

Woodbridge Town News



Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper

Mailed Free To Every Home in Woodbridge
Mailed Free To Every Home & Business in Woodbridge & Bethany

VOL. 10 – ISSUE 6

CIRCULATION 3649

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 2021

Beth Heller Wins Third Term

Close Underticket Races Trigger Recounts

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

First Selectman Beth Heller, a Democrat, carried the recent municipal election with a comfortable lead, with 1,641 votes out of the total of 2,538 cast. Heller ran unopposed.

She will be working with a new Board of Selectmen, given that several members of the board chose not to run again. The new board will consist of Democrats Joe Crisco (1,303), Sheila McCreven (1,287) and Paul Kuriakose (1,273); the Republicans will be represented by David Vogel (1,190) and David Lober (1,153).

The results for Republicans Lober and Stephen Francis (1,151) came in so close that they required a recount, but Francis withdrew. Even so, two other results, for the Zoning Board of Appeals, were close and did trigger a recount, which took place on May 7. It did not change the outcome of the election, according to Ellie Sheehy in the Town Clerk's office.

The Woodbridge Board of Education also will see some changes, as six

of the nine-member board were up for re-election. New on the board are Jay Dahya (D, 1314), Maria Madonick (D, 1,343) Brooke Hopkins (R, 1129) and Sarah Beth Del Prete (R, 1,132).

Returning to the board will be Michael Strambler (D, 1,305) and David Ross for a two-year term (D, 1,369).

Woodbridge will be sending two Democrats to the Amity Board of Education, Carol Oladele (1,320) and Donna Schuster (1,282) to replace Pat Cardozo and Robyn H. Berke. Sheila McCreven, who will be joining the Board of Selectmen come

July, announced her resignation from that board. Her position will be filled by appointment by the Board of Selectmen until voters can weigh in at the next election.

The winners for the Board of Assessment Appeals are Janet Barillari (R, 1,115) and Andrew Schaffer (D, 1,344).

The winners for the Zoning Board of Appeals are Celia Waters (D, 1,269), Henry Nusbaum (D, 1,242), and Robert Wiznia (R, 1,233); the alternate will be Aldon Hynes (D, 1,233).



Beth Heller

Selectmen Prepare to Reconvene Town Meeting

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Board of Selectmen at a special meeting on May 19 decided to reconvene the Annual Town Meeting to adopt the 2021-22 budget on Wednesday, June 2. The meeting had been started virtually on Webex on the third Monday of May — as required by the Charter — but came to an abrupt end after participants became increasingly unwilling to show identification while the meeting was being recorded and broadcast on YouTube, as most meetings are.

In talking to town officials after the meeting, it seems that few had considered the fact that they had to check everybody in while the meeting was broadcast on the Internet. In addition, the platform did not account for the fact that in many cases — if not most — there were two or more voters (family members) using one device. After that issue was brought to his attention, Moderator Jeff Ginzberg said a formal count became inevitable.

But that required people not only to show themselves — including the family members — but to state their name and address, the date of birth and to show an ID, all on camera, so that the registrars could check it against the voting records. The information requested is part of the public record, Ginzberg said.

Administrative Assistant Betsy Yagla called people up, and they would identify themselves. That went on until one young woman pointed out that the process was being recorded and posted on YouTube. "This is raising lots of

red flags for me," she said. "We teach our children to be very cautious when they are online," she said, adding she was not inclined to show her license or state her address. "I would question this process," she said.

Ginzberg was not moved. People can choose not to identify themselves, he said, but then they can't vote. "The only way to do it virtually is to do the count," he said.

The next voter in line showed his driver's license with the fingers covering the information. Luckily, he was known to the registrars.

Ginzberg said all they were trying to do is to comply with the charter, which requires a quorum of 250 for the Town Meeting to vote on the budget. In addition, when there is a quorum, the Charter requires a 60 percent majority of those voting to pass any changes.

"I have to determine what 60 percent is," he insisted, asking Betsy Yagla to continue with the count. But even when the registrars relented and made due with name and address, people in the audience started suggesting to start over.

"If you waited three days you could have a public meeting instead of this charade," said one resident, referring to the state allowing indoor gatherings starting on May 19. "What's the urgency."

Resident Holly Pyne pointed out that under "extraordinary circumstances" the Town Charter allows the Board of Selectmen to set the meeting at a different date, "as soon...as such

See "Town Meeting" On Page 11



Wareck D'Ostilio

RealEstate

www.WDSELLS.com

New Haven • Milford • Woodbridge

Branford • Old Saybrook

Take advantage of the best market in 10 years! Selling? Call us today.



WOODBRIDGE
100 Newton Road
SOLD in 7 days



Frank D'Ostilio 203-641-7072



BETHANY
188 Falls Road
SOLD 101%
of Listing Price



Jade Levinson 860-966-1657

An Independent, Owned and Operated Franchisee of Real Living Real Estate, LLC



BETHANY
443 Amity Road
SOLD 100%
of Listing Price



Regina Sauer 203-494-3421

Take advantage of the best real estate market in over 10 years!

Interested in Selling?
Call us today!

- Selling homes, helping buyers, working with investment properties for 20 years
- Diamond Medallion National recipient award for closed units
- Amity grad and Amity parent
- Trademark is superior customer service



Regina Sauer
203-494-3421
regina@wdsells.com

Regina Sauer sells houses...
with help from her Extraordinary Colleagues!



Frank D'Ostilio
203-641-7072



Ross Cotjanle
203-401-1993



Claire Sullivan
203-605-1943



Karen Bogdanoff
203-605-9275



Rachel Anastasio
203 980-3283



Jen Orr
203-615-3004



Linda Melillo
203-996-7495



Annitta Ingraham
203-530-8779



Nancy Andersen
203-605-2787



Wendy Rawlins
203-397-7947



Rose Coppola
203-214-5955



Young Lee
203-499-8259



Rob Fischer
203-494-7324



Gerri-Lynn Thielen
203-787-7800



Wareck D'Ostilio

203-787-7800
Woodbridge
www.WDSELLS.com

Petition Circulates to Save Clubhouse

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A call to support a petition to save the Country Club of Woodbridge clubhouse from demolition has been mailed out to all residents of the town. A group of concerned residents are petitioning the town for a referendum to sell the clubhouse with five acres, for re-use as a restaurant or banquet facility, and to keep 147 acres as a town park.

Peter Urbano, a local builder who originated the petition, said the town could put the clubhouse and land surrounding it out to bid for a minimum of \$1.5 million, to turn it into a banquet facility, which would be considered a grandfathered use. That way it would put the property back on the tax rolls and “resolve the issue once and for all.” If 150 people sign it, the Board of Selectmen would be compelled to put the question out to referendum, he said.

The petition is a response to town officials considering adding the demolition of the building to a bonding proposal with several other projects, including renovations of the old firehouse, construction of a firehouse storage shed; several updates to the senior center; and refurbishment of some parts of the Beecher Road School

roof. The building in its heyday was an elegant, large clubhouse, but its envelope deteriorated over the years, and the town decided to shutter the building. The reaction to the petition on social media was mixed.

“The clubhouse is in such poor condition it would have to be torn down by any acquiring party. Pipe dream to think it can be saved,” wrote one resident on Facebook. “There is a glut of places for a banquet facility in New Haven County,” argued another. “Woodbridge residents need to vote to sell this property and develop it.”

To Urbano, his proposal is a balanced approach. A number of proposals have come forward over the past 10 years, but they have been controversial, he said. Reviving a banquet facility in this location would be the least controversial, he said.

Several names and phone numbers are listed as possible contacts if people have questions: Paul DeCoster, (203) 387-4460; Chris Dickerson, (203) 430-0034; James Hubbard, (203) 623-0458; Susan Israel, (203) 605-7808; Maria Kayne, (203) 887-9065; Don Menzies, (203) 848-8483; Bill Silberberg (203) 397-0471; and Jim Urbano at (203) 627-4963.

Your One-Stop Shop For





ORGANIC
FEED



POWER
EQUIPMENT



PET FOOD
& SUPPLIES



CLOTHING
& MORE



RIDING
APPAREL



TACK

What Can We Feed Or Fix For You?

770 Amity Road, Bethany, CT | lsbfarmsupply.com | (203) 393-0002 |   



The Class of 2021 Graduates From Orange
Congregational Church Nursery School





JUDY COOPER
JUST LISTED ANOTHER
SPECIAL HOME IN WOODBRIDGE

907 BALDWIN ROAD
Exceptional Custom Colonial
Offered at \$625,000

*Professional Standards Certified Specialist
Accredited Buyer Representative
Certified Negotiation Specialist
Certified Residential Specialist
Senior Real Estate Specialist
Graduate Realtors Institute*

Questions?
Just call Judy!
203-605-5128
judy@judy-cooper.com
Judy-Cooper.com



Single-owner, center hall colonial on an open, private lot with manicured grounds & bordering woodlands.

- ✦ 3,436 square feet
- ✦ 4 Beds, 2.5 Baths
- ✦ 9-foot ceilings
- ✦ Large formal living room w/ wood fireplace
- ✦ Large formal dining room w/ barrel ceiling & slider door to rear deck
- ✦ Eat-in kitchen w/ center island & updated stainless-steel appliances
- ✦ Sun room off kitchen w/ 4 skylights, vaulted ceiling, & slider door to rear deck
- ✦ Home office or den & half bathroom off foyer
- ✦ Master suite w/ 2 walk-in closets & full bathroom
- ✦ 2 additional bedrooms upstairs w/ walk-in closets
- ✦ 4th bedroom/bonus room w/ 2 skylights
- ✦ Full, unfinished walk-out lower level w/ wood stove
- ✦ 3-car attached garage & 2-car detached garage
- ✦ 3-zone forced warm air & central air conditioning
- ✦ 4.37 acre interior lot w/ fenced garden & shed



Come see for yourself!

We invite you to come see for yourself all of the exciting changes to our refreshed senior living community.

Choose any assisted living studio apartment starting at \$2,500 per month. All of our studio apartments have just been totally remodeled as well as the entire community.

This offer ends May 31st, 2021 – schedule your in-person tour today! Contact us to learn more.



A Whole Lotta Heart
330 Amity Road • Woodbridge
(203) 350-3260 • TheLindenAtWoodbridge.com
A LEISURE CARE COMMUNITY

THE LINDEN
AT WOODBRIDGE



From the Democratic Town Committee

BY LAURENCE GROTHEER



Congratulations to First Selectman Beth Heller and all those on her team elected May 3 to serve the public interest for the term ahead. On the Democratic slate, 14 of 15 nominated candidates were elected.

Informal, admittedly unscientific exit polls this month suggest voters responded favorably to Beth's leadership, her balanced approach to government, and her commitment to basic tenets of public service: honesty, decency, and respect.

On behalf of the town committee, I thank all who supported and voted for the Democratic slate. Likewise, I thank all who participated – candidates and voters alike, regardless of party affiliation – for taking part in this time-honored, orderly, essential, and deliberate aspect of the government process.

All credit goes to the Town Clerk's office, the Registrars of Voters, and their respective staffs for a smooth Election Day operation. Also, considering recent and implausibly persistent current events, it seems important to say 'thank goodness' there are no fantastical accusations of voter fraud, ballot tampering, nor election theft in Woodbridge.

As preparations continue for the new term that begins July 1, additional opportunities abound for residents to participate in town government. Literally scores of appointed positions must be filled on the boards and commissions not filled by electors; members of each board and commission work with paid staff members to watch over a specific town department.

In terms of process, the Board of Selectmen is the appointing authority to fill vacancies on these boards and commissions; prior to that, each town committee has an important role to play to recruit, vet, and then nominate residents for appointment. Terms are usually four years; those who are interested and want to get involved generally work with the town committee most closely aligned with their individual viewpoint. The Town has strict provisions regarding minority representation on each board and commission; however, to try and ensure a cross-section of ideology and perspective is included among the membership of each.

Once appointed, board and commission members attend monthly meetings, keep current with staffing, programming, and administrative operations, and during budget development season, work with staff to prepare and promote department-specific budget requirements, priorities, and requests for the following year.

Each year, the budget process begins in the fall and lasts a full six months. Town staff, working with board and commission members, begin formulating projections for anticipated needs, essential improvements, and contractual obligations of the next fiscal year

right after the first quarter of the current year.

The boards of Selectmen and Finance then jointly convene a series of public meetings at which department heads – along with their respective board and commission members – present and explain their projected, preliminary budgets. In fact, there are two rounds of these hearings: one for capital budgets, to address equipment, facilities, and other infrastructure needs, followed by a second round to go through projected operating expenses.

This year the process successfully overcame remote public meetings, complex reopening plans after the prolonged pandemic, and a stubbornly flat Grand List, from which property tax revenue is generated, to develop a practical, responsible spending plan for the coming year. It has a small mill rate increase.

This month however, at the 11th hour, a group of residents, overtly incited by the Republican town committee, began second-guessing the budget agreed upon by Republicans, Democrats, and Unaffiliated voters every step of the way, after literally thousands of work hours – by paid staff and volunteer residents alike. As a result, the May 17 Annual Town Meeting, where the budget is usually adopted, was adjourned and postponed, after this same group raised procedural questions about this year's remote meeting format. So, the town budget for next year remains pending.

No one denies the right of these residents to question the proposed annual budget, but their manner is suspect. To me, the idea that it was prompted by the WRTC also reeks of petulance after what must have been a frustrating and disappointing campaign/election cycle. I think it's diabolical to weaponize government for political/ideological gain, the way Republicans nationwide continue working to weaponize voting rights, the judiciary, and the pandemic response.

Here in Woodbridge, the opportunity to question aspects of the budget at the last-minute helps guard against surprises, oversights, and any attempted impropriety. But none of that is being questioned here. It would be a terrible shame for Beecher Road School, library hours, recreation programs, or senior programming to sustain last-minute, mob-inspired budget cuts.

I hope town residents turn out en masse to the rescheduled Annual Town Meeting (no details available at this writing) to defend next year's proposed budget, the process by which it was deliberated, and all those who spent so much time agonizing over its preparation.

Residents who want to be involved in local government should contact the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee at woodbridgedtdems@gmail.com.

Other Side of the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE
WRTC CHAIRMAN



Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance

Our Town leadership should have heeded the well-known expression "Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance" in advance of the virtual Town Meeting on May 17. Instead, what was on display for all to see live on YouTube, GATV and other virtual access media was nothing short of an embarrassment. While hyper-partisan residents might dismiss that assessment as political vitriol, what occurred during that virtual meeting was so incompetent and egregious that this criticism can't be called "just politics."

As the Moderator opened the meeting, he explained that virtual meetings were an imperfect system. Fair enough. They are and this was. But that was all the more reason to carefully plan ahead how to adapt to the virtual format.

The Webex meeting was set up so individuals who logged in could only see the members of the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, the Registrars, and the meeting administrator – not the other attendees. It appears a decision was made to limit attendees' visual access. Why? The software allows participants to see everyone.

Procedural problem quickly arose. A few minutes into the meeting, the Moderator announced there were 137 log-ins, well short of the 250 attendees needed to meet the quorum required for a vote on the budget. There was immediate push back on this statement by the first 10 or so people who were unmuted and allowed to speak. Their comments were based on reasonable points including the Moderator's assumption that most log-ins represented one citizen, while the Town website did not state the "one log-in, one vote" policy that was about to disenfranchise people who logged in with multiple family members. About 25 minutes into the meeting, the Moderator relented and agreed to conduct a head count of all attendees. This is where the meeting came off the rails.

The counting requirement started with each logged-in attendee having to activate his or her camera so the Registrars could see them, then show their photo ID (everyone used their driver's license) on camera. This seat-of-the-pants process change was both laborious and risky. Issues with people calling in on their phones – where they could not activate a camera – added to the chaos and forced several modifications to the validation process. One resident, recognizing the risk of showing one's driver's license on a live, unsecure broadcast, held up his ID with a finger over his license number. Then many attendees realized this process was a huge security risk. Previously-validated vot-

ers realized their names, address, DOBs and drivers license numbers were being recorded and broadcast over multiple media paths. This system was an identity thief's dream. Subsequent attendees, some refusing to give any personal information, asked what would be done for those people whose information was broadcast, what responsibility the Town was going to take in the event of identity theft, and what would be done about the usual plan to make virtual town meetings available to the public for video replay.

Many citizens urged the Moderator to adjourn the meeting to a later date – noting that Connecticut policy regarding public meetings was changing in two days. Others suggested a vote on the proposed budget could have been conducted by absentee ballot as the First Selectman had urged for our recent local elections. Undeterred, the Moderator kept stating that the Town Charter called for the Town meeting on the budget to be held on this date and he would continue counting the individuals logged in, while providing no response to the very serious issues of personal data privacy that had clearly been breached.

Finally, one resident attendee read aloud the Town Charter wording regarding the annual budget meeting: "An annual meeting of the Town Meeting shall be held on the third Monday in May or, if in the opinion of the Board of Selectmen extraordinary circumstances make the meeting on such date impracticable, as soon thereafter as such circumstances permit." The citizen suggested that these circumstances – the chaos of the counting, the privacy breaches, and the option to hold the meeting in person in the very near future – were "extraordinary" and this virtual meeting should be adjourned. The BOS members huddled for a few minutes and the meeting was indeed adjourned.

