

Woodbridge Town News



Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper

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FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023

Town Is Looking to Notable Election Season

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The upcoming municipal election can be considered notable not only because this is the first time the town election will be held in November. More importantly, it looks like the election will involve a new crop of candidates.

First Selectman Beth Heller recently announced that she will step aside after six years in that position. At the same time, the Democratic Town Committee announced that former Selectman Mica Cardozo, who recently retired from his job as an AT&T executive, will step up and seek the nomination for the top of the ticket.

It seems that the Republican ticket as well will see a new generation of local leaders, although the party has not officially announced any candidates, pending the caucus vote on July 18.

Marty Halprin, unaffiliated, has filed with the Town Clerk's office that he is seeking the first selectman post. Similarly, Andrea Urbano, also unaffiliated, and Javier Aviles, a Republican, have filed to run for the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman David Lober, an unaffiliated voter who ran on the Republican ticket, is not seeking re-election this year.

Mica Cardozo: Cardozo, a long-time Woodbridge resident, worked as a telecommunications executive and was highly regarded as an innovative and collaborative leader.

If elected, he will be the first person of color to lead the town. In addition to serving as Beth Heller's Deputy First

Selectman for two terms, he has served as chair of the Ordinance Committee. He also served on or worked with the Economic Development Commission, Fire, Agriculture, Government Access Television and Recreation commissions. He currently serves on the town's Police Commission.

"My goal as First Selectman will be to continue to build on that legacy as we create new opportunities to enrich the lives of everyone in our Woodbridge community," he said in a press release. He noted his intention to focus on continuing to grow the Town's grand list which is the key to controlling taxes while providing the great services and outstanding schools that Woodbridge residents expect.

He said he is ready to "tackle head-on the Country Club of Woodbridge property and its future uses." Cardozo noted that "our evolving community brings with it new and creative ideas and opportunities, including addressing the CCW issue with the urgency it demands."

He said he is looking forward to meeting Woodbridge residents in neighborhood get-togethers over the summer. He also plans to attend the summer concerts and to go door-to-door the traditional way.

Heller said the decision not to run again was a difficult one, but it became easier after learning that her two-term Deputy First Selectman, Mica Cardozo, was ready to take on the top leadership role if elected. "Mica has the leadership experience and demonstrated commit-

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Town Solicits Proposals for Country Club Master Plan

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Following up on a vote taken by the Board of Selectmen in July of 2022, the board on June 14 voted unanimously to approve the wording for a Request for Proposal (RFP), looking for a Master Plan for the Country Club of Woodbridge. First Selectman Beth Heller said that in addition to herself, the RFP was worked out with input from Selectmen David Vogel, Sheila McCreven and Paul Kuriakose, and with guidance by Finance Director Anthony Genovese.

According to the RFP, which is posted on the town's website, the town is looking for competitive proposals from qualified consultants "to create a comprehensive plan to provide detailed recommendations regarding the use of the former Country Club of Woodbridge. In addition to being posted on the town's website, the RFP is also posted on the State Department of Administrative Services website. According to Genovese, they are also planning to publish it on other industry websites in the upcoming weeks. "Any proposal should balance 'residents' desires for environmental protection, fiscal responsibility, diverse housing types, active or passive recreational infrastructure and/or opportunities."

The town purchased the approximately 153 acres in 2009 from a private club that was about to go bankrupt, for \$7 million. The purchase included a large clubhouse, several outbuildings, an outdoor pool and tennis facility. It is unclear whether the intention at the time was to prevent any development or prevent uncontrolled development

in order to allow the town to use it for its needs going forward, and that question has been hampering any proposal since.

The history of failed attempts to develop the property is outlined in the RFP: "In 2011 First Selectman Sheehy released an RFP to develop 17 of the 155 acres for housing. The proposal was taken to a Special Town Meeting and rejected by a townwide referendum. In 2014, First Selectman Ellen Scalettar led two community conversations to gather input and ideas from residents about how to use the property. Consultants Milone & MacBroom suggested that the "highest and best use" of the property was housing. First Selectman Scalettar released a RFP for development in 2014 and received two housing proposals. The Board of Selectmen, at the time, were not unanimously in favor of any proposals and none were put to a vote by the public.

"In 2016 the Town also received two proposals to revive the golf course and a third for golf. None were taken to the public for a vote. In 2018 First Selectman Heller conducted a community survey to gauge resident feelings about the property's use. Survey data confirmed that residents are deeply divided on the issue.

"Under First Selectman Beth Heller the Town received a housing proposal in 2019 and another in 2021. Both proposals were withdrawn.

"The Town maintained the pre-existing golf course operation until 2016 and the pool until 2019. The Town

See "Master Plan" On Page 4



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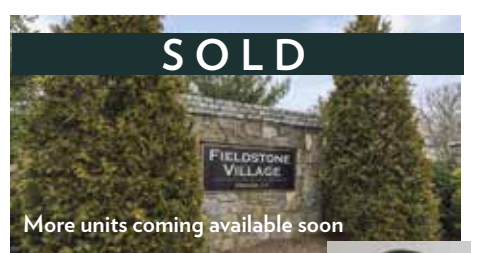
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“Election” From Page 1

ment to our community that will make him the ideal person to serve as Woodbridge’s next First Selectman,” she said.

She is looking back on a truly impressive list of accomplishments. On her list is the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, whose work has included the creation of the popular Woodbridge Like Me Day. Also, she picked up on the work of her predecessor,

Ellen Scalettar, and helped shepherd the privately-funded Woodbridge Dog Park Cooperative. She notes that with the help of the town’s staff and the legislative delegation the town secured over \$6 million dollars in grants for long-needed infrastructure projects.

“This position has been a wonderful journey, she wrote, “and the best way to give back to the town. I promise to remain active as a community volunteer.”





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As Independence Day approaches, we reflect on the concepts of freedom, democracy, unity, and patriotism. We should all consider not just our own freedoms, but also how we can embrace, empower, and protect the liberties of others. In the words of Nelson Mandela, “For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others”. I hope you all have a safe and lovely holiday.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the withdrawal of the last U.S. troops from Vietnam. Woodbridge will hold an event to honor our residents who served in the military during the Vietnam era. The ceremony is scheduled for July 17, 2023, at 5:00 pm at The Woodbridge Center. The event is co-hosted by Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz and the Town. Woodbridge residents who are Vietnam veterans will receive invitations this week.

After many years of hoping and planning, The Woodbridge Center held its long-awaited grand opening on Wednesday, June 21st with a ribbon cutting ceremony. As you might remember, The Center received a Small-Town Economic Assistance Program grant or STEAP Grant, as well as Bond Commission funds and Federal ARPA funds. We are very grateful for all the work that has gone into making this a beautiful, modern, and welcoming center for our residents 55 and older. This highly anticipated and noteworthy event was well attended by many of the staff and volunteers who worked toward this renovation for over a dozen years as well as Woodbridge’s state

From the First Selectman BY BETH HELLER



delegation who helped provide funding for the project.

On June 12th the Town Building Committee for Beecher Road School Capital Projects recommended awarding Silver Petrucelli & Associates (SP+A) a contract for architectural and engineering services. At the June 14th Board of Selectmen meeting, the Board voted unanimously to enter into a contract with SP+A for architectural services for roof replacement, drainage, and site improvements at Beecher Road School. Hiring an architectural firm advances and accelerates this important project.

Also, at the recent Board of Selectmen meeting the Board unanimously approved a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Former Country Club of Woodbridge property. The purpose of this RFP is to receive competitive proposals from qualified consultants to create a comprehensive plan to provide detailed recommendations regarding the use of the former Country Club of Woodbridge.

On another exciting front, the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee has met, set its membership, and completed the following charge: The Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee is advisory to the Board of Selectmen, charged with guiding Town Boards, Commissions, and Departments to further advance the principles of sustainability, equity, and environmental stewardship with-

in and beyond our community while fostering community support and with development of a sustainability plan and management of initiatives to achieve long term sustainability goals for the community, with the goal of becoming a full standing commission by ordinance.

In addition to the folks that were appointed last month, the membership will also include: Barbara Jean Ahern, Alyssa Anderson, Lana Marcucio, and Diana McCarthy-Bercury. With renewed interest in certification, we will have potential for both state and federal grant dollars to come to Woodbridge, as well as Community Matching Funds. Thank you to all the new members, and special thanks to co-chairs Hillary Drumm and Tom Kenefick for their leadership in this wonderful, renewed endeavor.

This past month seemed to be filled with events for children. On May 26th, approximately 100 Beecher Road School 3rd graders, along with their teachers Aimee Meecham, John Hutchinson, Visna Ngov, Nina Triplett, and Mary Vincentorio, came to tour Town Hall to learn about the structure and function of local government as part of the social studies curriculum. They heard from staff from the Tax Collector’s office, the Assessor’s office, and our Town Clerk’s. I also spoke with them about what we do at Town Hall. They then visited the Police Depart-

ment, Library, and the Fire House. I spoke at the Woodbridge Child Care Center graduation, and it was an adorable event with twelve four-year-olds in caps and gowns. Now on to kindergarten for those little ones! I also addressed the Beecher Road School 6th grade graduates at their lovely ceremony at the school.

I presented a citation on behalf of the residents of the Town of Woodbridge, and the Board of Selectmen, to the inaugural Ms. President US Woodbridge winner. Ms. President US is a girls’ civic leadership program which strives to motivate girls to serve in local leadership positions. There are currently 11 Connecticut Towns participating within this non-profit organization.

Woodbridge’s first Ms. President US is Nita Sudhir who is a 5th grade student at Beecher Road School and the daughter of Sudhir Karunakaran and Sumithra Sudhir. Nita’s campaign platform highlighted discouraging litter. To quote the press release, “Nita Sudhir bravely ran independently. She was excited to develop leadership skills and help her town.” We are all so very proud of her.

