

Woodbridge Town News



4th
JULY
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FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2022



David Babic and Darrell Brooks lead the line to receive their sixth-grade diploma



Board of Education chairwoman Lynn Piascyk addresses Beecher graduates and their families

Beecher Graduates Get Their Diplomas

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Some 127 Beecher Road School sixth graders crossed the stage to receive their diploma on Friday, June 17. The ceremony took place outside, on the lawn in the back of the school. First Selectman Beth Heller wished them all well, quoting from Winnie the Pooh, “You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think,” she said.

Outgoing School Supt Dr. Jonathan Budd called upon the winners of the Superintendent's CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) award and the award winners of the Connecticut Association of School Administrators (SCASA). The award recipients are chosen for their community service and service to others; for academic “prowess”;

See “Graduation” On Page 3



The Durso Family, Gabriella, 9, and Chase, 12, here with their parents Melissa and Marc, were recognized for their “Goodnight Sleep Tight PJ Program”

Town Celebrates Its ‘Most Valuable Asset’

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Picking up a beloved tradition after a Covid hiatus, the town celebrated its most dedicated volunteers with an outdoor ceremony on June 1 on the lawn in front of the Center Building.

Calling volunteers the “town’s most valuable asset,” Human Services Department Director Jeanette Glicksman handed out citations and recognitions to those who have given freely of their time and talents, many of them for years, to improve the lives of their neighbors. As Master of Ceremonies, Glicksman had the help of several announcers, including State Senators Jorge Cabrera and James Maroney; First Selectman Beth Heller; Human

Services Commission Chairwoman Susan Davidson; as well as the department staff, Woodbridge Center Director Kristy Moriarty, Senior Clerk Ellen McDonald, and Youth Services Director Nancy Pfund.

Special recognition went to the Living Treasures Committee, which worked hard to put on a major fund-raising event for the department. Committee members are Susan Davidson, Bob Garofalo, Lynn Piascyk, Janet Onofrio, Cathy Austin, Ellen McDonald, Jeanette Glicksman, Kristy Moriarty and Margaret Hamilton. Also recognized were those who worked at the event, including “celebrity servers.”

See “Volunteers” On Page 2



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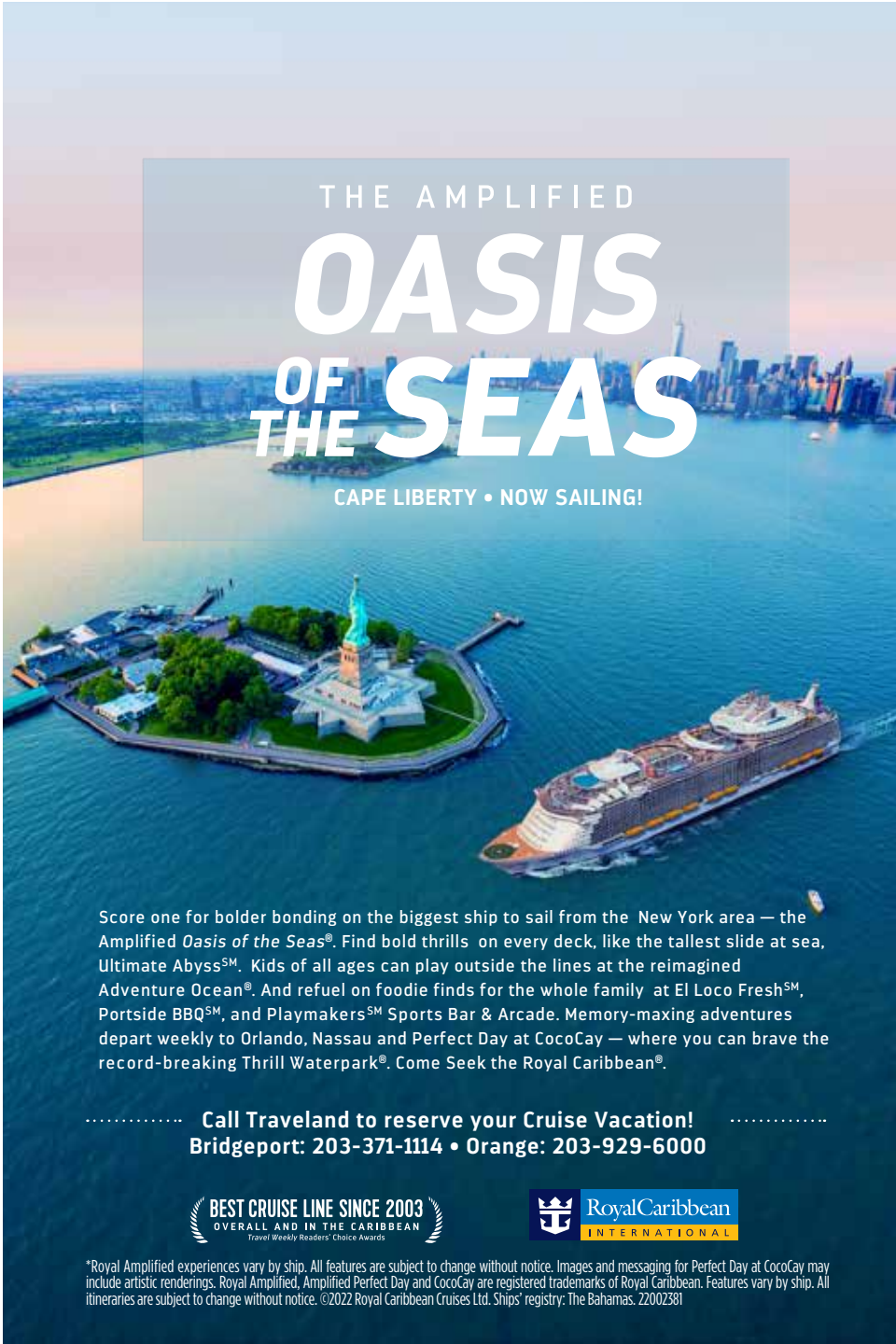
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“Volunteers” From Page 1

Despite Covid restrictions, the event managed to raise \$10,000 for the department, Glicksman said. The funds will be added to the grants received for the Center renovation project.

Another warm recognition went to the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteers who, due to the Center rooms being under construction, met with clients in the hallways of the Center Building, and any other nook they could find. In all, they managed to assist with 164 tax returns, said Ellen McDonald, who made the presentation. VITA volunteers include Michelle Ditzian (site coordinator), Vincent Spino, Mariano Degregorio, Kelly Bosenberg, and Alberta Davis.

Fire Marshal Joe Cappucci accepted a recognition on behalf of the Volunteer Fire Association. In 2021, the fire department responded to 446 calls, and during periods of power outages made sure there was food, water and power available to the most vulnerable in the community.

State Sen. George Cabrera read a state citation and presented a plaque to Human Services Committee Chairman Nancy Davidson for her countless hours of supporting the Human Services Department in its work. She was one of five “outstanding volunteers.” The other honorees in that category were Cathy and Tim Austin, who took emergency shelter training and helped with the distribution of test kits and masks; Alice Lippman, who was honored for sewing more than 100 stylish masks at the height of the pandemic; and Teena Arbo who was honored as a long-time supporter of the Youth Services.

Community organizations and businesses who were singled out for their support of the department and the population it serves were the Friends of the Town Library; Coachman Square, and Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center.

PJ program: A special recognition went to Gabriella and Chase Durso, 9 and 12 years old, respectively, who founded “Goodnight Sleep Tight PJ Program, Inc.” The Durso Family collected books, slippers, PJs and stuffed animals for children in various regional hospitals.

Gabriella Durso had some personal experience of staying in a hospital when she was suffering from asthma, and her inspiration was to make kids “feel warm and cozy,” she said. The charity has grown since it started in 2020, and now includes deliveries to other states, as well as donations for residents at the Beth El Center in Milford. The program contributed over 90 PJs to the Christmas baskets that the Human Services Department distributes around the holidays. It also collected for Ukrainian refugees in Poland and for children in Ukraine itself.

The **Woodbridge Center Award** went to Linda Caffalette for her many years of help, first with the annual holiday fair, and now with the Living Treasures event.



First Selectman Beth Heller (at the podium) presented this year’s Youth Award to Ava Shanbrom

The other Center Award honoree was Sandy Faggiana, an avid pickleball player, who is a “cheerleader for all.”

Youth Award: First Selectman Beth Heller presented this year’s Youth Award to Ava Shanbrom, a rising Junior at Amity High School. For the past two-and-a-half years Ava has helped an elderly neighbor with the laundry, which is set up in the basement. The neighbor’s family did not want her to navigate the steep stairs anymore, so every Sunday afternoon Ava would walk over to help her out. Over time they developed a friendship.

“I just love listening to her stories about her husband and where they’ve gone, the places she’s lived,” Ava said after the presentation. She never accepted any money for her service. “It is something I wanted to do,” she said. Their connection became particularly important once the pandemic left many elderly isolated and without help. It was thanks to Ava’s support that made it possible for her neighbor to stay in her home, said People’s Bank’s Scott Zimmerman in making the presentation. He presented Ava with a \$200 certificate in recognition of her volunteerism.

Other organizations that were recognized included Woodbridge Rotary Club, Massaro Farm, Friends of the Woodbridge Library, Scouts and their troop leaders from troops 63, 907 and 410, and Troop 60865 and 167884; representatives from Bethany Community School, Spartan Academy students, Recreation Commission members, Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen liaisons to Human Services Commission; Friendly Visitors; members of the Youth Advisory Board, and volunteers for the Youth Evening Program; the food pantry volunteers, and craft group members.

In addition to Coachman Square and Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, both of which support the Center’s programming, several local businesses were recognized, namely Joyce Printers, Progressions Salon, and Surreybrook School.

State Sen. James Maroney in his presentation cited a stoic saying, “Don’t argue what a good person should be; just be one.” And, living up to his word, he was seen folding chairs at the close of the ceremony.



Beecher Road School Band plays the National Anthem for the graduation ceremony

“Graduation” From Page 1

and leadership service to the school community.

The CAPSS winners included Carmella Brown, Marina Serapiglia, Victoria Shafir, Anna Maloney, Noah Hutchinson and Sean Choi; SCASA winners included Ethan Vatner, Ben Smith, Abigail Sussman and Claire Prud’homme.

Of the Class of 2022, five students had been enrolled at the school since their pre-school days. Dr. Budd took the occasion to publicly announce Pre-school teacher Maria DePalma as the 2022-23 Teacher of the Year. The superintendent also highlighted two staff retirements, which were met with warm applause – namely that of special education teacher Doreen Merrill who is retiring after 21 years at Beecher; and of long-time school psychologist Dr. Christine Rose.

PTO President Joi Prud’homme also said an emotional farewell to Beecher Road School, since her daughter is moving up to the Amity system. She brought up the resilience that students and their families had to muster to get through the Covid years. “Spread the happiness, spread the energy,” she encouraged them. “And spread the joy you found at Beecher Road School.”

Board of Education Chairwoman Lynn Piascyk, a retired first-grade teacher, sent them off with a list of tips for a successful life.

1. Take care of your body and mind;
2. Avoid negativity;
3. Be you;
4. Set goals and prioritize them;
5. Work hard and never give up;
6. Have patience;
7. Be grateful;
8. Be kind;
9. Smile; and
10. Expand your horizon.

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OPINION

On Tuesday June 14th, the Amity Regional School District 5 budget was passed at a third referendum, following two unsuccessful referenda. I understand many in the community had different reasons for either voting to approve it or voting against it. I think that one of the issues that some folks had concerns about, was the newly-created Diversity, Equity and Inclusion position at Amity Regional High School. Our town and our schools are becoming more diverse, and it is important that we acknowledge that. Sometimes, change can be uncomfortable, but it can also be an opportunity. I believe it is very important that all residents, and all students, feel respected, safe and heard.

Recently all three schools in the Amity Regional School District made a commitment to receive the No Place for Hate designation, a program of the Anti-Defamation League. Twelve Connecticut schools achieved this honor and Amity is the only school district in which all its schools were recognized.

Students on the No Place for Hate committees for the Amity Middle Schools of Bethany and Orange came together in Fall 2021 for a training session with the ADL and then designed whole-school activities to raise awareness about issues of diversity and fairness. The high school students included the No Place for Hate kick off as part of the Fall 2021 Day of Dialogue. Congratulations to these students for this well-deserved achievement award.

In the summer of 2020, I created an ad hoc Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, made up of eight individuals who are interested in identifying issues related to diversity in the Town of Woodbridge. They will work on determining steps to enhance diversity and inclusion.

From the First Selectman BY BETH HELLER



The Town of Woodbridge's DEI committee is just wrapping up an online survey – the goal of which is to ensure that Woodbridge is inviting and affirming for all current and future residents – and I am interested to find out what they have learned and how they'll respond. Findings will help the committee identify opportunities to better engage and serve all residents of our increasingly diverse community. I will keep you informed on their progress.

As an update on the Town's Affordable Housing Plan: The Board of Selectmen, at its Special Meeting on May 25th, 2022, voted to approve and adopt the Affordable Housing Plan which was prepared by the Town's Housing Opportunity Study Committee. I am extremely pleased that the Committee completed its work by the state deadline of June 1, 2022. Woodbridge is one of only about half of the municipalities in the State of Connecticut that submitted its plan prior to the deadline. You may view the plan on the Housing Study Committee's page on the Town website.

I have heard from a few residents who were unhappy about Town-owned properties listed as sites which MAY be considered for housing. The mere fact that those properties were listed by the committee in no way means that they will be sites for housing. The Housing Committee included those sites, as well as other privately-owned properties, due to their size and access to sewer and water. Also, the filing of the plan does not limit the town's ability to modify the plan at any time in the future – in fact we must update it

every five years.

The goal of the plan is to have 10% of our housing stock affordable. The State is in a housing crunch; more housing and more affordable housing is greatly needed. In Woodbridge we need to diversify our housing stock. We have a lot of large single-family homes, but not a lot of smaller homes, which are more appealing to first-time buyers and empty nesters. More diverse housing and affordable housing will help with that.

Another plan that we are working on is the Board of Selectmen's Strategic Plan. It has three main goals: ensure financial stability; maintain and invest in infrastructure and facilities; and enhance quality of life. The Strategic Plan is available on the Town website on the Board of Selectmen's page. We would love, and welcome, your feedback! The subcommittee – Selectmen Sheila McCreven and David Vogel – are now working on how to manage and implement the plan. I also anticipate using the Strategic Plan when deciding how to spend the Town's federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

Please keep your eyes open for the public information meeting the 2030 Task Force will hold in July. The task force is charged with growing our grand list and it is focusing on the business district. Please attend this meeting to learn about its efforts and share your ideas. Once a date and location is finalized for the meeting, it will be on the Town website.