In sum, the planning and handling of this virtual meeting was a debacle. This is not a D versus R issue; this is an undeniable example of poor planning that has potentially serious consequences for several residents who wanted nothing more than to participate in the important act of voting on our town budget. Town leadership owes us all an apology, a thorough plan for those whose privacy was breached and a commitment to get its act together going forward. My hope is the rescheduled meeting will have sufficient attendance to meet the quorum threshold – and the voters will send the budget back to the Board of Finance to deliver a zero mill increase, which, I suspect, is what those who logged in wanted in the first place.

Woodbridge Town News

Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper

Mailed Free to Every Home in Woodbridge
Mailed Free to Every Business in Woodbridge & Bethany

Circulation of 3,649.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477
Phone: 203-298-4399

Publisher Rocky Salpento
Editor Marlene Silverstein
Production & Design J. Michael Kriz
Correspondents Melissa Nicefaro | Bettina Theil
Contributing Writers Roberta Nestor | Ginny Reinhard

To Submit News Articles/Local Events contact 203-298-4399
or Email: edit@woodbridgetownnews.com

For Advertisement Information call 203-298-4399
or Email: ads@woodbridgetownnews.com

To Submit a Letter to the Editor mail us
or Email your letter to: letters@woodbridgetownnews.com

To Submit a Bulletin Board Event
Email us at: bulletinboard@woodbridgetownnews.com

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

Contact us:
Rocky Salpento Rocky@woodbridgetownnews.com
Marlene Silverstein Marlene@woodbridgetownnews.com
J. Michael Kriz Mike@woodbridgetownnews.com
Melissa Nicefaro..... Melissa@woodbridgetownnews.com
Bettina Theil Bettina@woodbridgetownnews.com

www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com

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

MICHAEL J. PAOLINI, CPA

PERSONAL AND BUSINESS TAX RETURNS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
IRS AND STATE REPRESENTATION
TAX PLANNING
BUSINESS FEASIBILITY STUDIES
NON-PROFIT EXEMPTIONS

174 CHERRY STREET · MILFORD, CT 06460
PHONE 203-876-0445 · FAX 203-874-7498
mpaolinicpa.com

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
June 25 Independence Day Issue.....	June 18
September 3 Labor Day & Back To School Issue.....	August 27
October 1 Fall Issue	September 24

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

FROM OUR READERS

Selectman David Vogel Says "Thank You"

I write to thank the voters of Woodbridge for electing me to the Board of Selectmen. I look forward to being sworn in this summer and to working hard in the interests of our town. As I have said many times, I believe the National political scene and its divisive partisanship are not relevant to the challenges facing us locally. We are neighbors trying to make good decisions for our community, and in that spirit, I am looking forward to joining the Board of Selectmen team and representing you. I intend to advocate for the positions that were in the platform I ran on, and I am open to input from Woodbridge residents.

That being said, our Democracy depends on citizen involvement and I hope that you will share this responsibility with me. Our current Board of Selectmen have worked hard to give us an opportunity for our first in-person meeting in about 15 months. They have provided a safe environment for the annual town meeting that is required by our town charter. Democracy is strengthened when citizens participate, so I hope that I will see many of you there. If the current plans go unaltered, we will meet on Wednesday, June 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Woodbridge Firehouse.

David Vogel

Former First Selectman Urges NO Vote on Bond Proposal

Here we go again. The First Selectman is proposing to demolish the clubhouse at the Woodbridge Country Club. We have waited years for a new plan for the country club after the last housing proposal failed. Now, after ignoring the property's future for months, the Town leadership wants town residents to back a demolition plan.

This proposal is bad policy for two reasons. First, the clubhouse retains

some value and there are creative residents who have repeatedly proposed ideas for its re-use. Second, the First Selectman wants us to demolish the clubhouse without any commitment to permanently protect the vast majority of the country club's beautiful landscape.

It looks like the Town will ask voters to support a single vote on bonding that bundles the demolition project with projects that are worthwhile, such as roof work at Beecher Road School. It is not fair to the voters to combine good projects with bad ideas, with the hope that the good projects will carry the day.

If that happens, I will vote no on the bundled bond proposal – and hope you will, too. The Town can then come back to voters with the individual bond projects that are worthwhile and finally move forward with addressing the future of the country club as a whole.

Amey Marrella
First Selectman 2001-2006

Democrats Have Worked to Ensure Quality Education for All

In a recent 'Other Side of the Aisle' column Woodbridge Republican Chuck Pyne claims "party affiliation and alignment should have no place on a school board." We could not agree more. His criticism of Democratic Board of Education members therefore is hypocritical—not to mention misleading. Let's get the facts straight.

Democratic Board members include highly qualified experts in the fields of education, early childhood development, law, finance, and science/medicine. They have supported keeping Beecher Road School open for in-person education for the long term, under conditions that keep our children, our teachers and staff, and our community safe. Democratic Board members

See "Letters" On Page 22

Woodbridge Town News

WTN LETTERS POLICY

Submit your letters for our "From Our Readers" section to:
Woodbridge Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477
or email: letters@woodbridgetownnews.com.
Please limit letters to 500 words and include a daytime phone number in case we have any questions. Letters must be exclusive to the Woodbridge Town News for publication. We reserve the right to reject any letter.

WOODBRIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Notice to Former Amity Students

Amity Regional School District #5, as per state guidelines, is properly disposing of student special education records. The records of any student who has received special services are maintained for six years after their class graduates.

Former Amity students who were born between 1995 -1997 and/or having graduated in 2015 who have received special services at the Amity Middle School, Orange; Amity Middle School, Bethany; or Amity Regional

High School may obtain their special education records.

You must call 203-397-4820 prior to claiming records in order to allow sufficient time to retrieve your records from our archives and schedule a time for pick up.

If you wish to obtain records, please call 203-397-4820 and leave a detailed message with student name, date of birth and a phone number.

If records are not claimed by June 30, 2021, they will be destroyed.

2021 Howard Jacobson Scholarship Award

CAC Area 2 will bestow a scholarship in memory of former longtime Chairperson Howard Jacobson. One high school or college student studying film, mass communications, and television or media studies will receive \$500 to help further their studies.

The Cable Advisory Council of Area 2, which serves the towns of 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 a declared 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.

They 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.

The winner will be selected on the basis of their overall academic performance, portfolio and their personal statement.

Deadline to apply is June 30, 2021. To apply, please email: info@cacarea2.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)

Woodbridge Town News

P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477 • edit@WoodbridgeTownNews.com



Analisa Sherman, Beecher Road School Principal; Lynn Piascyk, Woodbridge Board of Education Chair; Lilly Montiel; Miles Thames; Joyce Shavers, Woodbridge Board of Education Member; Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D., Superintendent of Woodbridge School District.

From the Woodbridge School District

On Tuesday, May 18, 2021, the Woodbridge Board of Education was pleased to recognize two more of this year’s recipients of the South Central Area Superintendents’ Association (SCASA) Student Recognition Award.

Each year, each local Superintendent is able to honor a small number of sixth-grade students who have gone above and beyond in three categories: First, community service and service to others; Second, academic prowess; and Third, leadership to the school community. This year, over three-dozen nominations of Beecher sixth-graders were received, and the selection committee faced a significant challenge. However, this year’s final award recipients rose to the top, and are being recognized at this spring’s Board of Education meetings.

On April 21, Lilly Montiel and Miles Thames were recognized for several significant accomplishments. Lilly Montiel resides in a beautiful home along with her little brother, mom, dad, and dog, and has achieved many things in the past few years. One accomplishment she is extremely proud of is participating in a fundraiser called “Cleats for Dreams,” which was responsible for cleaning hundreds of cleats that had been donated by the community. Those cleats were sent to people in Brazil who are less fortunate. Lilly is an athlete who enjoys playing soccer during her free time, and giving back to people in need felt great. At Beecher Road School, during recess and part of lunch, Lilly has enjoyed helping Mr. Taddei teach his classes and keep the gym organized. Mr. Taddei is a fantastic teacher, and by

helping him, she felt like she was able to show how much we appreciate him. Overall, Lilly is honored that she has been chosen for this award and can’t wait to accomplish more.

Some of Miles Thames’ favorite things to do are exploring nature, visiting aquariums, natural science, museums, making arts and crafts, playing in the snow, collecting shells on the beach, indoor rock climbing, swimming, dancing, karaoke, and fighting crime while pretending to be a Ninja Turtle. One of Miles’ most noticeable attributes is his infectious smile, which comes in handy when he brightens everyone’s day by giving them a helping hand. Miles is a model leader in the Beecher Road School community, embodying the values of kindness and respect. His charisma, positivity, and smile are infectious, and his positive attitude and enthusiasm carry over into his academics. He appreciates every learning opportunity and success, and no accomplishment is too small for his “I did it” dance to appear. He frequently shares the spotlight with his peers, and congratulates them on good performances. His dedication to learning has allowed Miles to master his learning objectives and complete independent work with confidence. His dream is to someday become an actor.

Lilly and Miles attended the May 18 Board of Education meeting with their parents, Eddie and Nadia Montiel, and Felandus and Dr. Michelle Irving Thames, leading the Pledge of Allegiance and thanking the Beecher Road School for the great foundation it has given them.

WOODBRIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

STUDENT NEWS

Achievements Eastern University

Willimantic, CT - Eastern Connecticut State University's Communication Department held its annual Celebration of Excellence on April 28. This event inducted 30 new students into the Lambda Pi Eta national honor society for communication and recognized additional students for excellence in radio, journalism, television, video production, research and leadership. Among those honored was senior Naja Davis-Drew of Woodbridge, who majors in Communication. Davis-Drew is a 2021 inductee. Established at Eastern in 2005, Lambda Pi Eta is the official communication honor society with 400 active chapters worldwide. This honor society recognizes students who stimulate interest in the field of communication, promote and encourage professional development, explore opportunities for graduate study and more. To be eligible, students must have completed at least 12 semester hours of communication study, have a GPA of at least 3.25, be in the upper 35 percent of their graduating class and display commitment to the field of communication.

Eastern Connecticut State University

Willimantic, CT - Eastern Connecticut State University's Biology Department inducted 20 students into the Beta Beta Beta (Tri-Beta) National Biology Honor Society on April 30. Among the students inducted was junior Jolie Garcia of Woodbridge, who majors in Biology. Eastern established its Eta Omega chapter of Tri-Beta in

1997. The mission of Tri-Beta is to promote scholarship within the field of biological sciences, promote the spreading of biological knowledge and encourage research. To be eligible, students must major in biology and have a passion toward understanding and improving biological studies and human knowledge with scientific research.

Dean's List Goodwin University

East Hartford, CT - Renee Pascarelli has earned a spot on the Goodwin University Dean's List for Fall 2020. Renee, a student from Woodbridge, CT, is one of 1,128 students to make the Dean's List, reserved for those who demonstrate great academic performance. Dean's List inclusion requires a student to earn a minimum 3.5 GPA, the equivalent of an A- average, during a given academic session. The student must also be enrolled in a minimum of six academic credits to qualify. Goodwin University congratulates Renee on making the Dean's List and demonstrating such a high standard of excellence in the classroom and beyond!

Graduations University of Mississippi

Oxford, MISS. - Julianne Mary Beltz, of Woodbridge, CT, is among the more than 5,000 candidates for graduation in the Class of 2021 who will be celebrated during the university's 168th Commencement exercises April 29 - May 2. Beltz, who is a Taxation and Data Analytics major, is a candidate for a Master of Taxation and Data Analytics degree in the Graduate School.



Daniel Cowan, Woodbridge Board of Education Member; Lynn Piascyk, Woodbridge Board of Education Chair; Analisa Sherman, Beecher Road School Principal; Shane Grogan; Luke Lamour; Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D., Superintendent of Woodbridge School District

Students Recognized By the Superintendents' Association

On Tuesday, April 21, 2021, the Woodbridge Board of Education was pleased to recognize two more of this year's recipients of the South Central Area Superintendents' Association (SCASA) Student Recognition Award.

Each year, each local Superintendent is able to honor a small number of sixth-grade students who have gone above and beyond in three categories: First, community service and service to others; Second, academic prowess; and Third, leadership to the school community. This year, over three-dozen nominations of Beecher sixth-graders were received, and the selection committee faced a significant challenge. However, this year's final award recipients rose to the top, and are being recognized at this spring's Board of Education meetings.

On April 21, Shane Grogan and Luke Lamour were recognized with several significant accomplishments. Shane Grogan has continuously demonstrated academic excellence, most recently scoring in the top ten percentile nationally on STAR Reading. In addition to academics, Shane is passionate about giving back to the community and serves as a regular volunteer and advocate for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). Over the past few years, Shane has helped raise thousands of dollars for diabetes research, and in 2016, Shane and his team were awarded the Top New Family Fundraising Team Award. Shane also volunteers for the Audubon Alliance for Coast-

al Waterbirds, helping to monitor threatened shorebirds and educate the public regarding the importance of preservation. Shane also enjoys playing basketball and baseball and recently helped his basketball travel team win its division in the Milford Hoops Basketball Tournament. Shane was also key to the Beth-Wood 10U All-Star Baseball team that brought the first district championship to Woodbridge in many years. In addition, Shane is an avid birder and member of the Connecticut Ornithological Association.

At age 11, Luke Lamour is already a published author, with the children's book entitled Jimmy Carter: From the Peanut Life to the Presidency. Since that publication, Luke has participated in Woodbridge's Talented and Gifted (TAG) program, Math Counts, Scholastic Kids Press, Scholars Club, One Keynote Address, and other public speaking events. Luke is also very fond of stop-motion animation and has a channel called "Luke's Historical Stories," with the goal of publishing at least seven (7) seasons of his series. Luke strives to keep publishing articles, learn the name of every country in the world, and go to the diamond level for Scholars Club.

Shane and Luke attended the April 20 Board of Education meeting with their parents, Mark and Joan Grogan, and Gibson and Murielle Lamour, leading the Pledge of Allegiance and thanking the Beecher Road School for the great foundation it has given them.

Schools Are Finishing Year on A High Note

With new covid infection numbers at local schools trending toward zero, students and families get to celebrate graduation in nearly normal ways.

At Beecher Road School, sixth graders will have an outdoor graduation ceremony on Friday, June 18, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the North Lawn. Masks are required and social distancing will be adhered to. Two guests are allowed per student.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place in the South gym with only students and teachers. The ceremony will be live streamed.

Eighth grade graduations will be

held Monday, June 7, at the Amity High School lacrosse field. For Orange eighth graders, the Stepping-Up ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m. For students at the Bethany middle school, the commencement is at 4 p.m. In case of rain, the events will be moved to the high school main gym. Appropriate protocols will be observed.

Amity High School graduation will be taking place Tuesday, June 8, at 4 p.m. at the Westville Music Bowl, 45 Yale Avenue in New Haven. Rain date is Wednesday, June 9 at 4. Masks are required for a large crowd, but the number of guests is unlimited.

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Eligible citizens in Woodbridge (either registered voters or those owning personal property or vehicles valued over \$1000 listed on the Grand List) will have an opportunity to attend the recessed in-person Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Woodbridge Fire House at 100 Center Road. Bay doors will be open providing ventilation to keep residents as safe as possible, as we gather for this most important meeting during the COVID 19 pandemic, and there will also be outdoor space available on the site, weather permitting. We continue to do all we can to keep residents safe. **Masks and social distancing will be required at this in-person meeting.**

The Town always holds the Annual Town Meeting on the third Monday of May and this year the Board of Selectmen voted to convene ours virtually, due to the pandemic, but the virtual format and our Town Charter requirements became incompatible. Every attempt was made to allow folks to virtually “join” the meeting, but the process was difficult and very time consuming. The Board of Selectmen decided to recess the meeting in order to hold an in-person annual meeting on June 2, so that everyone can be heard. Following the recessed meeting, the Board of Selectmen met on May 19th, and voted unanimously to hold the recessed meeting **in-person**, and provide a safe adequate space so the meeting might be held in-person. According to the Woodbridge Town Charter, if 250 eligible residents (or more) are in attendance at the meeting, residents will have an opportunity to vote on each line item to increase, decrease or eliminate any line item in the budget. The entire budget cannot be voted on – it must be voted on line by line.

As a reminder, each year, the Town’s budget process begins in the late fall and during the winter, when department heads make requests that are then vetted at public meetings by our Board of Finance and the Board

From the First Selectman BY BETH HELLER



of Selectmen. This year’s budget was presented to the Preliminary Budget Hearing in April at which time residents had an opportunity to ask questions or make comments. You can see the proposed budget and Preliminary Budget Hearing presentation and video of the hearing on the Finance Department page on the Town’s website. ***I would strongly encourage everyone to attend the Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday June 2.***

To update everyone on a continuing matter, the Town recently received notice that Verizon/Cellco has filed its application to the State Siting Council seeking approval to erect a 100-foot tower at 118 Newton Road. This is a private transaction between the resident and Verizon/Cellco. The company’s stated goal is to improve coverage on Routes 67 and 63 near the intersection of the two. The company originally planned to erect a 140-foot tower. Over the past several months, the Board of Selectmen has offered multiple alternative sites to Verizon, and also engaged an attorney and engineer familiar with working on blocking these cell towers in residential neighborhoods. This is extremely disappointing news, and the Board of Selectmen will discuss how we want to proceed at our next meeting on June 9th. I will personally do all I can to work against this. I would urge residents to stay involved.