Additionally, I presented a Woodbridge citation to Bethany resident Pua Ford who has been the Coordinator of the Woodbridge Government Access TV since 2003 and is retiring this month. Pua has kept us accessible and transparent to all of Woodbridge. As she steps down from 20 years of service to the Town, we want to thank her for everything she has done for Woodbridge.

“Master Plan” From Page 1

held an auction to sell furniture and items from the clubhouse in 2019 and the utilities to the 43,000 square foot building have been turned off.”

The consultant will need communication skills, be able to build trust with the public and be willing to interact with educated and engaged stakeholders. “The selected consultant should also demonstrate experience in building consensus, understanding different points of view on a very divisive issue,” the RFP reads.

“Our hope is that the consultant will be helping the town to move forward and come to a consensus,” said Selectman David Vogel at the July 2022 meeting of the Board.

But members of conservation-minded groups such as the Land Trust and Park Association, as well as the Conservation Commission, have not been idle in the meantime. In November of 2022, a member of the Conservation Commission invited the Audubon So-

ciety to perform a habitat assessment, which resulted in a report. They saw some 22 fairly common species (listed below), but the report also speaks of the value of large tracts of forests for the health of the bird population.

“The property is part of a corridor of undeveloped land that connects the Regional Water Authority’s Maltby Lakes Recreation Area, the Yale Golf Course, and surrounding woodlands to the south with West Rock Ridge State Park and other RWA (water company) lands to the north. That corridor is largely forested and has immense value for habitat connectivity within the surrounding urban landscape.”

Cathy Wick, a member of the Land Trust’s Board of Directors, addressed the selectmen at their June meeting to request that the public have the chance to interact with any consultant, and to share with them the report. In a similar vein, former First Selectman Amey Marrella expressed concern that the town will hand the consultant the housing report, but not the report on

bird species. “That would show steerage of a consultant for a particular outcome, which is contrary, I believe, to good government,” she said. While housing may have been a focus of this administration, given the lawsuit pending against the town, Marella reminded the board that open space preservation is also a state goal.

Paul Harrigan, a member of the Conservation Commission, encouraged the selectmen to have the consultant look at each of various options and do an analysis of each one, with data pertinent to Woodbridge, including the scenario of a conservation easement, which would prevent any future development.

If negotiated with groups like the Park Association and the Land Trust, who have offered to pay the town to reimburse it for the development potential, it could mean cash to the town with no expense, he suggested.

Indeed, the RFP is looking for fair and unbiased financial data to help the town make choices about the uses

of the property which are in the best interest of the town.

Proposals must be received by August 18, and a Master Plan will be identified in September.

In addition to being posted on the town’s website, the RFP is also posted on the State Department of Administrative Services website. According to Genovese, they are also planning to publish it on other industry websites in the upcoming weeks.

Birds observed: The report of the Audubon Society noted the following species during its field visit at the Country Club in November of last year: Canada geese, mallard, American black duck, Great blue heron, turkey vulture, belted kingfisher, yellow-bellied sapsucker, red-bellied woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, northern flicker, blue jay, American crow, black-capped chickadee, tufted titmouse, Carolina wren, Northern mockingbird, American robin, American goldfinch, dark-eyed junco, white-throated sparrow, song sparrow, and northern cardinal.

“Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out, because this is your country. This is your democracy. Make it. Protect it. Pass it on.” — THURGOOD MARSHALL

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Woodbridge Town News

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

Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

Upcoming Issue Date

Issue Deadline

September 1 | Labor Day & Back to School Issue..... August 25

September 29 | Fall Issue..... September 22

October 27 | Election Issue..... October 20

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

FROM OUR READERS

Scalatter's Article
Appreciated by Reader

I appreciate Ellen Scaletter's recent article "Are you Woke?" and her efforts to advocate for Woodbridge to become a more diverse, accepting community which welcomes difference. It is easy to truck in stereotype, labeling and give into fear of the other, letting our often toxic national dialogue seep into our local community discourse. The imperative from Rabbi Hillel, "What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow man. The rest is commentary," offers us moderns the charge to truly love your neighbor as yourself. Thanks Ellen for the reminder.

It is not through labels, but through openness to dialogue, kindness and willingness to listen to others, that we will help Woodbridge become a truly special community.
*David Franklin, Member,
Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*

To the Board of
Finance Members

A town-based Health & Wellness Fitness Center is a valuable asset to our community. It provides a facili-

ty to focus on both the personal and physical development of community residents. The joy of working out and meeting with fellow town residents brings family and friends together.

While over the years many fitness facilities have opened and provide excellent workout areas, they are im- personal and do not provide a sense of community. Getting to know your neighbors and interacting with them on a local level can make for a stronger sense of community.

Our town-based Health & Wellness fitness center provides a space that is used by people who would not join oth- er gyms. Many people lead sedentary lifestyles. The larger fitness facilities offer many opportunities and are filled with a wide range of skill levels and are heavily used. For some, however, those fitness facilities may be intimidating. Some are hesitant to join such a facility.

The importance of a communi- ty-based facility is to offer these indi- viduals a setting that is inviting and on a smaller community scale, to find camaraderie as they connect with com- munity members of varied ages, while

See "Letters" On Page 19

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
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OPINION

From the Democratic
Town Committee

BY ELLEN SCALETTAR
WDTC CHAIRMAN



Forward Together

Woodbridge will experience a major transition at the end of this year. First Selectman Beth Heller, who has led our community with a steady hand for six years, will step down and pass the proverbial baton to a successor. Beth’s accomplishments are many—from guiding our community’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic to securing \$6M in grant funding to enable our Town to address long-needed infrastructure improvements, from creating the 2030 Committee to explore Grand List potential and the future vibrancy of the Business District, to establishing a first-ever Town committee focused on celebrating our community’s growing diversity. It is a legacy to be proud of and one that will benefit us all for years to come.

Who will step up to take on this critical leadership role? I am extremely pleased to share that Mica Cardozo, a Woodbridge resident for close to 30 years and an active member of our community, has announced his intention to seek the office of First Selectman. He begins this journey with the resounding support of the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee (WDTC).

Mica knows our community well and our community knows Mica through his active participation in Town activities and Town service. During Beth’s first two terms, Mica served as her Deputy First Selectman. He has served on or worked with the Woodbridge Agriculture, Economic Development, Fire, Government Access Television, and Recreation Commissions, as well as the BOS Ordinance Committee. Mica currently serves on the Woodbridge Police Commission. Mica’s two daughters went through the Beecher and Amity school systems.

In all these roles, Mica has embodied a spirit of collaborative leadership that will ensure that our community continues to grow and thrive for years to come. Promoting good communication, engaging all voices, and exploring and implementing new and refreshed ideas will all be hallmarks of Mica’s service

as First Selectman. His approach will ensure that our community moves Forward Together.

Congratulations, Amity Graduates! The Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee congratulates and commends the Amity Regional High School Class of 2023! Many choose Woodbridge as home because of the outstanding educational opportunities the Town offers our children. Those of you graduating have experienced the benefits of our community’s overwhelming support for our educational system: Beecher Road School and Amity Middle and Senior High Schools.

Register to Vote: Our Municipal Election is November 7th. And here is an important reminder to all Woodbridge residents. If you have not done so, please register to vote. It’s a simple process of tremendous significance. Voting is the bedrock of our democracy.

For many of our graduates, November 2023 will be your first time at the polls. November 2023 is a first for Woodbridge, too: our first municipal election being held in November! (It used to be in May.)

If you are 18 or older, or if you are 17 and will turn 18 on or before November 7, 2023 you can now register to vote online at voterregistration.ct.gov. For more information about becoming a registered voter in Woodbridge, and on voting in all our elections, visit www.woodbridgedems.org/voting.

In this column I have introduced you to Mica Cardozo, who the Woodbridge Democrats are supporting to be our next First Selectman. I hope you will take every opportunity to educate yourself about candidates and issues, for this and all elections ahead.

If you have questions for Mica or for the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee, please send them to communications@woodbridgedems.org. And to learn more about the WDTC, please visit our website: <http://www.woodbridgedems.org>. We look forward to connecting with you!

From Across the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE
WRTC CHAIRMAN



Follow, Or in This Case, Support the Leader

As Woodbridge moves into the municipal campaign cycle, also known as “silly season,” we’d like to remind voters that the local Republicans and our allies have consistently been the source of the best solutions for preserving and leading our town. Candidate slates will be selected and announced in July, with texting, political mail, newspaper ads and other campaign activities to follow. We expect Democratic candidates to claim some of our ideas as their own. On November 7, we hope voters will remember that the Republicans have been focused exclusively on our town all along and have consistently offered the best ideas for advancing Woodbridge.

Already, the announced Democrat candidate for First Selectman has commented that the long-term future of the Country Club of Woodbridge is the biggest issue the Town faces. We agree; indeed, this has been the case since the property was purchased by the Town 13 years ago. The issue became even more obvious when the Democrat administration chose to cancel golfing operations and so stopped the property from generating revenue. Over many years, even the four years when the aforementioned candidate served on the Board of Selectmen, no progress in reaching town consensus was achieved. Instead, the Democrat leadership seemed singularly focused on selling the property for housing while leaving the clubhouse in disrepair. In sharp contrast, the Republicans and our candidates advocated in the campaign 10 years ago that an expert in golf course repurposing should be engaged while the property was still in good shape. The Democrat majority did nothing. Today, the Republican position remains clear – bring in an expert to analyze the multiple ideas that have repeatedly been offered by civic-minded residents and organizations, present the facts in a series of public forums, and see which one makes the most sense to town residents. There should be no predetermination that development is the only answer, and no “shopping” the development idea to multiple town boards as has been the case. It’s time we got serious about achieving consensus on the future of this valuable asset. The Republicans have a clear vision to make that happen.