As a reminder to all residents - Town offices (including the Library) will be closed on Wednesday, August 3, 2022

for professional development and to allow staff to take the time to sort their offices.

Earlier this month I received a phone call from Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro with good news. Since 2019, I have been working with her office to get an Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study seeking recommendations for remediation along the West River and Konold's Pond. She called to let me know that the Army Corps of Engineers has finally signed off on phase one of the study which will determine the cost of the second level study. That second study will recommend if and/or how we should dredge the pond and river.

Over the years, flooding has become an increasing problem, as more and more silt has built up in the pond, and there is nowhere for the water to go when it rains. Removing the Pond Lily Dam alleviated some of the problem, but it still remains that almost every time we have a storm, the houses, and the businesses in the area continue to flood. Hopefully this is at least a beginning to solving a dreadful problem for these folks. Unfortunately, this is moving much slower than I would have hoped, but we have some progress in the right direction.

A reminder for dog owners: June is dog licensing month in Connecticut. All dog license holders were mailed a new license application. New dog owners should contact the Town Clerk's office (203-389-3424). Additionally, please remember that dogs must be leashed at all times when in a public area. This town ordinance is in place for the safety of everyone in our community.

Wishing everyone a safe healthy beginning to summer. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any ideas or questions you may have. Thank you!

Fun Ways To Keep Kids Occupied Over Summer Break

Kids look forward to summer vacation every year. The last day of school gives way to less structured days when kids can spend more time outdoors and less time cracking the books.

Summer vacation can be a dilemma for parents, especially in households where both parents work full-time. A pandemic-related increase in remote working has made that problem somewhat more manageable, but even parents working from home must find fun way for kids to stay occupied until the new school year begins. No two kids are the same, so parents may need to try various activities on for size until they find something their children enjoy doing during the lazy days of summer.

Day camp: Day camps provide much of the structure of school without all the homework or time spent indoors. Many parks and recreation departments run summer day camps for kids. Camps can be generalized or

specialized. For example, some may offer an array of activities, including sports and nature walks, in a given day, while others may focus on a single activity, like musical lessons or science-based programs. Camps run by local parks and rec departments do not typically last all summer long, which parents should keep in mind when enrolling youngsters.

Reading: Parents may be surprised by how much their children enjoy a good book. A recent poll from the National Education Association found that 70 percent of middle school students read more than 10 books a year. The National Literacy Trust reports that roughly 45 percent of children between the ages of eight and 11 enjoy reading "very much." When suggesting to children that they read more this



summer, parents can note the many ways that reading for pleasure differs from reading for school. Point out that kids won't have to submit book reports and emphasize that they can choose their own books. Depending on children's ages, introduce kids to a series like "Harry Potter," which is a set of seven fantasy novels that has helped millions of young people across the globe discover and develop a fondness for reading. Weekly visits to the library, where kids can pick from hundreds of books, can get youngsters even more excited about reading.

Play dates: Play dates are a great way to make kids happy and take a little off of parents' daily plates. Arrange routine summer play dates with children's school friends, neighbors and/or cousins. Parents can alternate

hosting responsibilities so they can get work done at home and enjoy a break when it's not their turn to host.

Find something free: Perhaps in recognition of the need for affordable, family-friendly fare, many communities now host free events for kids and their parents each week. Weekly movie nights under the stars and concerts in community squares are popular in many communities, but those same towns also may host events specifically for kids during the daytime. A simple internet search of "free events near me" may unveil a host of activities that can keep kids happy and occupied on summer days when their schedules are open. Local libraries can be great resources for free events as well.

Summer vacation is a relaxing time for youngsters. Parents who don't want that relaxation to turn into boredom can look to various activities to occupy their children's time until a new school year begins.

We Need Thoughtful, “Smart” Development NOT Junk Development



The First Selectman and the Town’s housing consultant, David Fink, have mischaracterized United for Woodbridge’s analysis of the Town’s approach to housing. United for Woodbridge supports the preservation of the Town’s irreplaceable natural resources and believes that Woodbridge can, has, and should continue to increase housing opportunity without sacrificing open space. This position fully aligns with the state of Connecticut’s policy favoring “smart” development, the encouragement of development “in town centers and transit corridors, where infrastructure and services already exist, and by doing so lessen(ing) the pressure to develop farmland and forest tracts.” (*CT Mirror*, June 5, 2022)

Doth he protest too much?

In this space on May 6th 2022, we stated that experts agree that “walkable neighborhoods, with easy access to daily shopping needs and to public transportation, are the best places for dense housing of all kinds, including age restricted and affordable housing.” This seems fairly obvious, yet Mr. Fink wrote a letter to the editor attempting to refute it. In doing so, he contradicts his previous statements and the facts.

✓ **On the best location for housing:** Throughout Mr. Fink’s most recent (10/25/2021) presentation to the Town, he emphasized the importance of locating affordable housing near commercial areas and public transportation. Specifically, he said: “There are towns that have bus lines, and if you can put housing that’s walkable to the bus, that’s good, but otherwise, putting it near a highway is good, at least people can get on and off pretty quickly . . . Woodbridge has the area down near the Merritt, maybe that’s the best place . . . and if you put it in a good place, you’ll provide the residents with access to the services that they need. Attendant benefits are that you will reduce sprawl, cut auto emissions, and enhance mass transit.”

✓ **On a sugar high vs. a nutritious meal:** Despite this clearly stated position, Mr. Fink’s letter next attempts to justify town leadership’s support of building on the CCW property with the analogy that we are starving so anything will do. But Woodbridge is not starving: sweeping changes to the town’s zoning regulations made last year expand housing opportunities throughout the town. We don’t need to gobble down the junk food offered by developers such as Arbor Haven, we have a menu of nutritious options that will support the Town’s long term good health.

✓ **On what constitutes “naturally” affordable housing:** Finally, Mr. Fink tries to dispute the assertion that Woodbridge currently has significant naturally affordable housing. The Arbor Haven proposal priced its 3-bedroom legally affordable homes at \$265,000. According to the Town tax assessor’s database, there are more than 300 homes in Woodbridge appraised at \$250,000 or less. It’s clear that the United for Woodbridge information accurately reflects both the facts and Mr. Fink’s past statements.

Does she understand zoning regulations or housing law?

The First Selectman’s recent column (May 27th, 2022) makes several factual errors in its attempt to respond to the same United for Woodbridge ad. She seems so focused on the former CCW that she has closed her mind to a more nuanced approach that increases housing diversity while accommodating the state’s other directives, including the abovementioned “Smart Growth” and the “Green Plan” that demands the preservation of important undeveloped land.

✓ **On integrating affordable housing into existing neighborhoods:** The First Selectman says that affordable housing cannot be integrated into existing neighborhoods. This statement is simply false and suggests her profound misunderstanding of the new zoning regulations and how they address the affordable housing issue. Such integration is the precise purpose of two of the major changes made to zoning regulations last year – the allowance of Accessory Dwelling Units everywhere in the Town, and the allowance of duplexes everywhere in the Town. These changes will over time increase housing diversity without sacrificing important undeveloped land such as the CCW.

✓ **On the affordable housing law:** Since we pointed out her previous error, the First Selectman no longer refers to a state “mandate” for towns to achieve 10% affordable housing, since no such mandate has ever existed. But her most recent column refers to an “imperative.” Is she just substituting one word for another? Does she understand that State law imposes no legal imperative?

✓ **On the economic benefits of Open Space:** Our assertions on the economic benefits of open space compared to the costs of residential development are documented by independent published data (see our website for references). The First Selectman disputes this data but offers no facts or documentation or competing data to support her assertions.

What’s the rush?

Recently, the town’s Housing Opportunity Study Committee released its 96-page draft report. Public input into important Town decision-making is essential, yet the First Selectman gave it short shrift. Residents were notified on Friday, May 20th of a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen scheduled just 5 days later when the board would vote on the plan.

The First Selectman’s controlling majority passed the plan at its special meeting, ignoring the fact that many residents requested more time to review the draft and identified obvious factual errors. Such a rushed process raises suspicions that the First Selectman has one predetermined goal in mind and lends an air of illegitimacy to the housing plan.

Woodbridge, we can do better!

There are any number of sites more suitable for affordable housing than the CCW property. These are important issues that will define the character of Woodbridge for a very long time; they deserve thoughtful consideration after meaningful public input.

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

OPINION

From the Democratic
Town Committee

BY ELLEN SCALETTAR
WDTC CHAIRMAN



Education: The Safeguard of Democracy

“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.” (President Franklin D. Roosevelt)

The recent controversies about the Amity Regional School District budget demonstrate the poignancy of these words. Indeed, in this era of unlimited sources of information and ideas, we and our children need to be educated on how to discern facts from misleading or false statements and how to identify reliable sources of information. This is crucial and increasingly difficult.

One budget-related topic where confusion about the facts was widespread concerned surplus in the Amity budget. Some were critical that there were yearly surpluses and others focused on the purported cost to taxpayers of the surpluses. Amity Board of Education members explained various reasons for surpluses, including the unpredictability of special education costs and variability in state grants.

As to the cost of carrying a surplus, the oft-repeated claim that Amity had a \$3M surplus for each of the last 4 years and that the cost to taxpayers was \$12M was blatantly wrong in two respects. Amity Board of Education members explained why. First, it confuses a surplus with an expense. It is the same \$3M that gets carried over year to year. Likewise, the cost to taxpayers of carrying a surplus is at most the interest lost on the money. Generously estimating a 3% interest rate over those years, the cost would be \$90,000 per year (for all 3 towns) - approximately \$6-\$10 per year per household.

What we learned from this: there needs to be clearer, accessible information made widely available concerning how the Amity budget is developed, why some amount of surplus may be necessary and whether it has been the correct amount, and why funding the schools to assure a top-notch education is so important for our children and to our community.

Another controversy about the budget centered on hiring a part-time Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) instructional coach. Opponents claimed that this would foster an “us versus them” culture in the school, and worse. Here again, Amity Board of Education members explained their commitment to addressing inclusion and equity “in a way that is positive for everyone... [and] makes ALL children feel like they belong at school. Equity is about allowing EVERY child to reach their full potential.”

What we learned from this: some in the community are not as committed as others to providing an inclusive and affirming environment for all members of our school community; others are confused about the goals and importance of DEI principles; and the majority of us are firmly committed to the goals of DEI. DEI reflects our increasingly diverse Town and nation and expresses the values that make our community robust, welcoming and healthy. We must continue to educate our neighbors about the need for and goals of DEI.

We in Woodbridge have long demonstrated the high value we place on education through our budget: approximately 2/3 of our spending goes to supporting our schools. Yet even this fundamental community commitment appeared to be under attack during the recent Amity Budget controversy.

What we learned from this: there is a large group of committed Woodbridge residents who are ready to step up and come together to ensure that our already fine schools are even stronger, more supportive, and more inclusive places of learning. These are the future leaders of Woodbridge, and with their engagement, our Town will continue to thrive as the vibrant, welcoming community we all call home.

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

Other Side of the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE
WRTC CHAIRMAN



Picturing a Different, Better Woodbridge

When the Republican party looks at Woodbridge today, we see a lot of positives, predominantly based on the residents who contribute countless volunteer hours on our boards and commissions, independent service organizations, and church and temple-based committees. Other townspeople have generously donated expertise, time and funds to Massaro Farm, the Park Association, Historical Society, Land Trust and more. We thank all of you who are working selflessly to better our town.

We also see room for improvement. The political leadership, for example, should take a lesson from the aforementioned volunteers and contributors who sincerely want to make Woodbridge better. Essential transformation must start at the top. Our First Selectman ran on a commitment to reach across the aisle in the management of the town. Unfortunately, she has not honored her promise. Of late, the lack of even listening to residents has become the standard bill of fare. When the 96-page report from the ad-hoc affordable housing committee was presented to the Board of Selectmen, public comments overwhelmingly encouraged the Board not to vote to accept it as submitted, but to pause until the lengthy document could be thoroughly reviewed by concerned residents (and I would submit, the Board members themselves). There was no value to Woodbridge in rushing this vote, as evidenced by the fact half the towns in Connecticut did not meet the state’s submission deadline. There is no consequence imposed by the state for late submission of that report, yet the majority party was clearly more tuned in to Hartford than to our own residents. We must do better.

The Country Club of Woodbridge/Roger Sherman farm has been mishandled continuously by two administrations sharing a relentless, wrong-headed focus on residential development. This one-note approach to the future of the property has met multiple rejections by organized citizens who saw the obvious financial, conservation, and quality-of-life flaws in all the development proposals. While the most recent plan by Arbor Haven has been withdrawn, development of the property is clearly still the First Selectman’s goal. In a recent Hartford Courant interview, she sugarcoats her agenda with the possibility of recreation, open space and solar uses, but development is at the core. She says, “the town needs additional revenue and diverse housing and this parcel is certainly one way toward achieving those goals.” And, “multifamily housing with a component of affordable housing will generate taxes to offset town expenses.” That statement is inaccurate. Repetition must never validate misinformation! The First Selectman is tone deaf and we deserve better.

Yes, Woodbridge is in a tough spot when it comes to finding ways to ease the financial burden on property owners who will now endure another mill rate increase. Our mill rate continues to be in the upper ranks statewide. The obvious answer is to increase our commercial tax base, not build high density housing that unquestionably will adversely impact the Town’s financial condition. Serious focus on economic development requires professional help. Leaving an issue this important to a volunteer committee with a revolving membership is a disservice to those members and to Woodbridge taxpayers. In April the Town hired a consulting firm for \$12,000 to address the development of the business district. That’s potentially productive, but as a good first step, let’s get the First Selectman’s “beautification of the town center” ideas off the table and look for investments that will bring commercial taxpayers here. The center of town is beautiful enough, but our 43.77 mill rate is ugly. Use the grant money available to Woodbridge smartly. That approach would be better.

How we use our assets: tax revenue, grants, control of our zoning, utilization of public property and the protection of open space that makes Woodbridge special, will determine our future. Many past town leaders made tough, wise decisions to produce what is best about our town today. Today’s leaders need to rise to the occasion, listen to residents, and actually reach across the aisle. We will all be better for it.

Woodbridge Town News

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Mailed Free to Every Business in Woodbridge & Bethany

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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
August 26 Labor Day + Back to School Issue	August 19
September 30 Halloween Issue	September 23
October 28 Election Issue.....	October 21

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

FROM OUR READERS

Why The Rush?

Fewer than half of Connecticut’s towns submitted a state-mandated housing plan by the deadline of June 1st. Woodbridge met the deadline, but at the cost of by-passing any opportunity for meaningful resident input. What was the rush?

The Housing Opportunity Study Committee worked with the regional Council of Governments (COG) in preparing the draft report. Unfortunately, the COG failed to meet its deadline, causing the Woodbridge committee to be delayed in delivering a draft to the Board of Selectmen. As originally planned, there would have been adequate time for the public to absorb the draft, offer comment, and then revise the report as appropriate.

Instead, our First Selectman offered the public just five days – FIVE DAYS – to review a report of almost 100 pages (including lots of data, tables and graphs/charts). Over a dozen residents met this absurd deadline, asking for more time to review and comment on the lengthy report. They also pointed out obvious errors and substantive concerns and questions. The response? All of the Democratic selectmen ignored the comments of their constituents and the obvious value of public input. Instead, they voted to send the report to the state unchanged.

This disinterest in the people they represent and this disregard for accuracy is astounding. Here are just a few problems with the draft – now final – report. The report refers to the “State’s mandated 10% requirement” for affordable housing in contravention of our own Town Counsel’s acknowledgement that there is no such mandate. It is alarming to find that the report doesn’t accurately reflect the law on which the report is based. The report claims that more than one third of the town is open space, in direct contradiction to the Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development. Further, the report lists “The United

Church of Christ” as a potential location for affordable housing but fails to explain why the property of this religious institution is identified but not property owned by other religious institutions.

Our First Selectman now says she is proud to have submitted the report on time. This shows she cares more about “checking the box” than achieving a publicly vetted and factually accurate housing plan that will benefit town decision-making going forward.

Amey Marrella

Woodbridge Has an Opportunity to Lead

We believe that Woodbridge has an opportunity to lead. Following the horrifying terrorist attack on a neighborhood supermarket in Buffalo, NY, we in Woodbridge and across the country have been reminded of the tragic costs of unchallenged fear and hatred.

As members of the Town of Woodbridge Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, we believe that our Town can and should stand together to challenge any forces that would seek to gain advantage by harassing, attacking, or otherwise demeaning members of our proudly diverse community.

A sensible place to begin would be by supporting the DEI coordinator position requested by Amity High School. You may not be aware, but in recent years our award-winning high school—one of the keystone institutions of our community—has been the site of anti-semitic and racist incidents that have hurt students and their families and reflected poorly on the values of respect and fellowship that guide our Town.

Having a staff member dedicated to supporting Amity students, teachers, and leadership in countering discrimination and cruelty with knowledge and guidance will be an important step in ensuring that our school represents a place of learning and connection. This

See “Letters” On Page 20

Woodbridge Town News

WTN LETTERS POLICY

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

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

WOODBRIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Third Time's The Charm: Amity Budget Passes

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Amity Board of Education in a last-ditch effort managed to convince enough voters — at least in Woodbridge and Bethany — to pass its 2022-23 budget in a third referendum on June 14. In Orange, the budget was voted down, 1,168 to 1,094.

The referendum result in Woodbridge was 792 in favor and 625 against; in Bethany, 558 in favor and 418 against. Overall, the budget passed, 2,444: 2,211. Most remarkable is the number of voters who came out to cast their ballot, growing from a total of 2,204 votes in early May to 4,655 in mid-June, showing just how contentious the vote had become.

“The two major lightning rods are the surplus and the DEI coach [for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion], said Amity Board of Education member Sean Hartshorn at the May 31 special meeting of the board. At that meeting the board endorsed a substantial budget cut, to lower the budget increase from 3.59% to 3.19%. As suggested by School Supt. Dr. Jennifer Byars, the cuts were non-instructional in nature, with the biggest portion of it achieved by lowering the medical reserve to 18%.

The May 31 meeting, which was held at the Brady Auditorium at Amity High School, was so contentious that during public comment board chairman John Belfonti had the auditorium cleared of the public. The action came after one speaker would not yield the floor after the prescribed limit of 3 minutes, and the audience shouted out, either yielding their time for him to finish or insisting he leave the microphone.

After the room had been cleared, speakers were invited in, one-by-one for the remainder of time allotted for public comment. Then the board recessed for 10 minutes to give people a chance to get home and log on to follow the rest of the meeting.

Dr. K. Sudhir, Yale professor of economics, asked the superintendent for more transparency when it comes to the end-of-year surplus. “People ask and we can’t explain,” he said. “It’s in the packet every single month,” Dr. Byars responded, adding “there is not an easy way to communicate it.”

Dr. Byars said the district is holding contingencies until the end of the year. These past few winters have been relatively light in terms of snow and ice, which cannot be predicted 19 months ahead. She said usually there is money left over in the salary account, which they keep until the end of the year. “They are always moving parts,” she said.

She said they had to estimate in November of 2020 what the Excess Cost Grant payment from the state would be in May of 2022. “As we budget every year, we look at what we think is going to happen,” added Finance Director Theresa Lumas.

A major uncertainty, especially these past three years, has been with the medical reserve. Counterintuitively, the medical expenses during the pandemic were down, given that district employees delayed medical procedures or visits if they could.

The Amity District some ten years ago or so decided to “self-insure,” by creating a medical reserve. It does not use an insurance broker. However, the district does hire a consultant to keep

track of pool risk and payments. Starting in July it will partner with a new consultant who recommends a lower percentage than what they budgeted for in the past.

In a subsequent letter signed by 11 Board of Education members, the board explains that a surplus is not an expense, and doesn’t add up from one year to the next. “When people estimate a \$12 million cost of surplus, it is like a bank saying ‘We lent you \$3 million. You kept it for 4 years, that means you owe us 12 million dollars.’ No, we only owe the bank \$3 million and interest. The district returns about 80% of its surplus to the member towns.

In fact, Amity Board of Education member Paul Davis of Orange addressed the Orange Board of Selectmen at its June 9 meeting, saying the district has refunded \$4.4 million to the town in the last four years, monies that were appropriated by the taxpayer for the use of the Amity operations. “To my knowledge I have not gotten a penny of that money, and I don’t know where it is,” he said. “I’d like to go on record saying that needs to be researched.”

He also pointed out that the Orange budget referendum included an Amity budget number that subsequently failed at a separate referendum. “We presented a budget to the people of Orange that was inaccurate,” Davis said. By taxing its residents based on a higher school budget number than ultimately approved by the voter, the town will end up with somewhere in the neighborhood of \$500,000 that is not appropriated for anything. “The town has to figure out a way to make the taxpayer whole,” he said.

DEI coach: The Amity board also penned a letter regarding the DEI coach, a letter signed by 11 of its 13 members. “We want to offer the best to ALL our children,” they wrote, adding that the lack of diversity and inclusion not only affect student learning. In school ratings, Amity was ranked 10th of 11 districts, they said, with its worst score being in diversity.

The DEI curriculum will not divide the student body into oppressed and oppressors, as feared by some of the public speakers. Instead, a science teacher might teach about Rosalind Franklin, the x-ray crystallographer overlooked for the Nobel Prize for the structure of DNA or John Nash, the Nobel Laureate in Economics who struggled with schizophrenia and inspired the movie A Beautiful Mind. “The DEI coach won’t just help teachers comply with new laws – they’ll help teachers identify resources, plan, and deliver lessons in a responsive way,” the letter explains.

Dr. Byars pointed out that there are numerous initiatives that the state expects school districts to implement, and teachers are looking for help in that regard. By hiring a coach from within the district, they can tailor it to the local needs rather than getting a cookie-cutter training.

Board member Donna Schuster agreed. “When you hire a consultant, they have no skin in the game.” Jennifer Turner suggested offering a Parent Academy program to clarify what the DEI coach does or doesn’t do.

In the meantime, the diversity coach position was removed from the operating budget and is paid for by a grant.

The Most Popular Recreational Activities

Summer is a season for recreation. Warm weather beckons people outdoors every day and during every season, but a quick glance outside your living room window in June, July and August will illustrate just how much people cherish any chance to spend time in nature when the mercury rises. So how are people spending their time outdoors? According to a recent report from the Outdoor Foundation that studied participation in various sports and activities, the most popular outdoor activity in the United States is running. The Outdoor Foundation report indicated that more than 61 million U.S. residents did some rec-

reational running in 2019. To put that in perspective, 61 million people represents roughly 19 percent of the American population ages six and up. Fishing was the second most popular outdoor recreational activity among adults in the U.S., attracting more than 50 million participants. Outdoor recreation also is popular in Canada, where winter-dominant sports like skiing, snowboarding and hockey aren't the only ways to enjoy the great outdoors. For example, the Trans Canada Trail, a recreational trail that connects every province and territory in Canada, attracts cyclists, joggers and hikers throughout the warm weather seasons.

Sweet Land
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LIBERTY

ATTENTION TEACHERS!

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

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

Woodbridge Town News
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Achievements
Lasell University

Newton, MA - Caelan Watson, a Lasell University student from Bethany, was recognized by the institution for outstanding collaboration in the spring 2022 semester. Watson received the most peer nominations in their Typography course, taught by Vladimir Zimakov, Diane Heath Beever ‘49 associate professor of art. Recipients of the Collaboration Recognition Award are selected by their peers for exemplifying superior skills in collaboration by sharing ideas and useful information, communicating in a professional manner, and cooperating in a way to ensure success. The Collaboration Recognition Program at Lasell University was launched in 2021 as an opportunity to acknowledge students not just for their academic performance in a particular course, but for collaborative behaviors that are the key to success in professional environments.

Dean’s List
Bucknell University

Lewisburg, PA - Bucknell University has released the dean’s list for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2021-22 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. Woodbridge students Ellie Luciani, 2023, majoring in Markets, Innovation & Design and Hannah Price, 2022, majoring in Music was named to the Dean’s List.

Coastal Carolina University

Conway, SC - More than 2,000 undergraduate students at Coastal Carolina University were named to the Dean’s List for the Spring 2022 semester, including David LaMorte, an Exercise and Sport Science major from Woodbridge, CT. Students who make the Dean’s List have achieved a grade point average between 3.5-3.99 for the semester.

College of the Holy Cross

Worcester, MA - Matteo Delsanto of Woodbridge was named to the College of the Holy Cross Spring 2022 Dean’s List. A member of the Class of 2024, Delsanto was among more than 1,457 students named to the Dean’s List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2021-22 academic year. To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing

grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Connecticut College

New London, CT - Alana Safian, Class of 2023 at Connecticut College, has been named to the dean’s list for the 2022 spring semester, achieving Dean’s High Honors. Safian, from Woodbridge, is an Art major.

Dean College

Franklin, MA - Dean College is pleased to announce that Catherine Thomas of Woodbridge has earned a place on the Dean’s List for the Spring 2022 semester. Students named to the Dean’s List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Eastern Connecticut State University

Willimantic, CT - Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean’s List for the spring 2022 semester, in which more than 1,200 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs. Among them is full-time student Jolie Garcia of Woodbridge, who majors in Biology. To qualify for Dean’s List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester.

High Point University

Hight Point, NC - Alyssa Macrae of Bethany made the Dean’s List for the Spring 2022 semester. Dean’s List students are those who have attained a 3.5 or higher GPA for the previous semester based on a 4.0 scale. A student must attempt 12 semester hours of course work each semester other than on a Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit basis.

Iowa State University

Ames, IA - Approximately 9,500 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the spring semester 2022 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, from Woodbridge majoring in Mechanical Engineering, was named to the Dean’s List.

Lasell University

Newton, MA - Caelan Watson of Bethany was named to the Lasell Uni-

versity Dean’s List for their academic performance in the spring 2022 semester. To be named to the Dean’s List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve 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, Woodbridge, CT in the Spring 2022 semester.

Southern Connecticut State University

New Haven, CT – SCSU announces that the following Woodbridge residents were named to the Spring 2022 Dean’s List: Kayla Britton, Nursing; Zachary Broklehurst, STAR; Deanna Dittrich, Nursing; Eric Duhl, Business; Mayel Hubbard, HLS, Wendy Kenyon, Nursing; Samuel Martin, SED; Kiefer Rodriguez, SWK; Corinne Sadinsky, ATH; and Sebasian Scrimenti, Business.

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI - The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce the Spring 2022 Dean’s List. To be included on the Dean’s List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average. Those students from Woodbridge named to the Dean’s List are: Olivia Kudasik, Sophie O’Brien, and Matthew Sturtevant.

University of Vermont

Burlington, VT - The following Woodbridge students have been named to the dean’s list for the spring 2022 semester at the University of Vermont: Savannah Kusnitz, Social Work major, is in the College of Education and Social Services; and Austin Rowland, Environmental Sciences major, is in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. To be named to the dean’s list, students must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or better and rank in the top 20 percent of their class in their respective college or school.

UW–Madison

Madison, Wis - The University of

Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean’s List for the spring semester of the 2021-2022 academic year. Students from Woodbridge, Emma Kravetz, School of Business, and Carly Silver, College of Letters and Science, were named to the Dean’s List. Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean’s List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.

Graduations
Bucknell University

Lewisburg, PA - Bucknell University celebrated nearly 900 graduates from the Class of 2022, whose degrees will be conferred in June, on Sunday, May 22, 2022. The class represents 62 majors across Bucknell’s three colleges (Arts & Sciences, Engineering and the Freeman College of Management). These students hail from 33 U.S. states and 25 nations. Hannah Price earned her degree in Music.

Colorado College

Colorado Springs, CO - Colorado College celebrated the Class of 2022 at an in-person Commencement ceremony on May 22. Helen Lenski, of Woodbridge, CT, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Lenski is a member of the Colorado College Class of 2022.

University of New Hampshire

Durham, NH - Jordan Conn of Woodbridge, CT graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of New Hampshire over the weekend of May 20-22, 2022. He earned a BS degree in Sport Studies. Students who received the honor of Magna Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.65-3.84.

University of Vermont

Burlington, VT - Zeynep Tek of Woodbridge, CT graduated with a Doctor of Medicine in The Robert Larner M.D. College of Medicine during commencement ceremonies in May, 2022. This year’s commencement at the University of Vermont-the 221st in its history-marked a return to a traditional celebration outdoors on the University Green after two years of re-imagined ceremonies due to pandemic restrictions.

“Those who won our independence... valued liberty as an end and as a means. They believed liberty to be the secret of happiness and courage to be the secret of liberty.” — LOUIS D. BRANDEIS

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



7th Grade Picnic will host “Hippo Chow Down” Inflatable



Senator James Maroney offered a congratulatory fist bump to First Selectman’s Youth Award Winner Ava Shanbrom while Senator Jorge Cabrera and First Selectman Beth Heller observe with appreciation

First Selectman’s Youth Award 2022: Winner Ava Shanbrom

Ava Shanbrom received her award and Woodbridge citation from First Selectman Beth Heller at the recent Human Services Volunteer Appreciation Celebration. Scott Zimmerman from Peoples United (Division of M&T Bank) presented Ava with a check for \$200. Senators Jorge Cabrera and James Maroney presented her with a state citation for her service to Woodbridge.

Youth Services Offers Support to Amity Middle School Students

Students enjoyed the recent ice cream social funded by the PTSO and Youth Services at Amity Middle School during the Yearbook Signing event. Youth Services also offered cool treats to students at their kickball tournament on the last day of school.

Youth Services helped to sponsor the Eight Grade Graduation Party coordinated by the AMSB PTSO to reduce the cost to students and families. Students enjoyed a beautiful night at Racebrook Country Club.

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 in

Woodbridge to earn some extra cash. Youth Services provides an opportunity to learn about the interview process, safety on the job, and how to negotiate pay.

Do yard work, babysitting, weeding, dog walking, raking, etc. Call for an interview at 203-389-3464 or e-mail npfund@woodbridgect.org. Masks and social distancing may be required.

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

Red Cross Babysitter Training

Class covers all the basics to get you ready to babysit. This 2-day class for teens, ages 12-17, will be held on Wednesday, August 10 and Thursday, August 11 from 9:00 am to 12:45 pm in the Woodbridge Library Meeting Room at 10 Newton Road. Must attend both days. Snacks provided. Fee is \$60, \$65 for non-residents. Discount for siblings. Call Youth Services at 203-389-3429 for more information or mail npfund@woodbridgect.org.

Annual Seventh Grade Picnic to Welcome Students to Middle School

Incoming 7th Grade residents from

See “Youth Services” On Page 11

HUMAN SERVICES



State Senators Jorge Cabrera, left, and James Maroney deliver state citations to the recipients of the Woodbridge Human Services Outstanding Volunteer awards at the 32nd annual Volunteer Appreciation event



Winners of the Outstanding Volunteer award stand with members of the Human Services staff, First Selectman Beth Heller, and State Senator Jorge Cabrera

Volunteer Appreciation Event: The Human Services Dept. honored over 100 volunteers at the 32nd Annual Volunteer Recognition celebration. Many thanks to all receiving this honor for their generous volunteer contributions. The Human Services Special Recognition Award was presented to the members of the Living Treasure Planning Committee, The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Volunteers, and the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association. Outstanding Volunteers this year are Susan Davidson, Cathy and Tim Austin, Alice Lippman, and Teena Arbo. The Community Organization and Business Award was given to The Friends of the Woodbridge Library, Good Night Sleep Tight PJ Program, Inc., Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, and Coachman Square at Woodbridge. The Woodbridge Center Award was presented to Sandy Faggiana and Linda Caffalette. The First Selectman’s Youth Award was presented to Ava Shanbrom. Congratulations to all these wonderful volunteers!

4th Annual Living Treasure

Event – call for nominations: The Human Services Department will hold the 4th annual Living Treasure event on September 22nd at 5:30 pm (please note change in date). The event will honor a few residents age 60 or over, who have demonstrated positive actions to improve the quality of life in Woodbridge, have contributed and may continue to contribute their time to enhance our community, and have performed this work on a volunteer, unpaid basis. Nomination forms, available at the Town Website, at the Human Services Department, and at the library, must be completed and returned by July 25th to Woodbridge Human Services.

Members of the community are welcome to join the event planning committee which meets frequently during the months of June, July, August, and September. The first committee meeting will be June 28 at 10:30 am at Woodbridge Human Services. Please contact Jeanette Glicksman at 203-389-3429 to volunteer. Donations of gift certificates to local businesses

See “Human Services” On Page 13

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Woodbridge Recycling Center

Residents should be aware of what items they are placing in their recycling bin and whether or not they are recyclable. Recently, the Town was alerted that one load of recycling taken to our contracted recycling center had at least 10% contamination. That means 10% of items or more were not recyclable. When a load meets the 10% threshold the Town is charged a fee. If this happens repeatedly the recycling center will reject Woodbridge recycling.

“Please pay attention to what you put in your trash bin and what goes in your recycling bin!” said First Selectman Beth Heller. “Proper recycling is better for the Earth and for the Town’s bottom line.” The Town pays approximately \$37/ton to dispose of recycling and about \$65/ton to dispose of trash.

Recycling collection centers are spot monitoring for contamination and sending feedback to municipalities. In April the Town had a contaminated load and again in May. Contaminated loads cost the Town more money. Plastic bags are the most

common item that contaminate recycling loads. Another common contamination source is leftover food in containers.

Residents are encouraged to visit the “recycle wizard” at recyclect.com to learn if specific items can be recycled. A few examples of non-recyclable items are: pizza boxes; black plastic; shredded paper; bottle caps.

The State is facing a looming trash crisis and the expectation is that the cost to dispose of trash will continue to rise. The Town is encouraging residents to think before they throw. To date, the Town has installed a scale at the Transfer Station to charge haulers by weight before it is delivered to the trash-to-energy facility. The scale is now also used for residents disposing of bulky trash items such as furniture or demolition materials. In addition, the Town has a separate glass recycling container so that residents may dispose of glass for recycling. Glass is heavy and often breaks, thereby contaminating other recyclables.

Town of Woodbridge Meetings for the Month of July 2022



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

7/5	Town Plan & Zoning Commission.....	6:30 PM	Town Hall
7/6	Housing Opportunity Study Committee	7:00 PM	Town Hall
7/11	Library Commission	6:00 PM	Library
	Zoning Board of Appeals.....	7:30 PM	Town Hall
7/13	Board of Selectmen	5:00 PM	Town Hall
7/14	Community Council.....	9:30 AM	Town Hall
	Economic Development Commission.....	6:00 PM	Town Hall
7/18	Fire Commission	6:00 PM	
	Police Commission.....	6:15 PM	Police Dept
7/19	2030 Task Force	6:00 PM	Town Hall
7/20	Diversity & Inclusion Committee.....	6:30 PM	Library
	Inland Wetlands Agency.....	7:30 PM	Town Hall
7/21	Board of Finance.....	6:00 PM	Town Hall
	Conservation Commission.....	7:30 PM	Town Hall
7/25	CUPOP.....	5:30 PM	Town Hall
7/26	Gov’t Access TV Commission	7:30 PM	Town Hall

Recreation News



The Woodbridge Summer Concert series is back. Tuesday evenings in July, from 6 to 8 pm, at the Woodbridge Town Green. July 5 is “Britishmania,” featuring music from the Beatles. July 12 features “Boogie Chillun” (Country, Blues, Jazz, Rock and Soul music). July 19 features “Abe Ovadia Trio” –Jazz Trio. July 26 is the “Rumrunners” (Classic Rock). Visit the Recreation page on the Town website for rain dates. Special thanks to our Main Sponsor Shanbrom Real Estate

Group-Coldwell Banker and thanks to all our sponsors that made these concerts possible.

The Woodbridge Road Race date is set. Mark your calendars – the 40th Annual Woodbridge Road Race will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2022. The 5k Road Race will begin at 10:30am. The children’s Fun Run will be held at 9 am. For those interested in becoming a Road Race sponsor, contact the Recreation Dept. Office at 203-389-3446 before July 16.

“Youth Services” From Page 10

Bethany and Woodbridge and other new AMSB 7th graders are invited to join us for this annual picnic on Wednesday, August 24th on the Amity Middle School-Bethany back field from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Rain location is in the gym. \$7.00 Fee includes DJ, “Hippo Chow Down” inflatable, games, pizza, and free raffle ticket. Call Youth Services or email to register.

Volunteers Needed

Adults, College Students, and mature high school students may call or email to help.

Free Mental Health First Aid Training for Adults

This training is open to all individuals that live or work within the towns of Milford, West Haven, Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge. Upcoming trainings:

- › July 12th and 19th, Tuesday Evening(s) from 6pm - 8:30pm (YOUTH MHFA, Virtual);
- › July 21st, Thursday from 10am - 3pm (YOUTH MHFA, Virtual);
- › August 9th, Tuesday from 10am - 4pm (YOUTH MHFA, @ WH Public Library);
- › August 17th, Wednesday from 10am - 4pm (ADULT MHFA, Virtual).

Register for training at <https://bit.ly/trainings-MHFA>. Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches adults how

to identify, understand & respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children & adolescents ages 12-18. Participants must complete 2 hours of self-paced, pre-work before attending the interactive, instructor-led portion of the training. Participants must attend the entire virtual training to become certified and will also be required to complete a knowledge check and course evaluation. Course materials and fees are covered through a Mental Health Awareness Training grant and Bridges Healthcare.

BOWDAAC-Let’s Talk Prevention

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

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

AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



Left: Recipients of the Woodbridge Center Award, Sandy Faggiana, second from left, and Linda Caffellette, are honored at the Volunteer Appreciation Celebration; also pictured are Senior Center Director Kristy Moriarty, First Selectman Beth Heller, Human Services Commission Chair Susan Davidson, and State Senator Jorge Cabrera. **Center:** Business Award recipients, Deb Urso (second from left) representing Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center and Carol Davino representing Coachman Square at Woodbridge are recognized at the Volunteer Appreciation Celebration. **Right:** Jessica Esposito and Jeanette Glicksman cheerfully greet participants at the Father's Day Drive-thru Luncheon sponsored by Amity Physical Therapy and Coachman Square



Mike Quick

The Center is pleased to welcome Mike Quick to the Transportation Program. Mike comes to The Center highly qualified with many years of experience driving commercial, passenger vehicles. He is patient, conscientious, and always has a big smile (under the mask)! We are sure you will enjoy riding with Mike as much as with our other wonderful drivers.

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

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

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

COVID-19 Guideline Update at The Center: Masks will be required for all indoor Center programming and events when New Haven County is in a "high" level based on the CDC's new tool for monitoring COVID-19 in the community. For the safety of others, please stay home if you have symptoms of COVID-19, have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or if you tested positive for COVID-19.

Sponsored lunches for Wood-

bridge residents over 60 years of age: Annual Picnic Drive-thru Luncheon: Come pick-up this year's Annual Picnic lunch at the July 28 drive-thru then stay and enjoy it in the Grove. Bourbon pulled chicken, baked beans, potato salad, roll, and dessert will be served (all cold). This drive-thru is generously sponsored by the Woodbridge Police Department and Elim Park. Also enjoy a special treat provided by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. No charge. Please RSVP by July 21.

Summer Luncheon in the Grove: Eat, drink and be entertained in the Grove on August 25 from 12-1:30 pm. Whitney Rehabilitation Care Center has arranged for this fun event sponsoring music by Alex Lentini, sandwiches and chips sponsored by Maplewood at Orange, dessert sponsored by Atrinity Home Care, and beverages sponsored by Senior Planning Services. Please call to RSVP – space is limited to the first 50 to sign up. No charge. Rain date is August 26.

Upcoming Events/Programs

New! Cornhole: Sign-up today to participate in this part skill, part luck, all fun activity! This is a game everyone can play! All levels are welcome. Every Monday and Friday, 10-11:30 am in the Grove, weather permitting. Call to register 203-389-3430.

2 months remain! American Armchair Adventure - National Park Series: This in-person monthly series, provided by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, explores six National Parks in six months. Enjoy simulated tours, interactive discussions, trivia, and more. Remaining adventures include: Zion - July 8, and Grand Teton - August 12. The program meets 11 am – 12 pm in the Library Meeting Room. Call 203-389-3430 to sign up.

Herb Planting in a Hand-painted Terracotta Pot: Everything will be provided to plant your favorite herbs in a beautifully hand-painted terracotta pot. This workshop is offered by Hamden Rehabilitation and

Healthcare Center for no charge on July 14, 11 am - 12 pm in the Library Meeting Room.

Bangle Charm Bracelet Workshop: All supplies will be provided to make customized charm bracelets in this workshop provided by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. August 18, 11 am – 12 pm in the Library Meeting Room. No Charge.

Rolling start-date! FREE Lifestyle Change (Diabetes Prevention) Program - offered in-person and on Zoom: Concerned about your health risks as you age? Want to live healthier but don't know where to start? Join this evidence-based Lifestyle Change Program led by a certified lifestyle coach. The program includes 26 weekly sessions on healthy eating, type 2 diabetes prevention, weight loss, stress management, physical activity, and more. A weekly 45 minute exercise class with Laura Richling is included as well as six private sessions with a Registered Dietician.

This program will be provided AT NO COST to everyone 60+ years of age. It is co-sponsored by the South Central CT Agency on Aging and non-profit Monitor My Health, in an effort to promote good health. Weekly lecture/discussion every Tuesday 1-2 pm in the Center Building room 16, fitness class Tuesdays 12-12:45 pm in the Center Building gym. Join anytime. Call to register.

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

New! Hybrid Aerobics Class with Laura Richling: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 am in the Center Building gym and beginning June 7 on Zoom. Enjoy a complete aerobic, cardio, and strength training work-out to a variety of music. Bring your own 1- or 2-pound hand weights, if you have them, to use during the class. There is a \$3 fee payable at the start of class, or invoiced monthly for Zoom participants. Please call for link.

Pickleball: Monday through Friday, 12:30-3:30 pm, in the Center Building gym and enjoy the new nets outside 7 days/week. New players please call

to register. All levels are welcome. Call for more information. There is an annual fee of \$20 for residents, \$25 for non-residents.

Hobbies/Social

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

Craft Group: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 am - 12 pm, in the Woodbridge Room of the Library. Bring your current knitting, crocheting, or needlepoint project to work on while enjoying a lovely time socializing.

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

Services Offered

(For Woodbridge residents only)

Tech Tuesday and Thursday, 2:45-4:15 pm: Need help navigating your computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone? Call to sign-up for a 1:1 session in The Center's computer lab with patient, knowledgeable, Amity High School student volunteers. No charge.

Computer lab, located in room 13 of the Human Services hallway, is open Monday - Friday, 10 am - 2 pm. Two-person limit in computer lab. Printing is available (first 5 pages free). Preregistration is required.

Transportation is available for those over the age of 60 or for those temporarily or permanently disabled to medical appointments to 17 surrounding towns, local grocery shopping, banking, pharmacy pick-up, and social engagements, Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Call to arrange car or wheelchair accessible van transportation. Vehicles are cleaned between each use. Masks are required.

Meals: Healthy, well balanced, flash frozen meals for \$5.25/meal are available. Order by noon on Monday for delivery to your home during the same week. Choose from a wide variety of options including stuffed flounder, eggplant rollatini, chicken piccata, and fresh Cobb salad with grilled chicken breast. Meals include a roll, fresh fruit, and dessert. Two meal minimum

See "Woodbridge Center" On Page 13

“Woodbridge Center” From Page 12

order with a ten-meal limit. See website (<https://woodbridgect.org/541/Lunch-Meal-Programs>) for a complete list of offerings.

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

Friendly Visitor Program: Call Judi Young, Senior Social Worker, at

203-389-3429, to arrange for a friendly visitor.

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

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

“Human Services” From Page 10

are welcome!

Federal Home COVID-19 Test Kits Available: The Biden administration has once again opened CovidTests.gov to facilitate ordering free at-home COVID-19 test kits. Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order a 3rd round of free tests. You may order up to 10 test kits per household through the website. For telephone assistance call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489).

Local Masks and Test Kits: The Human Services Department continues to distribute free COVID-19 at-home test kits to Woodbridge residents while supplies last. Residents in need of home test kits may call 203-389-3429 to make an appointment to pick up. Proof of residency is required. If you have soon to expire home test kits, please check the recent extension that can be found at FDA.gov. Expiration dates for the iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test has been extended from June to September and may be safely used.

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 oatmeal, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, canola and olive oils, ground coffee, baking mixes, snack foods, salad dressing, paper towels, cleaning sprays, and laundry detergent. mKindly check all expiration dates prior to drop-off.

Emergency Preparedness: In the event of a weather emergency or power outage, elderly residents and

those with disabilities are encouraged to register for the Emergency Call List by contacting the Human Services Department at 203-389-3429. The Department will provide outreach to all on the list prior to anticipated emergencies.

Stay Safe in Hot Weather: Too much heat is not safe for anyone. It is even riskier for older people and those with health problems. The following tips are always a good reminder: drink plenty of liquids but avoid drinks containing alcohol and caffeine; try to keep your home as cool as possible by opening windows overnight and keeping shades or curtains closed during the day; dress for the weather using natural fabrics such as cotton; do not try exercise or do other outdoor activities when it's hot; if you need help getting to a cool place please call The Woodbridge Center M-F to arrange transportation.

9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: On July 16th, the National Suicide Hotline number 9-8-8 will go live as a simplified way of getting connected to help if you or someone you know is experiencing suicidal ideation and need help. This line connects individuals to over 250 agencies that can help a person who is at risk of death by suicide. The current National Suicide Hotline 1-800-273-8255 will remain a working number even after the 9-8-8 number is in effect. For more information on suicide prevention resources visit suicidepreventionlifeline.org, Suicide Resources (ct.gov), Understanding and Preventing Suicide in Older Adults (ncoa.org)



WILEY ETTER DOYON ATTORNEYS

Don't Send Your Child To College Without These Two Legal Documents

Young adults over the age of eighteen (18) should have a Durable Power of Attorney and Health Care Instructions granting legal authority to a person (or people) they trust to make important decisions.

Durable Power of Attorney Instrument:

- **What does it do?** Appoints someone to make financial decisions and sign legal documents for your child if your child is alive but unable to do so himself/herself.
- **What if your child doesn't have one?** If legal decisions must be made, or legal actions must be taken (i.e. signing legal documents), and a young adult does not have a Durable Power of Attorney, then someone will need to petition the Probate Court to become appointed as the “Conservator of the Estate”. This process is public, can be time consuming, can be expensive, and does not always produce a result you might have chosen.

Health Care Instructions:

- **What does it do?** Appoints someone to make medical decisions for your child if your child is alive but unable to do so himself/herself.
- **What if your child doesn't have one?** If medical decisions must be made, and your child does not have Health Care Instructions, someone will need to petition the Probate Court to become appointed as the “Conservator of the Person”. This process is public, can be time consuming, can be expensive, and does not always produce a result you might have chosen.

Example:

A young adult is in college, has a car accident, and is in a coma. Her parents have no legal authority to access her Bank account, or pursue insurance claims or litigation against the driver who hit her. Similarly, her parents have no legal authority to discuss her medical records with her attending physicians.

If you or your child are interested in learning more about the benefits of properly drafting a Durable Power of Attorney or Health Care Instructions please contact the office. We would be glad to meet for a no hassle, no charge initial consultation, no matter how long it lasts.



Allison M. DePaola Drozd of the law firm Wiley Etter Doyon, LLC is the author of this article. This article has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal advice or to create an attorney client relationship. Readers should not act upon the information contained in this article without seeking advice from an attorney regarding the specific facts and circumstances of your case.



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6th Prize - \$400 Gift Card – ShopRite, 935 Boston Post Road, Milford, CT • **7th Prize** - \$400 Gift Card – The Orange Ale House, 517 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT

8th Prize - \$250 Gift Card – Knight's, Inc., 286 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT • **9th Prize** - \$250 Gift Card – Home Depot, 440 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT

10th Prize - \$150 Gift Card – Outback Steakhouse, 132 Marsh Hill Road, Orange, CT

LOCATIONS TO PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS

Tickets are available now at **Knight's**, 286 Boston Post Road; **Orange Town Hall**, 617 Orange Center Road; **People's Bank**, 653 Orange Center Road; and **Chip's Restaurant**, 321 Boston Post Road

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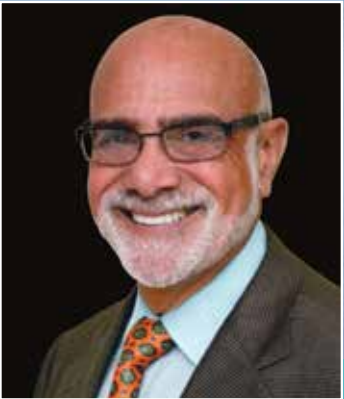

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CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Pictured at the Mark Twain House & Museum the evening of the awards event is Big Brother of the Year Charles Gamble and his Little Brother Rell

Resident Named Connecticut's Big Brother Of The Year

Charles Gamble, of Woodbridge, was recently named Big Brother of the Year by Big Brother Big Sisters of Connecticut. The award was presented at the Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford at the organization's Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Year Awards event. The event was held live after 2 years of being staged virtually, due to the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis.

Gamble, who's the Chief Operating Officer at New Haven-based Inbox Health, is a Big Brother (adult mentor) in the Big Brothers Big Sisters community-based program. He currently mentors a young man named Rell, who lives with his family in New Haven. This isn't Gamble's first experience with mentoring. He was a Big Brother when he was a college student in Washington years ago. Also, prior to mentoring Rell, Gamble was Big Brother to Rell's older

sibling T.J. for 5 years.

Since Gamble started mentoring Rell in 2020, the two have had many mentoring adventures together. One they still talk about involved taking off from a local airfield in a small plane and soaring high above the Connecticut skyline. Gamble received the flight as a gift and decided to share it with Rell, who got to sit next to the pilot in the co-pilot's seat and stare out the window in awe as they cruised over Hartford like hawks on the wing. It was Rell's first time in an airplane and he was beyond thrilled.

"Charlie Gamble is a committed and exceptional mentor," said Tara Gill, Director of the Community-Based Program at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut. "He's provided caring, consistent mentoring, first for T.J. and now for T.J.'s younger brother, Rell."

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Creating unique marketing synergy from over 75 years of experience, Barbara Lehrer and Wayne Hugendubel, Coldwell Banker.

This luxury property closed at 1165 Racebrook Road in Woodbridge on April 16, 2022 for \$1,200,000.



Barbara Lehrer
203-640-6407
Barbara.lehrer@cbmoves.com



Wayne Hugendubel
203-605-2946
Wayne.hugendubel@cbmoves.com



Red Barn Boutique and Gift Shop Continues to Grow in Woodbridge

The unique and elegant Red Barn Boutique and Gift Shop is celebrating 15 years in business and continues to enhance the Woodbridge community with beautiful clothing and artisan home goods. Currently in the process of expanding the inventory, owner Ellen Eisenberg offers customers a great shopping experience.

Beginning this fall, Ellen will be offering in-store personal shopping by appointment, an exciting new service. She will continue throughout the year to do the specialized buying she is known for throughout the state, regularly bringing in new, interesting designers.

Ellen says, “I’m really excited about this next phase of the Red Barn. I’m always looking for ways to expand our selection of goods and enhance the lifestyle of my customers with beautiful things. I’ll be on the premises a few times a week and I encourage customers to continue to stop in to say hello.”

The Red Barn Boutique and Gift Shop is located at 245 Amity Road in Woodbridge. It’s open Monday-Saturday from 10am-5:30pm. The website is www.redbarnwoodbridge.com, call 203-389-2910 or email ellen@redbarnwoodbridge.com.

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856 Boston Post Rd. Shoreline Big Y Plaza
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860-718-4859

1957 Whitney Ave.
N. Haven/Hamden, CT 06473
203-902-5255

Old Saybrook Ctr. – 105 Elm Street
(Stop & Shop Side, Unit 15)
Old Saybrook, CT 06472
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ARTS & LEISURE

Amity High School Film Club Wins First Place at Film Festival

The Amity Regional High School Film Club won first place in the Skills21.org film festival on Friday June 3, 2022. The winning 5-minute short film Act Your Age, was written, planned, and produced entirely by the students in the Film Club over the course of the 2021-22 school year.

The film festival accepted submissions from High Schools and Middle Schools across the state. The Amity Film Club won in the Open Film category, which one of several categories was awarded including: Best Docu-

mentary, Best 84 Hour Film, and Best Augmented Reality Film.

“I was ecstatic to have our club win the award,” said Daniella Landino, Amity senior and President of the Video Club. “I am incredibly proud of the video club members for everything they contributed to the film and was ecstatic to win the award,” she said.

The sponsoring organization, Skills21 is a Connecticut based nationally known leader in digital learning and STEM achievement.



Hobbies That Suit A Summertime Vibe

Summer is the season of R&R. When the mercury rises, who can resist a backyard hammock or the sound of waves lapping against a picturesque shoreline?

The relaxing nature of summer makes it the perfect season to revisit old hobbies or pick up new ones. Hobbies can run the gamut from the complex to the simple, but when choosing a habit to pick up this summer, individuals may want to look to these somewhat relaxing endeavors that are tailor-made for warm days and nights.

Reading: Individuals who have long wanted to read more should know that they're not alone. A 2019 survey commissioned by the reading subscription service Scribd and conducted by The Harris Poll found that 35 percent of respondents wished they could read more. Finding time to read more may be difficult during spring, summer and fall, when parents must contend with their own hectic schedules as well as their children's. Even individuals without children or empty nesters may find it difficult to carve out time to read in a typical day. But people who aspire to read more can take a book to the beach or out on the deck on a warm afternoon or evening. Leave the smartphone inside so you can relax and read distraction-free.

Gardening: Gardening is another hobby that coordinates well with a summertime vibe. Gardening gets people outdoors, giving them a chance

to soak up some summer sun and engage in an activity that's rewarding but not too physically demanding. One of the biggest attractions of gardening is that it can be enjoyed by people of all ages. That makes it an ideal hobby for busy families to enjoy together when their schedules slow down in the summer. It's also a great way for adults to spend quality time with aging parents.

Photography: Summer seascapes and landscapes are awe-inspiring, making this an ideal time of year to take up photography. Novices can begin by utilizing their smartphone cameras to take snapshots of local landscapes. Once the skill of pointing and clicking has been honed, amateur photogs can graduate to more expensive and precise cameras.

Sailing/boating: Though it might involve a little more physical activity than reading, sailing and/or boating is an ideal summertime activity. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that nearly 40 percent of the United States population lives in a coastal area, making boating and sailing an accessible hobby for a significant percentage of Americans. Even those who live far away from the ocean undoubtedly live close to a river or lake. What better way to enjoy warm summer afternoons than on a boat?

The best summertime hobbies are often those that help people take the relaxing nature of summer to the next level.



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“Letters” From Page 7

position will also help to move us closer to being a Town where our children, family, friends, and neighbors—regardless of where we were born, our ethnic heritage, how we worship, who we love, or how our bodies work—can take comfort in knowing that we are safe and respected in our community.

Another way you can help is by responding to the Experiencing Woodbridge Survey, which is accessible from the Town of Woodbridge website or via this link: <https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/zhB3NB>. We as a Committee worked together to create this tool as a means of understanding how well our town is living up to its ideals and where together we can do better.

Natural beauty, excellent schools, and an undeniable community spirit have made Woodbridge a special place for many of us. Valuing and celebrating the diversity and contributions of our residents, employees, and visitors will make Woodbridge a special place for all of us.

Town of Woodbridge Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Lor Ferrante Fernandes, David Franklin, Steven Lawrence, Tahera Parvez, Mohini Ranganathan, Robert Reed, Ellen Scalettar, and Ke Xu

Let’s Take “Junk Food” Development Off the Menu

It’s obvious that the Town’s housing consultant, David Fink, was importuned by town officials to write a response to United for Woodbridge, a group of citizens who oppose the sale of publicly owned open space for a massive housing development. His attempt to “clean up” his previous statements and align them with the administration’s political goals is disingenuous at best, and is easy to refute by simply

quoting his presentation verbatim. United for Woodbridge stated that experts, including Mr. Fink, agreed that “walkable neighborhoods, with easy access to daily shopping needs and to public transportation, are the best places for dense housing of all kinds, including age restricted and affordable housing.”

In his first appearance in town, back in May 2014, in a discussion focused on general housing needs in Woodbridge, Mr. Fink recommended encouraging the development of “smaller units close to the town center, near the doctor, the pharmacy, the church and other services.” Throughout Mr. Fink’s recent (10/25/2021) presentation, on multiple slides, he emphasized the importance of transit and locating affordable housing near public transportation.

Specifically, in response to a question from the First Selectman, Mr. Fink said, “There are towns that have bus lines, and if you can put housing that’s walkable to the bus, that’s good, but otherwise, putting it near a highway is good, at least people can get on and off pretty quickly, otherwise it’s best to put it...where people will tolerate the density, where it’s not going to mess up their neighborhood...Woodbridge has the area down near the Merritt, maybe that’s the best place...”

“Density is tolerable and advantageous in some places...and conversely affordability is not as valuable in some places. There are rural towns or rural areas in some towns where if you built an affordable unit for somebody and they had to buy a \$500 clunker that got 8 miles to the gallon and was going to break down every two weeks have you really done that household a favor? Probably not. So, it’s really good to put housing where people will tolerate it, you’ll reduce the chance of acrimony, and if you put it in a good

place, you’ll provide the residents with access to the services that they need. Attendant benefits are that you will reduce sprawl, cut auto emissions, and enhance mass transit.”

It’s clear, despite his attempt to deny it, that the United for Woodbridge information accurately reflects Mr. Fink’s presentations.

Next, Mr. Fink’s letter tries to quibble over the assertion by United for Woodbridge that Woodbridge is not an outlier in having relatively little legally affordable housing. Nobody disputes the fact that only 31 of Connecticut’s 169 towns have more than 10% legally affordable housing. Looking further into the data, it becomes even more clear that Woodbridge is no outlier. Of the 72 small towns in Connecticut (population of 10,000 or less), only two have more than 10% legally affordable housing. I fully stand by the characterization of Woodbridge not being an outlier on this measure.

Finally, Mr. Fink tries to dispute the assertion that Woodbridge currently has a significant amount of housing that is “naturally” affordable. The Arbor Haven proposal priced its 3-bedroom legally affordable homes at \$265,000. According to the Town tax assessor’s database, there are more than 300 homes in Woodbridge appraised at \$250,000 or less. Mr. Fink claimed that individuals making \$60,000 per year would not be able to afford such homes. Even if true, that is irrelevant, since these are not homes for one person, they are mostly 3- and 4-bedroom family homes. Thus, the family income threshold should apply. The ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold in CT for a family of four is \$90,000 so a \$250,000 home would indeed be affordable for them.

In trying to backpedal on his previous statements and retroactively align himself with the administration’s push

to develop the CCW, Mr. Fink made the analogy that if someone is starving, any additional nourishment is acceptable. The analogy fails because Woodbridge is not starving – we have a smorgasbord of nutritional options available to us. Thus far, we have only been offered junk food – a short-term sugar high that will not provide sustainable long-term health for the town. *Cathy Wick*

United for Woodbridge

Wishing You a Happy and Safe Independence Day

As fireworks light the night sky this Fourth of July, friends, families, and communities will gather together to celebrate our independence and toast to our nation’s birthday.

Wherever you’re raising a glass this weekend, if your plans involve alcohol, Dichello Distributors, Inc. reminds you to ‘Decide to Ride’ and plan ahead for a safe ride to and from your holiday celebrations to help keep our community safe. Drunk driving is 100% preventable so whether you choose to ride with Uber, public transportation or a non-drinking designated driver, if you drink, don’t drive.

For over 35 years, Anheuser-Busch and its network of independent wholesalers nationwide have invested more than \$1 billion in initiatives and community-based programs to prevent underage-drinking, impaired driving and other harmful uses of alcohol. Dichello Distributors is proud to work alongside Anheuser-Busch, Mothers Against Drunk Driving and Uber to encourage everyone to “Decide to Ride” this Fourth of July weekend.

From all of us at Dichello Distributors we wish you a happy and safe Independence Day.

Tony Lota
Alcohol Awareness Coordinator
Dichello Distributors, Inc.

Guide To Outdoor Lighting

Lighting is an essential component of interior and exterior home design. Not only does lighting add style and make spaces more appealing, when done correctly, it also makes a home safer and more functional.

Homeowners who plan to utilize outdoor spaces like backyards, front porches and walkways to the fullest should think carefully about lighting. These guidelines can assist with selecting outdoor lighting fixtures.

Security lighting: Flood lights and security lights are a good investment for those who want to beef up visibility and security around the home. These lights are high-intensity and designed to illuminate large areas. The brightness and reach can serve as a preventive measure to keep animals and even criminals away. Motion-sensor lights will immediately engage if something

crosses the path of the sensor. Some lights will remain on from dusk until dawn. Lowes Home Improvement suggests using the correct wattage on outdoor security lights so they flood an area thoroughly without affecting neighboring properties.

Wall, post and ceiling lights: Outdoor lighting fixtures beyond security options come in a variety of styles, according to Lamps USA. Wall lights are mounted to the outdoor wall of the home. These typically flank doorways or the garage. Post lights are often installed on the posts of decks and porches, or are free-standing on properties, providing visibility but also style. Ceiling-mounted lights may be above doorways or installed in any structure that has an overhead area. Warm-colored temperature bulbs in these fixtures can create an inviting atmosphere that

is not too bright and jarring, especially when multiple lighting fixtures are working together. When selecting lighting for wall-mounted fixtures, experts suggest sizing up if you are not sure of the size to pick, as lights will look much smaller in scale from a distance.

Accent and landscape lighting: A bevy of accent lighting choices are available. Accent lighting is designed to enhance the mood and appearance of certain elements of a landscape. Accent lighting is not intended to add bright light. For example, upward-directed lights can be cast on trees or shrubs to accentuate their shapes. Accent lighting also may call out a structure, such as a garden or a fountain. While accent lighting may be hard-wired, homeowners who want the luxury of changing lighting can opt for solar fixtures, which are more mobile but not

as bright. Additional pointers: When shopping for bulbs, consider the number of lumens. A standard 100-watt bulb produces around 1,600 lumens. Security lights should range from 700 to 1,300 lumens for optimal brightness. Other lights needn't be so bright. Furthermore, ensure that any fixtures that are being used are safety-rated for outdoors. Wet-rated fixtures are designed to withstand direct exposure to outdoor elements, advises the design experts at Schoolhouse, a lighting and lifestyle goods company. Damp-rated fixtures are built for outdoor locations protected from harsh weather. Look for the product details or work with an electrician to choose the right lighting choices. Lighting can transform outdoors spaces for the better.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Cervicogenic Headaches and Dry Needling

BY PETER GELOSO DPT

Cervicogenic headaches are a common cause of headaches and frequently seen in the physical therapy profession. These types of headaches can be very painful, and even debilitating. However, they differ from a true migraine.

Cervicogenic headaches often have a musculoskeletal component associated with them, and that is a physical therapist's specialty. People with cervicogenic headaches often have loss of range of motion in certain directions as a result of tight musculature or stiff cervical spine joints and poor posture. The muscles can often be palpated in certain spots which can increase their symptoms and refer pain into the head; these spots are commonly referred to as "knots" or "trigger points". The headaches are also often unilateral, on one side only, and the pain may radiate from the neck/back of the head up to the front of the head or behind the eye. There may or may not be neck pain accompanying them.

There are many different treatments that physical therapists can offer to help treat cervicogenic headaches. These may include:

- Modalities such as moist heat and electrical stimulation;
- Manual soft-tissue massage;
- Joint mobilizations;
- Therapeutic exercises/postural correction.

One particular manual therapy technique that I personally have found to be a beneficial treatment for my patients with cervicogenic headaches is dry needling. Dry needling is safe, minimally discomforting and often an effective technique for patients with certain musculoskeletal presentations. This is a treatment performed by skilled, trained physical therapists, certified in the procedure.

A thin monofilament needle, similar to an acupuncture needle (although the treatment is very different than acupuncture) penetrates the skin and treats underlying muscular trigger points. The release of the muscles may be performed at the neck, base of the skull, and upper back that may be contributing to cervicogenic headaches.

A trigger point is a local contracture



Peter Geloso

or tight band in a muscle fiber that can disrupt function, restrict range of motion, refer pain or cause local tenderness. When dry needling is applied to a dysfunctional muscle or trigger point, it can decrease banding or tightness, increase blood flow, and reduce local and referred pain that may be associated with cervicogenic headaches.

Dry needling is not only an effective treatment for cervicogenic headaches but for a wide array of various musculoskeletal disorders. Using this technique for rotator cuff dysfunction, calf tightness, and even tremors or spasticity can be effective!

If you are a person who believes they may be experiencing cervicogenic headaches, the various treatments offered by a physical therapist, including dry needling, may be for you. If you have any questions regarding your symptoms, or dry needling, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or one of the many other knowledgeable physical therapists at our offices in Woodbridge, Hamden, Milford and Branford.

Peter Geloso, DPT is a licensed physical therapist and supervises the Milford office of Amity Physical Therapy. He received both his Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Sports Science and his Doctorate Degree in Physical Therapy from Elon University in North Carolina. He can be reached by phone at 203-693-2350 or visit amitypt.com.

Apartments For Rent

Woodbridge:

Thank you! We're accepting names for our waiting list. Applicants must be 62 or older or disabled. One Bdrm-\$1,150/mo; Two Bdrm-\$1,230/mo incl utilities. On-site laundry, patios with garden area, off-street parking, handicapped accessible. CHFA Financed. EHO. Gibson Assoc., Inc. 175 East Mitchell Ave, Cheshire, CT 06410. Ph: 203-272-3781. TDD 1-800-545-1833 Ext 165

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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

Reminder: Closed on Saturdays in Summer! We have returned to our pre-pandemic hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm; Friday 10 am to 5 pm. We will be closed on Saturdays starting July 2, reopening September 10 (after Labor Day). We hope to see more of you soon. The Library will also be closed on Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day.

Do we have your email address?? Sign up for our email newsletters to receive notifications about events, new offerings, and library hours/closings. We typically only send one email a week. Join our mailing list by visiting our website and entering your email address in the form provided. That's it! (You can also give us your email address while in the building.)

Read Beyond the Beaten Path with the Library This Summer! This year's Summer Reading theme is Beyond the Beaten Path. The Library will be celebrating with camp-themed activities and programs, encouraging readers to take their books outside.

Kids, stop by the Children's Department to pick up your summer reading log to keep track of the books you read. Hand it in at the end of the summer to receive a prize! Summer reading will end with a big party featuring Casey Carle's Bubblemania on August 25.

Adults have their very own Summer Reading program. Read books and complete challenges to win free books and receive raffle tickets for awesome baskets of items from local businesses! Direct questions to kedic@woodbridgetownlibrary.org, or stop by the Reference Desk to get started. Adult Summer Reading also ends August 25.

Outdoor Movies Return in August. Save the Dates! Join us on the town green on Thursday nights in August at sunset for outdoor movies. (Let's hope for better weather on Thursday nights THIS summer!) Bring chairs or blankets and snacks and enjoy the shows! Titles to be announced on our website, but each week will feature one of the following categories:

- › Superhero;
- › Live action family films;
- › Animated family films;
- › Modern classic films.

August Thursdays are: 4, 11, 18 & 25. Sunset is approximately 8:30 pm. See you on the Green!

Notary Services are now available at the Library by appointment or by chance! Please contact the Reference Desk for more information (stop by or call 203-389-3434) or email Bill (warmstrong@woodbridgetownlibrary.org).



WOODBRIDGE TOWN LIBRARY

Library Information

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

What's available at the Library:

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

The Woodbridge Room is NOW OPEN! The study room is available for two-hour reservations; please call the reference desk to book your time. Our puzzles and children's toys are back, and so is our seating!

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

Department phones and emails:

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

Socialize with us!

- › Facebook: [@woodbridge.town.library](https://www.facebook.com/woodbridge.town.library)
- › Instagram: [@woodbridgetownlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/woodbridgetownlibrary)
- › TikTok: [@woodbridge_town_library](https://www.tiktok.com/@woodbridge_town_library)

Library News

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

As of April 1, 2022, the library is now FINE FREE! The Woodbridge Town Library has gone fine free, which means patrons will no longer be charged fines for overdue items. All existing overdue fines for Woodbridge

Town Library items have been removed, but this policy change will not include replacement fees for missing or damaged items. Please see the Circulation Department with any questions, or contact them: 203-389-3433 or askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

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

Starting June 1, the check-out limit of hoopla items will return to our pre-pandemic limit of 7 per month. We increased the limit to 10 at the start of the pandemic to make life easier when we were closed to the public or had very limited hours.

Adult Summer Reading: Now through August 25. Pick up at the Reference Desk! Read books and complete challenges to receive raffle tickets and win free books! Questions should be directed to Kira, kedic@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Woodbridge Writers Workshop: Held the fourth Tuesday of every month from 3 to 5 pm. Summer dates: June 28, July 26 & August 23. Join area writers as we read and critique our works in a friendly atmosphere. Register at the Reference Desk or online. Contact Bill with questions, warmstrong@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Please see our website for more information and to register.

WWII Love Songs: Wednesdays, July 13 at 2 pm, Library Meeting Room. Take an hour's sentimental journey where, without costumes or props, Diane Cypkin will transport you to the time of the Greatest Generation. By combining her performing and teaching artistry, Dr. Cypkin skillfully tells the stories of the love songs of World War II in a way that is both entertaining and educational.

The Piglet Mindset: Wednesdays, July 27 at 2 pm, Library Meeting Room. All ages welcome! Come meet Piglet, an adorable little dog who faces his challenges with a positive attitude, and his "mom" Melissa Shapiro, DVM. Piglet's adventures with his supportive 6-pack of rescue dogs are an authentic, real-life example of acceptance, inclusion, empathy, and kindness regardless of looks, abilities, and disabilities. His story has been told by his mom in two

books—one for adults and a new one perfect for kids! Books available for pre-order; let us know when you register how many copies you'd like so you can get them signed after the event.

Nature as Healer: Wednesdays, August 10 at 6:30 pm on the Library Lawn. Designed to provide insight, contemplative time, and tools to help you negotiate the challenges and reap the rewards of connecting with nature, anywhere, no matter how rushed, messy, or stressful your life is, this talk is followed by a restorative guided meditation and one simple outdoor activity.

From The Children's Department

Special Summer Family Events: Please register for these programs; more details on our website. Remember to bring chairs or a blanket for outdoor events.

Judy Pancoast Concert: Thursday, July 7 @ 4:30 pm. All ages. Held outside (in the meeting room if it rains). Grammy nominated singer, songwriter, performer, and recording artist for kids of all ages and adults.

Movie Night: The Parent Trap. Monday, July 18 @ 6 pm. All ages. Bring a blanket and a pillow and watch the movie with your friends! Snacks provided, all ages welcome.

Animal Adaptations with White Memorial Conservation Center: Wednesdays, July 20 @ 4 pm. All ages. Held outside (in the meeting room if it rains). One of our most popular programs, Animal Adaptations uses natural props, animal mounts, and a couple of LIVE animals to illustrate the definitions of both a structural and behavioral adaptation, as well as how adaptations help animals survive in different environments. Participants will then be shown "mystery props" from local animals, for which they will propose how these body parts serve as adaptations for the animals.

Marble Padooza: Wednesdays, July 27 @ 6:30 pm. Ages 5+. Put your building and engineering skills to the test as you design and build your own marble run.

END OF SUMMER READING PARTY! Thursday, August 25 @ 2 pm. All ages. Bubblemania show by Casey Carle. Hand in reading logs to receive a free book, a raffle drawing will be held, make your own bubble wands and bubble soap to take home, and ice cream!!

Ongoing Events

More details on our website, including age and registration requirements

Board Game Club: Starting June 27, every other Monday at 5:30 pm. Ages 8+. Join us for some board game fun!

See "Library" On Page 23

Town Submits Affordable Housing Plan

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Board of Selectmen, at a May 25 meeting, adopted a plan for housing opportunity submitted by the ad hoc Housing Opportunity Study Committee, and subsequently submitted that plan to the state, as required by state law. The vote was 4:2 along party lines.

Selectmen David Lober and David Vogel voted against, saying most comments the board had received asked them for a delay so as to allow people more time to study the report and respond to it. Selectwoman Sheila McCreven, however, motioned to approve, with the understanding “that we are able to make additions and modifications to it at any time.”

The 98-page plan takes an in-depth look at the available housing stock and the demographic projections for the town. The committee worked with the South Central Council of Governments (SCROG) and its consultant RKG to put together the data.

In a preface, the committee addresses directly the steps it would recommend for the town to take. “The Committee recommends that Woodbridge adopt an active plan for widening the scope of its housing options, including Affordable Housing, not only to forestall possible legal ramifications but also to reap the economic advantages that will come with a stabilized and diversified population.”

According to the report, demographic models project a significant decline in Woodbridge’s population over the next 20 years. Hence, “Wood-

bridge should encourage the development of smaller dwelling units to create a more affordable, diverse mix of housing, including affordable housing, to accommodate both older residents looking to downsize and younger persons and in-town workers who would like to settle here.”

In regards to “naturally affordable” housing – homes that are smaller or older than most, the report acknowledges that there may be a limited number of those, which are not deed restricted. The committee recommends that the town explore subsidy programming to ensure housing quality standards. Furthermore, the committee recommends that the town use “town-owned properties with public water, sewer and access to transportation for high density housing development that will meet the needs of current and future populations.”

There are just two such properties that are town-owned, the Fitzgerald property at the corner of Center Road and Beecher Road; and the Country Club of Woodbridge, and both are on a list of ten properties “where housing investment may be supported.” This list of properties, even if only noted as potential sites that could potentially be developed, did generate public opposition. The first three properties listed are the First Church of Christ, the Fitzgerald Property with its walking trails, dog park and community gardens; and a portion of the JCC parking lot.

“These are difficult choices with long-term ramifications for the town,” said Jonathan Gorham during pub-

lic comment. But he was sure on one point: the Fitzgerald Property, the First Church, and the Country Club should be off the table, and many of the other commentators agreed on that point.

Attorney Dominick Thomas, who chaired the committee, when asked how the First Church got onto that list, explained that most of the properties listed are in private hands. However, when he and the RKG consultant along with Kris Sullivan from the town land use office took a tour around town they were looking for parcels that were big enough to accommodate development; were located along or near water and sewer lines; and near town services and transportation.

He said although it may seem unlikely that the First Church would sell its property to a developer, Attorney Thomas has recently seen three such cases where parishes or churches are doing just that. Even so, the list is there not to say, “This is where you have to do it,” he explained. Rather, the list is in the report to say, “this is where you can do it.”

The other properties listed are in the town’s commercial area, two large parcels on either side of Bradley Road; a parcel off Merritt Ave; the area along Hazel Terrace and Old Amity Road, and a parcel south of Fountain Street.

With the report completed, First Selectman Beth Heller said she will now come back to discuss the future of the Country Club of Woodbridge with the Board of Selectmen. In a news report in the Hartford Courant Heller confirmed that she hopes to put out a

Request for Proposal, possibly in early fall. However, the board needs to agree on what they would like to ask for in the RFP, she said. It could be a mix of uses, such as housing, open space and even a solar farm, as some residents have proposed.

In responding to some of the critics of developing the Country Club, Dominick Thomas said it was a misconception to assume that the whole 150 acres of the Country Club would be developed. “You have a property of 150 acres, with water and sewer and potential public transportation,” he said. The town can very well develop 50 acres and leave the rest as protected open space.

As an example, he pointed to the Quarry walk development along Route 67 in Oxford, with commercial, office and residential development. “It’s on 36 acres and it is enormous,” he said.

The committee also recommends that the town establish a permanent committee or commission on opportunity housing, in order to continue to promote awareness of affordable housing and other housing opportunities. “Woodbridge is a town with a sense of community and concern for each other,” the commission wrote. “It is a leader in land preservation with over one-third open space. The need for more diverse, affordable and vibrant housing opportunities is not incompatible with the community life we all enjoy — it will, in fact, enhance that sense of community, continue to preserve open space, and contribute to the planned growth of our populations and economy.”

“Library” From Page 22

Kidding Around Yoga with Sherri Sosensky: Tuesdays, July 5, 12 & 19 at 11 am. Ages 2-6. Bring a yoga mat or towel.

Camp Crafts: Tuesdays at 4 pm. Ages 8+. Come make some classic summer camp crafts!

Graphic Novel Book Club Summer Meetings Tuesdays at 6:30 pm, June 28, July 26 & August 23. Ages 9+.

Indoor Story Time Has Returned! Wednesdays at 10:30 am, for infants to age 3 and their caregivers.

Curious Culinarians: Wednesdays, July 6, 13 & 20 at 6:30 pm. Ages 8+. Join us for a series of programs. Make gourmet s’mores, discover the best weird Oreo flavor, and prepare delicious snacks to take on hiking, camping, or beach trips.

Explosively Fun Science: Wednesdays, August 10, 17 & 24 at

6:30 pm. Ages 8+. Join us for a series of programs. Explore all things that pop, fizz, and burst. Join us for rubber band exploding watermelons, “not your average” volcano making, and Mentos and coke geysers.

Thursday Crafts: 4 pm. Ages 3+. Camping themed and nature crafts for the summer.

Camping Themed Bingo Nights: Thursdays, July 14 & 28, and August 11. 6:30 pm. Ages 4+ with an adult

Coffee and Crafts: Fridays at 11:30 am. Ages 2+. Join your friends at the library and support our friends from Café Rebelde for a craft making session and some excellent brew and pastries!

Recess! At the Library: Fridays from 3 to 4 pm through August 19. All ages. One hour of old school summer fun for kids of all ages! New rotation of toys and games each week and free juice pops!



HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Or Shalom Happenings

Staying Connected
Attend religious services and most other events in person or by Zoom.
To register for a Zoom link, please see the information below.

Join Us For Weekly Services

- Morning Minyan*
- › Sunday 9:00 AM – In person and Zoom'd
 - › Monday 8:30 AM – Zoom'd
 - › Thursday 8:30 AM – Zoom'd

Shabbat Services

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

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

Shomrei Or (Guardians of Light) Award
Marc Franzman was awarded the Shomrei Or award at Congregation Or Shalom on the evening of May 23, 2022. Surrounded by family and fellow



Congregation Or Shalom

congregants, he accepted this special honor at our Synagogue.
Marc grew up in Woodbridge as a young man and came back to Milford with his family in 2005. Marc has been our President, Vice President, Treasurer, Security Committee Chair and an integral part in developing YAHAD, our joint Hebrew School with Congregation B'nai Jacob in Woodbridge. Marc leads a very busy personal and professional life, but always makes Or Shalom a priority.

Golf Tournament
Save the date, August 1, 2022, for our annual Golf Tournament at Orange Hills. Please call the office for more details 203.799.2341

Orange Congregational Church Golf Tournament

The Orange Congregational Church Golf Tournament is taking place on Friday, July 15th at 9:00 a.m. (8.15 a.m. for breakfast and registration) at Orange Hills Country Club. Please join us for this annual charity benefit in cooperation with Columbus House. Sign up for a foursome for 18 holes or a 9-hole event. There will be fun-filled games with prizes: putting contest, closest to the pin, longest

drive and a raffle drawing at lunchtime. Breakfast, lunch, and goodie bags are included. Sponsors can donate at the Gold, Silver, Long Drive, or Tee Box Sign level and have a sign with their name on the golf course. To register, please call the church office at 203-795-9749, email occhurch@snet.net, or visit our sign up website at: <https://occ-columbus-house-scrabble.perfectgolfevent.com>.



Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

First Fridays: On July 1, and every First Friday of the month, BEKI's Kabbalat Shabbat service is kid-friendly, though not specifically a children's service.
Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, and Junior Congregation meet in person each Saturday morning. To receive her weekly family programming newsletter, email Education Director Annie Norman-Schiff at anormanschiff@beki.org.

In Person and Online: BEKI offers In-Person services twice daily, led by Rabbi Eric Woodward and congregants. Details at beki.org. Weekday morning and evening services also are available on Zoom. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.
Services for Tisha BeAv will be held Saturday evening August 6 and Sunday, August 7. For details, consult www.beki.org.

Letting the Land Rest: Bruce Spierer, the Public Education Manager at Hazon, the Jewish lab for sustainability, will speak Wednesday, June 29 at 7:30 pm about "Going Fallow For Shmita: a perspective from the soil." Spierer has experience working in urban agriculture, community composting, and public horticulture. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

75 Years of Songs: Cantor Matt Austerklein will discuss the Cantors' Assembly 75th Anniversary Journal, which he edited, on Wednesday, July 6 at 7:30 pm. The journal, which is due to be published in August, features biographies, reflections on current questions facing the cantorate, and a section of scholarly articles. He will be in discussion with ethnomusicologist Rachel Adelstein, who contributed to the journal. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

Courtyard Concert: Elm City Winds will return to the BEKI Courtyard on Sunday, August 28. Composed of Jennifer Silva, flute; Caesar Storlazzi, oboe; Laura Caruthers, clarinet;



Congregation Beth-El Keser Israel

Adrienne Gallagher, bassoon; and Emily Fine, French horn, this woodwind quintet performs both classical and popular music. There is no charge for admission, but donations will be requested for Ukrainian relief. For more information, email office@beki.org or call the office at 203.389.2108 x114.

Israeli Landscape Exhibit: BEKI's upstairs gallery will feature the work of Mordecai Avniel (1900-1989), who devoted most of his life to Israeli landscape paintings. One of the founders of the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem, Avniel later joined the Artists' Colony in Safed and worked in a home studio there.

Avniel's style evolved over the years from detailed, realistic images executed in a variety of media—such as woodcuts, copper and stone—to a more abstract, landscaped-based style after he adopted watercolor as his primary medium in the early 1950s. "I do not see my landscapes optically," he said. "They are a fusion of colors blended harmoniously—abstract at times, and at other times expressions of my inner feelings."

This retrospective exhibition will be displayed from July 1 through mid-September. The downstairs exhibition by Naomi Safran-Han will remain through July 24. To arrange a time to visit, 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)

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Upcoming Events at Temple Emanuel

Special Events

Friday, August 12 at 6:30 pm – Shabbat on the Beach at Woodmont Beach in Milford. Bring a beach chair, your voices and bug spray for this outdoor service with lovely views of Long Island Sound.

Regular Weekly Services – Summer Service Schedule

7:00 pm on all Fridays, Kabbalat Shabbat Service – in the outdoor sanctuary when the weather permits, indoors when it does not. Chairs and benches are available, but feel free to bring your own chair or a blanket. Bug spray is also useful. Masks are optional for outdoor events and our tasty TE onegs are back!

Our current COVID-19 precautions still include a requirement for masks for everyone over the age of 2 for indoor events. Adults are expected to be fully vaccinated.

All of these events are held in person



Temple Emanuel

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

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

Jewish Family Service of Names Wurtzel New CEO

The Board of Directors of Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven is delighted to announce the appointment of Alissa Wurtzel as its new CEO.

For the past twenty years, Alissa has spent her professional life improving the social and emotional welfare of individuals and families, most recently as the Clinical Director at Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven. In that role, Alissa is leading the agency's implementation of a new electronic health record system and has reimaged and restructured a number of critical programs serving the most vulnerable in the community. Working with the agency's leadership team, Alissa has helped ensure their post-pandemic roadmap includes enhancing timely and accessible services for seniors, Holocaust Survivors and their caregivers, those struggling with mental health issues, those in need of emergency assistance, food and/or housing support.

A Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Alissa has worked with clients as young as 4 and as old as 107. Her specialty areas are in trauma-informed care, EMDR, medical social work, and co-occurring disorders including chronic pain.

During her career, she has worked as the Director of Psychological Health for the Connecticut Army National Guard as well as a Senior Clinician with Community Health Center Inc. Before joining JFS of Greater New Haven, Alissa worked as a medical social worker for the Hartford Health Care Hospice Program, empowering families with the education, materials, and access to spiritual, religious, and cultural supports they needed to care for their loved ones at the end of their lives.



Alissa Wurtzel

A Connecticut native, Alissa earned both her BA and Master's Degree at UCONN. At school, throughout her career, and now at JFS of Greater New Haven, Alissa has worked diligently and passionately to ensure equity and inclusion are cornerstones of her practice and that people of diverse backgrounds, especially those who are traditionally underserved, feel welcome and supported whenever accessing and receiving care.

Please feel free to welcome Alissa personally at: awurtzel@jfsnh.org.

Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven (JFSGNH) supports and strengthens individual, family, and community life by providing a wide range of social services. We welcome people of all ages, abilities, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and faiths. JFS is guided by the compassionate and ethical values of Judaism. For more information about JFSGNH, visit www.jfsnh.org.

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.

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

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

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

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

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



The First Church of Christ

Music at First Church: The Music Committee was thrilled to host its first concert since the start of COVID. The concert was held on Saturday, May 14 in our lovely, renovated sanctuary. Our own Nenad Iovic was accompanied by guest cellist Hans Emil Sollesnes and violinist Michael Ferri, both from Yale School of Music. Also playing was Nenad's 7th grade student, Jason Chen, who played a four-hand piano piece with Nenad. The music was incredible, and we are blessed to have an internationally renowned pianist as part of our church, as well as these accomplished musicians. The concert was well attended, and the Music Committee hosted a reception afterwards in the Parish House. Nenad expressed an interest in having another concert in the Fall and possibly in the Spring, hoping to get these musicians back to join him. We asked for donations which went towards Doctors Without Borders for Ukraine Relief.

We are pleased to announce that even though Nenad's time at Yale has come to an end, he very much wanted to continue on in his position with us which we are thrilled about. He will be studying to get his Doctorate of Music at the City University of New York. Over this summer he will be performing many concerts throughout Europe and other adventurous places.

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

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

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

welcome. For more information go to www.troop907.org.

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

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

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

5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525, 203-389-2119, office@uccw.org, www.uccw.org



A New Pavilion, Music & Fun on the Farm

Massaro Community Farm is partnering with Emmett O'Brien Technical to build a new pavilion in the farm's Learning Garden. Buy your brick this summer and become a part of Massaro history! The farm hosts approximately 6,000 farm visitors each year. The addition of this new covered space will allow us to comfortably host CSA (community supported agriculture) members, education program participants and volunteers as well as provide critical shade for farm staff.

For several years, we've had a vision to create a permanent covered space to host the growing number of farm visitors. Now, we can finally realize that vision. The Haynes Group of Seymour performed critical foundation work this spring. The Emmett O'Brien Technical School carpentry department in Ansonia, a little over a mile from the farm, will begin construction as soon as students return for the fall semester.

The post-and-beam style pavilion, measuring approximately 20' x 32', will be a multi-function space, able to accommodate 75-100 farm guests. It will:

- provide instructional space for year-round farm education and activities;
- be conveniently located inside the farm's Learning Garden, adjacent to the permeable parking area and serve as a convenient meeting place for guests; and
- be equipped with two composting toilets, expanding the farm's sustainability footprint.

Purchase your brick this summer and contribute matching dollars to this important project on the farm. Your brick commemorates you or a loved one and becomes the foundation for the pavilion. Bricks come in two sizes and can be purchased through the farm's website or using the following link, <https://brickmarkerusa.com/donors/massaro.html>. A 4" x 8" brick sells for \$100; a 8" x 8" brick sells for \$250.

The State of Connecticut Technical Education and Career system is designed to give students practical, hands-on experience and real-world application of learned theoretical skills. And while they often work at an educational pace, the student work force can

assist in commercial or residential projects at a fraction of market rate. This project is the culmination of several years' partnership between the farm and Emmett O'Brien, where culinary students visited, harvested and cooked for farm guests. It also accentuates the history of Massaro Farm having a footprint in both Woodbridge and Ansonia. The farm's original 100-acre plot bridged Ford Road which is on the line of both towns.

Concerts Return to the Farm: On Saturday, June 25, Massaro Farm welcomes back the crossover country rock group, The Mike Collins Band from Southbury. Pack a picnic and join us. Doors open at 6:00pm; performance at 7:00pm. Only steady rain cancels. \$7-\$13/pp. All seating is general admission on the lawn. Masks not required; blankets and low chairs recommended. Outdoor restrooms available. Tickets available on www.Eventbrite.com.

Volunteer with the Farm: There are several opportunities for engagement with Massaro Community Farm, including caring for the farm's chickens and goats, planting and harvesting community gardens, dropping off produce donations and general farm chores. Hours vary depending on the activity. Call the farm office or complete the volunteer form on our website and we'll get back to you to schedule an orientation, <https://massarofarm.org/getting-involved-with-massaro-farm/volunteer/>.

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



Fun Ways To Keep Kids Occupied Over Summer Break

Kids look forward to summer vacation every year. The last day of school gives way to less structured days when kids can spend more time outdoors and less time cracking the books.

Summer vacation can be a dilemma for parents, especially in households where both parents work full-time. A pandemic-related increase in remote working has made that problem somewhat more manageable, but even parents working from home must find fun way for kids to stay occupied until the new school year begins. No two kids are the same, so parents may need to try various activities on for size until they find something their children enjoy doing during the lazy days of summer.

Day camp: Day camps provide much of the structure of school without all the homework or time spent indoors. Many parks and recreation departments run summer day camps for kids. Camps can be generalized or specialized. For example, some may offer an array of activities, including sports and nature walks, in a given day, while others may focus on a single activity, like musical lessons or science-based programs. Camps run by local parks and rec departments do not typically last all summer long, which parents should keep in mind when enrolling youngsters.

Reading: Parents may be surprised by how much their children enjoy a good book. A recent poll from the National Education Association found that 70 percent of middle school students read more than 10 books a year. The National Literacy Trust reports that roughly 45 percent of children between the ages of eight and 11 enjoy reading "very much." When suggesting to children that they read more this

summer, parents can note the many ways that reading for pleasure differs from reading for school. Point out that kids won't have to submit book reports and emphasize that they can choose their own books. Depending on children's ages, introduce kids to a series like "Harry Potter," which is a set of seven fantasy novels that has helped millions of young people across the globe discover and develop a fondness for reading. Weekly visits to the library, where kids can pick from hundreds of books, can get youngsters even more excited about reading.

Play dates: Play dates are a great way to make kids happy and take a little off of parents' daily plates. Arrange routine summer play dates with children's school friends, neighbors and/or cousins. Parents can alternate hosting responsibilities so they can get work done at home and enjoy a break when it's not their turn to host.

Find something free: Perhaps in recognition of the need for affordable, family-friendly fare, many communities now host free events for kids and their parents each week. Weekly movie nights under the stars and concerts in community squares are popular in many communities, but those same towns also may host events specifically for kids during the daytime. A simple internet search of "free events near me" may unveil a host of activities that can keep kids happy and occupied on summer days when their schedules are open. Local libraries can be great resources for free events as well.

Summer vacation is a relaxing time for youngsters. Parents who don't want that relaxation to turn into boredom can look to various activities to occupy their children's time until a new school year begins.



How To Make New Friends After 50

The early years of midlife are a hectic time for many people. Around the time many people reach their late 30s and early 40s, they're balancing the responsibilities of a career and a family. But as people enter their 50s, some of those responsibilities tend to be less significant, leaving more time for recreational pursuits.

Hobbies and other pursuits outside of work are often more fun when enjoyed with friends. People over 50 undoubtedly recognize that it's not always so easy to make new friends, even though it's undeniably beneficial to have supportive relationships into your golden years. A 2017 study from researchers at Michigan State University found that valuing friendships was a stronger predictor of health and happiness among older adults than valuing family. Those results align with an earlier Australian study that found Australians age 70 or older tended to live significantly longer if they had more strong friendships.

Making friends after 50 might not be as simple as it was during your school days, but these strategies can help men and women in midlife build new friendships.

Identify your interests. Fiftysomethings who have spent the last couple of decades building a career and raising a family can give some serious thought to their interests outside of work or passions they hope to pursue now that they have more time to commit to such pursuits. The more interested you are in a given activity, the more likely you are to stick with it. And the longer you stick with something, the more likely

you are to meet like-minded individuals (i.e., future friends) willing to make similar commitments.

Utilize social media. In years past, men and women over 50 may not have had any readily available tools to reach out and connect with new people. Social media has made it much easier to build such connections. Even the most obscure passions likely have a social media group of locals devoted to them, and these groups can be great ways to meet new people. A local runner's club may have its own social media accounts, and local governments and community groups often share information about sports leagues and other groups via social media.

Sign up for group outings. Communities often sponsor group outings to museums, the theater, sporting events, and other day trips. Signing up for a bus trip to a local museum presents a great opportunity to meet people who share your interests, providing the potential to build lasting friendships built on a foundation of shared interests.

Broaden your horizons. Just because you're in your 50s doesn't mean your friends have to be. Don't hesitate to invite younger or older acquaintances and colleagues over for dinner or on weekend excursions. Friends come in all shapes, sizes and ages, so you could be missing out if you're not willing to extend a hand in friendship to people of different ages and backgrounds.

Making friends after 50 can be challenging. However, various strategies can help men and women over 50 connect with new people.



Explore These Budget-Friendly Destinations

Many people equate travel with high prices and some overindulgence. After all, for a lot of people, vacations come but once or twice per year. While it's true the "go big or go home" mantra is never far from the mind while on vacation, ensuring a fun a trip does not require emptying one's wallet. The world has plenty of affordable destinations for those willing to do their research and think outside of the box. Plus, even locales billed as expensive can be made more affordable with some smart travel tips.

North American national parks

National parks across North America are budget-friendly destinations. These parks boast incredibly scenic vistas and plenty of activities for outdoors enthusiasts. Most feature modest entrance fees and affordable adjacent lodging. The trip can be even more frugal by camping on park lands.

Chattanooga, TN

The draw of Nashville may be strong, but nearby Chattanooga also can be an entertaining place to enjoy some southern hospitality. Chattanooga is centrally located to many areas in the United States. Chattanooga hosts the Tennessee Aquarium, which has a large freshwater aquarium and an opportunity to touch sturgeon, which is an ancient fish species.

South America

When seeking warmer climates and sandy beaches, many travelers immediately

think of the Caribbean islands. But for the budget-conscious, countries like El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Costa Rica may be more affordable. These countries are home to rich jungles and ancient ruins as well.

St. Augustine, Florida

Theme parks may be a big part of Florida's tourist draw, but such parks can be expensive for families. Looking elsewhere in Florida for dream destinations that are easier on the pocketbook doesn't take a lot of work. St. Augustine in Northern Florida is America's oldest city and is packed with historical monuments, quaint shops and great dining. The city also sits a mere five miles northwest of St. Augustine Beach, which offers miles of shoreline to explore.

Portugal

Plenty of people flock to the relaxing shores of Spain or enjoy the culture and nightlife of France. Nestled nearby, Portugal has its own beautiful beaches, delicious food, historic cities, and locally produced wines without the inflated prices of nearby countries.

Quebec City

Quebec City's rich history makes it a must-see Canadian destination. It is particularly vibrant in winter, when the snowy landscape creates picture-perfect memories. Accommodations also are very affordable.

Traveling doesn't have to cost much when budget-friendly destinations are on the map.

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Turn Your Yard Into A Vacation-Worthy Oasis

Warm weather means more time to relax outdoors. For those homeowners lucky enough to have entertaining spaces outside, spring and summer provides plenty of opportunities to enjoy fresh air under the sun or stars.

Over the last few years, families have become especially familiar with what works about their yards and where there is room for improvement. Pandemic-related travel restrictions and early stay-at-home mandates resulted in plenty of time spent in backyards on staycations. Even though many such restrictions have been lifted, homeowners may have seen the benefits of having functional respites right outside their doors.

A backyard renovation can cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$50,000. The American Society of Landscape Architects suggests homeowners budget the cost of a major landscaping project at between 5 and 10 percent of their home’s value. Large or small, here are ways to make an outdoor oasis at home.

Create living privacy

Living in close proximity to neighbors may make privacy harder to come by. Wood or vinyl fences, however effective, may not provide the all-natural look many people desire. Vertical gardening, which trains easy-care vines like English ivy, Clematis or various climbing roses to grow on trellis or fencing adds greenery and privacy. Hedges and fast-growing shrubs also can be used for natural barriers.

Install a pool

Pools are the ultimate spots to cool off on hot days. An elaborately shaped inground pool can blend in with the landscape and offer the ultimate hang-out zone. However, above-

ground pools also serve the purpose and are more budget-friendly. Stock tank pools are popular among those who want minimal pool expenditure or have small spaces to work with. Stock tanks are metal vessels traditionally used as watering holes for livestock. They also can be “adult kiddie pools” when combined with some plumbing. Galvanized steel frames make them sturdy. With floats and other accessories, they can become the perfect oasis.

Provide outdoor atmosphere

Create a bespoke bistro vibe by using freestanding planters and posts along with hanging lights to make an intimate outdoor hangout spot at night. For those with permanent structures, like a deck or a gazebo, lights can be strung across the area or on railings or edging.

Extend the living space

Decks and patios can help make outdoor entertaining areas more comfortable by eliminating the need to sit on the grass or gravel. Plus, they add another “room” to the home. When paired with weatherproof patio furniture, such as sofas, loungers and tables, a private seating area can be crafted and utilized for any number of entertaining desires.

Hang a hammock

Few things evoke feelings of relaxation better than a hammock. Fitted between two trees (or two posts if trees are sparse), a hammock is an ideal place to grab a nap or read a book.

Additional oasis-inspired ideas include outdoor kitchens, letting up lanterns, cascading water features, and bird feeders to attract the sounds of nature.

DEATH NOTICES

Woodbridge Town News

DEATH NOTICES

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



TOWN OF WOODBRIGE LEGAL NOTICE TO ALL 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, 2021, which become due and payable on July 1st, 2022.


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, 2022 and become delinquent on August 2nd, 2022. The second one-half shall be due on January 1st, 2023 and delinquent on February 2nd, 2023. 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, 2022 and become delinquent on August 2nd, 2022. 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, 2022. For your convenience we will be open on Saturday, July 30th from 9:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon and on Monday, 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 woodbridgetownnews.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
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Outdoor Movie Night Essentials

Outdoor movie nights can be a great way to spend warm evenings with friends and loved ones. The guest list is only limited by the seating you have, and even then, movie watchers easily can sit on picnic blankets, making it simple to host a crowd.

Movie nights outdoors may be different than those in a theater or living room, but certain must-have items are no less important. No movie night under the stars is complete without these essentials.

Projector and screen

A screen and a way to project the movie are must-haves for any outdoor movie night. Projectors should be small enough that they can be carried outside, but large enough to emit enough light to fill the screen. Options range anywhere from \$400 and up for

quality projectors.

Screens run the gamut from inflatable and free-standing options to white sheets hung from a clothesline. A dedicated screen will be more stable and look better, but it all comes down to budget.

Portable speaker

A portable speaker can be moved anywhere you need it. A speaker with an auxiliary input enables you to hook it up to your video source so that the audio-video synchronization is top notch. After all, wireless connections may lag. The speaker will be functional for movie nights as well as music and entertainment for any outdoor event going forward. If your yard is large, you may need more than one speaker.

Media source

Individuals have various options for media players. Small players can plug directly into projectors and are the easiest sources for backyard movies if the Wi-Fi signal in the yard is strong. You also may be able to connect a mobile phone or laptop/tablet into the projector, relying on those devices to stream content.

Seating

Folding camp chairs are portable and can be stored for guests who prefer being off the ground for movie nights. Otherwise, thick, waterproof blankets enable guests to spread out while watching movies outdoors. They're also great for kids who are liable to spend a portion of the time watching the movie, but much of it running around the yard.

Theater-style

popcorn maker

Kernels, oil and heat are the perfect combination for producing movie-theater-worthy popcorn. Place plenty of reusable popcorn containers nearby so guests can bring their bounty back to their seats. Canned beverages with straws also are portable and pair well with popcorn for a great movie experience.

Lighting

Outdoor stringed lighting adds ambiance and safety to a space. However, you also may want to consider using some solar-powered staked lights on the ground to map out aisles and make it easier for guests to navigate the yard in the dark.

These basics can get anyone started on hosting regular outdoor movie nights.

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