Due to significant ongoing illegal dumping at the former Country Club property, the Department of Public Works has now installed jersey barriers and a large gate blocking off the main parking lot. The property is still open to the public and residents are welcome to use the walking paths, but the lot is now closed to cars to stop this problem. Parking is still available at the small lot across the street from the property. Since the clubhouse at

the former Country Club of Woodbridge has been vacant, it has attracted constant vandalism and the building has continued to deteriorate. It is, in my opinion, a potential danger, and I am happy that the Board of Selectmen agreed to include it in a list of projects to be presented to a Special Town meeting. The Town would need to borrow to accomplish these projects:

- › Remove the clubhouse and out-buildings at the former Country Club of Woodbridge. No matter how the property is used in the future the removal of these buildings will be necessary;
- › Convert the Old Firehouse into a beautiful new Community Center and create a storage facility for the Fire Department to house materials that have been stored in two bays in the Old Firehouse;
- › Renovate and update the Senior Center so that our seniors will have a modern, fresh, welcoming and air-conditioned space;
- › Add a sidewalk to connect Amity Regional High School with the Library and Old Firehouse;
- › Refurbish three roofs at Beecher Road School.

Borrowing rates are at historic lows and construction material costs are beginning to rise so now is the time to take on a project of this magnitude. Our debt service has, and will continue to fall, so these projects will have minimal impact on our budget.

Together these projects will transform the center of our Town into a more dynamic, active and attractive place that will help us create and sustain the sense of community that is sometimes hard to come by due to our geography. Coming out of a pandemic I believe that community building is even more important than ever.

A major goal of mine is to create community. In December 2018, the

Board of Selectmen adopted the Woodbridge Town Center Campus Beautification Plan that outlines many of these goals and objectives.

Many aspects of the Beautification Plan have already been achieved – the garden and benches on the Town Green were created through a donation from Robin Gordon Schafer and her family. A dedicated group of residents created and self-funded the very popular dog park at the Fitzgerald Tract. The Town purchased and installed a shuffleboard court in the Grove. We are holding outdoor events, concerts and movies this spring and summer, including acoustic concerts at the Library, concerts on the Green and free, family-friendly Second Saturday series of events, including a community tag sale on Saturday, June 12, the Library book sale in July, an art event in August and a craft fair/makers market in September – sign up to be a vendor on the Town website.

We are exploring grants and donations to install benches and other seating for our municipal grounds. There is also a donation program to install flowering trees to line the Fitzgerald Field walking tract along Center Road where trees were removed as part of United Illuminating’s vegetation management program. Details about bench and tree donations are on the Recreation Department website.

We are also looking to bring more people into the business district, and thanks to a grant from United Illuminating, the Town is organizing an outdoor concert series on Coachman Square’s lawn (21 Bradley Road). Local businesses will offer specials on those days so be sure to shop, dine, try Woodbridge!

As we work on bringing people together, we continue to follow the State Department of Public Health’s advice and, in order to protect residents and staff, we will require masks in Town buildings and will follow guidance for large outdoor events. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any ideas or concerns – stay safe Woodbridge!

Pandemic-Inspired Practices That Might Be Worth Keeping

The rollout of COVID-19 vaccines that began in late 2020 has allowed many areas of the world to gradually emerge from the pandemic. That’s good news for business owners, many of whom were forced to make changes they never could have imagined making as recently as February 2020.

The relationship between businesses and their customers requires careful consideration on the part of business owners. Business owners want to provide the best possible experience for their customers, and that’s worth noting as the world emerges from the pandemic. Though billions of people across the globe would love to simply return to how things were in late 2019, the United States Chamber of Commerce notes that things in the business

world likely won’t go back to exactly how they were pre-COVID. That likelihood means it could benefit business owners to recognize practices instituted during the pandemic that could have staying power in the years ahead.

• Sanitation practices: The U.S. COC notes that strict sanitation protocols put in place during the pandemic could be something consumers demand in the future. The COVID-19 virus opened many consumers’ eyes to how quickly potentially dangerous viruses and germs can spread, so business owners should expect to keep protocols designed to prevent the spread of illness in place even after the pandemic has ended. Measures that might be part of the new normal include making hand sanitizer readily available to customers

and staff and keeping customers informed about daily sanitation practices.

Curbside pickup: The convenience of curbside pickup is something consumers likely won’t want to sacrifice even after the pandemic has ended. Businesses might not need to offer the same rapid turnaround for their curbside pickup services once in-store shopping picks up. But offering curbside pickup may attract customers who like it for its convenience as well as its safety.

Takeout: The restaurant business was hit especially hard during the pandemic. A report from the National Restaurant Association estimated that, in 2020, restaurant and food-service sales were \$240 billion below pre-pandemic forecasts. The group also noted that more than 110,000 eating and drinking

establishments closed, either temporarily or permanently, in 2020. Those that were able to remain open relied heavily on takeout orders in order to do so. Consumers who grew accustomed to getting takeout from their favorite restaurants may want to continue doing so well into the future. Continuing to offer that option, even after capacity restrictions are lifted, is a good way to reward customers who prefer takeout, and it’s also a great way to generate extra revenue.

The world is slowly emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. Businesses that adjusted their offerings during the last year-plus may benefit by continuing to offer a more versatile array of services even after the pandemic has ended.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Brownies Spread A Message Of Affirmation

Members of Brownie Troop 60865 at Beecher Road School recently placed “Affirmation Rocks” around the Fitzgerald tract walking trail. The rocks carry self-affirming messages such as “I am confident” or “I am enough” – in the hopes that walkers-by will adopt that attitude for themselves. The project was part of the World of Girls journey, a six-week program they embarked on last fall, at a time when the town was in the throes of a pandemic. The program’s focus is on acceptance and making the community a better place. For their final Take Action Project, the Brownie troop chose to place rocks with positive affirmations around the Fitzgerald trails at the corner of Beecher and Center roads.

“Science has demonstrated that if we surround ourselves with positivity, we experience more happiness and joy,” said troop leader Sheri Weidner. They chose the location because it is a pop-

ular spot where Woodbridge residents of all ages come together for fitness, relaxation, community gardening, and to visit the dog park. “Please stop by to see and walk the GS Affirmation Trail,” Weidner said.

- The messages are:
1. I am Troop 60865;
 2. I am strong – Tessa;
 3. I am kind – Allie;
 4. I am super – Sammy;
 5. I am confident – Elizabeth;
 6. I am me – Ana;
 7. I am wise – Charlotte;
 8. I am enough – Sammi;
 9. I am thoughtful – Mia;
 10. I am brave – Madison;
 11. I am beautiful – Veronica;
 12. I am smart – Taylor;
 13. I am funny – Katie;
 14. I am loved – Ella;
 15. I am happy – Whitney;
 16. I am resilient – Madeline;
 17. I am unique – Giuliana.



Rotary Club of Woodbridge Celebrates 50 Years!

The Rotary Club of Woodbridge will celebrate its 50th anniversary at its annual installation dinner on Thursday June 17th. The dinner will be held at Carmine’s Di Vega Restaurant, 1500 Whalley Avenue. Past Woodbridge Rotarians are asked to join us in our event. Please contact Bill DeRosa at woodbridgerotary@yahoo.com for information.

Woodbridge Rotarians are committed to projects to benefit local and international communities. Our projects include Amity Student of the Month, local Businesses of the Month, Beecher

Road School DARE program, Dictionaries for third graders, Cheer Up Bags for shut-ins, local food banks support, and tablets for a school in India. This year as part of the New England Million Mask Challenge, Woodbridge Rotary distributed over 6500 masks locally, 500 of those were for children.

Rotary is an organization of business and professional people as well as local volunteers. Our motto is Service Above Self. If you are interested in learning more about Rotary, please email Anna Dickerson at woodbridgerotary@yahoo.com.



Pat Croasmun, chairperson of the group, with Nancy LaBianca, Cindy Marien and Muffy German at the Woodbridge Library

Garden Club of Woodbridge

Spring is here and so is the Garden Club of Woodbridge Civic Beautification group. The Civic Beautification group maintains the gardens at the Woodbridge Library, the herb garden at the Darling House, the Massaro butterfly garden, and the Adella Baldwin Stuart Garden at the corner of Meetinghouse Lane and Center Road. Each Thursday from April through the end of October the gardeners enjoy getting their hands in the dirt, and develop friendships through a shared goal.

The April 13 meeting of the Garden Club of Woodbridge featured Steve Frances, master beekeeper and banker, via Zoom. Steve’s topics included threats to honey bees, how to manage

healthy colonies, how to support pollinators and what plants provide pollen to honey bees.

Garden Club members are looking forward to the first in-person meeting in a year on June 8. Members will participate in a plant exchange, and enjoy a delicious lunch in the backyard of a member’s home.

We welcome the novice as well as the accomplished gardener. Our programs promote interest in gardening activities of all kinds, including floral design, flower shows, horticultural therapy, bird life and conservation activities. If interested in becoming a member, please contact Judy at jismam@aol.com.



CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Troop 907 Flag Placement

On the evening of May 19th scouts from troop 907 Woodbridge placed flags on the graves of all veterans in Woodbridge cemeteries in advance of Memorial Day (and removed last year’s flags which will be properly disposed of).

“Town Meeting” From Page 1

circumstances permit.”
Finally, Ginzberg, after receiving a notice from the Board of Selectmen and presumably the Town Attorney, declared the meeting over.

That left the question for those who had already provided their ID, whether it would be posted on the Internet. Selectwoman Sandy Stein quickly jumped in. Since the total number of voters on the call never was fully established, it was not “a complete meeting” and should not be recorded or posted anywhere, she said, and her fellow selectmen agreed.

The video was removed immediately. At the subsequent meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Stein said she talked to state Freedom of Information officer Thomas A. Hennick about the conundrum. Hennick told her that Town Meetings do not need to be recorded since they do not fall under the FOI requirements, because they are meetings of all the people rather than meetings of boards or commissions.

He also told her that other towns that have Town Meetings have tried to conduct them virtually, but none have been very successful, even when using break-out rooms. “They also gave up,” she said. “This is a common issue for the towns that actually have annual meetings.”

By the time this paper is published, all eligible voters should have received in the mail a postcard from Town Hall inviting them to an in-person Annual Town Meeting to be held Wednesday, June 2, at the firehouse, starting at 6:30 p.m. However, doors will open an hour earlier, at 5:30 p.m., so people can check in before the meeting. Parking at the high school and shuttle buses will be available to take people from the high school parking lot to the firehouse.

Masks will be required and social distancing adhered to. Eligible to vote are only U.S. citizens who are at least 18 years old and “are liable for taxes assessed against them on an assessment of not less than \$1,000 on the last-completed grand list.”

At 6:30 p.m., the start time is an hour earlier than that of regular town meetings. Selectmen also agreed that, should there be a line of people waiting to be checked in, all those in line at 6:30 p.m. will be admitted to vote, but people arriving after that time will not be admitted.

The vote itself was a subject of much discussion at the selectmen’s meeting. Provided there is a quorum of 250, it has to be maintained throughout the meeting.

“We have to make sure it’s crystal clear,” said Selectman Dwight Rowland. “if they leave [and the count drops below 250], the vote stops. They need to stay there for the entire time.”

“People have to understand that if they want to effect change, they have to maintain that quorum,” agreed Sandy Stein. She also pointed out that with people coming and going, each motion may require a new count. “For each vote we have to know whether people left,” she said. “I’ll bring my pillow,” she added in jest.

People can vote on any line item they choose, but they cannot vote on the mill rate. That is being set by the Board of Finance.

Also, the Amity budget is set by separate referendum, and cannot be changed.

Finance Director Anthony Genovese pointed out that if budget line items are being changed, and the new budget deviates from the proposed budget by 10 percent or more, it will require a second meeting.

Woodbridge Board of Education vice chairman Joyce Shavers; however, expressed concern about what the process could mean for the local school budget. At the May 18 meeting of the board, she encouraged her fellow board members to come out and support the school budget.

Fellow board member Dan Cowan was not happy with Shaver’s characterization of people coming out to vote as “rallying the troops.” Lor Ferrante Fernandez agreed. “It’s important for residents to come out and make a decision,” she said.



★★★ Happy ★★★

Memorial Day

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

ARTS & LEISURE



June in Bloom

Share the beauty of your yard or favorite open space in Woodbridge this June! The Ad Hoc Community Council will be requesting residents to share flora and fauna photos on Facebook and Instagram each week for its “June in Bloom” campaign.

“These photos are a fun way to show off the beauty of our Town and an easy way to come together virtually,” said chair Debbie Brander.

On Mondays in June the Town’s

Facebook (www.facebook.com/WoodbridgeCT) and Instagram (www.Instagram.com/TownofWoodbridgeCT) accounts will request “June in Bloom” photos of flowering entryways, trails or gardens in bloom to be submitted in the comment fields. Submissions may be used temporarily as the Town’s background or profile photo. The Community Council will request similar photos of lawn and door décor this fall.



Make Music Day

The Town of Woodbridge is participating in Make Music Day on June 21! 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.

Any musician—amateur or professional, young or old—is invited to take part. Likewise, businesses, neighbors, schools, churches, and organizations of all shapes and sizes can sign up to offer their outdoor spaces as concert locations.

Musicians and those looking to

host performances can sign up at www.makemusicnewhaven.org. To date, Crest Lincoln of Woodbridge, The Linden, and the Town are hosting performances. The Town is open to hosting unamplified musicians at Fitzgerald Tract in the morning and Pease Place in the afternoon.

Hosting is free and all performances are free. The Make Music Day online program will allow organizations to determine the time of day and types of performances they can host. Registered musicians may request to perform at listed venues.

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



Washburn Slim

Live Music in the Business District

Free outdoor concerts are coming to the Woodbridge business district this summer and fall! On the fourth Saturday of June, July, September and October at 1 pm there will be live music on the lawn at Coachman Square, 21 Bradley Road.

The concert series is possible thanks to a grant the Town of Woodbridge received from United Illuminating, an Avangrid Company. Rain dates are Sunday for all concerts.

“These concerts are a clever partnership between the Town, Coachman Square and United Illuminating and should bring in additional traffic to discover our wonderful local businesses,” said First Selectman Beth Heller.

“We thank United Illuminating for this wonderful grant opportunity and also thank Coachman Square for use of their facility.”

“Coachman Square is excited to host

this concert series to bring free entertainment to support our residents and our business neighbors,” said Sarah Malaspina, Coachman Square executive director.

“The concerts will provide a great environment in the business district and should serve as another reason for residents and visitors to patronize all of our local shops, restaurants and businesses,” said Economic Development Chair Jeremy Rosner.

- › Saturday, June 26 - Isabella Mendes, bossa nova;
- › Saturday, July 24 - Tuxedo Junction, swing;
- › Saturday, September 25 - Washboard Slim, roots/blues;
- › Saturday, October 23 - Nu Haven Kapelye, klezmer.

Residents are encouraged to shop, dine and try Woodbridge before and after the concerts.

Summer Entertainment and Education on the Farm

Enjoy farm fresh produce and eggs

Our vegetable CSA is almost sold out for this year, so sign up right away to enjoy a season of fresh, organic produce from the farm. Weekly distribution begins in mid-June: Full share - \$695; Half share - \$370; www.Massarofarm.org/join-our-csa.

New this year is an Egg CSA: get one dozen eggs per week for the full 20-week CSA season (\$120) or for the 10-week flexible/half CSA season (\$70). Sign up online now and get a free dozen. Available both on farm and for New Haven pickup.

If a weekly farm share is too much for you, you can still purchase some farm produce a la carte through our online store: www.Massarofarm.square.site. Our store also offers local cheese, milk, eggs, buttermilk, mushrooms, pork and coffee, items generally not available with a CSA subscription. We also have organic seedlings for all of you home gardeners: a dozen varieties of tomatoes; cucumbers; zucchini; yellow squash; winter squash; watermelon; peppers; eggplant; herbs. And now we are offering our very own organic free-range eggs!

Summer entertainment

June 11, starting at 7pm, come to the farm for our Free Family Night. Join us for animal visits, a self-guided

See “Massaro Farm” On Page 15

AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER

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

Facebook: Follow us on Facebook (The Woodbridge Center, Woodbridge CT) for current updates and local information.

Father's Day Drive-thru Luncheon: Join us for the next drive-thru luncheon on Thursday, June 17 from 12-1 pm to help celebrate all dads. All Woodbridge residents over the age of 60 are welcome to enjoy this delicious lunch provided by Jewish Senior Services. Lunch includes choice of BBQ brisket on a rustic roll or turkey, cheddar and bacon on a croissant, home-style macaroni salad and blueberry shortcake. Larry Batter will provide musical entertainment. Hamden Health and Rehab will complete this celebration by generously sponsoring The Woodbridge Center's traditional Father's Day root beer float treat. RSVP by Thursday, June 10.

Monthly drive-thru lunches continue! Stay tuned for delicious details on the annual "indoor" picnic coming in July.

Programs at The Woodbridge Center

All classes meet outside unless inclement weather. Preregistration is required. During inclement weather, the classes will meet inside the Center Building. Masks are required for all indoor programming at this time.

