safe as conventional cars, based on crash-test performance and an analysis of injury claims,” according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. “It’s the safest car ever made,” Golden said simply.

Asked about his winter driving experience, he did not experience any problems. The batteries power two motors, which basically makes it an all-wheel drive.

What’s best in his eyes, the car requires zero maintenance other than wipers and the washer fluids. Even the brakes are good for 100,000 miles.



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ARTS & LEISURE



Academy of Dance Competition Team Updates

The Academy of dance competition team performs group numbers in Jazz and Tap at regional competitions throughout the Spring. Dance students are selected from recreational classes at the studio which is located at 8 Lunar Drive in Woodbridge to audition for competition teams. Team students typically participate in three local competitions and routinely advance to a national competition in summer. All competition numbers are performed each year at an annual Spring Showcase in June.

The 2022 competition season started with excellent routines at Dancer's Inc. competition in New York. The Teen team kicked off a series of awards for the studio with their jazz performance to "Fever," earning an elite (very high) score, a special judges award "The Whole Package," and won first place overall in their category. Furthermore, the studio director and choreographer Teresa Gambardella won a choreography award for "Fever!" The following week in Bridgeport at Kids Artistic Review (KAR), the Teen group placed first overall with their theatrical tap number "West Side Story," which also earned an outstanding performance award. Similarly, our junior teams started out strong this season by winning first place overall and a special award "Coolness Personified" for their jazz routine "City of Angels," as well as third place for the tap number "Heaven

Hop" and 10th place for the jazz number "Whose Got the Pain" at Dancers Inc. At KAR, the junior group received a judges choice award for "City of Angels."

Academy of Dance also has a troupe of younger competitors that made their competition debut this season. The petite team scored 5th and 6th place overall in their age division with their jazz and tap numbers at the third competition of the year, Dance Xplosion held in Vernon CT. That day, the juniors scored first in category and first overall for "Heaven Hop" and first in category, 2nd place overall for "City of Angels." "Whose Got the Pain," which completed in a higher category earned 6th place overall. Finally, the teen team earned a special award "Broadway Bound" and got 1st in category and 7th place overall for "West Side Story," while "Fever" scored 1st in category and 4th place overall.

In addition to the group numbers, Academy of Dance has a number of entertaining soloists who have scored well this season. This season our six soloists have earned high scores at each competition and have received extras such as scholarships to Hollywood, Invitation to New York City, and Xtreme team invitations. In addition, we had solos place 1st at Dancer's Inc., 4th and 11th at KAR, and 1st, 3rd, and 7th at Dance Xplosion.

The girls have one more competition to prepare for and then the studio showcase on June 11th.



Town Participating In Make Music Day

Make Music Day is an international movement which brings free, community-wide, musical celebrations to hundreds of cities worldwide. Every year, the celebration is held on June 21, the summer solstice, in more than 800 communities around the world. Make Music Day events are organized with, for, and by the community.

In Woodbridge, the Economic Development Commission is inviting businesses to host free, informal concerts in the early evening. There will also be art shows, wine tastings and other events happening simultaneously. More details will be available closer to the date.

Currently, Coachman Square, Crest Lincoln of Woodbridge and The Shops at 245 Amity Road are scheduled to host concerts that evening. 10Selden (formerly the Teen Center) is helping to find local musicians to perform at the venues.

"I'm excited and very pleased that

our Economic Development Commission is taking advantage of this international movement, which is a wonderful opportunity to attract more foot traffic and customers to the business district, and to provide free family fun for our residents at the same time," said First Selectman Beth Heller.

"Our business district hosts high-quality specialty shops, terrific services and great restaurants," said EDC Chair Robert Sharrer. "The EDC hopes these free concerts will lead more residents and area employees to discover what's here and to shop, dine, try Woodbridge!"

Local businesses or vendors interested in hosting or participating may contact Betsy Yagla at 203-389-3403 or byagla@woodbridgect.org.

All concerts in Greater New Haven will be publicized by Make Music New Haven and the Town of Woodbridge will promote those in Woodbridge.



ARTS & LEISURE

Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center Spring Events

Please register for all programs at ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org. Dates and times are subject to change. Space is limited. Must register in advance - No walk-ins allowed.

Registration began April 18 for Summer Nature Days

Dates: July 11-15, July 18-22, August 1-5, and August 8-12

Choose one of our week-long sessions, held from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. For children 6 to 11 years old who love the outdoors and wildlife, these popular classes will be educational and children will also have a chance to explore the 156 acres our park offers. We will visit a variety of habitats in the park, such as wetlands, fields, and woodlands. Hikes, games, crafts, and cooking will be incorporated into our lessons. ANC is a great choice for a fun summer experience! TUITION PER WEEK: \$150 priority students (Ansonia residents and current family-level FANCI members); \$175 for all others. Please register on or after April 18th by emailing ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org. We do not hold spots.

May Lavender Bath Bombs for Mother's Day

Saturday, May 7, 1:30 pm

Join Ranger Dawn in creating bath bomb gifts from lavender. Bath bombs calm and uplift your mood as well as soothe your skin. Each attendee will make a lavender-infused batch, mold them, and prepare them in a gift basket. For 8 years old and up. MATERIALS FEE: \$10 per person. Please register at ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org.

Star Hopping

Friday, May 13, 8 pm

Like stepping stones across a river, Astronomers can navigate the darkness of space by following a trail of stars until they arrive at the object they were looking for. Join Ranger Jeremy on a crystal-clear night and learn the patterns of the stars. Discover the link between constellations, as well as their roles in human history. FREE. Please register in advance at ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org. Date and time subject to change. Ages 8 and up.

Nature Explorers

Wednesdays, May 18, 25 & June 1, 15, 10 am

Join Ranger Dan for this fun program of exploring and learning about nature. For ages 2-5 with an adult explorer. This class is loosely structured and influenced by the seasons and

interests of the group. Class is entirely outdoors. Space is limited. Please register in advance at ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org. TUITION: \$40 per 4-week session (cash or check payable to Ansonia Nature Center).

Fairie Houses

Saturday, May 21, 2:30 pm

Join Ranger Evelyn to design tiny homes for fairies and gnomes. We will gather natural materials such as bark, twigs, leaves, and moss. Bring a blanket or mats to sit on. FREE. Please register at ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org.

Field Trip Series I: Meg's Point Nature Center

Thursday, May 26, 10 am

Join the Ansonia Nature Center staff on a field trip to Meg's Point Nature Center at Hammonasset Beach State Park. Experience beachcombing as participants search for signs of life from Long Island Sound. Beach seining will also be exhibited and the aquatic life, seaweed, and shells found will be discussed. FEE: \$5 per person, check or cash in advance. Registration is required at ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org. Meet the ANC staff in the Meg's Point Nature Center parking lot at 9:45 am. Directions available here: <https://hammonasset.org/directions/>.

Ongoing Programs Sunday Guided Hikes

Sundays, 1 pm

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

Saturday Creature Feature

Saturdays, 12 pm

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

Family Organic Garden Class

Tuesdays, 3:30 pm

ANC will lead fun, family-friendly activities in our organic garden. Learn about growing a variety of fruits and vegetables. Dress appropriately; keep in mind you will get water and/or soil on your clothing. FREE, with the potential to take home fresh local produce! Class size is limited to 10. Please register in advance at ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org.