It’s worth highlighting the blighted condition of the clubhouse, and the related lack of security. Two editions ago this column focused on the mess

that building has become, and offered video evidence. Thank you to the hundreds of residents who logged in to see the video we posted documenting the horrible condition of the building. Our column inspired action, as soon thereafter the Board of Selectmen held an executive session to discuss clubhouse security. While we’re glad the Democrat leadership realized the problem, we wish they had been proactive and avoided the needless deterioration of a valuable asset.

Republicans have pointed out for years that our Town Charter (which serves as our local Constitution) should be updated to better serve Town residents. A recent state law now requires our town to convene a charter revision commission by 2025. The Democrat candidate for First Selectman seems to be jumping on the charter revision bandwagon. However, it appears he was silent on the issue when he served on the Board of Selectmen, even though Republicans at the time were calling for sensible charter revisions such as putting the annual town budget to a vote by referendum, rather than the antiquated town meeting process. Republicans remain strong in our push for an annual budget referendum. We also continue to argue that our Board of Finance should be elected, not appointed. Voters, please note that candidates advocating charter revision should specify what potential changes should be on the agenda of a Charter Revision Commission. It is disturbing that this topic reached the lips of a Woodbridge Democrat only when it came from “the top,” in this case, a Hartford statute. There was nothing preventing the formation of a charter revision commission years ago, except for the desire of the majority party to maintain the status quo. We need leadership that recognizes issues and takes action, not leadership that “waits for orders.”

One last point for readers. Think back to previous editions and the topics covered by my counterpart in the column opposite this one, then consider what we cover here. Republicans are focused on identifying important Woodbridge issues – and only Woodbridge issues – and offering solutions. The other column has been literally all over the map discussing national, state, and social issues. As the “silly season” progresses, we ask you to remember who’s been with you on important local issues all along, and who will lead the way moving forward.



WOODBIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Amity Middle School Bethany Students Receive SCASA Award

On April 28, 2023, two students from each school in the Amity Regional School District No. 5 were chosen to receive the South Central Area Superintendents' Association (SCASA) Award Recognition Program for the school year. Based on the following leadership skills and the following criteria the students were selected:

- › Willingness to take on challenges;
- › Capability to make difficult decisions;
- › Concern for others;
- › Ability to work with others;
- › Willingness to commit to a project;
- › Diplomacy;
- › Ability to understand

issues clearly;

› Ability to honor a commitment.

"The Superintendent – Student Award/Recognition Program is designed to allow the superintendents to move beyond the academic achiever who routinely receives recognition, and to use their discretion and understanding of students to reach a wider spectrum, not often – or perhaps never considered as starts. Recipients might include students with disabilities, vocation or alternative school students. However, recipients are a local choice".

Amity is proud to announce the following students from Amity Middle School Bethany are Jeeyoo Kim and Eason Ni pictured with Principal Dr. Jason Tracy and Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Byars.



Amity Students Receive SCASA Award

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Amity is proud to announce the following students from Amity Regional High School are Benjamin Aviad and Aarushi Trivedi both of Woodbridge pictured with Principal Andre Hauser and Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Byars.

Arnott Awarded Jim Sawyer Scholarship

Jude Arnott of Bethany, CT was awarded the Jim Sawyer Scholarship by Montserrat College of Art this spring despite the postponement of the annual Student Showcase Ceremony until next fall.

Arnott is a member of Montserrat's class of 2026.

Montserrat's Student Showcase recognizes and honors the accomplishments of Montserrat students. Normally the event includes both visual and literary art forms for the enjoyment of the entire college community, the public, alumni, parents, and friends of Montserrat College of Art.

Though the event itself has been rescheduled for the fall, the college's academic departments wished to recognize and reward students for their accomplishments.

Montserrat College of Art is a private, residential college of visual art educating the designers, artists, entrepreneurs for a rapidly changing world that requires creative solutions to new challenges. At the intersection of art, design and technology, the college offers three international programs, 12 concentrations and a required internship program. Montserrat alumni are employed by some of the country's biggest brands including Disney, Puma, Hasbro and more. Students earn the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and develop their skills for success in today's growing creative economy. The college also offers year-round classes for youth, teens and adults through its Continuing Education Division, and has four public galleries offering year-round, free, exhibitions and lectures. Montserrat is "Where Creativity Works." www.montserrat.edu

Recreation News



2023 Summer Concert Series

Summer Concerts will be held on Tuesday evenings in July, from 6 to 8 pm, at Woodbridge Town Green. The first concert will be held on Wednesday, July 5th due to the July 4th holiday. July 5 will be the Lamar Peters – Elvis Presley tribute show. July 11 features Jukebox 45 Show Band – CT's premier 50s & 60s oldies doo-wop show band. July 18 features West Rock – classic rock. July 25 is the Rumrunners – party rock/classic rock. In case of inclement weather, check woodbridgect.org for rain date information.

Summer Camp

There is still time to register For Woodbridge Recreation Summer Camp! Camp will run June 26 through August 4, 9 am - noon at Beecher Road South School for campers entering grades 1-8. Camp offers a wide range of activities including arts and crafts, drama, fitness, and more. Register for summer camp online at woodbridgect.org, click recreation, and then click online registration.

Camp (Grade 1-8): Residents [Non-Residents]

- › 6 Weeks: \$600 [\$650];
- › 5 Weeks: \$550 [\$600];
- › 4 Weeks: \$500 [\$550];
- › 3 Weeks: \$450 [\$500];
- › 2 Weeks: \$375 [\$450];
- › 1 Week: \$275 [\$400].

Summer Yoga & T'ai Chi

T'AI- CHI – Thursday evenings. 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in room 16 at the Center Building– Adults – ongoing registration.

YOGA – with Bill Banick- Adults –Daily mornings 8:30 am to 9:45 am, and Tuesday evenings available 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm. Ongoing registration. New sessions run from June 1– August 31 in room 16 at the Center building.

GENTLE YOGA— with Diane King-- Monday and Wednesday morning classes 10:30 am to 11:45 am, and Monday evening classes available, 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm– ongoing registration. Current Monday session: May 1– June 26. Current Wednesday session: May 3-June 28. All classes take place in room 16 in the Center Building.

For registration information, please visit <https://secure.rec1.com/CT/woodbridge-ct/catalog>.

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WOODBIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Frederick Miller Completes Intensive Research Project

Frederick Miller, a member of the class of 2023 majoring in Data Science and Mathematical Sciences at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), recently completed a senior thesis that is required of all graduating seniors as part of the university’s distinctive project-based educational experience. The project, Deep Learning for RBSDEs, was Frederick’s Major Qualifying Project (MQP), one that is usually team-based and often focuses on very specific issues or needs of an organization that has partnered with the university to sponsor the student’s work.

“It’s inspiring to see the creativity and skills that our students bring to these projects, as well as the professionalism with which they present their research,” says Arne Gericke, interim dean of undergraduate studies and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. “Their experience managing a major project like this—including identifying a problem and researching all of the implications and possible solutions while also managing team dynamics over an extended period of several months—sets them up well for success not only in their first jobs after graduation but throughout their careers.”

A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, project-based learning offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to real problems that affect the quality of people’s lives—an experience that changes the student and their world. In addition to providing tangible work experience that proves valuable to employers, MQPs often lead to publications in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at regional and national conferences, patents, and entrepreneurial ventures. Others become useful innovations and

products for their corporate sponsors. Prior to their MQP, students complete an Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP), usually in their junior year, with a team of other students across disciplines; the projects may or may not relate to the students’ fields of study and are sponsored by organizations across the globe to give students real-world experience addressing problems that lie at the intersection of science and society. Approximately 85% of WPI students complete a project at one of the university’s 50+ off-campus project centers located in more than 30 countries around the world.

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI’s pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 70 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu



Woodbridge First Selectman Beth Heller presents a citation on behalf of the residents of the Town of Woodbridge, and the Board of Selectmen, to the inaugural Ms. President US Woodbridge winner. Ms. President US is a girls’ civic leadership program which strives to motivate girls to serve in local leadership positions. There are currently 11 Connecticut Towns participating within this non-profit organization. Woodbridge’s first Ms. President US is Nita Sudhir who is a 5th grade student at Beecher Road School. Nita’s campaign platform highlighted discouraging litter.



Beth Heller presented a Woodbridge citation to Bethany resident Pua Ford who has been the Coordinator of the Woodbridge Government Access TV since 2003 and is retiring this month. Pua has kept Town government accessible and transparent to all Woodbridge residents. Ms. Heller offered thanks on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and the entire community. The town-specific government access television channel shows on the cable channel 79, only in Woodbridge, CT, as well as FrontierTV (U-Verse) on its own channel 6109 as “Woodbridge Government Access TV.”





Achievements
Lasell University

Newton, MA - Caelan Watson, a Lasell University student from Bethany, CT, participated in the institution’s annual Connected Learning Symposium in April. Each presentation demonstrates a particular set of core career competencies listed by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) as being in high demand in the workforce. Watson presented their senior graphic design practicum portfolio at Lasell’s Yamawaki Art Center. The presentation incorporated the NACE competencies of professionalism, career and self development, and equity and inclusion.

Dean’s/President’s List
Bucknell University

Lewisburg, PA - Bucknell University has released the dean’s list for outstanding academic achievement during the Spring semester of the 2022-23 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean’s list recognition. Ellie Luciani, 2023, Markets, Innovation & Design and Will O’Brien, 2026, Undeclared have been named to the Spring Dean’s List.

Fairfield University

Fairfield, CT - The following Fairfield University students from Bethany received Dean’s List Honors for the Spring 2023 semester: Danielle Grosso and Saunder L. Saffran.

The following Fairfield University students from Woodbridge received Dean’s List Honors for the Spring 2023 semester: Claire D. DeGennaro, Abigail J. Ressler, and Allyson G. Skolnick.

In order to be placed on the Dean’s List, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester, have no outstanding or incomplete grades for that semester, and have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better.

Goodwin University

East Hartford, CT - Lindsey Deleo,

from Woodbridge, CT, has earned a spot on the Goodwin University Dean’s List for Spring 2023 as well as the President’s List for Spring 2023. 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. Lindsey’s inclusion in the President’s List came about due to her score of a perfect 4.0 GPA. Goodwin University congratulates Lindsey on making both the Dean’s List and the President’s List demonstrating such a high standard of excellence in the classroom and beyond!

Iowa State University

Ames, IA - More than 9,800 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the spring semester Dean’s List. Students named to the Dean’s List must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work. Jason Christopher Luciani, of Woodbridge, 4, Mechanical Engineering was named to the Spring 2023 Dean’s List.

Lasell University

Newton, MA - Caelan Watson, a Lasell University student from Bethany, CT, was named to the dean’s list for their academic performance in the spring 2023 semester. The spring 2023 dean’s list includes students who have completed at least 12 credits as a full-time student in that semester and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Lehigh University

Bethlehem, PA – Dean’s List status, which is awarded to students who earned a scholastic average of 3.6 or better while carrying at least 12 hours of regularly graded courses, has been granted to Ethan Lavi in the Spring 2023 semester.

Miami University

Oxford, OH - Arielle Likier was named to the Dean’s list at Miami University for the 2023 spring semester. Miami University students who are ranked in the top twenty percent of undergraduate students within their division for the spring semester 2023 have been named to the Dean’s list recognizing academic performance. Likier, from Woodbridge, CT, is earning a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

SUNY New Paltz

New Paltz, NY - SUNY New Paltz is proud to congratulate Benjamin Lee of Woodbridge, CT, for being named to the Dean’s List for the spring 2023 semester. Well done! Dean’s List designation is reserved for students who excel academically and earn at least a 3.3 grade-point average in a semester with a full-time course load.

University of Wisconsin–Madison

Madison, Wis. - The University of Wisconsin–Madison has recognized students named to the Dean’s List for the spring semester of the 2022-2023 academic year. Elana Bershtein, of Woodbridge, College of Letters and Science, has been named to the Dean’s List. To be eligible for the Dean’s List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.

William & Mary

Williamsburg, VA - Ava Gross from Woodbridge, CT was recently named to the Dean’s List at the College of William & Mary for the spring 2023 semester. In order to achieve Dean’s List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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

Graduations
Bucknell University

Lewisburg, PA - Bucknell University celebrated over 800 graduates from the Class of 2023 on Sunday, May 14, 2023. The class represents over 60 majors across Bucknell’s three colleges (Arts & Sciences, Engineering and the Freeman College of Management). Ellie Luciani from Woodbridge is a 2023 Bucknell University graduate.

Clark University

Worcester, MA - Brynn Keevil, of Woodbridge, CT, received a degree from Clark University during the University’s 119th Commencement

exercises on Sunday, May 21. Keevil graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Community Youth & Education Studies.

Duke University

Durham, NC - Thomas A. Livesay of Woodbridge, CT recently graduated magna cum laude from Duke University Pratt School of Engineering. At graduation, he was presented with the Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science Faculty Award.

Fairfield University

Fairfield, CT - The following Bethany Fairfield University students graduated from Fairfield University, May 2023: Timothy Amarante, Christiana Ferencz, Danielle Grosso and Benjamin Wisniewski.

The following Woodbridge Fairfield University students graduated from Fairfield University, May 2023: Claire DeGennaro and Evan Donahue.

At the time of graduation, a student must have earned a minimum of 120 credits and completed at least 38 three- or four-credit courses, depending on the course of study, and have an overall grade point average of 2.0 or better at the conclusion of the senior year.

Iowa State University

Ames, IA - Nearly 4,600 graduates received degrees from Iowa State University this spring. Graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies were held May 11-13 at Hilton Coliseum. Jason Luciani, of Woodbridge, graduated with a Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, Summa Cum Laude.

Lasell University

Newton, MA - Caelan Watson of Bethany graduated Magna Cum Laude from Lasell University with a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design. Graduates were recognized at the University’s 169th Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 13.

Salve Regina University

Newport, RI - Joseph DiReinzo of Woodbridge, CT was awarded a bachelor of science degree in Marketing magna cum laude during Salve Regina University’s 73rd commencement.

William & Mary

Williamsburg, VA - Paul Johnson from Bethany, CT recently graduated from the College of William & Mary with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Worcester, MA - On Saturday, May 13, Frederick Miller, of Woodbridge, CT, who majored in Data Science and Mathematical Sciences, was bestowed a bachelor’s degree at WPI’s 154th Commencement.

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BY NANCY PFUND



Amity Middle School students create unique masterpieces at recent Paint Party

Woodbridge Job Bank Seeks Teens Who Want Work

The Job Bank in Woodbridge offers occasional jobs to teen residents (ages 13 – 18) who would like to work for Woodbridge residents to earn money. Youth Services provides an opportunity to learn about the interview process, safety on the job, and how to negotiate pay. Improve your communication skills and gain experience. Do yard work, babysitting, dog walking, etc. Call for an interview at 203-389-3464 or e-mail npfund@woodbridgect.org.

Job Bank Helps Residents

Woodbridge residents who wish to hire someone for odd jobs like babysitting, yard work, moving boxes, animal care, etc. Save your energy and keep teens working to gain experience. Call 203-389-3464 for more information.

Spring Paint Party

Youth Services recently hosted a paint party at Amity Middle School with instructor Darcee LoPresti from

Picasso Parties. Students had a great time using their own creativity to create sea turtle paintings and unique designs with advice from our artist. Of course, there were great conversations and many snacks to enjoy.

Youth Services Support PTSO Eighth Grade Dance

Youth Services and the Town of Bethany helped support the AMSB PTSO with their Eighth Grade Graduation Dance. Graduates dressed to impress and had an evening to remember at Blackhawk Country Club in Stratford. There were outdoor games, teen foods, and a DJ who kept pumping all the teen favorites. The energy was palpable as the dancing continued. The PTSO worked hard to offer this celebration.

Call 203-389-3429 or email npfund@woodbridgect.org or youthone@woodbridgect.org for information or to sign up for programs. Like us on Facebook: <https://facebook.com/WoodbridgeYouthServices.CT>

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AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



Left: Sarah Mach, Whitney Rehabilitation and Health Care Center and Jessica Esposito, Woodbridge Senior Center, help distribute 95 lunches at the June Father's Day Drive-thru Luncheon. The Father's Day Luncheon was sponsored by Whitney Rehabilitation and Health Care Center and Coachman Square. Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center provided a traditional (deconstructed) root beer float. **Right:** Participants create surprisingly easy marbled mug designs with nail polish at the May workshop provided by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center



Contact The Woodbridge Center: More information on available programs and services can be found on The Center's page of the Town Website. Please go to SchedulesPlus <https://schedulesplus.com/woodct> to directly sign-up for most programs. Call 203-389-3430 or email kmoriarty@woodbridgect.org with questions or for more information.

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

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

We are back IN The Center!

Stop by and see the newly renovated Center anytime Monday through Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm to sign up to become a Center member and receive a free membership card, pick up a newsletter/calendar for upcoming activities and events, enter for a chance to win one of two Carmine's Di Vega \$25.00 gift certificates, and receive a commemorative pen while supplies last.

The renovated Center includes a new HVAC system with air filtration, new reception office, hot coffee and tea available all day, a private consultation office for meeting with the Human Services Social Worker or with a nurse during the "Ask the Nurse" program (more information below), a new audio-visual system which includes a new sound system, projector, and screen (funded by a federal grant awarded by Agency on Aging of South Central CT and fund-raising dollars raised at the Human Services' Living Treasure Events), and much more.

The first display on The Center's new art wall will be creations from members of The Center's Painting with Pleasure program as well as local artist and instructor Carole Abbate.

All activities and programs, except pickleball, will meet in The Center beginning Thursday, June 22. Aerobic and Tai Ji participants will meet in the Center

Café during the summer months to utilize the air-conditioned space.

Upcoming Programs Flip-Flop Wreath Craft

Thursday, June 29, 11 am – 12 pm
The Center Café

This workshop, sponsored by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, will provide everything required to make a flip-flop wreath for summer. Please RSVP with The Center 203-389-3430.

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, July 12
Van leaves The Center at 11:30 am or meet at Dockside Seafood & Grill at 12 pm

Join in a social outing to lunch at the Dockside Seafood & Grill in Branford. Self-pay for your meal at the restaurant. \$3.00 per person for round-trip van transportation (or meet at the restaurant). Call The Center to RSVP by July 6.

Sweeney Todd on Broadway

Saturday, October 21
Bus departs The Woodbridge Center at 9:00am with no additional stops
RSVP with The Center by July 13 – space is limited

The Demon Barber of Fleet Street returns to Broadway! Take a Coach Bus to see Sweeney Todd on Broadway on October 21. Price includes ticket, orchestra three seating and transportation. Enjoy some time wandering the city and/or grabbing lunch. Doors open at 1:00 pm with the show starting at 2:00 pm. Bus departs immediately following the show. Must reach minimum for trip to run. Please RSVP by July 13.

In-person Lunch resumes!