New Programs starting at The Woodbridge Center:

Men's Coffee Corner at the Grove will begin Monday, June 21 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 10:00 -11:30 am. Bring your own coffee or buy a cup from the new (early June) Café Rebelde coffee cart located in the "Old Firehouse" parking lot. Play a game of Bocce, Shuffleboard, or just enjoy sitting and socializing with some new or old friends. The Grove, as always, is open to all.

Shoot some pool in The Center café every Tuesday and Thursday from 1-3 pm beginning June 22. Masks and preregistration are required.

Yoga for All, with Bill Banick, starts Wednesday, June 23 from 1:30 - 2:30 pm in Center Building room 16. This all-level yoga class consists of seated warm-up exercises, breathing techniques, standing and seated yoga postures utilizing a chair as a prop, relaxation, and meditation. Join for 8 weeks at \$50.

Zumba Gold: Come try this fun, upbeat class! The design of the class introduces easy to follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Previous Zumba experience is not required. Call for more info!

Ongoing Programs at The Center:

Craft Group meets Tuesdays (starting 6/22) and Thursdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Bring your current knitting or crocheting project and enjoy some long over-due social time. Instructor will be available on Thursdays.

Painting for Pleasure with Graham Dale: All levels are welcome, Wednesdays, 10 am - 12 pm. Come paint your choice of subject with acrylics or watercolors. Call for materials list. The ten-week session fee is \$60 - prorated for latecomers.

Exercise with Laurie continues Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 am. Enjoy an aerobic, cardio and strength training workout to music. Bring your own 1-to-2-pound hand weights. Pre-registration is required; \$2 fee per class.

Targeted Strength Training on Mondays, 9-10 am, is led by Michele Tenney. This exercise class uses exercise bands to focus on strengthening specific muscle groups to help increase balance, stability, and flexibility. Bands are available for purchase through the instructor. The class fee is \$40 for an 8-week session and will be prorated.

Pickleball: Monday through Friday, 12:30 - 3:30 pm in the Center Building gym. Two sessions are offered daily. Advance court sign-up is required as space is limited.

The following virtual classes will be offered:

Get to the Point of Health Zoom Lecture Series: The VNA Community Healthcare & Hospice will present "Memory Matters" on Friday, June 18 from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Learn why exercising your brain is as important as exercising your body. Also find out how to maintain brain function and dispel the myths of memory loss and aging. This is the last lecture in this lecture series. It is accessible via Zoom and WGATV Channel 79. Call 203-389-3430 to register and obtain the Zoom link.

AAA Defensive Driving Course is offered virtually June 1, 8, 15, 29 and July 6. This free, four-hour class, taken from the comfort of your own home, may qualify you for an auto insurance discount upon completion. Register at: www.AAA.COM/DEFENSIVEDRIVING.

Services offered:

Transportation for medical appointments is available for those 60+ or with disabilities Monday through Friday from 9 am to 2:30 pm with limited exceptions. Transportation for grocery shopping 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 for safety reasons.

Meals: Seniors may reserve healthy,



Mother's Day Drive thru

well balanced, flash frozen meals complete with a protein, starch, vegetables, and fresh fruit for \$5/meal. Order by noon on Monday for delivery to your home on Tuesday. Choose from a wide variety of options including Shepherd's pie, chicken and pasta with fresh mozzarella, vegetable lasagna and fresh Cobb salad with grilled chicken breast. Meals include a roll and dessert. There is a minimum order of two meals please.

New! Frozen soups are now available for \$1 per 10 oz. container. Varieties include Italian wedding, beef orzo, carrot apple, sweet potato bisque, and more. Call 203-389-3430 to place your order! Soup must be ordered with meals or a minimum of five soups must be ordered at a time.

Looking for company? Call Judi Young, senior services social worker, at 203-389-3429 to arrange for a Friendly Visitor.

Staff recipe pick: Each month a favorite recipe from the Human Services staff will be featured. This month, Judi Young, Senior Social Worker, shares a healthy, recipe favorite of hers from The Barefoot Contessa.

Orzo with Roasted Vegetables

Ingredients:
1 small eggplant, peeled and 3/4-inch diced
1 red bell pepper, 1-inch diced
1 yellow bell pepper, 1-inch diced
1 red onion, peeled and 1-inch diced
2 garlic cloves, minced
1/3 cup good olive oil
1-1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/2 pound orzo
For the Dressing:
1/3 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice (2 lemons)
1/3 cup good olive oil

1 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
To Assemble:
4 scallions, minced (white and green parts)
1/4 cup pignolis, toasted
3/4 pound good feta, 1/2-inch diced (not crumbled)
15 fresh basil leaves, cut into chiffonade
Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Toss the eggplant, bell peppers, onion, and garlic with the olive oil, salt, and pepper on a large baking sheet. Roast for 40 minutes, until browned, turning once with a spatula.

Meanwhile, cook the orzo in boiling salted water for 7 to 9 minutes, until tender. Drain and transfer to a large serving bowl.

Add the roasted vegetables to the pasta, scraping all the liquid and seasonings from the roasting pan into the pasta bowl.

For the dressing, combine the lemon juice, olive oil, salt, and pepper and pour on the pasta and vegetables. Let cool to room temperature, then add the scallions, pignolis, feta, and basil. Check the seasonings and serve at room temperature. Enjoy!

Have Clutter?

Gather it together to sell for someone's treasure at the Community Tag Sale on June 12 at the Summer Second Saturday event, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Rent a space (2 parking spots) for \$10 or a space with 2 tables set up for \$25. Located at the Library/Center Building parking lot. Sign-up on town website. Nothing to sell? Come enjoy browsing and maybe you will find something you need. Food trucks and lawn games available. Contact The Center (203-389-3430) with questions.

The Craft group would appreciate donations of clean skeins of yarn. Call The Center to donate!

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!



SPECIAL OFFER TO NEW CUSTOMERS
ON AUTOMATIC DELIVERY.

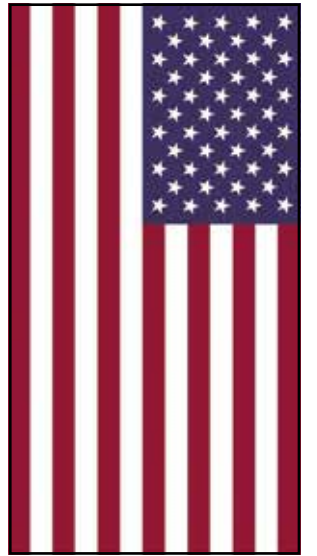
SAVE BIG WITH OUR:

Buy one
Get one

FREE

Service Contracts

and 10¢ OFF per gallon for prompt payment.



We offer our heartfelt appreciation to the brave men, women, and families of past and present that have served our country.

WHEN YOU DEAL WITH TAMARO, YOU'LL GET:

- Faster Service! We're local when you need us the most.
- Delivery drivers who treat your property like their own.
- Competitive pricing from your hometown dealer.
- Friendly and prompt customer service from our family to yours! You'll speak to a Tamaro family member every time you call.
- Service Technicians who are never on sales commission.

We take great pride in servicing you well!

Call Today!

795-FUEL(3835)

www.TamaroOil.com



TAMARO
Oil Corporation

YOUR LOCAL OIL COMPANY FOR FOUR GENERATIONS.

“Massaro Farm” From Page 12

nature hike, and a screening of “The Goonies.” Movie starts at 8pm. This event is free, but we do have a limited capacity, so please sign up on our website to reserve your spot. Food available for purchase from Street and Savory Food Truck.

Join us for a night of country fun live on the farm! Saturday, June 26th at 7pm the Mike Collins Band brings modern country music to life in this outdoor concert. Tickets (\$10-30 each) available on our website. Food available for purchase from The Mason Jar Exchange Food Truck. Bring blankets or low chairs for lawn seating.

Beekeeping workshop

The next class in our beekeeping series, conducted by the CT Beekeeper’s Association, will occur Saturday June 12 at 9am. This is a live webinar but there may be a few in-person spots available; check our website for updates and to pre-register.

Special Farm Tour

In association with the New Haven Festival of Arts and Ideas, the farm will offer a farm tour titled “Imagining Your Food System,” examining the role small farms play in our food supply chain and how they harness the power

to positively reverse effects of climate change. Two dates: June 21 and June 24 at 5:30 pm. The program is free, but registration is required: <https://www.artidea.org/>.

Get involved in a Community Garden

The farm welcomes both new and experienced gardeners to help oversee vegetable gardens in Ansonia, Derby, Seymour, Oxford and Shelton. Includes watering, weeding and harvesting. We supply all the materials; you set your own schedule! Take the produce home or add it to our donations for hunger relief partners. Visit our site to sign up: www.MassaroFarm.org/community-gardens.

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.

Happy Memorial Day

MASSARO COMMUNITY FARM



THE MASSARO CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS

THE MIKE COLLINS BAND

Saturday
JUNE 26 - AT 7PM

41 FORD ROAD, WOODBRIDGE

www.MassaroFarm.Org

Hottest Woodbridge Real Estate Market!

Low Inventory and High Demand.

Call me to find out about my unique, comprehensive marketing plan.



www.franmorrow.com

Your Property Is My Priority!



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

Fran Morrow

Your Neighborhood Realtor

203-605-7733

Fran.morrow@cbmoves.com

America’s Choice in Home Care



Home Care for Independent Living.

Visiting Angels allows your loved one to remain where they are the most comfortable... in their own home.

Specializing in Live-In and 24-hour care

- Bathing Assistance
- Dressing Assistance
- Grooming
- Med Reminders
- Errands
- Shopping

- Light Housekeeping
- Meal Preparation
- Companionship
- Flexible Hourly Care
- Respite Care for Families
- Overnight Care



(203) 298-9700 | (860) 372-4429

www.visitingangels.com/woodbridge

www.visitingangels.com/newington

HCA0000561

245 AMITY ROAD

Directory of Local Shops and
Services. Shop Local.

Suite 101

**PATIO
OPEN!**



RESTAURANT | BAR | TAPAS

203-298-9741

www.soluntapasbar.com

Happy Hour 3 to 7, All day Sunday (bar only)

**Drive-thru
Take-out
Window Open**

Suite 103

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Scot Little | Financial Advisor
203-392-3654
scot.little@edwardjones.com

www.edwardjones.com

Suite 104



Full service hair
and nail salon,
specializing
in Hair Loss
Solutions for all.

203.397.9348 • www.progressionshairsalon.com

Suite 105



BRAND INSPIRATION

WAKE UP YOUR MARKETING

Brand Inspiration, L.L.C. is a full service marketing, communications, and design agency that offers marketing strategy, digital communications, copywriting, graphic design, social media, lead generation, business planning, web design and development, web hosting, video production services, podcast development, branding, and consulting services.

(203) 824-4282 • www.brandinspirationonline.com

Suite 106

THE *Write*
APPROACH

Always 15% OFF
Invitations

We Love our Brides! Invitations are our Specialty!
Special Gifts for Father's Day

203-397-8272 • writeapproach@aol.com

Suite 107

JEFFREY A. ARONS, MD

*Board Certified in Plastic
and Hand Surgery*

Experienced in Botox, Fillers,
and Skin Pen Microneedling

www.draron.com • 203-228-5123

Suite 108

JEFFREY C. SALOMON, M.D.

Dr. Salomon offers a wide variety of lasers (Laser hair removal, Fraxel, Clear/Brilliant, CO2); Botox/Dysport and a wide variety of Fillers; aesthetic services (microdermabrasion, hydrafacials, and peels); and surgical intervention procedures, such as face lift, breast aug/reduction, abdominoplasty, blepharoplasty, liposuction, breast reconstruction. He is also a board certified hand surgeon.

(203) 624-4346 • www.plasticsurgeryoffice.com
[www.Facebook.com/jeffreysalomon](https://www.facebook.com/jeffreysalomon)

Suite 109

GRAND OPENING!

HAPPENING SOON!

Woodbridge's first fine wine, spirits and craft
beer boutique is opening! We will strive to offer an
individualized shopping experience to all of our clients.

Follow our Facebook page "Wine and Spirits of Woodbridge"
for updates as we gear up towards our grand opening!

Suite 111

the **redbarn**
OF WOODBRIDGE

Clothes ~ Jewelry ~ Shoes

Mon-Thu 11-5:30 • Fri-Sat 10-5 • Sun Closed
www.redbarnwoodbridge.com

Suite 200



SOUTHPAW

Private Equity firm specializing
in Quick Service Restaurants.

(203) 387-8881 • southpaw.co

Suite 201



★ Dr. Karey Rainey Maxwell ★

Dental Services include General Dentistry, Crowns +
Bridges, Dental Hygiene, Dental Implants, INVISALIGN, Teeth
Whitening, Veneers and Laminate, Children's Dentistry.

203-387-6453 • www.InfinityDentalCare.com

Suite 202



**Advanced Nutrition
Healing Center**

Integrative nutrition • Metabolic Typing/individualized Nutrition
Immune system issues, including allergies,
autoimmune conditions, hormonal imbalances

Modalities include lifestyle coaching, scanning for
bio-compatibility of foods and nutrients; muscle testing.

20% OFF FIRST VISIT

(203) 668-4062 • dorota@advancednutritioncenter.net

Suite 203



PINNACLE
EDUCATIONAL CENTER, LLC

Pinnacle Educational Center is a global educational,
career, strategic services holding company, headquartered
in Woodbridge, CT with offices in Manhattan,
Greenwich, White Plains, Fort Lee and Boston.

(203) 387-1574

www.pinnacleeducationalcenter.com

Suite 204

WELLSPRING Sharon de Kadt, N.D. LLC

Naturopathic Physician

Dr. Sharon de Kadt is a Naturopathic Physician with
a focus on musculoskeletal conditions and injuries.
She utilizes acupuncture, physical medicine, and other
modalities. She also treats general health concerns and
works to improve lifestyle habits. Dr. Sharon de Kadt
graduated from Yale School of Medicine with a Physician's
Assistant degree and brings that knowledge to her practice.



203-624-4044

Suite 205



BROWN
FITNESS TRAINING CONSULTANTS
A Complete Approach To Healthy Living

**1:1 Personal Training in a
Private, Fully-equipped studio.**

203-520-4938

Suite 206

**Gastroenterology Center of
New England, LLC**

Howard Likier, MD

Gastroenterology

203-495-8844

Suite 207

MOTION
PT GROUP
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Services include Hand and Upper Extremity Center
Occupational Therapy • Telehealth • Work Injury Management

Specialty Certifications in Ergonomics, Hand (CHT)

203-389-8177 • www.motionptg.com

Suite 208

**Jacobs
& Jacobs**
INJURY
LAWYERS
100 YEARS

(203) 777-2300



www.jacobs-jacobs.com

Suite 209



Bina Roginsky, Psy.D. BCBA
Licensed Clinical Psychologist
Board Certified Behavior Analyst

245 Amity Road
Suite 209
Woodbridge, CT 06525

Phone: 203-848-7590
Fax: 203-285-6455

PsychologicalAssessmentService.LLC

Suite 210

HARRIS
WEB WORKS

Specialties - We help legacy companies grow in the digital era:

- E-commerce website development and ERP systems integration for B2B and B2C companies
- Biopharmaceutical and Life Sciences website development
- Fast and secure website Managed Hosting

www.harriswebworks.com • 203.535.1631

CT-based since 2006

How Consumers Can Show Their Support For Local Businesses

The road back to normalcy after the COVID-19 pandemic figures to have some twists and turns. Even after the rollout of vaccines began in late 2020, public health agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization emphasized the importance of people keeping their collective guard up, as previously unseen variants of the virus were still being discovered.

A slow march toward recovery has begun, but the uphill nature of that march underscores how important it is that communities continue to come together to support each other as well as the locally owned businesses that make towns and cities so unique. Consumers who want to help the local businesses in their community rebound and thrive in the months and years ahead can show their support in various ways.

- Take charge of your to-go order. Convenience became the name of the game when ordering food during the pandemic. Curbside pickup service was offered as a safety measure, and many restaurants that never previously offered delivery or takeout started to do so to



generate revenue at a time when in-person dining was limited if not disallowed. Some restaurants began offering delivery through apps like Grubhub or Uber Eats, and though that may be convenient for diners, restaurants must pay a fee to utilize those apps. In lieu of ordering through a third party delivery service, consumers can take charge of their to-go

orders and pick up the food themselves. That saves restaurants the delivery app surcharge, allowing them to increase net profits on the meals they sell.


- Continue to be loyal. A recent study from researchers at the Harvard Business School found that a customer's eighth purchase was an average of 80 percent higher than his or her first pur-


chase. That highlights just how valuable repeat customers are to small businesses. Consumers who have had positive experiences with small businesses in their communities in the past can continue to support those companies by looking to them first when they need new products or services. Doing so not only helps small businesses retain more customers, but it increases the likelihood that consumers will again have positive buying experiences.

- Share experiences via social media. Small businesses recognize the value of social media. A 2021 survey from Visual Objects found that 74 percent of small businesses in the United States are active on their social media accounts at least once each week. Social media can become even more valuable to small businesses when their customers utilize such platforms to share positive experiences and encourage their friends and neighbors to patronize local businesses.

Consumers can take various steps to support small businesses in their communities as such establishments look to regroup and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

“There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured with what is right in America.” — WILLIAM J. CLINTON





SAVE 20% ON ALL SUNGLASSES DURING OUR

annual
sunglass sale!