Things to Come

Summer Nature Days – Firefly Night Hike – Incredible Insects - Summer Reading Program

Spring is Abuzz at Massaro Community Farm

Massaro Community Farm is a non-profit organic vegetable farm founded in 2009 on the former Massaro family dairy farm. As we enter peak farm season, the best way to stay informed of events and educational activities is to sign up to receive our bi-weekly newsletter. You can sign up on the homepage of our website. By subscribing, you are sure to receive the latest in farm news.



Family Movie Nights are Back

Join us for our first free movie night of the season on Friday, May 13 beginning at 7:00pm. Come walk the nature trail, visit the goats and make a craft prior to this month's feature, A House with a Clock in its Walls. This event is free, but registration is requested. Only steady rain cancels. Blankets and low chairs welcome for this screening on the farm lawn. Masks are not required for outdoor activities; outdoor restrooms available. RSVP on www.SignUpGenius.com.

Community Garden Info Sessions

On Saturday, May 14, Massaro Community Farm will be at the Holistic Health Fair taking place at Trinity Episcopal Church in Seymour from 10:00am-3:00pm. Other vendors will focus on physical and mental well-being. The farm will be there offering support for community garden engagement; there's a large community garden adjacent to the church complete with fruit trees and bushes. We'll also be painting rock garden markers. Free and family friendly. For more information, call the church at (203) 888-6596. The Church is located at 91 Church Street in Seymour.

Beekeeping Expands to Youth Ages 10-13

Adult beekeeping continues on May 7 and again on May 14 beginning each day at 9:00am. Spring sessions in the farm's apiary focus on summer hive inspection, feeding, conducting mite counts and treating for mites. All levels of beekeepers are welcome. Veils are available at the farm for use; however, long sleeves, long pants and closed toed shoes are recommended. Hands-on classes taught in person by

experienced beekeepers of the CT Beekeeper's Association. Due to popularity, space is limited. Please register in advance. \$10 donation requested at the door. Visit our website for the link to register for each class.

We are excited to open registration for a new junior beekeeping program for youth aged 10-13 years. This is targeted to the next generation of backyard beekeepers and will be conducted in our farm bee yard with youth educator, Jim Matheson, and Ted Jones of Jones Apiaries. Includes use of a farm veil; however, long sleeves, long pants and closed toed shoes are recommended. Class with run for 60-90 minutes once each month in the beeyard, covering various aspects of managing a hive. Limited to 10 participants. Five sessions for \$110. Register at www.Eventbrite.com.

Adult Wine and Planting Event

On Thursday, May 19 starting at 7:00pm, we'll gather at the farm for "Sip & Seedlings," a night of planting and toasting. Swing by the farm after work to plant a selection of kitchen herbs in a wood planter, ideal for your kitchen window or patio. Herbs may include parsley, cilantro, basil, rosemary, or dill. Includes a glass of wine. Bring a friend! \$40/pp. Register on www.Eventbrite.com.

Annual Celebrate Spring Seedling Sale, Fairy House Trail & Maker's Market

Bring the whole family to farm on Saturday, May 21 from 1:00-5:00pm for Celebrate Spring, the annual organic seedling sale and fairy house trail. We are one of the few farms in the area that offers organic vegetable and herb seedlings in peat pots; there's no plastic to dispose of. Pick up a map and follow the path around the farm to find all the fairy houses. Enter a raffle to take home your own fairy house. And for the first time this year, we'll welcome 30 different local artisans for a Maker's Market. Free and open to the public. Food trucks will be on site with food for purchase. Rain date: Sunday, May 22.

See "Massaro Farm" On Page 21

“Massaro Farm” From Page 20

Concerts Return to the Farm

Massaro Farm welcomes local rock and roll band, Hubinger St. to the farm on Friday, May 27. We are happy to host the band after getting rained out last fall. Start your Memorial Day weekend off right by dancing to the tunes of these legendary performers, known for appearances at The Meadows and Soupstock. Pack a picnic and join us at the farm starting at 7:00pm. Only steady rain cancels. \$7-\$13/pp. All seating is general admission on the lawn. Masks not required; blankets and low chairs recommended. Outdoor

restrooms available. Tickets available on www.Eventbrite.com.
Massaro Community Farm is a non-profit, 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.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Woodbridge Business Wine Tasting is May 18

The Woodbridge Economic Development Commission invites Woodbridge-based business owners and their employees to a May 18 wine tasting and business networking event.
Wines and Spirits of Woodbridge will host a wine tasting for local businesses on May 18 from 5- 7 pm.
“We are pleased to showcase Wood-

bridge’s first and only package store,” said EDC Chair Robert Sharrer, “and I am excited to provide a networking experience for Woodbridge businesses and update businesses on EDC activities.”
At the store wine samples will be offered and snacks will be available.
RSVP to Betsy Yagla at 203-389-3403 or byagla@woodbridgect.org



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WOODBIDGE 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. The Library will be closed on Memorial Day (Monday, May 30) but will be open 10 to 5 on Saturday, May 28.

LIBRARY INFORMATION

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

What's available at the Library:

- › In-person browsing: come see all of the new books, audio-books, and DVDs!
- › Computers: 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 two-hour reservations; please call the reference desk to book your time. Our puzzles and children's toys are back, and so is our seating!

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-



WOODBIDGE TOWN LIBRARY

3433; circulation@woodbridgetownlibrary.org

- › Not sure who you need? Email askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org

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- › TikTok: [@woodbridge_town_library](https://www.tiktok.com/@woodbridge_town_library)

LIBRARY EVENTS

As of April 1, 2022, the library is now FINE FREE! The Woodbridge Town Library has gone fine free, which means patrons will no longer be charged fines for overdue items. All existing overdue fines for Woodbridge Town Library items have been removed, but this policy change will not include replacement fees for missing or damaged items. Please see the Circulation Department with any questions, or contact them: 203-389-3433 or askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org

Art Exhibits have returning to the Library's Meeting Room! Stop by the library during open hours to see the artwork—both in the meeting room and the Bookstore Alley. 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.

We need you! And your art! Summer exhibition spaces are available for any and all 2D media. Fill out the form here: <https://woodbridge.lioninc.org/events/art-exhibits/> Contact Kira Edic at kedic@woodbridgetownlibrary.org for more information.

Museum Passes Available

We also have museum passes to area attractions, everything from The Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport to the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford, providing you with free or discounted admission. Reserve your passes online then print out at home (when allowed) or pick up at the library. We can also print them here for you. Visit <https://woodbridge.lioninc.org/museum-passes/> for more info. Please note that every attraction has its own policies for pass usage and availability may be limited.

FROM ADULT SERVICES

Tuesday, May 11 at 1 pm: Free In-Person Virtual Art Tour Series from the Wadsworth Athenaeum: Impressionists. Experience art history via the oldest public art museum in the U.S. View the Wadsworth Virtual Art Tour on Impressionists, led by a museum docent. Save time and gas by coming to the library, versus driving to Hartford.

Tuesday, May 24 from 3 to 5 pm: Woodbridge Writer's Workshop. Share your writing and get feedback, inspiration, or support 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

Wednesday, May 25 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm: Medicare Uncomplicated. Are you aging into Medicare at 65 or are you already on Medicare and totally confused? No need to stress, come see Jess - your local, licensed Medicare health plan specialist! We'll go over what Medicare is, the eligibility and enrollment process, prescription drug coverage, and more! Please register online, by phone, or at the library.

Tuesday, May 31 at 6:30: RE-SCHEDULED! Transcendent Kingdom book discussion. Join us as we have an open discussion of Transcendent Kingdom, Yaa Gyasi's novel of the search for love, family, and God amidst the rational halls of science. This novel has been selected by the Connecticut Library Association for this year's statewide, All Ct Reads program.

Thursday, June 2 at 7 pm: Celebrating the Music of Thelonious Monk with the Shoreline Jazz Quartet. A classic jazz quartet featuring saxophone, guitar/piano, bass, and drums. Held in the meeting room; space will be limited!

FROM THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

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 in-

fantants to age 3 and their caregivers.

In-person Story Craft on Saturdays is back! Every Saturday, 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!

Singer-Songwriter Steve Elci performs live at the Woodbridge town-wide bike event! Saturday, May 14 at Noon. Fun for the whole family! Takes place on library grounds—bring chairs or a blanket. In the event of rain, concert will be in the meeting room.

Marble Run Building Challenge: Wednesday, May 18 at 4 pm. Use all kinds of materials to make and test your own marble run—"free-build" style. For ages 5 and up.

Theater for kids with Ingrid Schaeffer on Saturday, May 21. Two participatory theater programs for kids to act out classic children's stories, followed by a craft. The 1 pm program is for ages 3 to 5; the 2 pm program is for ages 5 to 10. More details on our website—registration is required.

May Graphic Novel Book Discussion: Wednesday, May 25 at 6:30 pm. For ages 9 and up. Read the Graphic Novel The Tea Dragon Society before coming to the program (copies of the book will be available at the library). On the night of the program we'll chat about our favorite parts of the book while using paint-markers to design fancy tea mugs.

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Thank you to everybody who came and supported the Friends of the Library book sale on April 23! We appreciate your support of all that we do.

The Friends Bookstore Alley is open anytime the library is, with ever-changing displays and fresh inventory. You can pay with cash or check—or send a payment via PayPal right from the Bookstore! We can't wait to see you! 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 PayPal. Supporting the Friends supports the Library—thank you!

“Over the years, I learned so much from mom. She taught me about the importance of home and history and family and tradition. She also taught me that aging need not mean narrowing the scope of your activities and interests or a diminution of the great pleasures to be had in the everyday.” — MARTHA STEWART

“Letters” From Page 7

Lastly, and very importantly, a solar farm would position our town as a renewable energy leader in the state, doing its part in weaning our dependence on fossil fuels. We need to move away from fossil fuels quickly in order to avert the worst effects of climate change, and stop paying for the wars of autocrats.

Let’s not rush into an RFP for more housing proposals when we know that more housing will require us to give up control over the property, ruin the land, and only make money for developers and not the town.

Please contact our First Selectman’s office at Town Hall ASAP and ask the Board of Selectmen to begin a thoughtful RFQ and RFP process to see specifically what a solar farm would offer our town. Thank you.
Mary Gorham

Let’s Think About Other Options

Any housing development will bring in one-time funds and ongoing tax revenue to the town if the former Country Club property is sold. But are these funds really enough to make it a good deal? Some say yes, others, no. On the flip side, there are many residents who would like to preserve the environment and open space as-is. But can Woodbridge afford to absorb the debt of the land purchase and miss out on the revenue that would come with an increased tax base? Again, some say yes, others, no.

Let’s think about other options...is there something else that we can consider to help both our wallets and our environment at the same time? The answer is yes! There is a very elegant solution that would bring in significant funds to the town and also allow for open park space that we all can enjoy: The Woodbridge Solar Park.

“What is a solar park?” I can hear you ask...well, it’s just like a regular park with trees, walking paths, waterways, and wildlife, but it also has solar panels in some of the open areas. Those panels generate 100% clean, renewable electricity that would bring in very significant amounts of revenue to the town. In fact, the proposal the town received a few years ago would have brought in \$23 million in 25 years.

The caveat is that the older proposal was to cover the entire property with panels, which isn’t the best use of the land. Still, even if we use only 50% of the property for solar, we would be making hundreds of thousands of dollars every year, without all of the negatives of housing (such as an increased burden on our schools and public services). We can decide which areas we would like to keep natural, and which would be good for the panels. For example, a buffer of park space along Johnson Road and Ansonia Road would be a good idea. The sledding hill and lake area can be preserved. A small parking lot and a bike path can be discussed.

Rooftop solar in Woodbridge can be difficult due to the wooded nature of the town. The former WCC property represents an ideal location that has 3-phase power access and where the trees have already been cleared.

This is our opportunity to create a park that is sustainable in more ways than one. It will be financially sustainable and bring in significant revenue to the town. It will also be environmentally sustainable, helping us to reduce pollution and reliance on fossil fuels (which are often from foreign sources). Perhaps best of all, we would still own the property.

To make this a reality, the Board of Selectmen needs to know that we are interested in getting a new proposal for a mixed-use solar park. Please write to them and voice your support during the monthly meetings.
Kent Golden, Resident/former member of the Woodbridge Sustainability Committee

Make a Choice that is Best for the Future of Woodbridge

I purchased my home on Johnson Road in 2012 and enjoyed a nice view of the Country Club of Woodbridge. Although I am not a golfer, I loved the manicured landscape, the walking paths and variety of trees and plants found on the course. When the course closed in 2017, I was anxious about what the future of the property would be.

Since then, I have watched our town leaders get courted by big developers (Toll, Arbor, etc.), only to have those companies withdraw their bids when they felt the town climate would not be supportive of massive housing projects on the land. I have attended BOS (Board of Selectmen) meetings, spoken out publicly, written many letters and met with the Town Selectman on multiple occasions, offering up broader and more inclusive ideas for the land. These ideas included solar panels on the property, which could generate revenue for the town, a disc golf course, which requires little to no maintenance on the property and is a sport that can be enjoyed by ALL ages, moving the town Recreation Center to the existing clubhouse, considering it is currently using the town elementary school and selling “Leisure Passes” to households in town to use the walking paths, pond for fishing and skating and other various activities that can be available. I would even be in favor of a small cluster of age restricted homes, built around the Clubhouse area (similar to the proposal in 2020), but would like to see the excess land deeded back held in a Conservation or Land Trust.

Building single family homes, condos, apartments and other housing will put a major strain on our already bursting schools, public works, police, fire and roadways. The money made by selling off the land will not result in a reduction of taxes, but rather will be needed to expand the multiple departments that will need to increase based

on the increase in young families and children. Residents have been given rose-colored glasses and been fed lies to think selling the property to build hundreds of non-age restricted homes will save us money. It costs a household \$56 a year to pay down the debt owed on the property. Each household will be lucky if they get \$56 back in tax relief if the town sells to a large developer. But the leaders are not telling us that...but the developers are realizing it, hence why they are pulling out.

I have read and educated myself on the new law in Connecticut, requiring housing for all incomes and economic status. I understand that our town needs to comply with the law. However, why not use the small open spaces throughout the “downtown” area to build apartments? The roads around those properties are already meant for high volume, there are already bus lines in place for those residents and those properties can tap into the public water and sewage system. The money spent on upgrading the CCW property to accommodate these types of homes will essentially cancel out any tax relief you are promising to the town’s people. I drive on Bradley Road daily and see plenty of opportunity for multi-use housing that will not take away from the beautiful and historic space the CCW offers.

At the end of the day, our town leaders need to write up a proposal, based on input from the town’s people, which can then be used to attract developers and will be based on OUR needs, not a developer. A proposal that includes a multitude of uses; Solar panels along Ansonia, Recreation Center on Woodfield, Splash Park on Johnson, Disc Golf throughout. Sitting and waiting for the money hungry developers to dictate what we should do with the land is short sighted and will continue to fail. We have not had a single referendum on the property since the Golf Course closed, and that is a clear sign that the people of Woodbridge want something other than massive housing on the CCW property. Listen to your constituents and make a choice that is best for the FUTURE of Woodbridge, not just picking the easy button.
Katie Irwin

We Must Protect What is Ours

We cannot stand by and allow any organization—be it a developer or conservation group—to purchase any part of the country club land at any price. This land is priceless. It should never be sold and instead remain owned by the town.

Firstly, Woodbridge residents deserve to know how magnificent this land that we pay for is. It hasn’t been maintained for years, so many may not know how breathtaking it is, or even that it’s there! Being there is a gift that country club members enjoyed exclusively for years, and now that we own the land, we should be able to do the same. If the town took a small percentage of the land along Johnson

Road (from Ansonia Road to the pond) and maintained it for walking, socializing, or even just sitting on a bench by the pond, we would all—young and old, as there are lovely flat portions as well—benefit. There’s no comparison between this land and the empty field at the corners of Beecher and Center Roads that residents currently use.

Secondly, it is short-sighted and myopic to consider this asset in terms of how it might fix issues we are having right now, be they budgetary, zoning, etc. Owning land like ours is an asset to protect for the future. What might Woodbridge and its residents need in 100 years? We have no idea. We can’t anticipate the future, but we do know that once the land is sold, it’s gone forever. As one potential developer of another valuable piece of Connecticut land recently said, “We intend to... make sure we do something that future generations will enjoy.” Indeed! In our case, however, we need to act for ourselves and by ourselves, for our future selves. Keep the land and find solutions to current issues another way.

Lastly, Woodbridge is special—we as residents know this, and thanks to a recent New York Times article, more now know as well. These 155 acres of land are special. Yet there’s nothing special about bulldozing it in favor of suburban sprawl.

We must protect what is ours—what we’re currently paying for yet prevented from enjoying—for now and for the future.
Jack Fast

It’s Time to Sell the Country Club of Woodbridge Property

Woodbridge, along with most of the country, has experienced a substantial rise in property values over the past two years, and this is coupled with almost no housing inventory on the market today. We are in a seller’s market, let’s take advantage of that. We can finally actually make a profit on our purchase. The property is not a historic colonial farm, nor a pristine forest. It is a failed country club with a crumbling 1970s structure and pool, cracked parking lot, and unmaintained golf course. Colonial founding father Roger Sherman never lived here, in fact he held his investment in Woodbridge land for only a little over 6 years - about half the time we, the Town of Woodbridge, have owned it. Sadly, Arbor Haven has withdrawn their offer. It’s time to put out an RFP for the property. When we do get proposals, we should have an independent consultant evaluate the effect on tax revenue and school/town expenses. Then we can make an informed decision and only support a development proposal that generates a profit for our town. We are losing too much in opportunity cost to continue to hold this parcel when we could generate a \$9M dollar (or more?) one-time payment to Woodbridge along with an annual net income stream.
Robert Sharrer

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Or Shalom Happenings

“Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Door”

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).

Shavuot Services

- › Erev Shavuot, June 4, 7:30 PM - In person and Zoom’d
- › Shavuot Service, June 5, 9:30 AM - In person and Zoom’d
- › Shavuot Service, June 5, 7:00 PM - In person and Zoom’d followed by Study Program (In-person only) What Does It Mean to Be “Jewish” in The Age of Genetic Testing with guest speaker Dr. Brendan Cassidy.
- › Shavuot Service 9:30 AM with Yizkor at approx. 10:30 AM - In person and Zoom’d

Virtual Learning This Month COFFEE &..LEARN! (And Zoom)

“Three Biblical Ideas That Changed the World”

Class on May 4,11 &18

Please call the office for Zoom information. 203.799.2341.

JOIN A NEW BOOK GROUP IN 2022!

An Evening with Victoria Riskin author of “Fay Wray & Robert



Congregation Or Shalom

Riskin: A Hollywood Memoir” May 18th from @7:00PM

A Hollywood love story, a Hollywood memoir, a dual biography of two of Hollywood’s most famous figures, whose golden lives were lived at the center of Hollywood’s golden age, written by their daughter, an acclaimed writer and producer. Fay Wray and Robert Riskin lived large lives, finding each other after establishing their artistic selves and after each had had many romantic attachments—Wray, an eleven-year-long difficult marriage and a fraught affair with Clifford Odets, and Riskin, a series of romances with, among others, Carole Lombard, Glenda Farrell, and Loretta Young. Here are Wray’s and Riskin’s lives, their work, their fairy-tale marriage that ended so tragically. Here are their dual, quintessential American lives, ultimately and blissfully intertwined. We will be joining Temple Emanu-EL in Waterford, CT for this special event. Please call the office for Zoom information. 203.799.2341.

Social Action

For May, we are collecting diapers and wipes for the Diaper Bank of New Haven. If you would like to donate, please contact the office 203-799-2341.

Congregation Mishkan Israel’s Annual Cantor’s Concert Returns

Congregation Mishkan Israel (CMI) is delighted to announce its highly anticipated annual Cantor’s Concert will return this spring. This year Rabbi Joe Black, a pioneer of Jewish contemporary music, will headline the concert. Rabbi Black has performed for congregations and communities around the world. He is known for his guitar virtuosity, soaring voice and lyrics that are at the same time funny, inspirational, and thought provoking.

CMI’s Annual Cantor’s Concert will be held Sunday, May 22, 2022 at Congregation Mishkan Israel, 785 Ridge Road in Hamden. A pre-concert patio reception at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by an indoor concert in CMI’s historic sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

Senior Rabbi of Temple Emanuel in Denver, Rabbi Black is a frequent contributor to anthologies and collections of Jewish writing. He has recorded five critically-acclaimed albums of Jewish

music, two children’s books, a song-book and two videos. His books and music have been featured by the PJ library and he has received numerous honors for his performance, including being named by Moment magazine as one of the top ten male performers in American Jewish music as well as one of the top ten children’s performers in American Jewish music.

CMI’s Annual Cantor’s Concert is open to the public. Donations are \$18 - \$54 and include the pre-concert reception. Sponsorships begin at \$180. For a menu of giving opportunities, visit www.cmihamden.org/calendar/cantors-concert.

Congregation Mishkan Israel is the 14th oldest Jewish congregation in the United States and the oldest continuously operating one in New England. For more information, call the synagogue office at (203) 288-3877 or visit www.cmihamden.org.

Christ Episcopal Church Tag Sale

It’s time for the gigantic tag sale at Christ Episcopal Church, Bethany (526 Amity Road, at the blinking light) being held on Saturday, May 7, 9 am-2 pm (rain date May 14).

You’ll find great deals on house-

wares, decor, fine china, toys, books, homemade baked goods, the Clothing Boutique and even a boat!

Have lunch - pulled pork sandwiches or hot dogs to go or eat outside. Mark your calendars!

Holy Infant Church Women’s Guild

The Holy Infant Church Women’s Guild will hold an outdoor Rosary to pray for the Ukrainian people on Sunday, May 15th at 10:30 am. It will be on the front lawn of the church at 450 Racebrook Road, by Mary’s statue. Please bring your own chair.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

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Sunday Mass: 5:00pm

Contact us: 203-795-5076

ourladyofsorrowst@yahoo.com

Facebook: @OurLadyOfSorrowsTraditional

378 Spring St., Orange (off of Racebrook Rd)

Woodbridge Town News

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

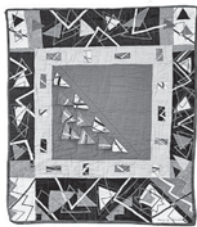
First Fridays

On May 6, the First Friday of the month, the Kabbalat Shabbat service will be early for a kid-friendly, though not specifically kids' service.

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

Artist Talk

Suzanne Neusner, whose Fiber Arts exhibition is on display in the upstairs BEKI gallery, will speak about her work



Thursday, May 12 at 7:30 pm. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

For over 35 years, Neusner has focused on abstract imagery through a variety of weaving and quilting techniques. Her work includes playful reinventions of traditional Jewish themes such as matzoh covers. For inspiration, she draws from her natural surroundings in the Hudson Valley as well as from her prior explorations in other media.

Her exhibition has been extended through June 28, and some of her work is on sale at the BEKI Gift Shop. Some pieces can be viewed on the BEKI website: <https://www.beki.org/our-community/gallery-art/suzanne-neusner-fiber-arts>.

Courtyard Campfire

Wednesday evening May 18 is Lag BaOmer, the 33rd day of the Omer. The folk-custom is to sing around a campfire at a "kumsitz," meaning "come" and "sit." BEKI's program in the courtyard will feature niggunim—which have no words—as well as traditional American songs and



Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

Hebrew songs, all led by congregant Max DuBoff. Song sheets will be provided. In case of rain, the event will be postponed until May 19. Details at beki.org.

Social Action

BEKI's Social Action Tikkun Olam Committee, chaired by Dr. Jennifer



Botwick, is collecting medical and non-medical supplies for Ukraine. Everyone is invited to help fill the donation box in the coatroom with

over-the-counter cold and flu remedies, acetaminophen, aspirin, allergy medications, and digestion medicines. Please donate only tablets, capsules, or gel tablets—no bottled liquids. Band aids, bandages, diapers, menstrual pads or tampons are also welcome. To arrange a time to leave off donations, call the office at 203.389.2108 x114.

In Person and Online

BEKI offers In-Person services twice daily, led by Rabbi Eric Woodward and congregants. Details at beki.org. Weekday morning and evening services also are available on Zoom.

To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

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



Orange Congregational Church Hosts Handbell Concert

The Board of Music Ministry of the Orange Congregational Church is proud to host the Shoreline Ringers in a concert on Sunday, May 22, 2022 at 4:00 in the afternoon. This premier Handbell Choir will perform in the church sanctuary and showcase their talent at playing a whole spectrum of bells. They will bring their skill at ringing bells, with multiple tiny bells in one

hand or with large upright bells which are too large to carry and must be held by a special framework. The Ringers will be conducted by their director, Jane Nolan. The suggested donation at the door is \$5. For more information on the ensemble or the concert, you may visit Shorelineringers.org or orangecongregationalchurch.org or call 203-795-9749.

Orange Congregational Church Events

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.

We are currently offering an in-person crib room and church school, and in-person youth group. For adults, we have a Zoom evening "Praying the Bible" group, a virtual Book Club, an "Art of Scripture" Zoom group, a Monthly Meditation group by Zoom, and a Grief & Prayer Group.

Our annual Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, May 14th from 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on the Orange Town Green. This tag sale is a fundraiser which benefits our Pilgrim Fellowship youth program. Spaces are available to rent for \$25 (table and chairs provided upon request). Please email or call the church office (occhurch@snet.net or 203-795-9749) to rent a space.

Our Children and Youth Sunday



Orange Congregational Church

will take place on May 15th. On May 29th, worship will be at 9:30am and our youth will take place in the Memorial Day parade.

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 visit orangecongregationalchurch.org for more information. It doesn't matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

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

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation B’nai Jacobs Happenings

Weekly Services & Classes

- Daily Minyan Services**
- › Monday - Friday: 7:45am
 - › Monday - Thursday: 6:00pm (on ZOOM only)
 - › Sunday" 9:00am, 6:00pm
 - › National Holidays: Times vary

Weekly Shabbat Services

- Friday**
- › Shabbat Schmooze: 6:00pm
 - › Services: 6:30pm
- Saturday**
- › Bread & Torah: 9:00am
 - › Services: 10:00am

Bread & Torah

Saturday Mornings 9:00am-9:45am

Meet in the B’nai Jacob Library (or join us on Zoom) to explore the weekly Torah portion and the way in which its story relates to our own. Be prepared for a lively discussion over bagels and coffee. No experience necessary. Taught by Rabbi Rona Shapiro.

Audubon Center Tour

Sunday, May 22 at 1:30 pm

Bird and Nature Walk at the Milford Audubon Center

Join us for a private tour of the Audubon Center, a beautiful refuge on the Connecticut shore, guided by Sanctuary manager, Stefan Martin. Mr. Martin is very knowledgeable about the birds, plants, trees and waterfall pond on the property. Our sources tell us that May falls during migration season, so gear up for a treat. The cost is \$20 for Audubon members and \$25 for non-members, payable at the tour. Please call the office to register, 203-389-2111, or email office@bnaijacob.org.

Unless otherwise noted, all services, classes and events are in person at B’nai Jacob, located at 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge. All services are also live-streamed and some are on ZOOM. Call the B’nai Jacob office for digital access and more



Congregation B’nai Jacob

information 203-389-2111 or email of-
fice@bnaijacob.org.

SPRING INTO SPRING – A B’nai Jacob Family Event

- Everyone is invited!
- › 10am-12pm: Fun games & activities for children (organized and led by B’nai Jacob teens) Help us plant our Mitzvah Garden for the new season
 - › 12pm: Barbecue lunch for all
RSVP required for this FREE event
Email office@bnaijacob.org with names, ages of children, # for BBQ or call 203-389-2111

UPCOMING

- SAVE THESE DATES!
- VISIT OUR WEBSITE for more details and information
- › **Sunday, June 5** - Family Shavuot Program and ice cream social
 - › **Sunday, June 12** – BJ Players presents: After two postponements, three times the charm for B’nai Jacob Players: Sunday, June 12, is our new performance date for the production of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. The Players are so excited to return to live theatre!
Ticket Information coming soon.
- For more information about any of these events, or becoming a member of B’nai Jacob: Call 203-389-2111, Email: office@bnaijacob.org, Visit our website, bnaijacob.org.
- ALL ARE WELCOME!

Upcoming Events at Temple Emanuel

Special Events

- Friday, May 13 at 7:30 pm – Kabballat Shabbat Service with special guest speaker, Michael Bloom of JFACT
- Friday, June 3 at 6:30 pm – Kabballat Shabbat Service Under the Stars, on the patio at Temple Emanuel (in case of rain service will be held indoors)



Temple Emanuel

Regular Weekly Services

- › 6:30 pm on the first Friday of the month, Family Shabbat service
 - › 7:30 pm on all other Fridays, Kabballat Shabbat Service
- All of these events are held in person and are available online. Please check the 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.

Events That Can Foster A Strong Sense Of Community

Events that bring residents of a community together in one place have been on the back burner in recent years. As the world has dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic, communities have scaled back on public events in the hopes of limiting crowds and preventing the spread of the virus. Since 2021, such restrictions have been loosened, especially in spring and summer, as more people get vaccinated and scientists learn more about the virus, including how it's transmitted in outdoor settings compared to indoor settings.

The return of spring and summer mark a great time for local leaders to add more events to their community calendars. The following are some fun event ideas that can help communities reconnect in the months to come.

- **Crafts festival:** The digital advertising agency NMPi noted in a report titled "Impact of COVID-19 on Arts & Crafts Retail" that the rise in pandemic-related self-isolation led to an increased demand for arts-and-crafts. As the world emerges from the pandemic, community leaders can provide residents an opportunity to showcase their newfound talents by hosting a crafts festival. Invite established professionals to showcase and sell their wares and encourage local hobbyists to do the same. This is a great way to promote local businesses and connect residents with neighbors who love to spend time working on arts and crafts.
- **Concert series:** Summer concert series are fun and potentially lucrative for local businesses. A 2016 analysis of

a popular local concert series in northern New York State determined that a summer concert series sponsored by the Disabled Persons Action Organization allowed more than \$1.6 million to flow through local economies. That's welcome news for local businesses that have been hit hard by the pandemic, and it's also welcome news for leaders who want to rebuild a sense of community in their towns and cities. Families and local residents can enjoy live music and take pride knowing that each ice cream cone, hot dog or cold beverage they buy at a concert is helping local businesses rebound from a tough stretch.

- **Farmers market:** Another way to promote local businesses and public health is to host weekly farmers markets. Buying locally grown foods greatly reduces food miles, a term that refers to the distance food travels before it reaches grocery stores. Reduced food miles means less fuel consumption and reduced air pollution, both of which benefit the environment and human health. But farmers markets do more than that, as they provide access to healthy foods to individuals who might otherwise be unable to find fresh fruits and vegetables. And farmers markets support local farmers and growers, reassuring consumers that their hard earned money is going back into their own communities.

Local events like crafts festivals, concert series and farmers markets are a fun and effective way to foster a strong sense of community in towns and cities.



HEALTH & FITNESS

What is Cold Laser and Can It Help My Pain

BY KYLE BRANDAY MSPT, C-PS

Cold Laser Therapy, technically termed Low Level Laser Therapy (LLLT), has been used in a variety of formats for years with tremendous success. Physical Therapists have been utilizing this research supported technology to help patients with their pain and dysfunction.

The goal in this transmission of laser light is to enhance the energy of the cells in the particular tissue/area of the body that is injured. If we can get damaged or degenerated cells to absorb as much of this light energy as possible, we will see decreased inflammation, increased blood and lymphatic circulation, relaxation of muscles, and relief of pain and stiffness.

This type of therapy can be used to heal both acute and chronic injuries in addition to a wide array of conditions. LLLT can help with the healing, inflammation and pain reduction of diagnoses including: arthritis, bursitis, back and neck strains, sciatica, carpal tunnel, rotator cuff tears, Achilles tendinitis, Tennis and Golfers Elbow, neuropathy, disc herniation, plantar fasciitis, and post operative pain (just to name a few).

While the list of what conditions it can help is much longer, understanding the benefits and risks of any treatment is important. The improvement which can be had from use of Cold Laser Therapy is tremendous with little to no risk. Given that the applicator produces only LED light without generating any heat, there are no risks of burns like with other lasers.

All treatments are performed in a 1-on-1 setting with protective glasses worn by both the therapist and the patient to protect the eyes while the applicator is active. The addition of this great treatment to our practice has helped many patients with varying conditions substantially decrease their pain, stiffness, swelling, and inflammation.

LLLT is a great addition to a formal PT treatment. While the laser can help reduce the pain, swelling, and inflammation, optimal results and long-term carryover are maximized when combined with direct and effective mobility and stability training to fix the



Kyle Branday

underlying reason why the pain and inflammation are happening in the first place.

In our experience, we are seeing patients benefit in as little as 1-2 sessions. This has proven to be a beneficial treatment for patients suffering from both acute and chronic pain. Research has proven LLLT to be more effective than non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in the treatment of acute injuries.

Safe, effective, drug-free pain relief...what's not to love! Want to know more about if LLLT could be right for you? Call (203) 389-4593 to speak to a therapist or visit www.amitypt.com

Kyle Branday, MSPT, C-PS, is a licensed Physical Therapist and is the supervisor of the Woodbridge office. He is a graduate of Quinnipiac University where he earned his Master's degree in Physical Therapy. In addition, Kyle is Level 2 Certified by the Institute of Advanced Musculoskeletal Treatment for Dry Needling. Kyle enjoys treating patients with a wide range of orthopedic and neurological conditions. Kyle has extensive training in the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic orthopedic and sports injuries, neurological rehabilitation, manual therapy, sports specific training, Selective Functional Movement Assessment (SFMA) and works with patients ranging from pediatrics to geriatrics. Recently, he has completed course work to earn designation as a Champion Performance Specialist (C-PS) to enhance his work with elite athletes and weekend warriors alike. Kyle is an avid sports fan and works with our patients in our Sports Performance Programs.

HDSA Hosting Connecticut Team Hope Walk

The Huntington's Disease Society of America's (HDSA) Connecticut Chapter will be hosting the Connecticut Team Hope Walk on Saturday, May 22nd @ 9:00 AM at Chatfield Hollow State Park in Killingworth. For more information about the event, please contact Sue McGann (cthdsa@gmail.com, 860-558-8847). Online registration and donation can be found at hdsa.org/thwct.

Team Hope is HDSA's largest national grassroots fundraising event, which takes place in over 100 cities across the U.S. and has raised more than \$20 million for Huntington's disease since its inception in 2007. Thousands of families, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and communities walk together each year to support HDSA's mission to improve the lives of people affected by Huntington's disease and their families.

Huntington's disease is a fatal genetic disease that affects the nerve cells in the brain that is described as having ALS, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's disease all at once. Today, there are approximately 41,000 symptomatic Americans and more than 200,000 at risk of inheriting the disease.

HDSA's Team Hope Walk Program is nationally sponsored by Teva Pharmaceuticals.

Clever Ways To Find More Time For Reading

The benefits of reading are undeniable. However, in the digital era, many individuals, even those who love to read, are finding it hard to make time to read, are finding it hard to make time to cuddle up with a good book.

Numerous studies have examined the benefits of reading, and one of the most prominent findings is that reading can improve mental cognition. In fact, according to the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation, reading has the potential to slow the progression of dementias like Alzheimer's disease. Reading also can improve memory, promote stronger analytical thinking skills, improve focus and concentration, and build vocabularies.

Women tend to be well read. Data from Pew Research Center has found women read more than men, with the average woman reading 14 books in a year compared to nine for men. Women hoping to find even more time for reading can try these strategies.

Read what you enjoy. It's tempting to pick books based on what others are reading or what you believe will make you seem more erudite. Choose subjects that appeal to you rather than ones you think you should read. Books should spark your interest and curiosity, no matter the subject, and you're more likely to finish a book when you find it engaging.

Join a book club. A book club can open you up to a variety of titles. Book clubs tend to stick to deadlines and schedules, meaning you'll already be encouraged to read more to meet the minimum requirements of the club. Furthermore, an opportunity to discuss the book with others can motivate you to read the book in a timely fashion.

Change your commute. Letting someone else do the driving frees up commuting time for reading. Even if the bus or train ride is longer than driving to work, it may present an opportunity to relax and turn some pages along the way.

Invest in an e-reader. Some purists feel that reading ink on page is the only way to devour books. While books are portable, e-readers are even more so and you can have an entire library on a single device, enabling you to move between books simultaneously if that's how you operate. Stowing the e-reader in a purse or work bag enables you to read whenever free time arises, such as in waiting rooms, idling in the school pick-up line or while sitting in the car waiting for a spouse to come out of the grocery store.

Set your own rules. When reading for pleasure, establish your own rules. Don't hesitate to stop reading a book if you find it's not as engaging as you'd initially hoped.

Reading promotes brain health and mental well-being. Various strategies can help you find more time to cuddle up with a good book.

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ELECTION 2022

Kathy Hoyt Announces Candidacy for State Senate

Kathy Hoyt, a local small business owner, and longtime community volunteer and activist from Hamden, announced her candidacy for State Senate in the 17th 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 responsible 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 registration 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.

Amy Chai Announces Bid for 3rd Congressional District

Independent Party and Libertarian Party Join to Endorse

Dr. Amy Chai a physician, licensed epidemiologist, addiction specialist author, and elderly caregiver said in advance of announcement, “Most people are not aware that half of American voters don’t identify as either Republican or Democrat,” she said. “Fifty percent of voters don’t have a political home. I hope to change that.”

Chai will also highlight education issues during this time of Covid. Chai’s expertise is that she was awarded a US Presidential Teacher award from the Obama administration in 2011 after homeschooling her middle and high school children.



Amy Chai



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TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE LEGAL NOTICE

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022 - 7:30 PM. DST

AMITY HIGH SCHOOL - BRADY CENTER AUDITORIUM

25 NEWTON ROAD, WOODBRIDGE, CT

I. To Elect a Town Meeting Moderator for a term of two (2) years, pursuant to Chapter 1, Article III of the Ordinances of the Town of Woodbridge. Nominations (will/may) be made from the floor.

II. To Act on the FY2023 Budget as recommended by the Board of Finance in the total amount of \$53,824,129. The Board of Finance recommendations are those presented at the Preliminary Budget Hearing on April 18, 2022, with the following exceptions:

Account	Account #	Preliminary Recommendation	Final Recommendation
Woodbridge Board of Education	1910-00	\$16,339,701	\$16,419,701
Employee Benefits	1710-00	\$4,935,949	\$4,855,949

III. Other business as proper to come before the meeting.

Dated at Woodbridge CT this 26th day of April 2022

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Beth Heller

David A. Lober

Joseph Crisco

Sheila McCreven

Paul Kuriakose

David Vogel

NOTICE

Section 6-2(h) of the Charter of the Town of Woodbridge provides that each and every recommended budget item shall be considered and that the budget as recommended by the Board of Finance shall be deemed to have been appropriated unless the sum is increased, decreased, or eliminated by 1) a vote of the Town meeting with not less than 250 eligible voters present and voting; 2) the votes in favor of the motion to increase, decrease, or eliminate constitute not less than 60% of the total number of votes cast; 3) no recommended budget item may be increased to an amount greater than the original request for appropriation filed pursuant to Section 6-2.


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The Importance Of Using Vacation Time

How many employees have wished for a shorter work week, especially when it's only Tuesday and Friday is nowhere in sight? Though many professionals wish they worked fewer days each week, those same individuals likely aren't taking advantage of their hard-earned vacation time.

According to the "2018 State of the American Vacation" report from the U.S. Travel Association, more than half of all working Americans have unused paid vacation days. According to the USTA's Project Time Off, Americans are taking roughly one less week of vacation per year than they did in the mid-1970s, and the trend continues to decline. It's not much different in Canada. A 2020 ADP survey found that 49 percent of working Canadians were taking less or

no vacation time during the holiday season. Fifty percent of women and 37 percent of men reported that they took less than half of their allotted time off that year.

Workers cite several reasons for skipping vacations, including feeling an obligation to employers or worrying that taking time off may make them stack up poorly against coworkers when being reviewed for promotions or raises. However, failing to take vacation has notable consequences that should not be ignored. Here's why individuals should make vacations priorities.

Avoid health consequences. A study published by the National Center of Biotechnology Information found that men who were at risk for heart disease and skipped vacation were 30 percent

more likely to have heart attacks than those who took extended time off during the year. Similar effects occur in women. Taking little or no time off also could put individuals at increased risk for anxiety, depression, obesity, insomnia, and other stress-related illnesses, particularly among females. Simply taking a vacation or two per year can help tame stress and improve individuals' long-term health outlook.

Get a brain break. Focusing attention on new scenery and activities for a week or more can improve performance upon returning to work. The USTA also indicates having a vacation to look forward to can motivate individuals to finish a project or report in a timely manner.

Enjoy higher job satisfaction. The Society for Human Resource Man-

agement said that 78 percent of human resources directors found that employees who took more vacation days reported higher job satisfaction. That could be because vacations help people feel less stressed and generally happier, which can extend to the workplace.

Develop strong bonds with family. Having fun with the family away from the distractions of daily life is a major advantage of vacationing. Few families have consistent time to spend together, but vacations enable everyone to take a break from the routine frenzy and focus on one another.

It's tempting to skip vacations to be more productive, but workers actually may be doing their productivity a disservice by failing to rest and recharge.

LOCAL SPORTS



Left: This year's inductees into the Amity Hall of Fame and Hall of Honor include (from left) Gilbert Jennings, Michael Slomsky, Rob Leonard, Mark Levine, Erin (McLaughlin) Guise; Allison Barwise; Janice Ehorn, Coach Sal Coppola, and Lindsay Ciancola with a picture of her brother, Joseph. Not pictured is Scott Klein. | Middle: Allison Barwise shared a hug with her former Track and Field coach, Brien Mahon, left, and his wife, Amity Principal Anna Mahon, at the Hall of Fame induction dinner. | Right: Amity Varsity baseball coach Sal Coppola received a standing ovation

Amity Athletics Celebrates Its Alumni

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Life's ups and downs, its challenges but also its lighthearted moments were front and center as a new group of successful Amity alumni were inducted into the Amity Athletic Hall of Fame and the Hall of Honor with a dinner at Grassy Hill Country Club last week.

Among the athletes honored were track and field champion Allison Barwise (Class of 2009), Football and wrestling MVP Gilbert Jennings (1991); swimmer Erin (McLaughlin) Guise (2005), volleyball player Janice Ehorn (2008), the late baseball and hockey enthusiast Joseph Ciancola III (2010); and last, but not least, varsity baseball coach Sal Coppola (1987).

Inducted into the Hall of Honor were journalist Scott Klein (1988), entrepreneur Rob Leonard (1987), Chrysler engineer and Cystic Fibrosis ambassador Mark Levine (1988); and investment manager Michael Slomsky (1991).

Coach Coppola, whose baseball Spartans are currently ranked Number 1 in the state, was greeted with a standing ovation from the audience, which included a number of his players as well as fellow coaches, administrators, board members and family.

An Amity graduate in his own right (1987), Coppola joins his father, Sal Senior, and uncle Robert, in the ranks of Amity Hall of Fame inductees. It's the pressure that this family legacy

put on him that made him who he is today, he said. "I used to be very secretive about my coaching philosophy," he said. "Until I realized that nobody (of the other coaches) grew up in the Coppola family."

Growing up, he would play whiffle ball, basketball or football every day after school, he said. "It was vicious, but it taught me to compete and be friends afterward." It's this competitive spirit that he wants to instill in his players. Over the 28 years that he has coached at Amity, he must have coached about 1,000 players, he reminisced. "What incredible relationships I had with some of these players," he said. "Who is luckier than me, at 52 years old, to be playing the game I love."

Coppola also shared a heart-felt story about one of his star players, and fellow Hall of Fame inductees, Joseph Ciancola, who passed away unexpectedly at age 20 in the fall of 2011, playing baseball for the University of Rhode Island.

After the game, Coach Coppola takes his winning teams on a run, called the Warrior Run, which can be as long or as short as they wish. "Back then, I would be leading the pack," he said with self-deprecating humor. Well, Joey was running right behind him and suggested to run through the pond at the entrance to the high school campus.

"It's 45 degrees, it's raining, and Joey wants to run through the pond," he said. So off they went. "I'm first and

I sink so deep into the mud that I can barely move." When he turned around, he saw that Joey had stopped short at the edge of the pond, literally leaving him stuck in the mud. "That was Joey," he remembered fondly.

The plaque for Amity Hall of Fame inductee Joseph Ciancola was presented to his sister Lindsay, who had her own stories to tell about her brother. She talked about his passion for both hockey and baseball, a passion that flourished at Amity. "There was pure joy when he was playing," she recalled.

But his passion could also trip him up, for instance when a picture of him and the boys playing pond hockey was published in the local paper, playing hockey at 11 a.m. on a week day. "What a way to get caught," she added.

Allison Barwise, who was named Amity Athlete of the Year in 2009, excelled in soccer, but in particular in track and field, making it to New England Champion in high jump in 2009. In her acceptance speech she also talked about her performance anxiety, which at times got in the way. She thanked coaches Mahon and Amato for their understanding and "not coming down hard on me, because I was coming down hard on myself."

She said she learned over time that failure is a natural part of growth, and thanked her parents and coaches for their support. "I needed you to believe in me," she said.

Like a number of other inductees that night, Rob Leonard (1987) admitted that his path to success was not a straight line. "My school records must have been lost," when they nominated him for the Hall of Honor, he joked. With a degree in communication from Southern, his dream job was to become a writer for the Late Show with David

Letterman. But instead, a friend got him a job putting empty beer bottles on a conveyor belt, and that was the beginning of quite the career. Nowadays, he is the owner of the widely successful New England Brewing Co. currently located on Amity Road in Woodbridge.

It was the Farm-to-Table movement that turned the attention of the community to local businesses, and helped propel the company to phenomenal growth. "It's the community that turned the tide," Leonard said.

Another one to stress the importance of community was Mark Levine (1988), an engineer with Chrysler, who lives in Indiana, home to the Indy 500 race track. But his speech was not about cars, or speed – nor about his time as Amity tennis captain. Instead, Levine talked about his younger brother, David, who, just like Mark himself, was diagnosed early in life with cystic fibrosis, a disease that causes damage to a person's lungs.

But unlike Mark, David ultimately succumbed to the disease. At age 18, David underwent a lung transplant, that allowed him to graduate from Amity the following year. "He got a standing ovation when he walked across that stage," Levine remembered, saying how a strong support system helped them deal with setbacks and successes.

Erin Guise spoke how swimming became the source of all good things in her life, including meeting her husband when she was lifeguarding.

Volleyball star Janice Ehorn (Class of 2008) teared up when she thanked her parents and long-time Amity volleyball coach Paul Thees for their encouragement. She was named the Amity Team MVP three years in a row, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Woodbridge Town News

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DID YOU KNOW?

According to a 2019 Bureau of Labor Statistics survey of baby boomers, the average number of jobs held in a lifetime is 12. Women spend slightly less time in companies than men. In its 2018 Employee Tenure Summary, the BLS reported that the median tenure for women is 4 years and 4.3 for men. However, women hold nearly as many jobs as men across their careers, despite some taking time off to raise children. Comparatively, women hold 12.1 jobs to men's 12.5. Certain industries lend themselves to higher rates of tenure. Federal government employees, for example, have long rates of tenure, while the shortest average tenure belongs to workers in the leisure and hospitality sector, according to the career experts at Zippia. Columbia College Calgary reports similar trends in Canada, where the average individual has about 15 jobs in a lifetime. Studies suggest that Canadians in Generation Y tend to hold positions for 2.7 years, Generation X at 3.4 years, and Baby Boomers for 12 years.



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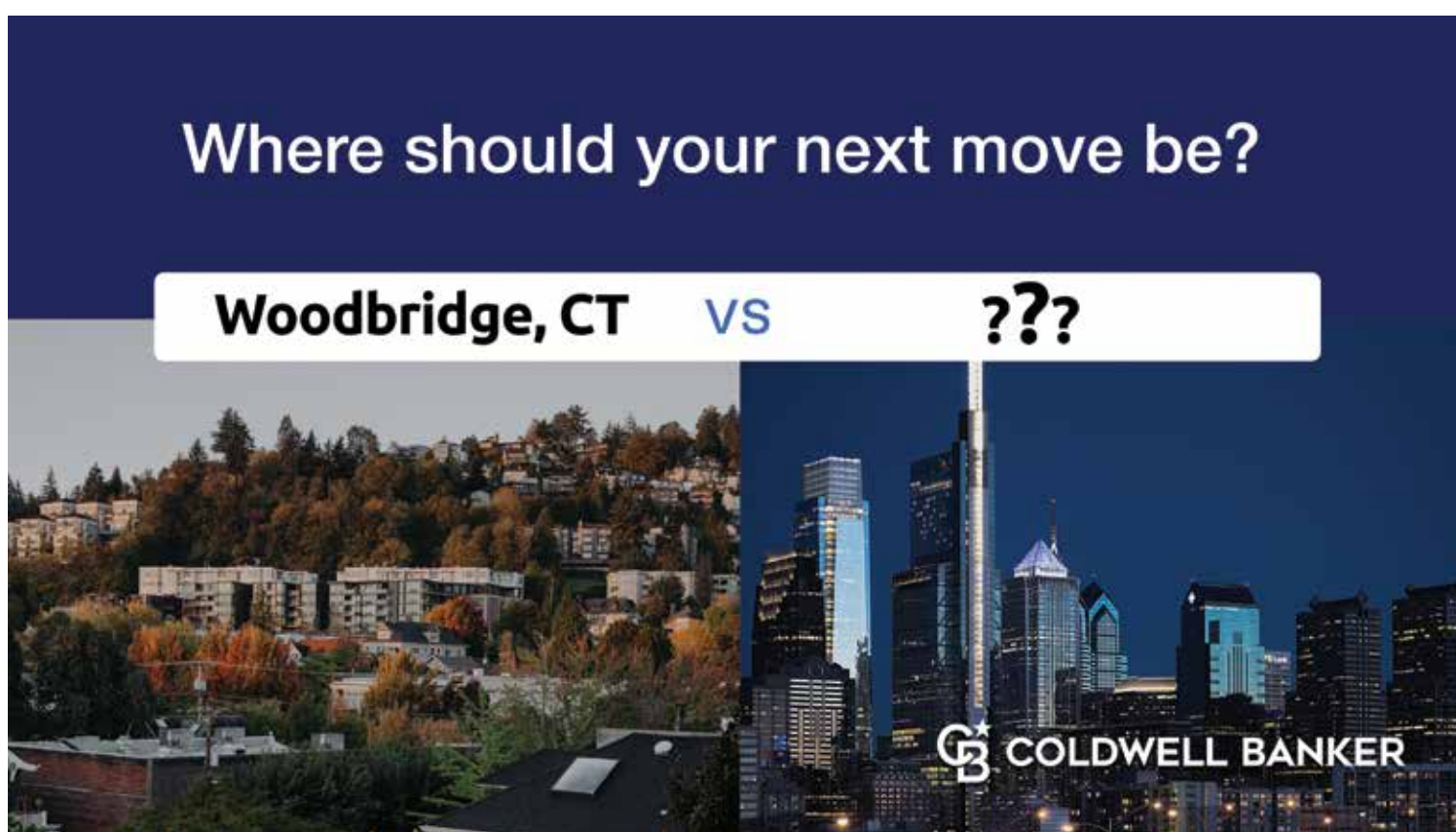
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