For everyone 55 and older
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12-1 pm beginning Tuesday, July 18
The Center Café

Enjoy a delicious lunch while socializing with friends old and new in the recently renovated Center. Stop by while doing errands, in between programming, or make a lunch date with a friend. Lunch includes a choice

of hot entrée with sides or a cobb salad, roll, dessert, and coffee/tea or water. Entrées for July and August (alternate each day is a Cobb salad): 7/18 Baked Manicotti, 7/20 Herb Roasted Turkey, 7/25 Stuffed Flounder, 7/27 Annual Indoor Picnic, 8/1 Chicken Marsala, 8/3 Meatloaf, 8/8 Crab Stuffed Tilapia, 8/10 Summer Luncheon in the Grove, 8/15 Beef Burgundy, 8/17 Seafood Newburg, 8/22 Turkey Pot Pie, 8/24 Baked Ziti, 8/29 Stuffed Peppers, and 8/31 Baked Fish with crumb topping.

The price of lunch is \$5.00 for residents, \$6.00 for non-residents, with a \$1.00 additional fee for take-out. Please RSVP with The Center 203-389-3430 by noon the day before.

Popcorn and a Movie

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 pm beginning Tuesday, July 18
Tuesdays in The Center Lounge
Thursdays in The Center Café

View a variety of movie genres from recently released to classics on Tuesdays and Thursdays while having some freshly popped popcorn at The Center.

July and August movies: 7/18 Where the Crawdads Sing, 7/20 Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, 7/25 Knives Out, 7/27 1:30 start - Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, 8/1 Air, 8/3 Breakfast at Tiffany's, 8/8 Ticket to Paradise, 8/10 1:30 start - Singing in the Rain, 8/15 Glass Onion, 8/17 The Secondhand Lions, 8/22 Book Club, 8/24 Barefoot in the Park, 8/29 Game Night, and 8/31 Jersey Boys.

Hands-Only CPR & AED Training

Wednesday, July 19, 10 am – 12 pm
The Center Café

This free training opportunity is offered through the American Red Cross and Yale New Haven Health. Hands-on learning is included in this program that will teach life-saving skills to recognize the signs of cardiac arrest, perform CPR on adults and children, and utilize an AED. Please RSVP with The Center 203-389-3430.

Annual Indoor Summer Picnic – once again IN

the Center Café!

Thursday, July 27, 12-1 pm
The Center Café

Enjoy live music by Pierce Campbell and BBQ at its best with the Woodbridge Police Department Grill Masters serving up BBQ chicken, hot dogs, and hamburgers. Summer salads, and dessert will also be served. This free event is co-sponsored by The Woodbridge Police Department and the law firm of Resnik & Resnik. Please RSVP by July 20. Space is limited.

Ask the Nurse RETURNS!

2nd Tuesday of the month beginning September 12, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Center Consultation Office

The popular Ask the Nurse Program will resume on the second Tuesday of the month from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm, beginning in September, utilizing the new private consultation office. Blood pressure screenings, weight checks, and more will be available.

Regular Programs Exercise

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

Aerobics Class with Laura Richling

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 am

The Center Café through August 31, then in the Center Building gymnasium

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

Indoor Pickleball

Monday through Friday, 12:30-3:30 pm
Center Building Gymnasium

All levels are welcome. There is an annual fee of \$20 for residents, \$25 for non-residents. The annual fee includes outdoor play as well. Please make sure your dues are current. Call The Center 203-389-3430 for more information.

HUMAN SERVICES



Left: Gerry Shaw, Executive Assistant to Woodbridge’s First Selectman, receives her bi-valent booster during the recent COVID-19 vaccine clinic sponsored by CT Department of Public Health and Griffin Health. Human Services will be holding flu clinics this fall. Stay tuned for more information. **Center:** Goodbye Yellow Brick Row! The final touches are being put in place as The Center prepares for its opening. All programming will be moved back into The Center beginning June 22. Stop by The Center weekdays between 9 am and 4 pm to receive more information on programming, meals, transportation, and special events. You may also sign up for email blasts, check out the website, or its Facebook page. **Right:** Meagan Acampora and her daughter Grace Acampora deliver a large food donation to Woodbridge Human Services following Trinity Evangelical Free Church’s Women’s Ministry Brunch and food collection in June.

5th Annual Living Treasure Event
– call for nominations: The Human Services Department will hold its 5th annual Living Treasure event on September 14th at 5:30 pm. The event will honor residents age 60 or over who have demonstrated positive actions to improve the quality of life in Woodbridge, have contributed and may continue to contribute their time to enhance our community, and have performed this work on a volunteer, unpaid basis. Nomination forms, available on the Town Website, in the Human Services Department, and in the library, must be completed and returned by July 27th to Woodbridge Human Services.
This wonderful community-building

event, which honors older Woodbridge residents also serves as the primary fundraising event for The Woodbridge Center. Members of the community are welcome to join the event planning committee which meets frequently through the upcoming months. Please contact Jeanette Glicksman at 203-389-3429 to volunteer, to contribute, or to join the committee. Donations of gift certificates to local businesses are welcome!
#Thanks to the ADA campaign:
July 26 marks the 33rd anniversary of the passage of historic civil rights law protecting people with disabilities. To celebrate the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) you

can share a moment in your life when you were thankful for the ADA.
To share your thanks, choose a social media platform and use the hashtag #ThanksToTheADA to share what the ADA means to you. Share any media of your choice (video, picture, written word, or other) and include #ThanksToTheADA.
For more information, please call 203-389-3429 to speak with the Town’s certified ADA coordinator Jeanette Glicksman.
Food Pantry: Residents in need may contact Human Services for access to non-perishable food each month. The food pantry is currently looking for donations of canola/olive oils, ground

coffee, baking mixes/snacks, salad dressing, deodorants, and laundry detergent. Kindly check all expiration dates prior to drop-off.
Got Yarn? The Woodbridge Center’s craft group is looking for donations of new, clean yarn for projects they donate to Human Services and other agencies.
Emergency Preparedness: In the event of a weather emergency or power outage, older residents and those with disabilities are encouraged to register for the Emergency Call List by calling the Human Services Department at 203-389-3429. The Department will provide outreach to all on the list prior to anticipated emergencies.



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ARTS & LEISURE



Sperry Falls Trail Group

Trails

BY ANDREW DANZIG

Woodbridge is blessed to have much open space for the enjoyment of its residents and visitors be they human, furry, winged or other. Within these spaces are over a dozen designated areas that contain 35+ miles of recreational trails that allow access to fields, streams, waterfalls, wetlands, historic sites, interesting geology, and spectacular views throughout the year. Trail maps are available for free in the main hallway in Town Hall and also online at woodbridgetrails.org or <https://woodbridget.org/209/Trail-Maps>.

The trails are maintained by the Woodbridge Land Trust, the Woodbridge Parks Association and the Town. Trees and limbs fall across the path during storms or as trees die, branches and brambles encroach as they grow, and boardwalks deteriorate over time. Keeping this vast network of trails accessible for recreational use requires an immense amount of work, most of which is performed by volunteers.

Monthly trail cleanup/maintenance events began late last year. Notable accomplishments to date include rerouting the spur trail from Oak Hill Lane to the Fitzgerald Tract, re-establishing the White trail from Rimmon Road to the Fitzgerald Tract, clearing and reblazing the Orange trail from Cassaway Road to the Regional Water Authority trails, resetting the boardwalk on the Blue trail near Ranch Road, and clearing the trail to Sperry Falls and the nearby historic home foundation.

Trail events are usually scheduled for the second Sunday of each month from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm. A different trail location is tackled each month. People of all ages volunteer, including skilled woodsmen, novices, boy and girl scouts, students earning service hours, and families with children. Everyone is able to work within their own capabilities; there is always something for everyone. Volunteers should wear sturdy footwear and work

gloves. Leather gloves and safety glasses are recommended as some plants have thorns. Dress for the weather, bring water, bug spray and a desire to have fun. Useful tools to bring include pruning saws, pruners, loppers, pick or mattock, and a spade. Thanks to the generosity of the Woodbridge Conservation Commission, a limited number of Trail Master tools will be available for use also.

At each trail event, everyone is encouraged to learn something new or teach something to others, be it pruning skills, native and invasive plant identification, bird calls or anything else. One of the greatest impediments to enjoyment of our wonderful open space is the proliferation of invasive plants that crowd out native plants and drastically alter local ecology. It is hard to find any trail where barberry, burning bush, bittersweet vines and multiflora rose are not taking over huge swaths of land. All of these plants produce large amounts of fruit (berries) which are readily consumed and spread by birds, many originally from residential landscapes. It is important to be able to identify these and other invasive plants, and to remove them from your own property. This will help stem their proliferation into public spaces. There are numerous native plants available to replace them that will enhance your own landscape. If you don't want to wait for an in-field tutorial at a monthly event, there are many resources available online. A good place to start is the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (cipwg.uconn.edu).

If you would like to volunteer to help maintain the trails or to report any issues with the trails, please visit <http://woodbridgetrails.org/> or contact the Trail Master at trailmaster@woodbridget.org.

Andrew Danzig has been the Woodbridge Trail Master since 2019 and is a UConn certified Advanced Master Gardener.



Bion Harrington

BU Expands Woodbridge Novelist's Literary Collection

Boston University began collecting Woodbridge author Russ Madison's books and manuscripts over the past four decades. The Mugar Memorial Library's Special Collections Division, devoted to archival preservation of literary works by global writers and artists, was attracted to Madison upon the publication of his first novel, "Victory Among the Insane," from Grove Press. The book received national critical acclaim and proceeded to outsell all previous Grove first novels.

Over the years Madison has produced a number of novels and poetry. He recently won the national Ruth Stone Poetry Prize from the Vermont College of Fine Arts, and has been awarded a fellowship in residency at the Provincetown Creative Arts Work Center. The latter was awarded to complete a long forty- year project "City in the Sky", a fantasy biography of the late novelist Norman Mailer.

Currently he is completing four new novels, mostly written on rolls of paper towels, scrolled through electric typewriters, a personal writing process he has chosen to undertake for decades. Some of the rolls are part of his Boston University Collection.



Russ Madison

The new, expanded additions at BU include years of correspondence with the late, former poet laureate, Donald Hall of Hamden, and the deceased Norman Mailer.

Madison continues to produce creative campaigns for clients, along with his Art Director wife Gi, at their Lone Wolf Advertising office in Woodbridge.

Some of his books may be available at the Woodridge Library, or can be accessed, both new and used, on Amazon.com or similar search engines.

“Woodbridge Center” From Page 13

Outdoor Pickleball

Daily
Outdoors on the Town Courts

All levels are welcome. There is an annual fee of \$20 for residents, \$25 for non-residents. The annual fee includes indoor play as well. Please make sure your dues are current. Call The Center 203-389-3430 for more information.

Hobbies/Social

All activities will meet in The Center beginning Thursday, June 22

Bridge

Wednesdays, 1-4 pm
The Center Cafe

Seasoned bridge players are welcome to play bridge every Wednesday in the Center Cafe. Please call prior to initial play.

New name: Stitch Craft

(previously called the Craft Group)
Tuesdays and Thursdays,
10 am - 12 pm
The Center Lounge

Bring your current knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, or other project to work on while having a lively time socializing. This entertaining group even came up with a theme song for their newly chosen group name. Stop by to meet this fun group!

Pinochle

Thursdays, 1:30-4 pm
The Center Lounge

Anyone interested in playing pinochle, or learning to play pinochle, is invited to join the pinochle group on Thursdays from 1:30-4 pm in the Center Lounge. Call 203-389-3430 for more information.

Services offered
(for Woodbridge residents only):
Computer Lab

The computer lab houses multiple computers and laptops in room 11 of the Center Building Human Services corridor. The lab is open Monday through Friday, 10 am - 2 pm. Print-out is available (first 5 pages free). No

advanced registration is necessary. Please be sure to check in at the kiosk with your membership card. Come to the reception desk in The Center if a membership card is needed or call The Center 203-389-3430 for more information.

Transportation

Those 60 years of age and older, or who are temporarily or permanently disabled, may call to arrange car or wheelchair accessible van transportation to medical appointments to 17 surrounding towns, local grocery shopping, banking, pharmacy pick-up, and social engagements. This service is provided Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm based on availability. Appointments may be made up to three months in advance. Vehicles are cleaned between each use.

Delivered Meals

Healthy, well balanced, flash frozen meals for \$5.25/meal are available. Order by noon on Monday for delivery to your home during the same week. Choose from a wide variety of options including meat lasagna, chicken marsala, flounder Florentine, and herb roasted turkey. Meals include a roll, fresh fruit, and dessert. Two meal minimum order with a ten-meal limit. See The Center’s page on the Town website for a complete list of offerings. A wide variety of frozen soups are also available for \$1.50 per 10 oz. container.

Friendly Visitor Program

Call the Human Services Social Worker at 203-389-3429 to arrange for a friendly visitor.

Medical Loan Closet

Durable medical equipment, including walkers, wheelchairs, knee rollers, shower chairs, and more, is available for lending. Donations of transport chairs are needed. Call for details.

Job Bank

Residents may call Nancy Pfund, Youth Services Director, at 203-389-3429, to hire a student worker. Schedule now for yard clean-up, party assistance, baby-sitting, and more.

LOCAL SPORTS



Amity Youth Lacrosse
Congratulates Teagan Rahn

WINNER OF THE 2023 ‘PLAY FOR RAY’ AWARD!

Raymond Heenie, Jr. was the beloved 13-year-old son of Marisol and the late Raymond Heenie and the little brother to his older sister, Lauren.

In March of 2021, Ray suddenly passed away at his home due to SUDEP: Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy. Raymond was an 8th grade student at the Amity Middle School where he played hockey for Yale and lacrosse for Amity Youth Lacrosse.

All who knew Ray remember him as a kind friend and fantastic teammate. In honor of Ray, Amity Youth

Lacrosse introduced the annual ‘Play for Ray’ award. The recipient of this award is chosen each year by the 8th grade coaches. It is a player who embodies the team, someone who always has a positive attitude, has the ability to lift the team, and someone who has shown utmost sportsmanship throughout the season.

In honor of this special recognition, a \$250 donation is made to the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut in the winner’s name by Amity Youth Lacrosse.

www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com



HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

Religious School Registration

BEKI's K-6 religious school, which is called BINA, is accepting registrations from member and non-member families. School starts Sunday, September 10. More information and the registration form are at <https://www.beki.org/youth/religious-school>.

Middle Schoolers

BEKI's Kadima youth group will gather at a local orchard on Sunday, August 12 to pick blueberries and have some fun. Kids in grades 4 through 8 are welcome. For more information about this and future events, consult Education Director Annie Norman-Schiff at anormanschiff@beki.org.

Children's Programs

Children's Havura (for babies through preschoolers), K-2 Kehila, and Junior Congregation—all led by parent or grandparent volunteers—meet in person each Saturday, including through the summer.

Learn with the Rabbi

Rabbi Eric Woodward leads a discussion of the weekly Torah portion on Thursdays and Talmud study on select Sundays. Details at beki.org.

Tisha Be-Av

For the Fast of the 9th Day of Av, Tisha Be-Av, BEKI will have services both Wednesday evening, July 26 and Thursday, July 27. Megilat Eichah (the Book of Lamentations) will be read and traditional kinnot (dirges) will be sung. A new component this year will be climate grief programming, led by Bruce Spierer, Program Manager for Climate Action at Adamah, and Rabbi Ora Nitkin-Kaner, the founder of Exploring Apocalypse. Details at beki.org.

Interfaith Service Day

BEKI is participating in an interfaith day of service Sunday, August 6. Projects that morning will include building a house with Habitat for Hu-

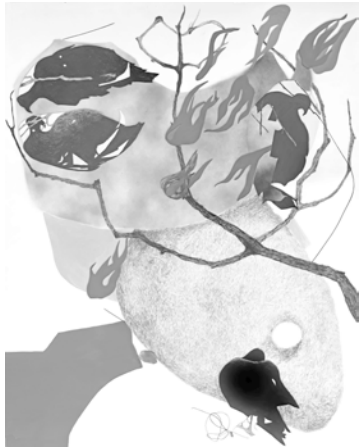
manity, preparing food for the hungry with the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, restoring a cemetery with the Hebrew Burial and Free Loan Association, pounding guns into garden tools with Swords to Plowshares, or cleaning a shoreline with Save The Sound. Lunch will be on the New Haven Green at 12:30 pm, with festivities until 4 pm. For more information about joining the BEKI work team, contact office@beki.org.

Winds Concert

The woodwind quintet Elm City Winds, which performs both classical and popular music, will return to BEKI on Wednesday, August 9. Jennifer Silva, flute; Caesar Storlazzi, oboe; Laura Caruthers, clarinet; Adrienne Gallagher, bassoon; and Emily Fine, French horn, have created a program of dance music through the ages for this concert. Admission is free. Details at beki.org.

Fall Programs

BEKI's annual Elul Beit Midrash, a series of programs in August & September to prepare us intellectually and spiritually for the Yamim Nora'im, the days of awe, will include a nature walk, text study sessions, and much more. For more information, email office@beki.org.



Art by Anna Bresnick

One of New Haven's most influential artists, Anna Broell Bresnick, is exhibiting a show at BEKI entitled Four Stops Along an Artistic Path. The exhibition, which will run through September 1, features selections from her decades-long career and reflects the different stages in her work, beginning with a focus on sculptures, followed by a transition to drawing. A passionate teacher, she served for 29 years as the Educational Center for the Arts (ECA) Visual Arts Department Chair. To arrange a time to see the exhibit, email office@beki.org or call the office at 203.389.2108 x114.

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

The First Church of Christ, Woodbridge

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

Interim Minister: The Rev. Susan Murtha is the Interim Minister at FCCW and has made quite an impact. Plan a visit to see what is "happening." You can also read about her on our website. We are honored to have such an extraordinary individual here with us at First Church!

Kid's Church has begun again at First Church! Families meet at the church at 10:00 and at 10:10 the children are walked over to the Parish House for Kid's Church by Forest Vandefflor, our project leader for children's ministries, along with an adult volunteer. This is a great time for the children while their parents are at the worship service!

Weekly Bible Study: Bible Study meets at the Parish House each Wednesday, 10:30 am. All are invited!

Boy Scout Troop 907: In May, Troop 907 Woodbridge scouts helped a West Haven cub scout pack during a camping trip and hike at Webb Mountain campground in Monroe, CT. Newer scouts worked on the Tenderfoot rank requirement for physical fitness and some of the scouts went on canoe overnight campout near Middletown, CT on the Connecticut river.

For the final meeting of May Troop 907 scouts replaced flags in three cemeteries for local veterans. On Memorial Day, the scouts participated in the Woodbridge Memorial Day ceremony at the Woodbridge Center and provided a color guard. One of the boys lowered the flag to half-mast in honor of soldiers who gave their lives for us.

On June 9th scouts and scout leaders volunteered to help with the church's strawberry festival including set up, tear down and grilling all the food, etc.

The troop held its year ending Court of Honor and family picnic on June 10th. This included camping out on the Woodbridge church green. Saturday evening scouts went to local camp Whiting and learned some campfire skits and games with the Woodbridge Cub Scout pack at this overnight event.

Most Troop 907 scouts will be camping in July at Camp Sequassen. Troop meetings will reconvene Thursday evenings at 7:00 in early September at the First Church of Christ Parish House, rear entrance. Inter-

ested scouts and families are always welcome. See troop907.org.

Troop 907 is a robust, active, outdoors oriented troop chartered by the First Church of Christ in Woodbridge. The Troop meets Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM and is always interested in welcoming interested scouts and families to check them out. More at troop907.org.

Rich Forselius

Troop 907 Committee Chair

Upcoming events: Water Works: Saturday, July 15th @ 10:30am – Parish House Lawn @ 5 Meetinghouse Lane – Join us for our fun family event. With live music, sing-a-long, crafts games and a fire truck!