80 Whitney Avenue New Haven,
CT 06510
203-457-8379

1957 Whitney Ave. N.
Haven/Hamden, CT 06473
203-599-7816

1100 West Main Street
(Tommy K's Plaza)
Branford, CT 06405
203-902-8143

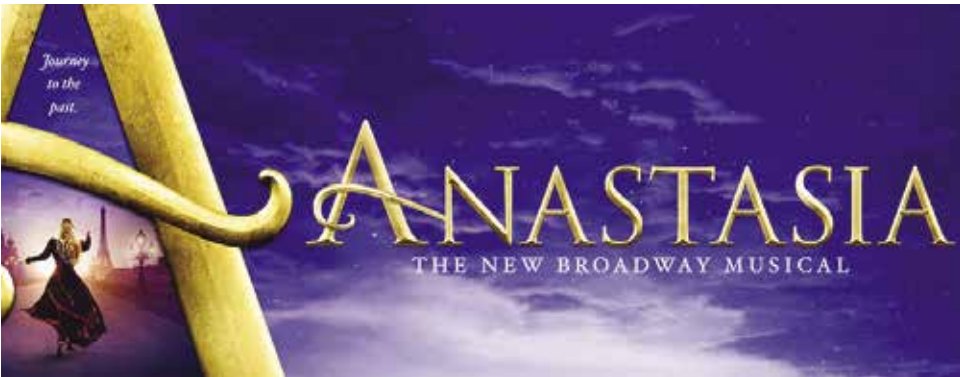
93 Boston Post Road Orange,
CT 06477
203-678-8359

856 Boston Post Rd. Shoreline
Big Y Plaza Guilford, CT 06437
203-780-0671

Old Saybrook Ctr. – 105 Elm St.
(Stop & Shop Side, Unit 15)
Old Saybrook, CT 06472
860-390-5686

Some exclusions apply. May not be combined with insurance or other discounts.

ARTS & LEISURE



The Show WILL Go On!

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

Anastasia transports the audience from the twilight of the Russian Empire to the euphoria of Paris in the 1920s, as a brave young woman sets out to discover the mystery of her past. Pursued by a ruthless Soviet officer determined to silence her, Anya enlists the aid of a dashing conman and a lovable ex-aristocrat. Together, they embark on an epic adventure to help her find home, love, and family.

Performances are June 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25 and 26 at 7:30 p.m. Two matinee performances will take place on June 19 and 26 at 2 p.m. For the first time ever, the musical will take place outdoors, under a tent, at Amity Regional High School, 25 Newton Road in Woodbridge. Masks will be required.

After COVID-19 forced the cancellation of last year’s production just weeks before opening, Amity Creative Theater is excited to offer the community the opportunity to experience this unique venue and for students and musicians to retake the stage. Amity is the first high school in the state to produce Anastasia.

Tickets are \$20 and are available online at www.amitytheaterdepartment.com or by contacting the box office at 203.392-2019 or email amityboxoffice@gmail.com.

This year’s corporate sponsors include BENDER, Berchem Moses PC, Burns Insurance Group, Coldwell Banker Realty, Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation, Laticrete International, Inc., MitchCo. Tent & Party, Milford-Orange Times, New England Performance Insulation, Rick’s Plumbing Service, and Total Mortgage. All proceeds raised go to the self-funded Amity Theater program.

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

www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com



Seond Saturdays Continues

This summer, residents are invited to the Woodbridge Town Center Campus for free family fun on the second Saturday of each month.

The “Second Saturday” series will run through September and will be hosted jointly by the Human Services, Library, and Recreation Departments.

“It is so important that we are able to come together again as a community,” said First Selectman Beth Heller. “These outdoor events will offer free, family focused opportunities for residents to have safe outdoor fun in the center of town.” The events are part of the First Selectman’s Town Center Beautification Plan to make the Town Center Campus a more active and attractive place.

On Saturday May 8 Youth Services hosted a chalk art party for nearly 20 families.

On Saturday June 12 there will be a community tag sale. Interested vendors must fill out a form on the Town website. Questions may be directed to Kristy Moriarty, Senior Center Director (kmoriarty@woodbridgett.org) or Betsy Yagla, Assistant Administrative Officer (byagla@woodbridgett.org).

July 10 the Friends of the Woodbridge Library will hold a mini book sale. There will be no rain date for this event.

On Saturday August 14 there will be an art event including live art demonstrations, an arts and craft supply swap and a community art project.

On Saturday September 11 there will be a makers’ market and craft fair. Interested vendors must fill out a form on the Town website. Questions may be directed to Jennifer Sullivan, Head of Adult Services at the Woodbridge Town Library (jsullivan@woodbridgetownlibrary.org) or Betsy Yagla, Assistant Administrative Officer (byagla@woodbridgett.org).

Events will run from 10 am to noon, except the tag sale and craft fair which will last until 1 pm. Rain dates for all events, except the Library book sale, will be the following Saturday. Lawn games and food trucks will be at all events.

For additional information contact Betsy Yagla (byagla@woodbridgett.org).

Bring Us Your Pain!

Award-winning Physical Therapy.
Pediatrics to Geriatrics.

203.389.4593 **Amity** amitypt.com
PHYSICAL THERAPY

One Bradley Rd. Woodbridge

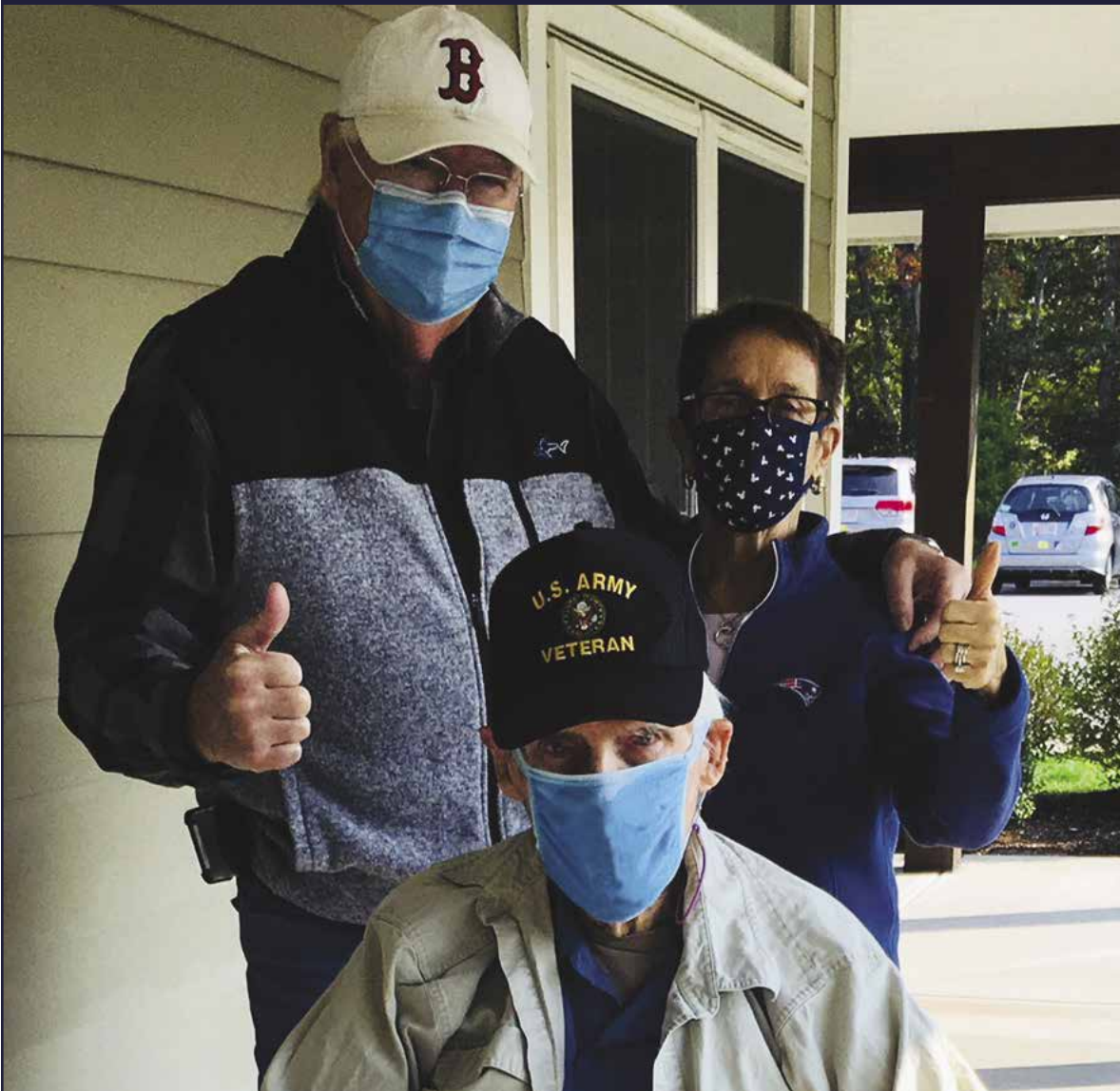
We Provide Reliable Homecare Assistance

Home Health Aides • CNAs • Companions • Homemakers • And More

203-777-1234
Serving Woodbridge, Orange, Milford and Greater New Haven
CALL US FOR FREE IN-HOME CONSULTATION
Licensed - Bonded - Insured

Aides & Companions

"...the team has done an excellent job getting him out of his apartment."



Maplewood Senior Living is dedicated to the care and well-being of our residents living with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. We offer two distinctive levels of memory care that address the unique needs of our residents. Currents™ at Maplewood Senior Living was created for residents with moderate to advanced-stage memory impairment. It provides additional support and personalized services.

We place an emphasis on making Currents residents feel safe and secure. Deeply comfortable accommodations and secured community spaces provide opportunities for social and cultural engagement. Together we discover joy and fulfillment in the moment.

Learn more about life at Maplewood Senior Living.



MAPLEWOOD
at orange

A SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

Assisted Living & Memory Care

245 Indian River Road, Orange, Connecticut
203-795-3117 | MaplewoodAtOrange.com



"When my mother-in-law passed, my father-in-law, Rodger, started to decline within a short period. The effects of her loss impacted him as she had done all the cooking and took care of everything around the house. Even though he was still mowing the lawn and driving in his 90's, he was falling more often and when he had a minor car accident, we worried about his safety. It was time to make a change. From the moment we walked in the door at Maplewood the team could not have been more helpful. They walked us through the community, thoroughly explained how everything worked, answered all our questions – they made the process smooth and stress-free. Rodger moved into Vistas at Maplewood about a year ago. It was a great comfort knowing that if and when he needed it, the next step of care was right in the same community. Just before the pandemic, his care team noticed a further decline. He was starting to forget where his apartment was, where he was, and who we were so they suggested moving him to Currents. Rodger is not a very social person but the team has done an excellent job getting him out of his apartment. He particularly enjoys the company of all the women in Currents and tells us the meals are delightful. We cannot thank Maplewood enough for making visitation during Covid-19 as easy as possible. We've even been able to bring our Golden Retriever to visit Rodger outside, which he loves."

— Alan & Mary with
Rodger, Resident

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Rabbi Brockman to be Honored at Jewish Family Service

Perhaps it was meant to be that Rabbi Herbert Brockman would bring his passion for social justice to the Board of Directors of the Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven. Brockman, who will be honored at JFS' June 17th virtual Spring Celebration, has long been dedicated to Jewish values and to the welfare of the entire community. His 2018 retirement from the pulpit at Congregation Mishkan Israel in Hamden (he is now CMI's Rabbi Emeritus) was the impetus to look for other channels through which to pursue social action. The Rabbi's long-standing priorities are a natural fit with JFS' mission of providing human and social services to the most vulnerable – without regard to race, ethnicity, or religion. Amy Rashba, the agency's CEO, said, "JFS is proud to honor Rabbi Herb Brockman, whose involvement in both the Jewish and interfaith community epitomizes all that JFS stands for. With warmth, intelligence and a Jewish heart, Rabbi Brockman honors us all with his devotion to [the Jewish tradition of] tikkun olam ("heal the world"). He is a true mensch!"

Brockman has had a long history of social justice activism during his thirty-two-year tenure at CMI, now carried on by his successor, Rabbi

Brian Immerman. Under Brockman's leadership, the synagogue began its participation in Abraham's tent, providing shelter to homeless men; established a garden to grow produce for area soup kitchens; declared itself a "sanctuary congregation" in response to the Trump administration's immigration restrictions; and became active in the Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement. He attributes his desire to join the Board of JFS to his experience searching for food for an immigrant Latino family whose father was being placed in a church sanctuary to avoid deportation. He said, "Sandy [Hagan, Food Pantry director] opened the pantry just for the family and let them 'shop.' When the wife picked up a few items, Sandy insisted, 'That's not enough. Fill it up.' A minister who was accompanying us commented, 'Your community is amazing.' I still feel the pride I felt then. It's why I chose to join the Board of JFS and support their work."

The June 17th Spring Celebration, JFS' major annual fundraiser, will be presented virtually this year and will feature a look at some of the agency's most impactful programs. To register for the event or find more information, go to www.jfsnh.org/celebration.

The First Church of Christ Woodbridge

The First Church of Christ is eager to welcome you to our on-site Worship Services taking place every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. inside the Meetinghouse.

The Zoom Option remains available for the time being. To receive an invite, please email the office or log on to our website and add your name to our church email list. All people in the community are welcome in person or via Zoom.

Live Stream Services can be viewed on our website every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. A video recording of the live stream is featured for the entire week following the service. To view previous Sunday Services, visit us on YouTube using the link provided on all pages of our website. (Links, contact info, and a schedule of upcoming Services are listed at the bottom of this article.)

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

The Church Office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Please adhere to CDC safety regulations upon visiting.

Weekly Bible Study sessions are being held in-person at the Parish House. Join us for meetings each Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Boy Scout Troop #907 continues to meet weekly at 7:00 p.m. New members are invited to attend. For information, visit its website at www.troop907.org.

Events Update: The First Church of Christ of Woodbridge is disappointed to announce that our Annual Strawberry Festival will not be held this year



First Church of Christ Woodbridge

due to ongoing Covid restrictions. However, we are excited to announce a new event which will be held this fall: **A Pumpkin and Apple Festival**. We will be having all sorts of events: Yard games, face painting, pumpkin carving, music, apple and pumpkin desserts. Stay tuned for more information!

More Information regarding First Church activities and/or events is always available. Please contact us; we are eager to hear from you! Phone: 203-389-2119, *Email: office@uccw.org, Website: www.uccw.org, Facebook: www.facebook.com/uccwoodbridge.

*For online or media related questions, please email JoAnna Rubino at growfirstchurch@gmail.com.

FCCW Sunday Service Schedule

May 30th Rev. Karl Duetzmann
June 6th Rev. Walter Pitman
June 13th Rev. Martha Bays
June 20th Rev. Raquel Irizarry
June 27th Rev. Karl Duetzmann

Please Note For any and all meetings and events being attended at First Church: A facemask must be worn upon entering the building(s) and all Covid-19 safely protocol and standards followed.

Congregational Church Summer Worship

Orange Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, welcomes you to join us for summer worship on the Town Green on Sunday mornings at 10am starting June 6. Worship will also be livestreamed and you can join us from home by visiting www.orangecongregationalchurch.org. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, which means we welcome all

people into the full life and leadership of the church. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Please email us at occhurch@snet.net to be put on our church emailing list.

If you would like to learn more or talk with our Pastor, you can reach the Reverend Jennifer Campbell at revjenocc@gmail.com.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

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

www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com

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

Sunday Mass: 5:00pm
Contact us: 203-795-5076
ourladyofsorrowst@yahoo.com
Facebook: @OurLadyOfSorrowsTraditional
378 Spring St., Orange (off of Racebrook Rd)

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



Shabbat Under the Stars

Upcoming Events at Temple Emanuel

Stay connected with our community online and in person when the weather cooperates. Read on for details!

Regular Weekly Services

6:30 pm on the first Friday of the month, Family Shabbat service outdoors under the stars if the weather permits; masks are required and appropriate distancing will be observed. On-line services will continue.

7:00 pm on all other Fridays, Kabbalat Shabbat Service (please note earlier start time) – outdoors under the stars if the weather permits; masks are required and appropriate distancing will be observed. On-line services will continue.

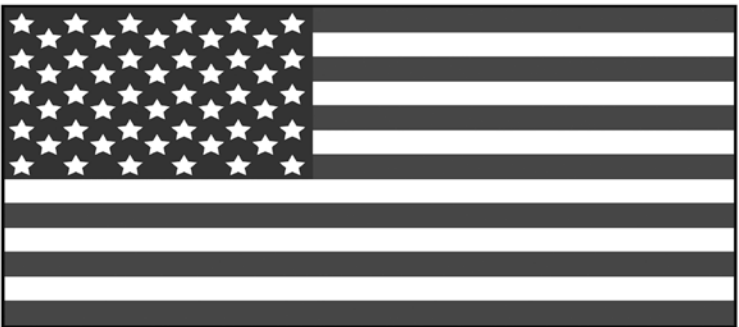
10:00-11:30 am on the first Satur-

day morning of the month, Shabbat Morning Minyan 10:00-11:30 am on all other Saturday mornings, Weekly Torah Study.

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

For more information about services and celebrations at Temple Emanuel, and to register for special events, please go to the TE website, www.teg-nh.org or call the office at 203-397-3000. Temple Emanuel is located at 150 Derby Avenue in Orange.

Happy Memorial Day



Day

Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

Children’s Services

Children’s outdoor services are held on Saturday mornings, weather permitting. To receive the weekly newsletter, email Youth and Family Programming Director Annie Norman-Schiff at anormanschiff@beki.org.



Farewell to the Kuperstocks

On May 29 the congregation will honor Woodbridge residents Darryl and David Kuperstock for their years of service. David will give the d’var torah during the morning service. Boxed lunches will be provided outdoors after the service. Everyone is encouraged to bring blankets or folding chairs for a picnic lunch.

Anti-Asian Racism

Rachel Forbes, a transcultural adoptee who was born in Korea, will speak on Wednesday, June 2 at 8:00 pm about anti-Asian racism in America. A licensed clinical social worker with a private psychotherapy practice in New Haven, she was raised in the New Haven Jewish community and attended Ezra Academy. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

Tea Tasting

Caroline Keogh from New Haven Tea, producer of artisanal blend flower teas, will lead a tea tasting via Zoom on Wednesday, June 9 at 8:00 pm. Participants can choose to buy the beki sample kit for \$13 from newhaventea.com, or just log in to learn about teas

and tea blends. The kit includes tea brewing equipment plus four no-caffeine teas: decaf lavender organic Earl Grey, lemon soufflé organic, licorice mint, and organic turmeric teas.

For more information, email bulletin@beki.org.

Juneteenth

Robert Forbes will discuss Juneteenth, which celebrates the emancipation of those who were enslaved in this country. June 19, 1865 was the day that the Union army announced emancipation in Texas, on a date over two years after

the Emancipation Proclamation. Professor Forbes, who has served on the faculty at Yale, Wesleyan, UConn, and Southern, will speak on Wednesday, June 16 at 8:00 pm. His expertise is U.S. history from the Revolution to the Civil War, focusing on the impact of slavery on the development of American institutions. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

Pride Month

Miryam Kabakov, the executive director of Eshel, which supports and advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Orthodox Jews, will speak on Wednesday, June 30 at 8:00 pm. A social worker and community organizer, she is the editor of Keep Your Wives Away from Them: Orthodox Women, Unorthodox Desires, an anthology of writings by queer Jewish women. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

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



ATTENTION ORANGE RESIDENTS!

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

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

DID YOU KNOW? Memorial Day

- What we now call Memorial Day once was called Decoration Day. It started in 1868 as a day to decorate the graves of soldiers who died in the Civil War.
- It now is a day to reflect on the courage, dedication, fortitude and commitment of those who have served our country. Here are some less well known benefits available to many veterans.
- **Tuition waiver.** For a veteran who has 90 days of active duty during a period of war, tuition is waived at all Connecticut universities, community colleges, and technical schools.
- **Limited municipal tax assessment exemption.** A veteran who has 90 days of active duty during a period of war, is entitled to a \$1,500.00 reduction in the assessed value of a motor vehicle or real property. If you don't own real property and lease the vehicle you may be entitled to a tax refund for lease payments up to a maximum of \$1,500.00. Low income veterans and veterans with service connected disabilities may be entitled to a larger assessment reduction.
- **Respite care.** If your family is caring for you at home, and they need a "break", a short period of respite care (substitute caregivers come to your home so your family can take off) is an available option.
- **Skilled nursing care.** The Veteran's home in Rocky Hill provides skilled 24/7 nursing care. It also has a memory unit.
- **Veteran's Pension.** A basic pension and a supplemental pension housebound or aid and attendance pension benefit may be options if you are older than 65 or are permanently disabled. There are active duty requirements, and complex income limits, and net worth limits.
- **Resources.** If you go to <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA>, you will land on the home page of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs. It has lots of information and additional links to benefit programs available to veterans.

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



Attorney Steven Floman and Attorney Allison DePaola Drozd are responsible for this advertisement. This advertisement 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.



Protecting what's important to you
Estate Planning | Estate Administration/Probate
Medicaid Planning | Special Needs Planning
Questions? Call us to set up a no-charge, no-pressure meeting.

P.O. Drawer 966 | 378 Boston Post Road | Orange, CT 06477
P: (203) 795-1211 • F: (203) 795-1215
97 Washington Avenue, Suite 2 | North Haven, CT 06473
Phone: (203) 446-4725 | Fax: (203) 889-0193
www.wileylegal.com • Lori@wileylegal.com

"Letters" From Page 5

ensured the safety of all in-person students and staff. Additionally, they advocated for quality education for the 25% of students whose families selected the option of remote learning—a proportion that enabled the in-person students to be adequately distanced at school, to learn safely, and to make it possible for full-time in-person learning as an option for members of the community.

Democratic Board members have demonstrated the skills and experience necessary to guide the school safely through the pandemic. They provided the science and asked the probing questions. For example, they asked what our capacity was for accommodating in-person students safely to clarify the number of students who could safely learn in-person in each classroom. So that parents and staff could understand and plan accordingly in a time of high uncertainty and stress, they requested clear and transparent criteria regarding potential transitions from one learning model to another.

They asked about safety protocols to highlight aspects of safety that had not been fully considered such as quarantining, testing, bussing, ventilation, and outdoor education. To ensure careful monitoring, they asked

how we can confirm that no transmission has taken place at school. To help prevent transmission in school, they asked what kind of support we could offer to students to incentivize them to quarantine when needed. They advocated on behalf of our remote learning community by requesting resources for equitable outcomes. Committed to fiscal responsibility, Democratic board members took steps to reduce a quarter of a million-dollar deficit—a deficit that has now been fully addressed this year. These are just a few examples of questions asked in public and actions taken by Democratic Board members to balance safety (e.g., social distancing), resources (e.g., funding) and equity (e.g., classroom size).

Democratic Board members have collaborated and will continue to collaborate with their Republican colleagues in a bi-partisan way, ensuring that Beecher Road School offers a quality education for all. The facts are important. Let's hold Chuck to his word, "party affiliation and alignment should have no place on a school board."

Woodbridge Board of Education Members:
Maegan Genovese
David Ross
Joyce Shavers
Michael Strambler
Jeff Townsend

Debbie Brander Joins Coldwell Banker Realty In Woodbridge

Coldwell Banker Realty in Connecticut is pleased to announce that Woodbridge resident Debbie Brander Barbieri, formerly of Real Living Realty, has affiliated with the Woodbridge office. As an affiliated real estate agent, Debbie will provide residential real estate services in New Haven County as well as the surrounding communities.

"We are thrilled that Debbie has joined our amazing Coldwell Banker family. She brings a fresh and fun energy to our office, and her experience in real estate and community programs will be an asset to her clients" said Aileen DeFeo, Branch Vice President of the Woodbridge and Orange offices.

Licensed since 2010, Debbie has jumped back into real estate with a focus on improving the client experience stating, "I am willing to be completely hands-on to help my clients, and be both sensitive and supportive from start to finish. Each buyer or seller is unique, and what they need from an agent should be customized to achieve their goals."

Debbie is a member of the National Association of Realtors, and a designated Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES) to assist those adults over age 50, many of whom are considering down-sizing from their current home. She is also certified as an Accredited Buyer's Representative (ABR) which will benefit her buyer clients through



Debbie Brander

every step of the home buying process.

Having grown up in Woodbridge, Debbie decided to move back to town in 2006 with her husband William Barbieri, and two children, Jake and Maya. "I am so happy that I was able to return to raise my own family here. The schools, outdoor activities and wonderful sense of community are very special." Debbie is Chair of the ad hoc Community Council, a member of the Economic Development Commission, and a member of the Housing Study Committee. "Woodbridge is my home, and I am proud to be a local expert for my clients whether they are buying or selling."

Debbie Brander Barbieri can be reached at 203-981-0481 or debbie.brander@cbrealty.com. Welcome!

LOCAL BUSINESS ROUNDUP



Woodbridge Boasts Two New Businesses

Two new businesses have opened in Woodbridge recently: Jon D. Racow, State Farm Insurance and Fernandez Autoworkz. Jon D. Racow State Farm Insurance just opened in the D’Andrea Plaza on Litchfield Turnpike and Fernandez Autoworkz just opened at 33 Lucy Street in the former M&M Oil Building.

This is Racow’s second office – his first is in Wallingford. He grew up in Woodbridge, attended Beecher Road School and B’nai Jacob. So, when he was looking for a second office, he was already familiar with Woodbridge and liked the idea of being in the same plaza as Katz’s Deli.

Racow offers automobile, home-owners, renters, life, health and business insurance. Anyone who requests an insurance quote from him will get a \$10 gift certificate to Katz’s Deli, Starbucks or Amazon. No insurance purchase is required.

Contact Jon D. Racow at 203-745-0568 or jon@insureu2.info. The office

is open Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 5 pm. Learn more at Insureu2.info.

Glen Fernandez Sr. and Glen Fernandez Jr. recently moved their automotive business to Woodbridge from Beacon Falls. The father and son own and operate the business together. They do sales, service and repair on all cars, trucks and muscle cars.

Glen Sr. began working on cars at age 9 cleaning parts for his uncle. At 19 he was managing a car repair business and later worked as a mechanic for the State Department of Transportation while fixing cars on the side. The side business took off and eventually he decided to open shop full time.

“I’ve been in this business for 36 years, and my son is 19,” said Glen Sr. “Eventually he’s going to take over.”

Fernandez Autoworkz offers quality work at good rates, he says, and they can do pick up and delivery within a 20-minute drive. Contact Fernandez Autoworkz at 203-906-0881 and learn more at Facebook.com/FernaAuto.

New Literary Business Comes to Woodbridge

New Woodbridge resident Rev. Antona Brent Smith brought her literature and marketing business with her from St. Louis. That company, Tayé Foster Bradshaw Group, LLC, is the name of her marketing business and her pen name. Her late father called her Tayé; Foster and Bradshaw are family names on her maternal side.

Perhaps the part of the business that brings her the most joy is her summer reading program for black middle and high school students, the Hurston and Hughes Literary Circle. “I love books and I’m a writer,” she said. “I spent my childhood in libraries and my whole house is filled with books. I believe in the power of stories to impact lives.”

Rev. Smith began the 10-week summer reading program to ensure that black students saw themselves represented in literature. At the time, she recalled, her local school district said “To Kill a Mockingbird” represented diversity. “They were not placing equal weight or emphasis on the canon of black writers and kids were feeling this, and I thought, ‘this is something I can do.’”

Since she began the program in 2009 it has become significantly easier to find books she feels will be relevant to the students. Every year she chooses 10 books with a mixture of current young adult novels, poetry and essays, classic fiction and nonfiction. “I don’t require them to read all 10 books in 10 weeks – that’s a big ask. But I want to introduce them to different styles of writing and help them find something that speaks to them.” Each week they discuss the book, its message and how it relates to their life. She also encour-



Rev. Antona Brent Smith

ages them to write about the books.

Last summer the program went virtual and included students from all over the country. “We discussed the pandemic and George Floyd and the stories gave us a vehicle, a tool for them to navigate and work through all these social and cultural issues.”

This year’s program will be virtual again. Normally the program is held in coffee shops, parks and libraries. The program, which will run June 1 – August 3, is not a remedial program. Some students join because they’re interested in learning more; others join because their parents want them to improve their skills.

Rev. Smith is married to Dr. Dwayne Smith, the new CEO of Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport. Their youngest daughter, Keziah, is a junior at Amity Regional High School.

Visit hurstonandhughesliterarycircle.com/ to learn more, see this year’s list of books and to register for the program and for additional information contact antona@hurstonandhughesliterarycircle.com.



TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Attention Woodbridge Farmers!

You may recall supporting the establishment of the Woodbridge Agricultural Commission years ago. The Commission was approved by the Board of Selectmen in 2020, and first met virtually on January 12, 2021. The Woodbridge Agricultural Commission is here to support you and your farming efforts, and functions in an advisory capacity to the Board of Selectmen. The purpose of the Commission is to identify issues of concern to farmers, to raise public awareness of the benefits of local farms and working lands, and to identify ways in which the Town can support the business and land-use needs of local farms.

The Commission is comprised of farmers, each with their own area of expertise, and with farms of var-

ying scales. Members include Chris Sorensen (Chair) of Merry Mountain Farm, Andrea Urbano (Vice Chair) of Sperry Falls Farm, Kristyna Hulland of Off Center Farm, Steven Munno of Massaro Community Farm, and Leland Torrence Jr. of Forward Farm. Mica Cardozo currently serves as the BOS Liaison.

The Commission meets once a month, at 8 PM on the second Tuesday between October and April, with special meetings held as necessary between May and September. All meetings will be virtual until further notice. You are encouraged to tune into its regular meetings and visit <https://www.woodbridgect.org/532/Agricultural-Commission> for notice of scheduled special meetings.

Town of Woodbridge Meetings for the Month of June 2021



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

6/1	Darling House Cmte	4:30 PM	
6/7	Town Plan & Zoning Commission.....	6:30 PM	Town Hall
	Human Services.....	7:00 PM	
6/9	Board of Selectmen.....	5:00 PM	
6/10	Community Council.....	9:30 AM	
	Economic Development Commission.....	6:00 PM	Town Hall
6/14	Library Commission	6:30 PM	Library
	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:30 PM	Town Hall
6/15	2030 Task Force	6:00 PM	
6/16	Diversity & Inclusion Committee.....	6:30 PM	
	Inland/Wetlands Agency	7:30 PM	Town Hall
6/17	Board of Finance.....	6:00 PM	Town Hall
	Conservation Commission.....	7:30 PM	Town Hall
6/21	Fire Commission	6:00 PM	
	Police Commission.....	6:15 PM	
6/22	Gov't Access TV Commission	7:30 PM	Town Hall
6/28	CUPOP.....	5:30 PM	Town Hall
	Recreation Commission	7:00 PM	Beecher Rd School So

And the Winners Are...

Following a recount of the election results of May 3, 2021, the Town Clerk has filed the final results of the tally. These are the results:

Name	Office	Affiliation	Votes
Beth Heller	First Selectman	D	1614
Paul Kuriakose	Board of Selectmen	D	1,273
Joe Crisco	Board of Selectmen	D	1,303
Sheila McCreven	Board of Selectmen	D	1,287
David Vogel	Board of Selectmen	R	1,190
David Lober	Board of Selectmen	R	1,153
Jay Dahya	Board of Education	D	1,314
Michael Strambler	Board of Education	D	1,305
Maria Madonick	Board of Education	D	1,343
Brooke Hopkins	Board of Education	R	1,129
Sarah Beth Del Prete	Board of Education	R	1,132
David A. Ross	Board of Education	D	1,369
	(2-year term)		
Janet Barillari	Board of Assessment Appeals	R	1,115
Andrew Schaffer	Board of Assessment Appeals	D	1,344
Celia Waters	Zoning Board of Appeals	D	1,269
Henry Nusbaum	Zoning Board of Appeals	D	1,242
Robert Wiznia	Zoning Board of Appeals	R	1,233
Aldon Hynes	Zoning Board of Appeals	D	1,233
	(Alternate)		
Carol Oladele	Regional Board of Education	D	1,320
Donna Schuster	Regional Board of Education	D	1,282

New Resident Welcome Coffee

All new residents are invited to an outdoor in-person Welcome Coffee on Thursday, July 1 at 9:30 a.m. at Arden's Garden on the Town Green, 11 Meetinghouse Lane, organized by the ad hoc Community Council.

First Selectman Beth Heller created the Community Council to organize events and other opportunities for Woodbridge residents to interact, learn about each other's culture, create community and celebrate Woodbridge.

"We know it takes a while for people to feel part of a new community, and we'd like to help ease that transition," says Community Council co-chair Debbie Brander. "It must be especially hard

during a pandemic. We hope this is the first in a series of welcome coffees that will help new and new-ish residents feel more connected to Woodbridge."

New residents at the welcome coffee will take a walking tour of the Town Center Campus, get answers to their questions, and have a chance to visit the Town's new outdoor coffee vendor, Café Rebelde, in the Grove. Rain date for the event is July 2.

RSVP to Betsy Yagla at byagla@woodbridgect.org in case of weather cancellation and review the "new resident" welcome guide on the Town's website under the "community" section.



TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



First Selectman's Youth Award Winner Christina Burland

First Selectman Beth Heller will present the 2021 award to Christina Burland in June for her many efforts to bring a sense of community to Woodbridge. Tina, a junior at Amity High School, founded the Woodbridge Together group which has developed various programs like card writing for residents of a nursing home, but is recently known for coordinating the Luminaria Project which reminded residents to light up with hope as we reach out to others. The group raised funds for non-profit organizations including the Covid-19 Relief Fund. Ms. Burland received three nominations for her dedication and civic mindedness.

Home Alone Class

Youth Services Director Nancy Pfund and Woodbridge Police Officer Vinny Lynch presented a recent Home Alone Class to ten students. Topics included Who's at the Door, Phone Responses, Nutritious Snacks, Emergencies, Fire Danger, Calling 911, and Internet Safety. Participants received an emergency bag and an information pack to share with parents.



Chalk Art Party Kicks Off Second Saturday Series in Woodbridge

Kids of all ages played fun yard games and created brilliant sidewalk art around the Center Building on May 8th. Bubbles were flying as families beat the pandemic blues. Teen volunteers helped with the event. See the Town Website for the upcoming events in the series.