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

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

Office Hours: The Church office in the Parish House is open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Join the FCCW Choir! New members are always welcome. Join us for rehearsals each Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

- › 5 Meetinghouse Lane
- › Woodbridge, CT 06525
- › Phone: 203-389-2119
- › Email: office@uccw.org
- › Website: www.uccw.org
- › Facebook: www.facebook.com/uccwoodbridge
- › For online or media related questions, please email Lisa Tartaglino at office@uccw.org.

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“Letters” From Page 5

staying physically active. Residents will find it easier to be proactive about their health and well-being in a local community center that promotes local community involvement.

As we enjoy greater longevity, we continue to need to feel connection with others, both on an emotional and physical level. The Woodbridge Recreation Department Health & Wellness Fitness Center provides the space and opportunity to facilitate social connection of our town residents. One of the most important aspects of a community fitness center is to provide an environment that promotes health and a space of mutual support. The Health & Wellness and Fitness Center sends a message that we care about our fellow residents, of all ages, fostering community health and community involvement.

There is no doubt that daily physical activity is important for our town residents from the oldest to the youngest. The Health & Wellness Fitness Center

is an environment that boosts the attitude of community members. Keeping active promotes independence. For over 30 years, under the supervision of trained instructors, our town Health & Wellness Fitness Center has provided our residents with a designated space for advancing physical health as well as social well-being and development.

We hope the Board of Finance will continue to support the importance of this town resource. With plans to relocate the town Health & Wellness Fitness Center in the new Community and Cultural Center, the Recreation Department plans to continue to promote the facility to increase annual dues through increased membership. Within the new Community and Cultural Center, the planned Health & Wellness fitness space will also incorporate recreational activities such as a ping pong table along with traditional fitness equipment to meet the needs of a wide range of community members.

Thank you for your consideration,
John Adamovich
Director of Recreation



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
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TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE
LEGAL NOTICE TO ALL
WOODBRIDGE TAXPAYERS

All persons liable to pay real estate, motor vehicle or personal property taxes in the Town of Woodbridge are hereby notified that the Tax Collector has received the warrant levied by the Board of Finance to collect taxes on the Grand List of October 1st, 2022, which become due and payable on July 1st, 2023.

Real estate and personal property taxes over one hundred dollars (\$100.00) are due in two installments. The first one-half shall be due on July 1st, 2023 and become delinquent on August 2nd, 2023. The second one-half shall be due on January 1st, 2024 and delinquent on February 2nd, 2024. Any tax in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or less and all taxes on motor vehicles shall be due and payable in one single installment on July 1st, 2023 and become delinquent on August 2nd, 2023. If the installment payment due becomes delinquent, interest will be charged on the installment payment at the rate of 1½ % per month from the due date. Minimum interest charge is \$2.00.

The Tax Office will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Town Hall will be closed on July 4th, 2023. For your convenience we will be open on Saturday, July 29th from 9:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon and on Tuesday, August 1st, the last day to pay without penalty, from 8:30 a.m. till 7:00 p.m. If you wish to pay in person, you must bring your entire bill with you so we may stamp your receipt. All mailed bills must be postmarked by the UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE prior to the delinquent date to be considered on time. You must enclose your check, the entire bill and a self-addressed stamped envelope for a return receipt. Credit card payments may be made online (only) at woodbridget.org under Online Payments. There is a fee charged for this service, please read all information carefully.

Failure to receive a bill does not exempt you from payment of tax or penalty, per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130, 12-146.

Pat Crisco, CCMC
Tax Collector



APT Launches Comprehensive
Concussion Program

BY MICHAEL DOW
MSPT/ CEO

Most major impact sports are becoming more keenly aware of the importance of preventing excessive head injury and the potential long-term effects of concussion. Although the emphasis is stressed with protocols at the elite college and professional levels, there seems to be a large gap in the younger athletes in town sports, junior and high schools. This is particularly common with coordination between the various medical personnel needed and the varied symptoms concussions can cause.

Concussion therapy can consist of several areas of concern. In the realm of physical therapy, it can be broken down into 4 major categories: Neck/ Cervical spine, vestibular (inner ear sensory system that creates the sense of balance and spatial orientation for the purpose of coordinating movement), visual system and physical exertional stress testing.

In addition to the physical exam and screening for these areas, the adjunct use of ImPact computerized testing will help assess cognitive things like memory recall, reaction time, and coordinated eye movement. It’s an FDA approved effective tool for comparing a person’s neurocognitive state before a concussion occurs.

The actual coordination of services can be challenging at best. The majority of clinicians can ascertain that a patient has suffered a concussion, but not all are trained to treat it. Referring to specialists can often lead to excessive wait time and long periods of gapped time before patient receives effective treatment. Also, sometimes multiple systems can be involved, which would benefit from concomitant treatment at one site versus having to see multiple providers fragmentally. Finally, not every clinician utilizes the ImPact testing and interpretation piece – which can add a layer of assessment to adjunct what physical exams cannot do entirely.

Our program is designed to take on these challenges. First, every patient treated for concussion will be assigned a concussion clinician coordinator, which will assist in the logistics of obtaining the needed treatment services, as well as act as a liaison to ensure timely follow-ups with patients physicians – this will greatly reduce unnecessary lead times.

We also offer baseline and post injury ImPact testing on site. Your concussion coordinator will also be responsible to help assist pre and post testing interpretation with our medical director and/or the patients’ individ-



Michael Dow

ual physician (if that doctor is ImPact certified).

All five of our locations have therapists that are ImPact certified and can offer effective diagnosis and treatment encompassing cervical, vestibular and visual systems. After evaluation, we will determine the extent and formulate the individual treatment regime.

As for the final piece, through our robust fitness centers, we will also perform quantitative physical exertion testing with sports related activities. This is an important piece that measures your vitals through exertional testing, particularly important for athletes looking to return to play safely and timely.

Dow – “I am proud of our ability to offer such a comprehensive program and scale it throughout New Haven County. Our size and resources really help cover several towns and can reproduce throughout.

I really feel it helps solve some of the problems with athletes getting effective and immediate care. It will help kids get back to their sports quicker and safely. More importantly, it will also hold kids back from going back too early and risking greater injury and long-term problems. Finally, this program helps coordinate communications with patients, their parents, coaches and the clinicians in order to facilitate safe, effective, and timely results. Frankly, it is a win for all.”

Michael Dow MSPT, and CEO/Clinical Director of Amity Physical Therapy, founded the practice 18 years ago, and now has five offices in Woodbridge, Hamden, Branford, Milford and Wallingford. He received his degree from Sacred Heart University and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for his work with the national Multiple Sclerosis Society. He works with patients of all ages, pediatrics to geriatrics, as well as local high school and college athletes. Michael can be reached at 203-389-4593 or visit amitypt.com.

WOODBRIDGE LIBRARY

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

Library Announcements

The library will be CLOSED on Tuesday, July 4 for Independence Day. We will be open our regular hours on Saturday, July 1 and Monday, July 3.

Now Open Saturdays Year-Round

The Woodbridge Town Library will remain open on Saturdays year-round. Traditionally, the Library closed on Saturdays in July and August, however, the last few years have brought an increase of requests for summer Saturday hours. We are happy to finally make this a reality and look forward to seeing you MORE over the summer!

- Monday—Thursday: 10 am to 8 pm
- Friday & Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm

Our wifi works on the library grounds, even when the library is closed. Picnic tables are available. Enjoy!

Digital Equity Survey

HELP CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN CONNECTICUT! The State of Connecticut wants to help CT residents get connected with the skills and devices they need in the digital age. Take 5 minutes to tell them about your technology needs: www.bit.ly/CTDigEqSurvey Thank you.

The Friends of the Library Seek Student Volunteers

Woodbridge resident Richard Blackwell recently endowed an annual Volunteer Scholarship for graduating Amity High School seniors who have volunteered at the Friends of the Library bookstore. Mr. Blackwell values the spirit of volunteerism in young people; he is an enthusiastic supporter of the library and is also on the Library Commission. If you are an Amity student and you are interested in volunteering at the Friends of the Library, email the Friends with your contact information and the times you would be available at woodbridgetfriends@gmail.com.

The Friends of the Library Are Again Accepting Donations!

Drop off your gently loved, no longer wanted books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles at the library during our open hours. Please, nothing in bad condition, stained, moldy, etc. Thank you!

Need a Notary?

Notary Services are now available at the Library by appointment or by chance! Please contact the Reference Desk for more information desk (stop



WOODBRIDGE TOWN LIBRARY

by or call 203-389-3434) or email Bill (warmstrong@woodbridgetownlibrary.org).

Library Information

We are open Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm and Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. Visit the Library website 24/7 to access digital resources - woodbridgetownlibrary.org. We are fine-free and have automatic renewals on most items. Call or email to place holds, ask questions, find out information, and more.

From Adult Services Woodbridge Writers Workshop

Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, from 3 to 5 pm. Gather with area writers as we read and critique our works in a friendly atmosphere. Register online or at the library. More information on our website or call the reference desk.

Woodbridge Scrabble Group Wednesdays at 11 AM

Meet with friends and neighbors for friendly games of Scrabble every week in the Meeting Room. No registration required.

Indoor Film Screenings Thursdays at 7 PM

Join us on Thursday evenings for a movie screening in our Meeting Room. No registration is required to attend, but seating is first come, first serve.

Upcoming Titles

June 29: The Magic Flute

Follows 17-year-old Tim Walker as he travels from London to the Austrian Alps to attend the legendary Mozart boarding school. There, he discovers a centuries-old forgotten passageway into the fantastic world of Mozart's "The Magic Flute." Adventure, Fantasy, Musical. 1 hr, 55 min.

July 6: All the World Is Sleeping

Fighting for her own life and the ones she loves, a mother in New Mexico sinks deeper in her addiction while struggling to surface for her daughter. Drama; 1 hr, 50 min.

July 13: Emily

Emily imagines the transformative, exhilarating, and uplifting journey to womanhood of a rebel and a misfit, one of the world's most famous, enigmatic, and provocative writers (Emily Bronte), who died, too soon, at age 30. Biography, Drama, History; 2 hr, 10 min.

July 20: Confess, Fletch

After becoming the prime suspect

in multiple murders, Fletch strives to prove his innocence while simultaneously searching for his fiancé's stolen art collection. Comedy, Crime; 1 hr, 38 min.

July 27: Wildhood

Two brothers embark on a journey to find their birth mother after their abusive father had lied for years about her whereabouts; along the way, they reconnect with their indigenous heritage and make a new friend. Drama; 1 hr, 48 min.

August movie titles will be announced in mid-July. Please stop by, look on our website, or call us to find out what we'll be showing.

Saturday Morning Meditation

Every Saturday at 10:15 am, one hour of silent Vipassana (mindfulness) meditation is hosted by experienced meditation instructors. Registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome too!

Especially For Teens Teen Volunteers needed!

Check out our teen page on our website to see what volunteer opportunities are available, or email Emily Cantor, Head of Children's: ecantor@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Book Buddies

Fridays in July and August at 11 am

Weekly program that encourages literacy and connection! A teen mentor will be paired with each child. For children entering grades K-2. Teen volunteers needed! Please register online.

From The Children's Department

Please visit our website for more details on each program and to register. See you soon!

Musical Mondays

Starts June 26, held on alternating Mondays at 3:30 pm. Make musical instruments out of household materials! Drop-in—no registration necessary. Appropriate for children ages 6+.

Yoga

Begins Tuesday, June 27 at 11 am. Runs every other week for 5 sessions, online registration required, bring a yoga mat. For ages 4+.

Cookies & Classics

Held once a month on a Tuesday, from 3:30 to 4:15 pm. Read a classic chapter book and chat about it. Plus, cookies! Online registration required. Recommended for grades 2 to 4.

Thursday Process Art

Begins Thursday, June 29 at 4 pm. Held every week; drop in as often as you can, no registration necessary. Free-form art-making that focuses on the process and exploring the materials rather than the product. Ages 3+.

Signing Rocks!

Friday, June 30 from 11 am to 12 pm

American Sign Language at the library—excellent for beginners. No signing skills necessary; online registration is required. Best for ages 7+.

Friday Bug Club

Begins Friday, June 30 at 11:30 am. Held every week; drop in as often as you can, no registration necessary. Make a different bug craft each time and learn some bug facts too! Ages 3+.

Book Buddies

Fridays in July and August at 11 am

Weekly program that encourages literacy and connection! A teen mentor will be paired with each child. For children entering grades K-2. Teen volunteers needed too! Please register online.

Ed Pop Magic Show!

Monday, July 10 @ 2 pm

Online registration required, ages 3+.

Nutmeg Book Club

Read and discuss 2024 nominees! Snacks provided. 4 sessions throughout July and August, see website for exact dates, times, and book titles. Recommended for grades 7+. Online registration required.

Petting Zoo

Wednesday, July 19 from 3:30 to 5 pm on library grounds. Rain date: Wednesday, July 26, same time. For all ages.

Pirate Fridays

Select Fridays at 3 pm. Make a different pirate accessory each session. Wear them all to our Pirate Pizza party (see below). Ages 9+.

Pirate Pizza Party

Saturday, August 19 at 2 pm

Eat pizza, dress like a pirate! Online registration required.

End of Summer Reading Party!

Thursday, August 24 from 2 to 3:30 pm with a concert by WILL PARKER at 2 pm

Raffle drawing, ice cream, and free books for all summer reading participants!

Our Regular Recurring Programs are on HIATUS for the summer. Join us for all of our other events!

Contact

- www.woodbridgetownlibrary.org
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Woodbridge Land Trust Sponsors Hikes for Connecticut Trails Day

The weekend of June 3-4 was the thirtieth anniversary of Connecticut Trails Day, a statewide event sponsored by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association. On Saturday June 3, a large and enthusiastic group of hikers (pictured above) gathered at the former Country Club of Woodbridge for a hike guided by a local bird expert and by a Forester from the State DEEP. Hikers learned about the rare and valuable “shrubland” habitat at the CCW that has made it a magnet for birds, pollinators, and other threatened wildlife. Some rare birds were spotted, including a juvenile bald eagle! The walk was

co-sponsored with the Woodbridge Park Association and the town’s Recreation Department. On Sunday, Land Trust President Bryan Pines led a hike of the Trust’s historic “Lodge” property, used by the Regicide Judges Goffe and Whalley in 1661 to avoid capture by the British agents loyal to King Charles I. One of the largest glacial erratics (glacially deposited rock differing from the type of rock native to the area in which it rests) in Connecticut was observed on the walk, along with the rare and beautiful wild orchid commonly called Pink Lady’s Slipper.

Nita Sudhir Elected Ms President US Woodbridge

Woodbridge has a newly elected Ms President US Woodbridge – Nita Sudhir! Nita bravely ran independently. She was excited to “develop leadership skills” and “help her town.” The determined fifth grader focused her platform on discouraging littering. She proposed posting signs to help the public remember to “Keep public spaces clean!” Ms President US is a Connecticut-based nonprofit organization that provides programming for girls in fourth through eighth grade to help them build the skills and confidence necessary to pursue leadership positions in their schools, communities and eventually local, state, or federal government. The girls spend months learning about women in politics; developing campaign platforms; writing speeches; and creating campaign teams. Throughout the program, they learn from and work with elected officials, program directors, and high school mentors. The program culminates in an election. The candidates have three minutes to present their platform in front of hundreds of attendees. The attendees, including parents and local officials, then have the opportunity to

rank the candidates in a ranked choice vote. The winning candidate from each town is selected as Ms President US of their town. In the 2022-2023 session, Ms President US had four chapters in Connecticut: Ridgefield, Wilton, Old Saybrook, and Hamden, with participants hailing from each region. Winners were elected from each of the nine towns represented across these chapters, including Woodbridge’s own Nita Sudhir. Each year, Ms President US gives girls like Nita the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and reach their full potential. To learn more about Ms President US and register for the upcoming 2023-2024 sessions, visit the Ms President US website today! *Ms President US is a girls’ civic leadership program motivating and preparing girls to aim for the highest civic leadership positions, and is a non-partisan, non-profit, community-based 501(c)(3) organization. For more information about the Ms President US program, participant/mentorship opportunities and enrollment applications, please visit MsPresidentUS.org or email info@mspresidentus.org.*



Earth Day at the Willows

The members of the Garden Club of Woodbridge hosted the Bethany Garden Club at its April 4 meeting. Participants were introduced to the diversity that exists among the “Hummingbirds of North, Central and South America.” John Root, naturalist and certified organic landscaper, revealed in his slide presentation over 300 species of hummingbirds, all with vibrant plumage and some with distinctive characteristics, such as elongated tails. A few flowers that attract these birds are trumpet creeper, bee balm, phlox and blue lobelia. On Earth Day, April 22, garden club members assisted residents of My-Genesis Health Care (The Willows) in enhancing their courtyard by planting a multitude of perennials in various containers. Members from the garden club included Debbie Shee, Barbara Baldwin, Mary Jane Purcell, Marie Dube, Nancy LaBianca, Lewis LaBianca, Debbie Schlegel and Mary Ann Tyma. Members toured Massaro Commu-

nity Farm in Woodbridge on May 2. The farm is a non-profit, certified organic farm. On the tour farmer Steve Munno revealed rows of new vegetables, strawberries, and flowers with overhead water systems and drip systems hydrating the crops. A bunch of baby asparagus was thriving. After the tour, lunch supplied by select members of the garden club was enjoyed under the farm’s newly-built pavilion. The Annual Meeting of the garden club was held on June 13 at the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby. A tasty luncheon was eaten on the lawn followed by George Trecina, garden designer, who provided a slide presentation, “Container Gardening Unlimited-Creative Combinations that will Astound your Neighbors.” Members learned that design elements for containers are form, color, texture, and compatibility. If you are interested in joining the garden club, please contact Mary Jane at wpurcell@snet.net.

Quilts on Show: A Patchwork of Our Community

Attention Quilters, and Fabric Makers! If you do Patchwork, Crazy Quilts, Tifaifai, Sashiko, Applique, Mola, Shisha, Paper Piecing, Seminole Patchwork, Art Quilts, or other fabric design, these exhibit opportunities are for you! The Amity Woodbridge Historical Society invites your applications to “Quilts on Show: A Patchwork of Our Community.” Smaller quilts (up to 60” in width) will be on display in the Community Gallery at the Woodbridge Library throughout the month of August. An Outdoor Pop-Up Show for large and small quilts will be held the weekend of September 9-10 on the grounds of the

Darling House Museum in Woodbridge. Please consider sharing your work in one – or both – of these free, non-juried shows. Applications are available at the Woodbridge Town Library or send a request for application to anne.flitcraft@gmail.com. And please come to the featured trunk show-lectures to be held at the Woodbridge Library: Christina Blais, an award-winning fabric artist: Not your Granma’s Quilts - A Quilter’s Journey from Traditional to Art Quilts on Wednesday, August 2nd at 6:30 and Willow Ann Sirch, author and curator: Quilting the World Over on Saturday, August 19th at 3 PM.

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LOCATIONS TO PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS

Tickets are available now at **Knight's**, 286 Boston Post Road; **Orange Town Hall**, 617 Orange Center Road; **M&T Bank**, 653 Orange Center Road; and **Chip's Restaurant**, 321 Boston Post Road

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