Awareness Week at Amity Middle School Celebrated

Woodbridge Youth Services and Amity Middle School-Bethany present Awareness Week each spring with a different theme for each day. The student council helped announce themes focusing on Pride, Acknowledgement, Day of Silence, Kindness/Gratitude and the Future is So Bright. Students ended the week wearing sunglasses and flying kites on a beautiful Friday. Financial support from the school, Youth Services, the Town of Bethany, and Beth-Wood Baseball League is appreciated.

Woodbridge Job Bank Woodbridge Teens: Need Cash? Weeding and Yardwork Available

Join the Woodbridge Job Bank to work outdoors and earn some money. Call for interview 203-389-3429.

Residents May Call to Hire Teens.

Save your energy and keep teens working to gain experience. Masks and social distancing required. Call for details at 203-389-3429.



Recreation News

Indoor yoga returns with Bill Banick on June 1. Classes will resume, Monday-Friday 8:30-9:45am, with class size limited to 7; masks are required. Tuesday night session resumes June 1-August 31 from 5:30-6:45pm. All classes are live in room 16 or outside weather permitting.

Indoor T'ai-Chi returns with Bill Banick on Thursday, June 3 at 5:30 pm in room 16. To register, please call the Recreation Department at 203-389-3446.

The Town Fitness Center is expanding its hours. Beginning May 25, the Fitness Center will open on Tuesday & Thursday evenings from 6:00-8:45pm. This is in addition to its Saturday and Sunday hours. The Fitness Center is available to Woodbridge members by reservation only; drop ins are not accepted. Resident seniors over 65 years of age are free. Call 203-389-3446

during Recreation Office hours Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm to make a reservation. Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:00-7:15pm & 7:30-8:45pm are the time slots available. Masks to be worn at all times and social distancing enforced. Maximum 6 per session.

Join Food Explorers for a week of cooking and learning about food from all Around the World! Each day you'll learn about a different country and the different foods that they eat. Then, you'll make two of those recipes! Get ready to try some new recipes and have fun. You'll be making things like Greek Charcuterie boards, Spring Rolls, 7 Layer Dip and Bruschetta. All recipes are nut free and each child will make their own individual portion." August 2 - 6, 2 pm - 5 pm Grades 2-5. Please register online via the Town website at woodbridgect.org.

Long-Term Challenges Related To The Pandemic

Vaccines have enabled some parts of the world to regain a sense of normalcy after more than a year of living under restrictions instituted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenges individuals faced in that time, including staying healthy, dealing with the consequences of social distancing and virtual schooling, may be subsiding. But various long-term challenges could affect businesses for years to come.

Consumer trust and loyalty

Businesses spend years developing trust in their brands and services. Businesses that were forced to close or limit their offerings during the pandemic may need to start rebuilding the trust and loyalty of their customers all over again. One factor that could make that a bigger challenge after the pandemic is how businesses that remained open handled restrictions. Those that insisted customers wear masks in their stores and establishments may not be quick to regain the trust and loyalty of customers who disagreed with those practices. That could prove especially challenging for small businesses that work on thin margins.

Reduced demand

A 2020 survey of leading European companies conducted by the European Central Bank found that reduced demand for products and services is a significant concern for business owners going forward. Roughly 30 percent of survey respondents cited reduced demand as one of the foremost consequences of the pandemic for their businesses. More than 20 percent in-

dedicated lasting changes in the structure of demand will prove challenging in the years ahead. That change in the structure of demand, which includes increased consumption online, could force business owners to make potentially costly adjustments to how consumers access their products.

Staffing

Businesses may find the competition for talent is especially competitive after the pandemic. Workers who worked remotely during the pandemic may be reluctant to leave their jobs if they're allowed to continue working remotely as economies reopen. That means fewer qualified candidates for open positions, especially if those positions do not offer the remote work option. In addition, firms based in large cities may not have as many applicants for their openings in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic. A June 2020 study from the Pew Research Center found that 28 percent of the 10,000 adults surveyed who relocated during the pandemic did so because they feared getting COVID-19. Cities where maintaining distance from others was difficult were viewed as riskier than less populous areas. It might be some time before people who left cities or planned to move to cities prior to the pandemic are comfortable living in such crowded places again. That could make it more challenging for city-based businesses to attract qualified job applicants.

Businesses could face some new, long-term challenges as the world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Patriotism was a living fire of unquestioned belief and purpose.” — FRANK KNOX

WOODBRIDGE LIBRARY

Library Information

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

Public hours: Monday and Thursday, 3 pm to 6 pm; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 am to 1 pm.

Park & Pickup hours: Monday and Thursday, 10 am to 7 pm; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 am to 5 pm. Please wait for your email or phone call to alert you about your items.

What's available:

- › In-person browsing: come see all of the new books, audio-books, and DVDs;
- › Computers: one hour per user; no appointment needed; Printing, copying, faxing, and scanning;
- › Periodicals: recent newspapers, plus catch up on the past year's magazines;
- › Reference help: including getting started/troubleshooting our digital library services (hoopla, Kanopy, Libby).

At this time, the study room and the Woodbridge Room are closed. The meeting room cannot be used for any events or programs. Seating throughout the Library is extremely limited and no puzzles or children's toys are in use.

Not ready to come inside? Call or email to place holds, ask questions, find out information, and more. Due to current staffing levels, you may need to leave a message if calling. Please leave a message, we WILL call you back!

Department phones and emails:

- › Adult Services/Reference: 203-389-3434; reference@woodbridgetownlibrary.org;
- › Children's Department: 203-389-3439; childrens@woodbridgetownlibrary.org;
- › Circulation/General info: 203-389-3433; circulation@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Not sure who you need? Email ask-us@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Library Announcements

Congratulations to us! The Library's website, which went through a full redesign and update which launched in April 2020, won the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) 2021 Publicity Award for Electronic Media. The award was presented to the library on May 13, during the 130th CLA Conference, held virtually May 10 - 14. Designed by Cliff Huizenga, our much-needed redesign was funded by the generosity of our Friends of the Library, because of the donations and book purchases made by the loyal Woodbridge community. The website has been, and continues to be, a lifeline for users of library



WOODBRIDGE
TOWN LIBRARY

service over the past year. The timing of the update had no connection to the library's pandemic-related closure, but it was a bright spot during a hard year. Thank you to the Friends, thank you to the community, and thank you to our peers at CLA for recognizing Cliff's hard work!

Thanks to everyone—adults, teens, and children—who entered our Annual Peeps in the Library Diorama Contest! Thank you as well to all of the voters, both online and in person. The 2021 Winners are:

- Adult: The Silence of the Peeps;
- Teen/Tween: Indiana Peep and the Raiders of the Lost Egg;
- Children/Family: Who bought all of the toilet peeper?



ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Registration required only where noted

Woodbridge Unplugged: Live and Local

Join us for FREE informal outdoor acoustic concerts every other Thursday at 6 pm in June. Your neighbors have talent—listen for yourself! Concerts held on library grounds. Bring a blanket or chairs. No registration required.

- › June 10: Michael Tornado
- › June 24: Flynn Carney

Literature & Life: a Mark Schenker Lecture

Sunday, June 6 at 3 pm on library grounds. Rain date: Sunday, June 13. Hosted by the Friends of the Library in memory of Barbara Rader, longtime member and a past president of the Friends. Please register online or by calling the reference desk.

Dr. Mark Schenker of Yale will return to discuss his approach to literature and how anyone who reads for

personal enjoyment can gain insight into what makes literature art. And in the process, how we all can get more out of reading.

A string trio featuring Amity High School students and library volunteers Alice, Anna, and Nora Youtz will perform, starting at 2:45 pm.

Adult Summer Reading June 23 – August 18

Stop by the Reference Desk starting June 23 to pick up your Adult Summer Reading packet! You will get a raffle ticket for every book or challenge you complete. Tickets can be used to enter drawings for gift baskets, which will be raffled off every two weeks.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Registration required only where noted

Please check our website for new programs and activities for the summer, including drop-in science.

Cardboard Cat Workshop

For ages 5 and up, two workshops will be offered. Please choose June 7 or 14, both start at 3:30 pm. Each session will be held inside the library and is limited to four artists; online registration is required.

Summer Reading Kickoff with the Magic of Danny Diamond

Tuesday, June 22 at 3 pm. All ages welcome. Online registration required. Come celebrate the beginning of summer with an outdoor comedy magic show performed by magician Danny Diamond! Summer reading materials will also be available.

Food Explorers

Monday, June 28 at 4:30 pm on Zoom. Join Food Explorers to make No-churn Ice-Cream and Hot Fudge Sauce! Ingredient list on registration page. Online registration required, one spot per household. Zoom information will be provided prior to program date.

PoetryCraft

Activity bags will be distributed on June 10 and 27, then the program will go on summer vacation.

Outdoor Storytime Continues into the Summer!

Every Wednesday, 10:30 - 11 am. Meet at the picnic tables; no registration required. Some chairs provided, feel free to bring your own or a blanket. Suitable for babies through Pre-K. We will meet in the Children's Room if raining.

Animal Alley

Every Thursday, 4 - 4:30 pm. Make a different animal craft each week, outside at the picnic tables. Ages 3 and up. Registration is required.

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Book Sales

We will not have our three-day book sale this year; be sure to shop the Friends of the Library's Mini Book Sales at these upcoming library events:

- › June 22: Summer Reading Kick-off with Magician Danny Diamond. Book sale, 3 to 4 pm;
- › July 10: Mini Pop-Up Sale, 9 to 11 am (part of the Town of Woodbridge's Second Summer Saturday Series).

Bookstores

The Friends' Bookstore Alley will re-open on Monday, June 7. Payments will continue to be made on the honor system with Honor Boxes in the Alley. We appreciate the many shoppers who have visited our Tiny Bookstore located in the Friends' Meeting Room, which we share with the Library's Park & Pick Up. The Tiny Bookstore will continue in the Meeting Room for a while longer. Like-new items at bargain prices: books for all ages in all genres, puzzles, CDs, and more. Bookstore Alley is open whenever the library is open—thank you for your support!

Donations

Many thanks for your book donations at our Earth Day donation day! We are especially grateful for the outstanding selection of children's books received. We will accept book donations at the July 10 event.

Friends' Book Award Initiated

To increase our community outreach and because many students over the years have supported the Friends with numerous hours of community service, we have initiated two book awards to be presented to Amity Regional High School students at the Underclassmen Book Awards Annual Spring ceremony. Recipients will have shown dedication to community service and demonstration of personal integrity. A scholarship will be awarded to an Amity Regional High senior who strongly embodies the spirit of the Amity Mission Statement: a literate, caring, creative and effective world citizen. The Friends are also giving a separate scholarship to Rose Parady, a graduating senior. Rose has been a faithful intern volunteering at our book sales and on Friday afternoons for the last three years. Rose will be attending Mount Holyoke in the fall.



How To Recruit And Retain Quality Employees

Great employees are the backbone of successful businesses. Savvy business owners recognize the important role workers play in helping a business meet its goals, and recruiting and retaining such employees is a high priority for the world’s most successful firms.

According to the recruitment resource Betterteam, 68 percent of human resources professionals report problems filling positions — an increase of 50 percent since 2013. Forbes magazine puts the potential cost of a single bad hire between \$25,000 and \$50,000. New employees are investments and due diligence should be used to find the right ones. Recruiting top talent may require thinking creatively, and it almost always requires significant effort on the part of the business doing the hiring.

Write a well-crafted job ad

The job advertisement is the first thing job seekers will see and it will be the initial tool to help whittle down the applicant pool. Use clear job titles that explain the job and be concise; avoid buzzwords like “wizard,” “rock star” or “ninja.”

Candidates tend to skim job descriptions, so avoid wordy phrasing and confusing job roles. Break down responsibilities into job duties, and be sure to mention specific make-or-break skills applicants will need to have. While you still may get some unqualified individuals to apply, you may weed out others with specifics of the job.

Establish a list of traits you want new employees to possess

An applicant’s skills, education and

experience are important. However, this should not be the only factor to consider when mulling a potential hire. Seek employees who have the potential for growth and can get along with colleagues and existing and new clients.

Use various job boards to advertise

Many popular job boards, such as Indeed, Monster, LinkedIn, and Glassdoor, offer free advertising for job posters. They are good places to start because they generate lots of traffic. Social media also can work much in the same way as free job boards, according to Workable, a recruitment software company. If you don’t find success with free job boards, you may need to go elsewhere.

Attend job fairs and utilize interns

Building a community connection through local job fairs, networking with alumni organizations, and relationships with universities, trade schools and colleges can provide constant resources for new talent. Plus, applicants may feel more comfortable working for a company that has outreach in the local area.

Follow up on references

It may take time, but it’s important that references are contacted and previous employment is confirmed. Due diligence with a candidate’s references ensures companies get a bigger picture of potential hires, according to Indeed. Ask questions like “What is it like to work with the candidate?” or “What are their biggest strengths and weaknesses?”

Finding quality talent is an important task that’s vital to the success of businesses big and small.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Running: A Guide To Healthy Training

BY MICHAEL DEMETRIADES, DPT

Running injuries can happen at any skill level, whether you are just starting out or a seasoned marathoner. There are several ways to prevent injuries which will keep you running. In my experience there are a few areas to focus on such as proper footwear, pre and post stretching, and cross training.

One way to prevent an injury is to have proper footwear. To get the right shoe for you and your running style it is best to leave it up to professionals. There are several running stores in the area that will custom measure your feet and fit you into the proper shoe that suits your needs. Whether you have a high arch or are extremely flat footed, there are different shoes for each foot type. By starting out with the proper equipment, plantar fasciitis, stress fractures and neuromas are reduced significantly. Minimalist shoes (shoes that have minimal support or “barefoot” shoes) are becoming popular in the running community and would be most suited for someone that has a strong arch that can support impact with each stride. This would not be a good option for a runner that has flat feet or pronates when running/walking, they would need something with more support. Finally, don’t overuse your running shoes. After 300 to 500 miles of running they do not have the same qualities to help support your feet and you should be getting new shoes at that point. This is about every 3-6 months if you run 20 to 50 miles per week, assuming you are using the shoes only for running.

Another area of focus should be in your pre and post stretching routine. Before your run, the best way to warm up is dynamic stretching which is moving while stretching instead of holding a position. One example of a dynamic stretch would be holding on to something to maintain balance and slowly start swinging your leg back and forth with your leg straight. As you start to loosen up, you will be able to increase the intensity of the movement. This should be performed for 30 repetitions. There are plenty of other dynamic stretches that can help warm you up prior to your run. Following your run, static stretching should be performed. Static stretching is holding a position for a period of time. Typically for runners’ the most important areas to stretch are calves, hamstrings, quads and lateral hips. In our clinic, we have incorporated many of these techniques and have



Michael Demetriades, DPT

customized stretching programs for different athletes depending on their restrictions.

Finally, the last area to help avoid injury is cross training. Constant running without other forms of training can lead to significant weaknesses in other areas of the body that translate to injuries. Some signs and symptoms that runners may experience that are primarily due to a lack of cross training are low back pain, lateral hip pain and knee pain just to name a few. Lower abdominal and gluteal strengthening can be key in keeping a stabile pelvis and decrease chance for developing an abnormal running pattern with muscle imbalances in your body. In our clinic, we see these problems all too often in runners. By adding in pelvic tilt exercises along with hip strengthening exercises such as clams and hip squeezes can help tremendously. Another exercise that can be simple and also help build lateral hip muscles can be walking sideways, side shuffling on a treadmill, or on pavement. Exercises like these would be beneficial to add into a daily program.

These simple but useful tips will help keep you on the road running and help avoid injuries or running through pain.

Michael Demetriades DPT received his doctorate degree from Quinnipiac University. He has experience in working with all ages and injuries. Michael is a previous varsity hockey and baseball player who is well versed in the modern athlete. Amity Physical Therapy was founded by Michael Dow MSPT, CEO/ Director 16 years ago. The practice now has three offices: Branford, Woodridge and Hamden with a new office upcoming in Milford in July. Michael Demetriades can be reached in Branford at (203) 433-4683.

Apartment For Rent

Woodbridge:

Thank you! We're accepting names for our waiting list. Applicants must be 62 or older or disabled. One Bdrm-\$1,118/mo; Two Bdrm-\$1,186/mo incl utilities. On-site laundry, patios with garden area, off-street parking, handicapped accessible. CHFA Financed. EHO. Gibson Assoc., Inc. 175 East Mitchell Ave, Cheshire, CT 06410. Ph: 203-272-3781. TDD 1-800-545-1833 Ext 165

Gibson Assoc., Inc.

175 East Mitchell Ave, Cheshire, CT 06410
Ph: 203-272-3781. TDD: 1-800-545-1833 Ext 165

GRASSY HILL AUCTIONS, AN ESTATE SALE, LIQUIDATION, ATTIC & BASEMENT CLEANOUT COMPANY...

...is Always Buying and providing services all over Connecticut. These are just a FEW of the things we are looking for: Antiques, Collectibles, Old/ Vintage Toys, Musical Instruments (Saxophones, Trumpets, Violins, Flutes, Clarinets, Trombone & SO MUCH MORE) Advertising Items, Wristwatches (Broken or Not), Pocket Watches, Tools (Machinist, Woodworking, & MORE) Doorstops, Clocks, Oil Paintings, Old Signs, Old Photographs, Old Postcards, Brewery Items, Hunting & Fishing, PEZ Dispensers, Costume Jewelry, Broken Jewelry, Gold & Silver Jewelry, Gold & Silver Coins, Military Items, Swords & Bayonets, Helmets & Patches, Medals & Uniforms, Pocket Knives, Lighters & Pipes, Fountain Pens, Mechanical Pencils, Fraternal Order Items, Religious Items, Industrial Items, Winchester Items, Sikorsky Items, Pratt & Whitney Items, Colt Items, Native American Items, Vintage Electronics, Slot Cars, Toy Trucks, Matchbox & Hotwheels, Barbie's, Folk Art, Statues, Bronzes, Trains, Cameras, Mid Century Modern Furniture, Straight Razors, Shaving Items, Political Items, Comic Books, Sports Cards & Autographs... & THE LIST GOES ON! So please give us a call at your earliest convenience.

Grassy Hill Auctions | (203) 868-1816 | GrassyHillAuctions.com

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 OF WOODBRIDGE • LEGAL NOTICE

MATERIALS FOR THIS PUBLIC HEARING MAY BE VIEWED ONLINE:

<https://woodbridgect.org/232/boardofselectmen>

Pursuant to Section 12-632 of the Connecticut General Statutes the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Woodbridge will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 6:30 p.m. via teleconference to receive comments regarding the 2021 Neighborhood Assistance Act Applications. There will be no in-person participation. Audio and video of this Public Hearing will be simultaneously televised on Channel 79 and youtube@wgatv79 in order to allow the public to view and listen to the hearing. The applications may be viewed on the Town website www.woodbridgect.org and are also on file in the Selectmen's Office and may be reviewed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Written comments may be e-mailed to gshaw@woodbridgect.org by 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 9, 2019. Dated at Woodbridge, CT this 28 day of May 2021.

Board of Selectmen, Town of Woodbridge



How To Emphasize Safety When Reopening Your Business

The world is gradually emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. That's good news for small businesses, many of which struggled to stay afloat as social distancing measures and capacity limitations restricted how many customers they could welcome into their establishments.

Reopening a businesses poses a host of new challenges for small business owners, including how to welcome customers back while still employing safety measures designed to keep people safe. Business owners are navigating uncharted waters as economies re-open, so there's no battle-tested playbook to look to for strategies about safely reopening. Some customers may be less willing than others to cooperate with safety protocols, and that can put business owners in awkward, potentially unsafe positions. Business owners who feel threatened or feel their customers are being threatened are urged to contact law enforcement in such situations. In addition, there are other ways to emphasize safety when reopening your business to more customers.

Be proactive. A proactive approach involves being as clear as possible about the rules inside your establishment. Post clear signs about mask-wearing and capacity limits in several easily visible locations throughout the establishment. List such guidelines on the front door of the business so there's no confusion about the policies in place. Business owners who have a list of customer email addresses can send out a mass email informing customers about the policies. Such policies also

can be shared through social media platforms. Explain the reasons behind the policies, such as a goal to protect at-risk employees and kids.

Emphasize de-escalation. Businesses have dealt with unruly customers since the beginning of time, and de-escalation has long been a go-to strategy to successfully address conflict. Employees should be trained in how to de-escalate a situation. Strategies such as speaking calmly and resisting the urge to blame customers can help keep a conflict from boiling over. Business owners can speak with local law enforcement or chambers of commerce for advice on de-escalating conflicts in their establishments.


Provide alternatives. Given how difficult life has been during the pandemic, it's understandable that so many people simply want to put it all in the rearview mirror. But public health agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continue to urge people to keep their guard up a little while longer. Businesses can speak directly with customers who are resisting ongoing safety measures and provide alternatives so they can still get what they need. Continue to offer curbside pickup services and emphasize alternatives to in store shopping, such as buying online or over the phone.

Businesses have waited a long time to fully reopen. Safety should be a part of that reopening, and business owners can employ various strategies to avoid potentially difficult situations with customers as everyone grows accustomed to post-pandemic life.

THE WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS ONLINE


Online Version of the Woodbridge Town News
www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com

SERVICE DIRECTORY




SUSAN NOONAN
Justice of the Peace

Weddings, Vow Renewals & Civil Union Ceremonies

66 Derby Avenue, (RT 34) Orange, CT 06477
Cell: 203.376.8941 Office: 203.397.1616
snoonan66@optonline.net


Better Homes **BANNON & HEBERT**
REAL ESTATE

RITA MATOZZO
Realtor
Ritamatozzo@yahoo.com
O: 203-758-1300x14 M: 203-592-5442
F: 203-577-5356
P.O. Box 907 590 Middlebury Rd
Middlebury, CT 06762
www.bannonandhebert.bhgre.com



An Independently Owned and Operated Franchise.

You Call, We Haul, SAME DAY!

TAMARO
Oil Corporation

38 MARSH HILL RD., ORANGE, CT 06477

 **Serving Woodbridge & Bethany Every Day!**

TAMAROIL.COM 203-795-FUEL(3835)


Orange Historical Society
The Academy Museum
Antique Shop

Open Saturdays 10-3
www.OrangeHistory.org
605 Orange Center Rd.
203-795-3106

DONALD F. OLIVER
HOME IMPROVEMENT, LLC

SPECIALIZING IN
VINYL SIDING • ROOFING • WINDOWS • ADDITIONS

Four Generations of Experience

175 Surrey Drive • Orange, CT 06477
203-795-4404

LICENSE #573494 FULLY INSURED


Sharon Hine
Landscapes, llc

CT HIC-0639623

Landscape Services & Perennial Gardens

Design & Installation • Property Maintenance

Clean-ups • Mulch • Lawns • Trees • Shrubs • Fences • Vegetable Gardens
Stone Work • NOFA/Organic Land Care • Free Consultation • Insured • References

203.668.6315 sharonlandscapes@gmail.com
www.sharonhinelandscapes.com

Senior Homecare By Angels®
Specializing in Live-In and 24-Hour Care

Up to 24 Hour Care • Hygiene Assistance • Meal Preparation
Light Housekeeping • Errands/Shopping • Respite Care for Families
Rewarding Companionship

America's Choice in Homecare.
VisitingAngels®
LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES

203-298-9700
www.visitingangels.com/woodbridge

DUMP RUNS 

High school student with a pickup truck that will take your old mattress, broken furniture, garbage bags, etc. to the dump.

Call or text Owen: 203.430.2443
ASK ABOUT OUR \$50 ORANGE RESIDENT SPECIAL


2021 FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT

Pat Cardozo
2012-2013-2014-2015-2016
2017-2018-2019-2020-2021

Pat Cardozo
Your HouseSOLD Name!
203-824-2177



COLDWELL BANKER
270 Amity Road,
Woodbridge, CT 06525


Woodbridge Town News

Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper


Mailed Free to Every Home in Woodbridge
Mailed Free to Every Business in Woodbridge, Bethany & Westville


YOUR AD HERE
Call Today: **203-553-9062**


Medicare Health Plans

Contact Jason Weeks at
Tzedakah House, LLC

8 LUNAR DRIVE
WOODBIDGE, CT 06525
T: 203-387-2266
E: JWEES@TZEDAKAH-HOUSE.COM





OLD COLONIAL LANDSCAPING
Residential/Commercial Landscape Maintenance

Hire us this season, first cut free

Serving Orange, Milford,
Woodbridge, West Haven and
Derby

203-804-2249

MICHAEL CLARK
OWNER



Business Cards Ads As Little As \$30 Per Issue
2 Issues for \$80 or 5 Issues for \$150 • Reach Every Home and Business in Woodbridge!
Send Your Card & Payment to: Woodbridge Town News, P.O. Box 1126 Orange, CT 06477 or pay online at www.Woodbridgetownnews.com


MEMORIAL DAY
REMEMBER AND HONOR

Goodman Performing Arts Center

Open House Event



Open House

SATURDAY JUNE 12TH
1:00 - 4:00pm

Please join us for a fun and relaxing day of dance exploration.

The day will include:

- Dance demonstrations held every half hour
- Prize Wheel
- Summer Unlimited trial class pass (\$10/wk, new students only)
- Cooling summer refreshments
- And much more!

Open House Special
Early Registration
Discounts for Fall
Classes!

Enjoy a live performance
from our Award-Winning
Dance Team!



FOR MORE DETAILS:
CALL
203-799-7950
OR
EMAIL
INFO@GOODMANPERFORMINGARTSCENTER.COM

Inquire About Summer Offerings!

- Extended June-July & August Class Session
- Fun themed Summer Dance Camps (July)
- Ballet technique Intensives (August)

Fall Session Starts September 13th

Event will be held outdoors to accommodate all guests. We kindly ask that all attendees wear a mask inside for the performances.

200 Boston Post Road Suite 8 Orange, CT 06477 / 203-799-7950
info@goodmanperformingartscenter.com

LOCAL SPORTS

Conn Earns Two Honors at University of New Hampshire

Jordan Conn, a Woodbridge native and former Amity High School hockey and football player, received a pair of academic honors from the University of New Hampshire. Conn was named the Kinesiology Department's Sports Management and Leadership Scholar of the Year for 2020-21.

The junior Sports Studies major has a 3.71 GPA and earlier this spring was inducted into the National College Athlete Honor Society, Chi Alpha Sigma, for student-athletes who achieve a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or higher, achieved at least junior

standing academically and are of good moral character.

Conn, a red-shirt sophomore kicker/punter on the Wildcats' football team roster, played two seasons before the pandemic cancelled last fall. He played one game this spring, booting two PATs and handling kickoffs, before the schedule was suspended.

He also interns in the athletics department's athletics communications office, where his duties include graphic design, social media, writing and serving as the broadcast voice for the UNH women's hockey team.

Woodbridge Town News

CALL TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE!

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

Call Shelly to schedule your furnace tune up today!

Apple Oil Company

7/24/365

A Full Service Oil Company Providing Bio Fuel and Heating Oil Plus!



Granby Ecogard 275 Oil Tank

DOUBLE BOTTOM TANK
INSTALLED \$3,200⁰⁰ + TAX
25 YR. MANU. WARRANTY

OIL TANKS OVER 30 YEARS OLD SHOULD BE REPLACED!

Serving You is Our Core Business



WEIL-McLAIN

We Install and Service All Brands

Boilers
Furnaces
Hot Water Heaters
Oil Tanks

(203) 934-FUEL (3835)



Buy from your Local Neighbor

Sam Livieri – Woodbridge (Owner) • Tony Ferranti – Orange (GM)
Ken Crepeau – Milford (Service Mgr)
Bob Gambardella – Orange (Sales Mgr) call direct at 203-530-6439

Like us on:



WWW.APPLEOIL.com

S1-0302987
HOD 374

How Small Businesses Can Use Tech To Their Advantage

Small businesses are vital cogs in the economy. When taking a stroll down a typical Main Street in the United States and Canada, shoppers are likely to pass an array of eateries and shops offering everything from hand-crafted furnishings and ornaments to floral arrangements and more. These small, privately owned businesses help make communities unique and desirable places to live.

The impact small businesses have on their communities was perhaps never more apparent than during the COVID-19 pandemic, when many business owners were forced to close their doors or limit their hours of operation in an effort to stop the spread of the deadly coronavirus. When small businesses struggle, the ripple effects are considerable and include higher rates of unemployment and less tax revenue for communities. A 2019 report from the Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration found that small businesses accounted for 44 percent of economic activity in the United States. That figure underscores the important role these businesses play.

Supporting locally owned businesses is a great way to accelerate the post-pandemic economic recovery. As important as community support is to the survival of a small business, the people who own those businesses must make a concerted effort to connect with consumers and inspire that support. Technology can help business owners do that in a variety of ways.

Pay attention to mobile rankings. The SEO solutions experts at SEMrush report that roughly 72 percent of domains change rankings by one place on mobile compared to desktop, while 52 percent change by three places. That's a significant dropoff as more and more consumers utilize mobile search engines when shopping. The popularity of mobile searching is something small business owners should take seriously and strongly consider when devising their optimization strategies.

Strengthen your social media presence. A 2020 study from the social media marketing firm Sprout Social found that nine in 10 consumers will buy products from a brand they follow on social media. Small businesses can use that to their advantage by strengthening their social media presence, devoting some time each day to promote their offerings. Businesses also can encourage in-store customers to follow them on social media.

Prioritize customer service. Interactions with a real person will likely always remain consumers' preference when they have questions or concerns about products and services. But that doesn't mean small business owners cannot still expand their customer service offerings to include customer relationship management software (CRM) and chatbots, both of which can improve customer relations.

Small businesses are ingrained in their communities, and can utilize various technologies to become even more so in the years ahead.

www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com

Live Music in the Business District

Sat. June 26 *Isabella Mendes*, bossa nova
Sat. July 24 *Tuxedo Junction*, swing
Sat. Sept. 25 *Washboard Slim*, jug bang
Sat. Oct. 23 *Nu Haven Kapelye*, klezmer

1 pm, on Coachman Square's lawn,
21 Bradley Rd., Woodbridge. Rain date is Sunday.

Presented by United Illuminating in partnership with the Town of Woodbridge
Economic Development Commission and Coachman Square.



Coachman Square
at Woodbridge

The UPS Store



176 Amity Road
Woodbridge, CT 06525
Phone: 203-553-9222
Fax: 203-553-9226
www.theupsstorelocal.com/6360
store6360@theupsstore.com

*What Can We
Print, Design, Pack
Ship, Copy, Fax,
Notarize, Laminate,
or Bind For You?*

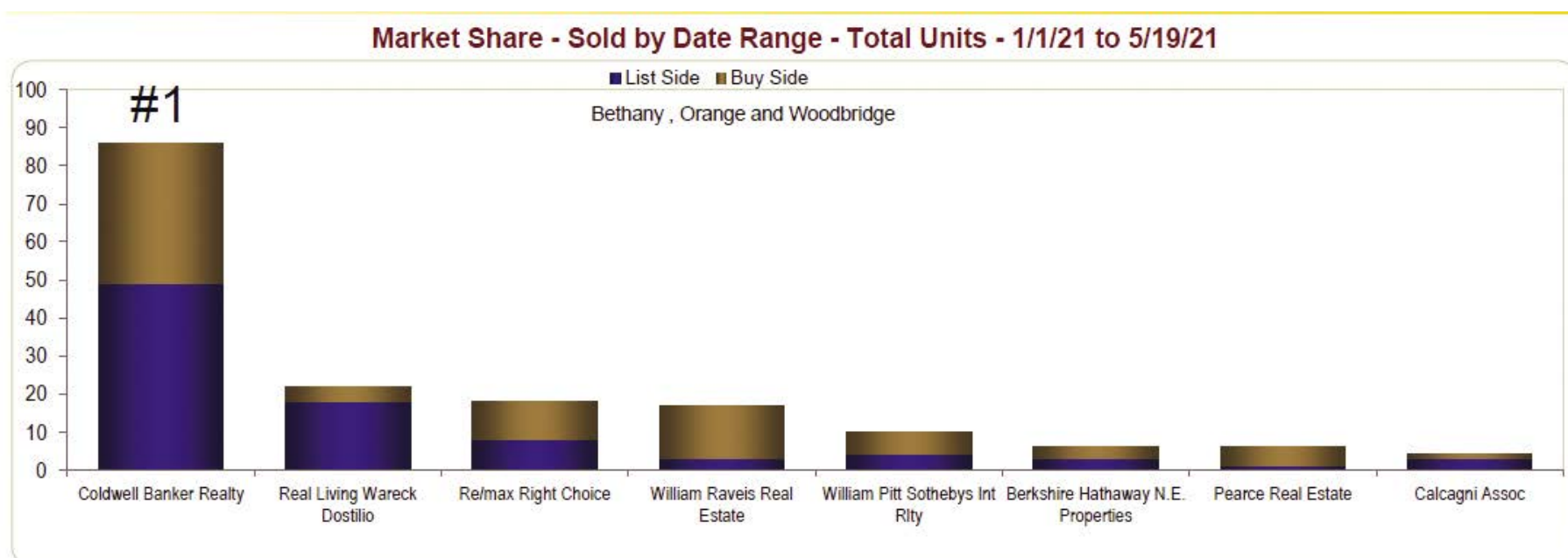


Mailbox Special!
*Rent a mailbox for 12
months and receive
2 additional months
free with this ad!*



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

**MORE BUYERS AND SELLERS CHOOSE COLDWELL BANKER
OVER ANY OTHER REAL ESTATE COMPANY!**



**The Real Estate Market is HOT!
HIGH DEMAND, LOW INVENTORY!
We Need Sellers!!**

**Curious to Know the Value of Your Home?
Time to Cash Out? Call us TODAY!**

Let our 100+ Years of Experience Work for YOU!

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

270 AMITY ROAD, WOODBRIDGE

1673 LITCHFIELD TURNPIKE, WOODBRIDGE

236 BOSTON POST ROAD, ORANGE

203.389.0015 • 203.795.6000

COLDWELLBANKERHOMES.COM

 Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OrangeColdwellBanker

 **Coldwell Banker®
HOME PROTECTION
PLAN** Administered by American Home Shield

Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor agents and are not employees of the Company. The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. ©2017 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Operated by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker Logo are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC.