

Woodbridge Town News



Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2020



Woodbridge School Supt. Bob Gilbert and his predecessor, Dr. Guy Stella, exchange notes while attending a volunteer event at the Woodbridge Center in December 2016.

Robert Gilbert Passes the Baton

Christine Syriac Appointed as Interim Superintendent

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

After four years at the helm of the Woodbridge School District, School Supt. Robert Gilbert last week bid farewell to the district and to the community, but not without introducing Christine Syriac as interim superintendent. The local Board of Education appointed Syriac to the position at a special meeting August 6, with a per diem salary of \$800.

Syriac retired in 2017 as superintendent in Seymour, where she had served in that capacity for five years; prior to that she had served as a middle school principal and associate superintendent in Seymour. Since retiring, she has held other interim stints in the area.

"She came out of retirement because

she knew this was a difficult time in education and she thought it was important to contribute," said School Board Chairman Lynn Piascyk. "She is willing and capable," to put in the time and energy that will be needed to lead the district through the fall.

The school board has decided to function as a search committee rather than appoint a separate committee. The hope is that they will have a new superintendent in place by January 1, according to Ms. Piascyk. They will start the search in September, after the reopening of school.

Gilbert announced his retirement back in June, originally for the end of September. But when his successor was hired, he asked to be released a

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Neighbors File Appeal To Stop Artificial Turf Field

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Two neighbors of Amity High School filed an appeal in New Haven Superior Court regarding the Town Plan and Zoning Commission decision to allow excavating and moving of earth materials for construction of an artificial turf field at the Johnson Football Field. The appeal states that the use of an athletic stadium employing artificial turf poses "unreasonable impacts to the health, safety and welfare of the community and the appellants."

In his statement of facts, the attorney, Keith Ainsworth, argues that neither athletic playing fields nor artificial athletic fields for that matter, are a permitted use in a residential zone. He argues that Woodbridge zoning regulations require a special exception permit for the excavation, removal,

filling, grading and processing of earth products, and that the TPZ can grant such special exception if conditions are such that they "prevent damage to other property and to protect the public safety, health and general welfare."

The Woodbridge Plan and Zoning Commission in July approved the application by the Amity Regional School District to move forward with construction of a synthetic field and track, among other things. The board attached a condition that the company installing the artificial turf, Field Turf, guarantee that the products they use not contain a group of chemicals known as PFAS or PFOS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances).

The chemicals are considered highly toxic and the state last fall created the Connecticut Interagency Task Force,

See "Field" On Page 17



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“Superintendent” From Page 1

month earlier. He and Syriac overlapped by two weeks to facilitate the hand-off at a very volatile time in education.

“I have worked in Connecticut schools for the past 38 years with the best interests of students in mind,” Gilbert wrote in a letter to the Beecher School community. “I continue to be passionate about the work that we do and I plan to continue my active involvement in educational leadership within the state.”

When he first arrived in the district, Gilbert started a systematic review of the district’s initiatives and came up with a strategic plan, which it had never had previously. Part of that plan was to introduce a school-wide enrichment model that encourages students — even at the elementary level — to pursue independent study.

His tenure here also saw its share of crises, with two HVAC –related building failures that led to a broken pipe in the winter of 2017-18 and mold buildup during the following summer. Then, during the summer of 2019, the district went to arbitration over its



Bob Gilbert

teacher contracts, with pressure from the town to keep the lid on salary increases. The arbitrators, by and large, sided with the teachers.

Most recently, of course, Gilbert steered the district through the most challenging times, figuring out how to provide public education during a pandemic. “The last 5 months were the hardest of my life,” he said to board members – all the while praising the level of collaboration between the leadership and the teachers. “The challenges are enormous,” he said.

Woodbridge Town News

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Beecher Teachers Concerned For Their Health

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Teachers at Beecher Road School in a letter to the administration expressed concern for their health and that of their families and suggested that remote teaching was the better method for teaching during the pandemic, rather than the full in-person plan, which is scheduled to start on September 8. "If we open under the current plan, our school and greater community will be put at heightened risk," the Woodbridge Education Association (WEA) wrote, citing inadequate staffing and resources, as well as the watering down of CDC distance guidelines when it comes to schools. Fifty-nine teachers signed the letter.

The letter suggested that remote teaching and learning, though not ideal, "will allow a more optimal method of engaging with students that does not negatively impact the health and safety of students and teachers. Three teachers asked for a leave of absence, which the Board of Education granted in a special meeting on August 26. Since the time the letter was published, the WEA and the school administration have worked collaboratively to streamline protocols and make sure the school provides all necessary PPE.

The WEA had conducted a survey of teachers in mid-August, which generated a 96% response rate. Eighty-three percent of respondents said they did not feel safe to return to the classroom, even though 57% said they would, because their livelihood depends on it.

The concerns focus on safety protocols, also less than six feet distancing of desks in some classrooms and the "empty promise" of cohorting. A big concern of the Teachers Union is administering of lunch, which, according to the plan, students will be eating in their classroom with their masks off. One of the questions that had been unsolved as of August 17 was who is going to watch the children while they eat and, if it is not the classroom teacher, how that would compromise the "bubble."

Students will be sitting at their desks for six hours a day, unable to move about the classroom, except for a 20-minute recess, the letter says. Desk barriers do not replace the need to maintain six feet of separation, the letter states, citing a study from the University of Washington.

At the August 17 Board of Education meeting, Interim School Supt.

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AT WOODBRIDGE

From the First Selectman BY BETH HELLER



As I write this column, I am happy to let you know that I am at home recuperating from a total knee replacement. I am doing well! My expected time out of the office is unknown, but I will continue to work from home, and all of our Woodbridge town staff have been supportive to me, as we continue to make sure everyone receives their needed Town services. I also thank everyone for their patience and for reaching out to each other, as neighbors and friends, during the aftermath of Tropical Storm Isaias. We are a wonderful town! Our volunteer Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works Department, Human Services staff and Animal Control Officers responded promptly and professionally to all our residents during and after Tropical Storm Isaias. During the height of the storm our emergency responders answered close to 200 calls with reports of wires down, trees down and trees crashing through homes. Emergency calls continued for several days. Folks needed help, and everyone stepped up. It took over a full week for all residents to have their power reconnected and internet/cable re-established. I plan to send a letter to the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) with a summary of the many problems and lack of response our residents received from the utility companies.

Unfortunately, it is anticipated that there will be several more storms this hurricane season. Please prepare! Make sure you have bottled water and empty jugs to fill up water from the Town's water spigots. Purchase canned foods that do not need to be heated, like fruit, peanut butter and tuna. If you haven't yet, visit www.ctalert.gov to receive future emergency updates from the Town. This statewide system reaches everyone with a landline and you can also sign up to receive notification via cell, text or by email.

If you are elderly, have a health issue, are disabled or know someone who falls into these categories, please sign up for the Human Services' emergency call list. During emergencies, the department calls these residents to ensure they are safe and also offers help. To be added to the list please call 203-389-3429.

Regarding the pandemic, I have heard from parents that they are still seeing people at Pease Place Playground not wearing masks. Per Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7NNN, anyone over the age of two should wear a mask when not able to maintain a 6-foot distance. There are, of course, exemptions for medical conditions. Those, adult or child, with a medical condition are required to provide documentation from a licensed medical provider or appropriate State agency. I will ask, however, that if you cannot or are not wearing a mask, please keep your distance from others whether

at the playground, on Town trails or elsewhere. We all need to respect each other and be kind to one another! One final reminder - our Town has an ordinance that all dogs must be on a leash. Our Dog Park is open for those that want an "off leash" experience on town property. Please remember that it is up to ALL of us to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and it is also very important to not let our guard down, especially as out-of-state college students are returning to Connecticut and we reopen our schools. Let's do all we can to keep Woodbridge safe!

As I have noted before, I was deeply moved by the Black Lives Matter Rally held on our Town Green in June. Recently, I appointed members to an Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusion. I have asked them to identify and assess issues related to diversity and inclusion, prioritize the identified issues and then determine steps that would ameliorate problems identified and enhance diversity and inclusion in our Town. Unfortunately, horrific events continue in our country. We cannot remain silent. This committee will be reporting frequently to the Board of Selectmen, and I will keep everyone up to date on their recommendations.

The Board of Selectmen also appointed Lor Ferrante Fernandes to the Woodbridge Board of Education at our last meeting - she replaces Dr. Steve Fleishman who recently resigned. Having someone with Lor's educational background (she is a former teacher and principal/administrator and still tutors students) will be incredibly helpful, as local Boards of Education are tasked with tough choices this year that will have major impacts on families, teachers, and residents.

The Darling House Advisory Committee has met and has been working together with the Amity Woodbridge Historical Society. The Society has also been busy working with the Town, making necessary code-compliant updates to the caretaker's apartment and the main house, and painting several of the other small outbuildings that surround the main house. One of the Advisory Committee's first projects is to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding the large yellow cow barn and ice house across the street from the main house. The barn is currently being used for storage. Interestingly, the barn contains the deconstructed pieces of the Lucy Street one-room schoolhouse, known as "Little Lucy." Both the Advisory Committee and the Society are interested in removing the schoolhouse from the barn, in order to provide access, so that the planned grant-funded Survey and Planning work (including structural assessment) may be achieved. The So-

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From Across the Aisle BY CHUCK PYNE WRTC CHAIRMAN



IT'S TIME WE FACE REALITY WOODBRIDGE

Our town has a long and wonderful history of being "the place to live" in the New Haven area. Quiet neighborhoods, great schools, easy commute to work in New Haven, etc. My guess is many of you reading this can pick one or more of these as the reasons you, or your family, moved here. It was, and still is in many ways, a good choice. But things have changed and we need to face facts.

We do not have a downtown that can generate the kind of tax revenue to ease the burden on our residents. No Boston Post Road, no concentrated blocks of retail stores, no large commercial real estate complex. That's not a shot at Woodbridge, it's the reality. And many of us like it that way. No argument. But with that comes the other side of the coin, no substantial non-residential revenue source, leaving the lion's share of our bills to be paid with our property taxes.

For multiple reasons, efforts to generate the kind of revenue that could be impactful to our mill rate (read: taxes) are not in the cards. The development of substantial multi-unit housing and retail at the corner of Bradley Road and Litchfield Turnpike is a heavy lift due to the limited roadways in the area. The Route 69 exchange on the Merritt Parkway, though slightly improved of late, is still the most painful part of a commute going north on Route 15 from Woodbridge. And neighborhood concerns about the increased traffic a new development would bring add to the resistance.

The handling of the town's arguably greatest asset, the golf course, has been mishandled since the purchase. Could selling the property for housing be the cash generator we need to bring our own taxes down? Not unless we abandon the zoning that helps make Woodbridge Woodbridge. Our town leaders need to face the fact that protecting our zoning is a higher priority for the majority than developing the golf course, even part of it, for a cash infusion and potential property tax revenue down the line.

The potential for downtown is limited due to traffic, parking and available retail space. Efforts to spruce it up with signage really don't generate revenue. And our Economic Development Commission routinely nibbles around the edges, but its hands are tied when it comes to serious options for solid economic development. All laudable efforts, but the yield is not impactful.

As a Town, we need to recognize our

limitations and work within them. Our priorities are education, open space, and I would argue now number three is our tax burden. There are few properties left to build new homes that expand our Grand List. In fact, our Grand List shrank last time we looked, driving up our mill rate. And for the reasons stated above, no consequential revenue stream is coming anytime soon. So, can we please focus on what we can control? Continue to invest in our school system, of course, knowing those costs will continue to rise. Protect our open space, the cornerstone of the character of Woodbridge. But the time will come when sacrifices will have to be made, either in the form of cutting services or pricing people out of their homes. I would venture to say given a choice between having program-heavy senior services or keeping taxes at a level where seniors can continue to afford to live here, the senior entertainment programs won't make the cut - even among seniors. Yes, that may be considered heresy in the current political climate where the senior vote is important and taking anything away "costs you votes." This is but an example. Another, consider that some towns don't keep their transfer station open 5 days a week. Maybe we save there. Whatever the savings, people are going to enjoy less service or a smaller balance in their checkbooks. It's math.

Looking ahead, are there positive things we can do? Sure. Since 2013 the Republicans have been advocating for expert advice on what to do with the golf course. Have we received it? No. The Democratic administrations keep dangling the high-density development carrot before our noses, but we're not biting. It may not be the cash cow some have hoped, but it sure has become an eyesore, and with that, sadly, diminished value. Could it generate some revenue? Possibly, but not if we don't look at our options.

The reality is Woodbridge simply does not have revenue-enhancing options other towns have, both by physical layout and culture. But costs increase while taxpayers' ability or willingness to pay do not. Let's deal with it by prioritizing our spending and having the courage to eliminate costs that do not address our top priorities - all in the framework of ending the never-ending mill rate increases that have diminished the home values for two-thirds of us and driven up taxes for the other third.

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Woodbridge Town News

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Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

Upcoming Issue Date	Issue Deadline
October 2 Fall Issue	September 25
October 30 Election Issue.....	October 23
November 20 Thanksgiving Issue.....	November 13

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

FROM OUR READERS

DeBarba Opposes Defunding of School Resource Officers

U.S. Senator Chris Murphy has introduced legislation into the U.S. Senate seeking to defund federal support for school resource officers. A school resource officer is a police officer assigned to work in collaboration with school administrators to provide a safe environment for students and staff.

For the past eight years, Senator Murphy has gone across Connecticut making promises of support for school resource officers and other trained professionals under the jurisdiction of local police departments. Now, Senator Murphy claims that eliminating school resource officers is a step towards eliminating systematic racism. Senator Murphy is simply playing politics. This is an issue about the safety of our children, not racism, and Senator Murphy's bill will only weaken protection for our children.

Since state funding for local education is much greater than the federal funding, we must ensure that our State Senators and Representatives will stand up to Senator Murphy's politics and commit to NOT defund school resource officers.

Dan DeBarba, the Republican candidate for State Representative, understands the purpose of school resource officers. DeBarba has strongly opposed Senator Murphy's proposal. DeBarba wrote on Facebook, "These officers are there for one reason: To Protect Children." He continued, "I believe that the residents of Woodbridge, Orange and Derby have a much better sense than Chris Murphy does of what is good for our children."

It is important for Mary Weland-er, the Democrat candidate for State Representative, to take a position on this issue. Will she stand up to Chris Murphy like Dan DeBarba has? Will she put politics aside and make the same commitment that Dan De-

Barba has already made? The voters of Derby, Orange and Woodbridge need to know.

Sincerely,
Christopher Daddio

Lessons Learned from National Conventions

Lessons learned from the recent Democratic and Republican national conventions will now play out in Woodbridge neighborhoods over the final two months of this election cycle.

At the national level, Democrats offer a return to civility, accountability, and responsible government, with candidates who reflect the gender, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the American people and a detailed policy platform to address the host of challenges and glaring inequities tearing the nation apart in 2020.

Republicans, literally and remarkably, adopted no campaign platform whatsoever, instead pledging fealty to their leader and his chaotic, demeaning, derisive, and divisive impulses. Elevating anyone to status above the law – blindly following a person instead of an ideology – has been un-American since the U.S. Constitution specified a president, not a monarch, and a republic instead of an autocracy.

It is especially dangerous now, since their leader's behavior is so reckless, self-serving, and disruptive. At their convention Republicans doubled-down on their leader's disdain for the rule of law with a crass, political spectacle on the lawn of the White House itself, showcasing their blinding disregard for both federal law and centuries-old tradition.

In the best interests of Woodbridge, I call upon all Republican candidates for legislative office to publicly repudiate the illegal, unethical, and repugnant actions of the current administration in Washington, and I ask other voters to demand that Republican can-

See "Letters" On Page 9

Woodbridge Town News

WTN LETTERS POLICY

Submit your letters for our "From Our Readers" section to:
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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

Beecher Road School 2020-21 Lunch Program

Instructions

1. All sponsors of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP) and Special Milk Programs (SMP) are required to send out a public release at the beginning of the school year. SMP sponsors should only include the free milk Income Eligibility Guidelines and should adapt the wording accordingly.
2. Use the following as a guide and complete your own version with specific information where needed.
3. Retain one copy of your version for audit purposes.

The Woodbridge School District announced today its policy for determining eligibility of children who may receive free or reduced-price meals served under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP), or free milk served under the Special Milk Program (SMP).

Local school officials have adopted the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Income Eligibility Guidelines (IEGs) for family size and income criteria for determining eligibility. The following income guidelines will be used in Connecticut from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, for determining eligibility of participants for free and reduced-price meals and free milk in the Child Nutrition Programs.

The income calculations are based on the following formulas:

- monthly income is calculated by dividing the annual income by 12;
- twice monthly income is computed by dividing annual income by 24;
- income received every two weeks is calculated by dividing annual income by 26; and
- weekly income is computed by dividing annual income by 52.

All numbers are rounded upward to the next whole dollar.

Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or free milk. Application forms are being sent to all homes in the “First Day Packet.” To apply for free or reduced-price meals or free milk, households should fill out the application and return it to the school. Applications are available in the school office, as well as online at www.woodbridge.k12.ct.us/forms Only one application is required per household and an application for free or reduced-price benefits cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions.

The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purposes of determining eligibility and for admin-

2020-2021 Income Guidelines for Child Nutrition Programs											
Free meals/milk						Reduced-price meals					
Number in family	Annual gross income	Monthly gross income	Twice per month	Every two weeks gross income	Weekly gross income	Number in family	Annual gross income	Monthly gross income	Twice per month	Every two weeks gross income	Weekly gross income
1	16,588	1,383	692	638	319	1	23,606	1,968	984	908	454
2	22,412	1,868	934	862	431	2	31,894	2,658	1,329	1,227	614
3	28,236	2,353	1,177	1,086	543	3	40,182	3,349	1,675	1,546	773
4	34,060	2,839	1,420	1,310	655	4	48,470	4,040	2,020	1,865	933
5	39,884	3,324	1,662	1,534	767	5	56,758	4,730	2,365	2,183	1,092
6	45,708	3,809	1,905	1,758	879	6	65,046	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
7	51,532	4,295	2,148	1,982	991	7	73,334	6,112	3,056	2,821	1,411
8	57,356	4,780	2,390	2,206	1,103	8	81,622	6,802	3,401	3,140	1,570
Each additional family member	+ 5,824	+ 486	+ 243	+ 224	+ 112	Each additional family member	+ 8,288	+ 691	+ 346	+ 319	+ 160

istration and enforcement of the lunch, breakfast and milk programs. Additionally, all school-aged children in income-eligible households can receive school meal benefits regardless of a child’s immigration status, and the district/school does not release information for immigration-related purposes in the usual course of operating the CNPs. Note that the district may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules. This information may also be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

For up to 30 operating days into the new school year, eligibility from the previous year will continue within the same local educational agency (LEA). When the carry-over period ends, unless the household is notified that their children are directly certified or the household submits an application that is approved, the children must pay full price for school meals and the school will not send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility.

No application is required if the district directly certifies a child based on a household member receiving assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or the Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) program. All children in these households are eligible for free meal benefits. Households receiving assistance under the SNAP/TFA programs will be notified of their eligibility and their children will be provided free benefits unless the household notifies the determining official that it chooses to decline benefits. If any children

were not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the district or school to have free meal benefits extended to those children. Households receiving SNAP or TFA benefits for their children should only submit an application if they are not notified of their eligibility by September 18, 2020.

Some children may be directly certified for free or reduced-price meals based on Medicaid (HUSKY). No application is required if the district directly certifies a child based on Medicaid (HUSKY). All children in these households are eligible for free or reduced-priced meal benefits. Households receiving assistance under Medicaid (HUSKY) will be notified of their eligibility and their children will be provided free or reduced-price benefits accordingly, unless the household notifies the determining official that it chooses to decline benefits. If any children were not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the district or school to have free or reduced-price meal benefits extended to those children.

If a child is not directly certified, the household should complete a free and reduced-price meal application form. The application for the SNAP or TFA households require the SNAP or TFA case number and the households may be asked to provide proof of the SNAP or TFA case number. The signature of an adult household member is also required.

Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please send in an application or contact the determining official for more information.

When known to the district/school, households will be notified of any child’s eligibility for free meals if the individual child is Other Source Categorically Eligible because the child

is categorized as either: Homeless; runaway as defined by law and determined by the district’s or school’s homeless liaison; or enrolled in an eligible Head Start or pre-kindergarten class as defined by law. Households with children who are categorically eligible under Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs should complete an application and check-off the relevant box. Questions should be directed to the determining official. For any child not listed on the eligibility notice, the households should contact the school or determining official about any child also eligible under one of these programs or should submit an income application for the other children.

Households notified of their children’s eligibility must contact the determining official or school if it chooses to decline the free meal benefits. If households/children are not notified by the district/school of their free meal benefits and they receive benefits under Assistance Programs or under Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs, the parent/guardian should contact the determining official or their school.

Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are categorically eligible for free meals. A foster parent does not have to complete a free/reduced meal application if they can submit a copy of the legal document or legal court order showing that the child is a foster child. Additionally, a foster child may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits, it does not prevent a foster child from receiving free meal benefits. Note however, that a foster child’s free eligibility

WOODBIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Remember When...We Hugged on the First Day of School?

Amity Students Return Under Social Distancing Conditions

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

When Amity students headed back to school earlier this week, they could expect a hearty welcome from teachers and staff who have missed the hustle and bustle of once busy hallways, but in this fall, school will be nothing like what they were used to. Instead, once they got off the bus they had their temperature taken, and then were ushered directly to their first period classroom. “No congregating in the hallways will be allowed,” said Principal Anna Mahon at an informational webinar. Neither will students be using any lockers. “That will be a big change for our kids,” she said.

New protocols kicked in before students even set foot in the building. When boarding the bus, students were expected to take a seat from the back forward in order to avoid points of contact, and similarly, disembark from the front first, said B&B Transportation President Beth Cohen. The plan is to not seat more than one student in a seat, or, if necessary, to seat siblings together. The seats behind the driver will remain empty to allow for social distancing. Masks are mandatory, she said.

Cohen said based on the survey results the district conducted she expects buses to be 50-60% occupied on average, although the need may shift as the semester wears on. Some parents chose to drive students rather than send them on a bus. To accommodate families who pick up at different campuses, dismissal will be staggered. At the middle schools, students picked

up by car will be dismissed first, followed by those riding the buses. At the high school however, the students taking a bus home will be dismissed first. That will give parents time to drive from either Orange or Bethany to pick up their high school students.

Amity, like all other districts, made plans for three learning models, either to have all students in school, to have all students learn remotely or a hybrid model. School started in the hybrid model, with students whose last name starts with A-K attending class on Monday and Thursday; L-Z attending Tuesday and Friday. Wednesday is an all-remote learning day.

That model reduces the number of students in the building at any given time, explained School Supt. Jennifer Byars at a webinar on re-opening procedures. It allows them time to show students how to navigate the hallways, how to enter a classroom, how to be safe in the building. “We have to teach them how to do school like we never taught before,” she said.

Content learning is to start after the Labor Day weekend. It is not clear at this point when the district will switch to full in-person learning. The decision will be made with input from the health officials, and will depend on the prevalence of Covid in the community.

Even though students are being dismissed before lunch on the days they do attend school, they will have the opportunity to purchase a bagged lunch to take home, Dr Byars said. On those days when they study at home (on Wednesdays during the hybrid

model) the school will revert to the curbside lunch pickup similar to what was done in the spring. However, these lunches are not free.

The expectation is that once they get home and had something to eat students will log on for small group discussions or to connect with teachers during virtual office hours, Dr. Byars said.

The laptops they received from the district are designed as a teaching tool and not suited for entertainment, said Technology Director Shaun DeRosa. The devices deliver curriculum, but slow down when streaming movies or social media. “They are not laptops, they are learning tools,” he emphasized. The district is also introducing a new educational software, called Aristotle, which will simplify the virtual connection between teachers and students, and help engage students while they are online. It is not designed to spy on or monitor students, he said.

Middle School: Students in the middle schools also start off in the hybrid model. They will be staying in one classroom with the same group of students throughout the day, a practice referred to as cohorting. Once they are in school the whole day, they also will be in PE class together and in life arts.

Voluntary remote learning: Some families chose not to have their children attend school in person. The state requires school districts to accommodate these families for as long as the state is under pandemic conditions. Those students are expected to log on to their classes at the same time as their classmates who attend in person; they are not expected to be logged on the whole time, but they can and should participate in small group assignments and discussion. “Instruction and support from the teacher would be virtual, but synchronous with the class.

Depending on circumstances, students may opt in or out of the remote learning mode at any given moment, Dr. Byars said. For instance, if a family has to quarantine for a while the student can continue to follow the class remotely. Similarly, they can switch to in-person learning when they are ready for it. Families should just keep in mind that the school needs a week’s notice at least to make sure the school is ready to welcome the student back in person.

Limiting the spread: Students who fall sick while they are in school will be sent to an isolation room until that student can be sent home. Any positive case that occurs in the school community will be reported to the superintendent and the health department. They will then engage in contact tracing – including siblings and the students and teachers they have come into contact with. Recommendations regarding testing and quarantining will be communicated to parents, staff, and the potential students affected.

Dr. Germaine, a physician on the webinar panel, predicted that the school would see its first diagnosis probably within the first week or two of school starting. “The problem is not what happens in school, but what happens outside,” he said. He quoted university officials who had to close dormitories soon after they opened. “It’s not the calculus class that’s the problem, it’s the dorm parties,” he said.

It will depend on the circumstances of each case to determine what needs to be done. Worst case scenario is that the school will need to close for 3-5 days to allow for cleaning and contact tracing, he said.

Even so he had an encouraging message for the families listening in. “Amity will be a safe place for your child,” he said. “We need to work double time at keeping our kids protected.”

“Lunch” From Page 6

does not automatically extend to all students in the household.

Application forms for all other households require a statement of total household income, household size and names of all household members. The last four digits of the social security number of an adult household member must be included or a statement that the household member does not have one. The adult household member must also sign the application certifying that the information provided is correct.

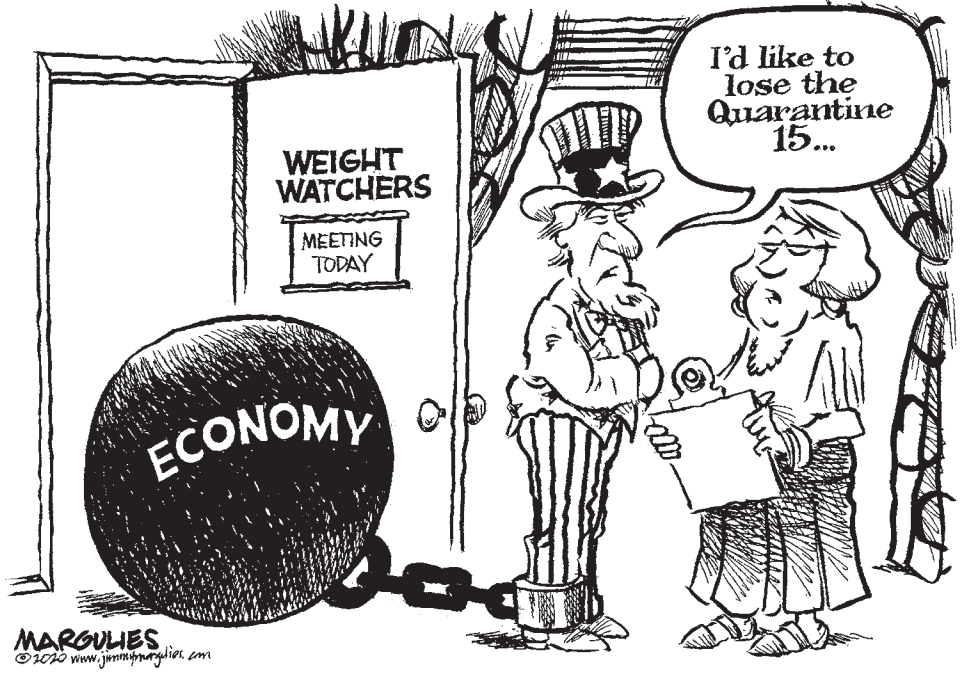
Under the provisions of the policy for determining eligibility for free and reduced-price meals, Judy Silva, Determining Official, 203-389-2195 X102 or isilva@woodbridgeps.org will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, he/she may wish to discuss the deci-

sion with the determining official on an informal basis. If he/she wishes to make a formal appeal, a request either orally or in writing, may be made to Analisa Sherman, Principal, 203-389-2195 or asherman@woodbridgeps.org for a hearing to appeal the decision.

The policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure. Each school and the central office of the school district has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by an interested party.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if household size changes at any time, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for reduced-price meals, free meals, or free milk, if the family income falls at or below the levels shown in the Income Guidelines.

Questions regarding the application process may be directed to the determining official at 203-389-2195 X102.



Did You Know?

What's the difference between a Living Will and a Do Not Resuscitate Order? Often, they are confused.

A Living Will:

- Comes into play only if you are in a “persistent vegetative state” or the “final stage of a terminal illness” and are being kept alive by a “mechanical device.”
- A Living Will tells the world whether you want to be kept alive in those specific circumstances. The choice is yours.
- A Living Will also authorizes others to communicate your wishes if you are not able to do so.
- A Living Will can be prepared by an attorney, or any other knowledgeable third party.

A Do Not Resuscitate Order:

- Can come into play even if you are not in a “persistent vegetative state,” the “final stage of a terminal illness,” or being kept alive by a “mechanical device.”
- A Do Not Resuscitate Order (commonly called “DNR”) means you don’t want the application of efforts to resuscitate you using methods such as CPR, chest compression, defibrillation, mouth to mouth or mouth to mask, ventilator or any similar medical procedure.
- A DNR order can only be authorized by a physician. You, or someone authorized to act on your behalf, of course, must approve the DNR order, in writing.

Example 1:

- You are in reasonably good health and have a heart attack at home. You have a Living Will. Some type of resuscitation is required to keep you alive; it will be administered.

Example 2:

- You are in extremely poor health, have lost lots of your mental acuity, and have been in and out of hospitals for many serious medical conditions over the past few years. You have a heart attack at home. You have a Living Will. Some type of resuscitation is required to keep you alive; it will be administered.

Example 3:

- Same facts as example 2 except you also have a DNR order. You will not be resuscitated.

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



Steven P. Floman, Allison M. DePaola-Droz, and Nicole Camporeale of the law firm Floman DePaola, LLC are the authors 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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STUDENT NEWS

Dean's List Bates College

Lewiston, ME - The following Woodbridge students have been named to the dean's list at Bates College for the fall semester ending in December 2019: Austin Gilbride, a 2019 graduate of Amity Regional High School, Gilbride, the child of Matthew T. Gilbride and Maria C. Asis of Woodbridge, Conn., is a first-year at Bates; and Alli Fischman, a 2019 graduate of Hamden Hall Country Day School, Fischman, the child of Barry A. Fischman and Gila J. Fischman of Woodbridge, Conn., is a first-year at Bates. This is a distinction earned by students whose cumulative grade point average is 3.8 or higher. Though we have been delayed in sharing this news due to our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please know that our pride in our students who reached this high level of academic achievement is as strong as ever.

Brandeis University

Waltham, MA - Zachary Katz of Woodbridge was named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2020 semester at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass. The Dean's List is an academic honor awarded to students who achieved a semester GPA of 3.50 or higher on a 4.0 scale, completed a minimum of three courses for a letter grade and received a grade of C or higher in all courses. Katz is a rising Junior, majoring in Creative Writing and Anthropology and is a 2018 graduate of Amity Regional High School.

Colorado College

Colorado Springs, CO - Helen Lenski, of Woodbridge, CT, has been named to Colorado College's 2019-20 Dean's List. Lenski was a Junior at

Colorado College during the 2019-20 academic year. Students who achieve a grade point average of 3.75 or higher are named to the Dean's List, which is released once a year. To qualify, a student must complete seven units in the academic year and those courses must be taken for a letter grade. Colorado College, located in Colorado Springs, Colorado, operates on the Block Plan, in which students take one course at a time in three-and-a-half week segments.

Roger Williams University

Bristol, RI - Cassandra Scherer, of Woodbridge, CT, has been named to the Spring 2020 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

Union College

Schenectady, NY - Union College has announced its Dean's List for the 2019-2020 academic year. Students with at least a 3.50 grade point average for the entire academic year were honored with the academic achievement. Those named are: Beck DeYoung, a member of the Class of 2021 majoring in Organizing Theme; Cory Sachs, a member of the Class of 2021 majoring in Political Science; and Hannah Epstein, a member of the Class of 2022 majoring in Psychology and Economics.

University of Maine

The University of Maine recognized 4,210 students for achieving Dean's List honors in the Spring 2020 semester. Lilly Morrissey and Dan Palmer from Woodbridge were named to the Dean's List.

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WOODBIDGE
TOWN LIBRARY

The Book Drop is Open!

It's available 24/7; items will be quarantined for 96 hours before being checked in, in accordance with new guidelines. Please give us a few days after returning your items for them to be removed from your library account.

Long Overdue Items

Please return outstanding items as soon as possible, even if they are BILLED on your library account. No replacement costs will be charged, but the items need to come back as soon as possible.

Park & Pickup

Our curbside service continues! You may place holds by phone, email, and online. Please remember to wait until you hear from us before coming to the library to pick up your order. Messages in your online account or texts from the Shoutbomb service are not always accurate.

Staff is here to help

Have a question about digital resources? Need help with research? Looking for your next great read? Homebound delivery service available too. Phones/emails are answered Monday-Friday, 10 am to 5 pm. Reach us by phone at 203-389-3433 or email us at askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Are you on our email list?

Sign up to get alerts about our events, new offerings, and any updates about reopening. Go to our website: woodbridgetownlibrary.org and scroll to the very bottom. Enter your email address and you'll start receiving our emails!

Join us for the following...

Outside Storytime

Meets near the picnic area outside the Library. Mondays for ages 4+ & Wednesdays for 18 months to 3 years. Both start at 10:30 am; siblings welcome!

After School Outdoor Program - Leaf Art

Join us outside at the Library picnic tables each Monday from 3:30-4:30 pm to collect leaves, create crayon leaf rubbings, and turn them into a beautiful piece of art! For ages 4+. No registration required, just meet us outside starting September 14.

Early Autumn Enjoyment with Robin Glowa

Monday, September 15
at 7 pm via Zoom

It's a wonderful time for enjoying seasonal ingredients. Join Robin Glowa, "The Conscious Cook" for creative recipes showcasing early autumn crops.

From the Friends of the Library

Shop the mini outdoor bookstore in front of the library on the honor system.

Book Donation Days! Monday, September 14 and Thursday, September 17, from 12 to 3 pm. The Friends of the Woodbridge Library will accept some of the books you have been saving! Donations will be accepted only on these two days.

In order for your donations to help us, PLEASE respect the following:

- › no more than 4 boxes per household;
- › bring books to the side door of the Library meeting room (between the two parking lots);
- › books in excellent condition only.

Tradition at Oak Lane Receives
Public Course of the Year Award

The Connecticut Section PGA announced the 2020 Special Award Recipients. "This is an incredible group of PGA Professionals who have excelled in the professional and are truly deserving of our recognition," said Howie Friday, President of the Connecticut Section.

Headlining the list of honorees is Ian Marshall who has been named the Golf Professional of the Year, the 62nd professional so named to this highest honor. Marshall oversees IamGolf and also serves as golf coach and instructor with Northeast Performance Institute. He currently is the Honorary President of the Section having served all the

offices of Secretary, Vice President, and President. Presently, he is a member of the PGA of America Board of Directors, representing District 1 and the Connecticut, New England, and Northeastern New York PGA Sections.

In addition to the professional award recipients, The Tradition at Oak Lane was named the public golf course of the year and will receive the Walter Lowell Distinguished Service Public Golf Course Award.

The honorees will receive their awards and recognition in a Special Awards Ceremony on Saturday, October 3 at Tumble Brook Country Club in Bloomfield, Conn.

"Letters" From Page 5

didates do so as well. Candidates who want to represent Woodbridge should acknowledge either complicity with Trump or an honest commitment to age-old standards for public service.

It's frightening to think how Trump

himself - and his rabid supporters - would likely be interested in results of such a loyalty test. Woodbridge residents are entitled to know how their would-be legislators measure up while history weighs each candidate's rejection - or endorsement - of Trump.

Laurence Grotheer

"First Selectman" From Page 4

ciety's position is that the schoolhouse pieces must be removed from the barn, but believe that because of the value of this relic to many local residents, efforts must be made to prevent the schoolhouse from just being discarded. They are hoping to find a new use for the old school, and will be approaching individuals and others in Town, and they also intend to advertise the availability of the building. I do agree that we should try to ensure that all reasonable efforts are made to prevent the schoolhouse from simply being discarded, but we cannot continue to just store it. The deconstructed building is incomplete and experts have noted that the material is not in good shape. Any resident interested in "Little Lucy"

is welcome to contact me or the Amity Woodbridge Historical Society.

Lastly, our Registrars of Voters and Town Clerks are busy getting ready for the November election. The Secretary of State will mail absentee ballot applications to all registered voters in the State later this month. You may also request a ballot from the Town Clerk but the ones coming in the mail from the State will have barcodes on them to track their whereabouts. Please see the article from the Registrars in this paper (and on the Town website) for details on how to register to vote.

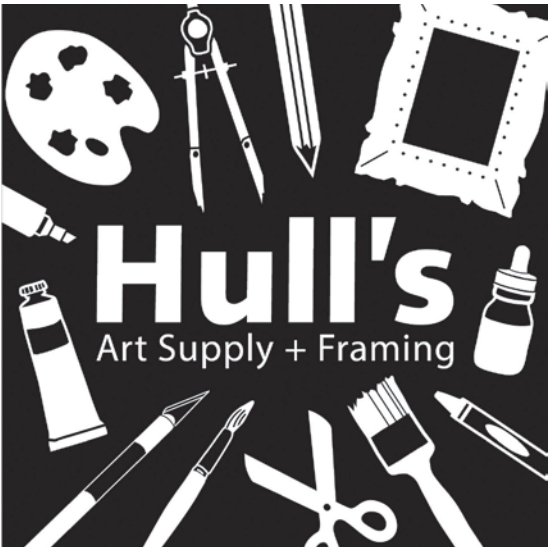
As always, my door remains virtually open to you - I can be reached at 203-389-3400 or at bheller@woodbridgetown.org. Thank you and please stay safe...Together, we are WOODBRIDGE STRONG!

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TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

EVs: Like Upgrading From A Flip Phone To A Smartphone

BY KENT GOLDEN
WOODBRIDGE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

I love cars. Ask anyone that I went to high school with and they will probably remember me as the guy who had “the Back to the Future car” as my daily driver, a 1981 DeLorean DMC-12. Some vehicles I’ve owned are utilitarian, like my Jeep Wrangler. Others are more for pure fun and car shows, like my Lotus Esprit V8 Twin Turbo. I still have one of my oldest cars – a bright orange 1972 Opel GT.

Over the years I became accustomed to the slow but steady progression of technology and improvement in the auto industry. But recently I bought a car that is so different, so incredible, that it’s changed the way I look at cars entirely.

Imagine a car that is as fast as a Ferrari, safer than a Volvo, and has the comfort and space of a Toyota. This car can go over 320 miles per fill-up (from here to Washington DC in a single go), and that fill-up costs about \$8-\$10 without a drop of gasoline. It never needs an oil change or radiator flush. In fact, it requires almost no maintenance at all (apart from washer fluid, wipers, and tires). Its brakes can last over 100,000 miles. It has no belts or pulleys or valves or crankshafts. Its simple design makes it more reliable than any car you’ve ever driven and it’s also easy to operate.

Curious yet?
I’m not done...It can literally drive itself and come pick you up from the other side of the parking lot. It has Netflix and video games built into a large HD screen and has an audio system that sounds better than any stock system you’ve ever heard. It can make you laugh with hidden jokes and make you groan and giggle with incredible acceleration akin to something you’d feel on a roller coaster.

But wait – there’s more! It gets bet-

From the Sustainability Committee



ter every few weeks with free updates, including more features and even more horsepower at times. If you need service, there is a mechanic that will make a house call to your home or work and fix it without having to disrupt your day. There is a nationwide system of over 16,000 stations for re-filling, making any road trip a breeze. It has no running emissions whatsoever and can be fueled by the power of the sun, wind, and water.

Oh, and it’s made in America by an American company.

Sound like a car you might be interested in? Or are you still skeptical? Well this car does exist, and you can buy it right now. It’s the all-electric Tesla Model 3 Performance, and it’s a game-changer.

“There must be a catch!”, I can hear you say. “Maybe it costs six figures?” Nope – the base model is \$35,000 before incentives. The Performance model that does 0-60mph in 3.2 seconds is about \$55,000 to start. Supercar acceleration for a fraction of the cost.

Going from an internal combustion

engine car to an all-electric Tesla is truly like going from a flip phone to a smartphone. On the surface it seems that they both do the same thing (make calls or get you from point A to point B), but once you see how much you can do with a smartphone and an EV there is no turning back. We now take for granted all that smartphones can do, but there was for all of us a time when we had to make the leap. Now we have a single device in our pockets that gives us a nice camera, a photobook, GPS, flashlight, calculator, internet access, messaging, weather info, banking, and, of course, still makes calls. It’s fun too – we can listen to music, watch a movie, or play a game. Now that same leap applies to the kind of car we drive. And it’s a change that will help our environment too.

When most people think of cars that are “good for the planet”, they imagine small, underpowered, boring, and weirdly ugly vehicles that evoke no sense of fun or joy. People also fear that they will have such a small amount of range that you might get stranded

somewhere. That may have been true in the past, but fortunately we have now reached the point where EVs are actually superior to internal combustion vehicles in virtually every way.

Our planet needs us to make better choices, and it’s a lot easier to make that choice when it’s so much fun. The Tesla is even faster than the sports-cars and supercars I’ve owned, and its power delivery is instantaneous. Everything else feels slow in comparison. If you’ve ever savored the feeling of a muscle car pinning you into your seat, this is a car you need to drive.

National Drive Electric week was created to help people like you check out EVs in person. This year it is September 26 through October 4. Visit driveelectricweek.org for details on upcoming EV events in Connecticut where you can talk to owners and dealers with EV offerings from Porsche, Jaguar, Audi, Chevrolet, Hyundai, BMW, Mercedes, and, of course, Tesla. There is one at the Miller Memorial Library in Hamden on Saturday, September 26th, and another in Old Saybrook on Saturday, October 3rd. Both events start at 1 pm and I will be there with my car if you’d like to chat. In the meantime, please check out this video to see my Tesla in action and learn more about EVs in general: <https://youtu.be/xz2gsNltwc8>. You can also check out the Tesla showroom in Milford, CT to setup a test drive.

I’ll leave you with a quote from Ahmed Yamani: “The Stone Age didn’t end for lack of stone, and the oil age will end long before the world runs out of oil.”

The same applies to flip phones and internal combustion engines. We won’t stop using them because they aren’t available – we’ll stop using them because there is something better. Better for our families, better for our country, and better for our planet. More fun too.



TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



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

Due to COVID-19, most jobs are

currently outdoors with masks and social distancing as required. Teens can do yard clean up, plant bulbs, weed, rake leaves, walk dogs, etc. Responsible teens who wish to join the Job Bank should call for an interview at 203-389-3429 or e-mail npfund@woodbridgect.org.

Need Yard Cleanup? Woodbridge Job Bank Can Help

Woodbridge Job Bank teens will work for Woodbridge residents who wish to hire someone to assist for odd

jobs like yard cleanup, raking, planting bulbs, weeding, and moving boxes. Call 203-389-3429 for more information.



Red Cross instructor Anna Mauhs teaches Babysitter Training in Outdoor Classroom

Babysitter Training A Success

Woodbridge Youth Services recently held a Red Cross Babysitter Training at the new outdoor classroom with instructor Anna Maria Mauhs. Teens learned

babysitting basics with first aid, diapering, safety, and response for choking victims. Some of the teens will be available for babysitting within the Job Bank.



Chalk Art Challenge for Woodbridge & Bethany Families

Youth Services offered an opportunity for Woodbridge and Bethany residents to create family chalk masterpieces for a chance to win prizes. Winners received summer fun bags including gift cards to local businesses which supported the local economy. This was a great success. Thank you to

all of the families who submitted their artwork and thoughtful messages, and to the donors Bailey, Moore, Glazer, Schaefer & Proto and Amity Bowl for their support. Youth Services is wishing all children and families a safe and successful start to a “new” school year.



Food Explorers

VIRTUAL COOKING AFTER SCHOOL!

Let's make dinner together!

Homemade pasta

Southwest Quesadillas

Mac & Cheese

Broccoli Cheddar Melts & baked fries



Mondays, September 14, 21, October 5 & 19 - 4-5pm
No class 9/28 & 10/12
List of required ingredients will be provided after registration.
Register through Woodbridge Parks & Recreation

Woodbridge Recreational News

Remember to register!

There is still time to register for Woodbridge Recreation virtual Cooking Class. Food Explorers Virtual Cooking Class runs on Mondays for ages 7-13, from 4 pm to 5 pm. The cost is \$65.

“Join Megan, Registered Dietitian from Food Explorers to make dinner for your family! You’ll learn how to make homemade pasta, Southwest Quesadillas, Broccoli Cheddar Melts & Baked French Fries, and lightened up Mac and Cheese. Class will meet virtually from 4-5pm on Monday evenings, September 14, 21, October 5 and 19. No class on September 28 or October 12. A list of required ingredients will be provided before classes begin. Parental supervision is recommended.”

Yoga

September brings new sessions of Yoga. Join instructors Bill Banick or

Diane King for fall yoga programs. Call the Recreation Department at 203-389-3446 for times and days available. Bill Banick also offers Tai Chi.

Other Events

- › The Recreation Department will continue to offer virtual programs. Check woodbridgect.org for a complete listing of virtual and in-person programs, including tennis lessons from Marcy’s Tennis Academy.
- › This year’s Road Race has been cancelled.
- › Tennis permits and volleyball court permits are available. Woodbridge residents can reserve a tennis court permit or a volleyball court permit for a specific date and time. Permits are available up to 3 weeks in advance. Call the Recreation Department Office at 203-389-3446 or email recreation@woodbridgect.org for more details.

Safe & Free Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste

Woodbridge Transfer Station
85 Acorn Hill Road Extension
9 a.m. to noon

Saturday, September 12

30 YEARS

HOUSEHOLD HAZWASTE CENTRAL

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Working with Communities to Protect the Environment

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AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



The Tuesday exercise class works with resistance bands to make the most of their workout with Michelle Tenney



Members of the Woodbridge Center craft group gather at the white canopy by the Woodbridge Library

Many thanks to the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Department and Woodbridge Police Department for their outreach and response to so many residents in need during Hurricane Isaias and in its immediate aftermath. Please prepare for future storms by stocking up on water, canned goods and batteries. Residents can also prepare by calling the Human Services Department to be added to the **Emergency Call List**. For those who are elderly, have a health issue, are disabled or know someone who falls into these categories, please sign up for the Human Services' emergency call list. During emergencies, the department calls listed residents to ensure they are safe and to offer help as needed. To be added to the list, please call 203-389-3429.

The Town's Human Services, Library and Recreation Departments have teamed up to provide socially distanced outdoor programming underneath canopies on the Library lawn during the pandemic. All outdoor programming will require registration—space is limited. Masks are required and social distancing will be enforced. The canopies will be in place for outdoor classes through October. In case of rain, all outdoor activities are cancelled.

New Exercise class: Targeted Strength Training with resistance bands for 60+ meets Wednesdays from 9-10 am beginning September 9 at the Bocce court grove with Michelle Tenney. The class will run 8 weeks at a cost of \$40.00. Please call to register as space is limited due to social distancing requirements. Checks may be made payable to The Woodbridge Center.

Exercise with Laurie meets at 10 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Bocce court grove just off the Center parking lot. Class has a \$2 drop-in fee. This month Laurie Luce will return to

teach the class.

Craft group meets Thursdays from 9:30 -11:30 am at the white canopy (just off the Library's side parking lot). There will be metal chairs, tables, and social distance! Bring a chair cushion or your own lawn chair for additional comfort.

Art class with Graham Dale will begin on September 9 from 10 am -12 pm outside by the white canopy with easels, masks and social distance. The class will run Wednesdays through October 14 with rain date October 21. For those who do not have a table easel, you may request to use one belonging to The Center. Class is \$30.00 for 6 weeks. Checks may be made payable to The Woodbridge Center. Call for a materials list.

Stuff the Bus event: Coachman Square of Woodbridge will host a Stuff the Bus event, collecting non-perishable food items, to benefit the Woodbridge food pantry on September 9 from 10 am to noon at Coachman Square, 21 Bradley Road. For a list of needed items, please call 203-389-3429. Please, no expired items.

Annual Picnic Lunch – September 22: Drive-thru style! Box lunches will be provided from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm; RSVP no later than September 15, space is limited. This event is co-sponsored by Coachman Square of Woodbridge. Woodbridge seniors may call for reservations and menu. Drive-thru pick-up is in front of The Woodbridge Center and requires masks.

Memoir Writing Project: Make good use of time spent in quarantine. Write down some of your stories. Use memoir writing to bring interesting memories to life and include letters, postcards, photos, recipes, etc. Please call The Center to let us know you are working on your personal history. We'd love to hear from you! If you want to participate but need assistance, let

us know and we'll find a volunteer to assist. Entries must be submitted by September 30. Memoirs will be bound for each participant and a copy of the collection of stories will be available at the Library. Many thanks to Bailey, Moore, Glazer, Schaefer and Proto LLP for their generous sponsorship.

Transportation for medical appointments and local shopping is available for those 60+ or disabled Monday - Friday from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm (with some limited exceptions). Transportation for grocery shopping and pharmacy pick-up is also available. For safety reasons, masks are required and temperatures will be taken. Call to arrange transportation. Please know the vehicle is cleaned between each use.

Meals: Seniors may reserve from a wide selection of frozen meals (\$4/meal) by noon on Monday for delivery to your home on Tuesday. Meal price will increase to \$5 per meal beginning October 6. All entrees come with a roll and dessert. Minimum order of two lunches please.

Flu Clinic: The Woodbridge Center will host a drive-thru Flu Clinic provided by VNA Community Healthcare on October 20 from 11 am - 2 pm, by appointment only. Contact <https://connecticuthomecare.org/flu/> or call 866-474-5230 for reservations. Call for information on accepted insurance. The drive-thru will be in front of the Senior Center/Gym entrance of the Center building. Masks must be worn. Traffic will flow one-way during the clinic with the entrance on Meetinghouse Lane and exit onto Center Road.

Email address: Want to receive weekly updates from The Center? Call or email us with your email address.

Human Services: Call 203-389-3429 for information.

Masks: Woodbridge residents may call to arrange pick-up or delivery of a cloth mask. Volunteers making masks

are invited to contact Woodbridge Human Services to donate.

Energy Assistance: Beginning September 14 Woodbridge residents may call for an appointment to apply for CT Energy Assistance program administered by TEAM Inc. Income eligibility requirements must be met. Call Social Worker Judi Young at 203-389-3429.

Food Pantry: Woodbridge Human Services is available to assist seniors and families in need with non-perishable food items from the food pantry as well as gift cards to Stop & Shop for perishable items. Please call to speak with a member of the staff.

Donations: Monetary donations and gift cards are appreciated. Donations of canned fruit, Parmalat milk, coffee, tea, cereal (hot & cold), tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, cookies, snack foods, baking mixes, oil, bar soap, toilet paper, paper towels and other non-perishable items are welcome. Please make sure all items are not expired. Call 203-389-3429 to arrange a no-contact drop-off appointment.

The Human Services Department Social Worker, Judi Young, is available to those in need of assistance due to isolation and other issues associated with long-term quarantine and social distancing.

"Ask the Nurse" program: The VNA Community Healthcare and Hospice nurse is available to area residents for a virtual visit by appointment, or in-person at the Guilford and Hamden offices on an as needed, case-by-case basis. Call 866-474-5230 to schedule an appointment. Please call if you have questions about COVID-19 or other health concerns.

Call 203-389-3430 or email kmoriarty@woodbridgect.org for information and registration for all programming.

“It’s one of my favorite seasons of the year: Back to School. As a kid, I loved fresh school supplies, new outfits, the change of seasons, and the chance to crack open a new textbook.” — DANA PERINO

LOCAL BUSINESS ROUNDUP



Deli Delish Reopens with New Owner

Deli Delish had been operating under a new owner for about a month before the COVID-19 pandemic struck. When everyone started to work from the home the lunch crowd dried up and the deli closed for three months. It recently re-opened.

New owner Rainer Ippolito comes from a food family – they own bars and restaurants in Stamford and eight restaurants in Atlanta, Georgia. Ippolito had worked in fine dining in Atlanta, at his father’s deli in Stamford and had been looking to open his own deli. “It was important to me to find the right location. I love this spot and this town,” he said. “I wanted to start in a small place with high quality food.”

While closed, Ippolito took the time to paint, remodel and make some improvements to the kitchen. The bar seating is temporarily removed and there is one eat-in table for two and three two-seat tables outside.

The deli serves breakfast and lunch. Ippolito says he’s most proud of the

Southwestern salad (organic greens, house made black bean salsa, bacon, avocado, shredded jack and cheddar cheese and house made croutons topped with grilled chicken breast and a side of cilantro lime chipotle dressing) and the chicken cutlet sandwich topped with bacon, cheddar, lettuce, tomato and house made chipotle sauce served on a roll or sub. He uses organic ingredients when possible and the New Haven based Apicella’s Bakery for bread.

Due to COVID-19, a maximum of five customers are allowed inside at one time and masks are required. Delivery is currently not offered, but Deli Delish takes over-the-phone orders and provides curbside pick-up or in-person ordering. “If you don’t call ahead, you’re usually in and out in under 10 minutes,” Ippolito says.

Deli Delish is open Monday – Friday from 8 am to 3 pm. The menu can be found on Facebook and Instagram at @DeliDelishWoodbridge and reached at 203-553-9519.



A New Online Coffee Vendor In Woodbridge: Café Rebelde.

Café Rebelde is run by wife and husband team Carissa and Mauriel Vega. “We wanted to start a family business,” explains Carissa, “with a focus on sustainability. This felt very connected to us since we are both from coffee farming places and we like to support small farms.”

Mauriel’s family is from Nicaragua and Carissa’s is from Puerto Rico. Both families are big coffee drinkers. In addition to coffee, the Vega family is interested in social justice and Café Rebelde allows them to combine both interests.

Currently Café Rebelde has two types of Fair Trade single origin coffees – Fenix Roast, a dark roast coffee from San Juan del Rio Coco and Jalapa, Nicaragua and Tierra Nuestra, a water process decaf from Tapachula in Chiapas, Mexico.

Each type of coffee is associated with a social justice organization that benefits from its sales. Fenix Roast, a high-altitude shade-grown coffee benefits Grupo Fenix of Totogalpa, Nicaragua which is an environment-focused organization. Some of their projects include a women-run solar cooperative and a bicycle program for youth.

Tierra Nuestra is decaffeinated using only clear pure water from the highest mountain in Mexico. The green coffee beans are immersed in water to extract the caffeine and maintain the coffee’s flavor profile. Sale of these beans benefits The Border Farmworker Center in El Paso, Texas which provides English classes, art and recreation pro-

grams for youth and adults and houses a cafeteria and medical center.

A third coffee, from South America, will be available in the fall. Proceeds from this coffee will benefit the Boricua Diaspora Fund which supports food justice and sustainable development in Puerto Rico, movements that are growing as a result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

A fourth, Viva Berta, from Casa Lempira, Honduras will be available this spring. Named after Berta Caceres, a Honduran indigenous environmental activist. Caceres co-founded the National Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH) to fight illegal logging and the building of dams that hurt her community’s access to food, water and medicine. Caceres was killed in 2016. Funds from the sale of Viva Berta will benefit COPINH.

Café Rebelde also plans to add tea in the future via working with a women-owned co-op growing medicinal herbs.

Café Rebelde coffees are available through the Common Ground High School Farm Share program or online at caferebelde.net. They offer free delivery in the New Haven area. Bags are sold whole bean and Café Rebelde will be offering coffee grinding as an add-on service in the near future.

For brewing tips and more, follow Café Rebelde on Facebook (facebook.com/coffeerebelde) and Instagram (instagram.com/raicesrebelde).

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ARTS & LEISURE



Local Resident Wins International Pageant Title

After winning the title of Royal International Miss Connecticut Princess in October of 2019, Gabriella Durso, a 3rd grade student at Beecher Road School, earned the right to compete in the international spotlight. After competing in the week-long Royal International Miss Scholarship Pageant in Orlando, Florida, Gabriella claimed the title and was crowned Royal International Miss Role Model Princess on July 11, 2020.

Gabriella will spend her year making appearances and engaging in a number of international service projects and

initiatives. She is most excited about her personal platform and service project, "The Good Night Sleep Tight PJ Program." Gabriella developed the program to provide comfy and cozy pajamas to hospitalized children. Over the course of the last several months' Gabriella has expanded the program to include donations to daycare facilities and shelters. Gabriella is always looking for new donations for her program. If you would like to donate newly purchased pajamas to Gabriella's program, you can contact her via email at melissa.durso3@gmail.com.

News & Notes from Massaro Community Farm

For many people, Labor Day represents the end of one season and the beginning of another. But here at Massaro Community Farm we are only about halfway through our growing season. Soon, farm manager Steve Munno will be planting more crops under the protection of our six high tunnels, extending the harvest well into winter.

New Workshops: Beekeeping and Creating a more biodiverse yard

Registration is open for two virtual workshops coming up on Saturday, September 12. The last beekeeping workshop of the season providing instruction on winter hive management will begin at 9:30am. A workshop on reducing your lawn and planting a living/edible landscape begins at 10:00am. Registration for both workshops can be made at Eventbrite.com. Both workshops will be recorded for later viewing.



Education kits donated

Thanks to a grant from the Valley Community Foundation, the farm delivered 200 free educational activity kits to families in Ansonia and Derby last month. The kits – distributed over two weeks - included supplies for children ages 6-10 to plant mini terrariums, build a bug hotel, press flowers and dissect roots. Kits were distributed to families receiving free summer meals at Mead, Prendergast and Irving Elementary Schools. Many thanks to the food service staff at Ansonia High School who distributed the kits with free meals.

Food donations increase in time of crisis

Fulfilling a primary part of our mission, Massaro Farm donated 3,500 pounds of produce to hunger relief between June and mid-August. The Connecticut Food Bank reported a nearly 50% increase in demand for food in 2020; the hunger relief agencies Massaro supports reported about half of the people needing food are new clients. In order to meet this increased need, we are diverting fresh vegetables from our Learning Garden – a spot typically devoted to youth education on the farm – and donating excess produce harvested from 13 community gardens across the Valley to hunger relief agencies. In addition to increasing the amount of produce we give, we

have sought out new donation partners this year, including St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry (Derby), Loaves & Fishes (New Haven), Seymour Oxford Food Bank (Seymour), Spooner House (Shelton) and Katherine Samela Food Pantry at Christ Episcopal Church (Ansonia).

Demand for local food means more jobs for local people

One side effect of the pandemic has been an increased demand for locally grown food. This increase is a welcome recognition of the value of local producers in a year when national supply chains experienced disruption.

Our CSA program, in which customers purchase a seasonal share for pickup each week, grew by 20% this year, so we needed more workers to grow and harvest more vegetables. Other employers were forced to furlough or let go of staff due to the economic impacts of Covid-19. However, at peak in July, Massaro Farm had 21 people on our payroll, made up of year-round farm and administrative staff, several summer crew members and six youth staff. This represented a 30% increase over previous years. About half of the individuals worked part-time staggered hours spread out across the week to maintain safety protocols. Additionally, employees wore masks, gloves and ate lunch separately to avoid unnecessary risk. Thankfully, we did not have any reported incidences of Covid-19 illness this summer.

You may purchase our Massaro Farm organic vegetables, along with products from other small local farmers, at our online store: MassaroFarm.Square.site. Order each week by 4:00pm on Wednesday for curbside, contactless pickup on Friday afternoon.

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.

Woodbridge Town News

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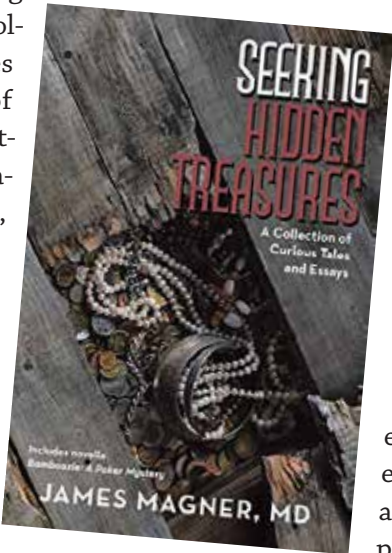
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ARTS & LEISURE

Local Author Publishes
Collection of Mystery Stories

James Magner, MD of Woodbridge is proud of the success he had with his recent book, “Seeking Hidden Treasures: A Collection of Curious Tales and Essays.” Several of the stories have local settings including New Haven, Orange, Hartford, Bradley Airport, and Foxwoods. The book was recognized by American Book Fest as one of the nine best collections of short stories published in the USA in 2019. The publisher is now releasing an expanded second edition.

Sometimes based on actual events, themes include solving clues to buried gold using a math trick, securing loot from a Spanish shipwreck, escap-



ing from deadly kidnappers using a sly trick, and sneaking a family and their assets out of Nazi-occupied Vienna using one of the most ingenious and humorous smuggling schemes in history. Magner describes his stories as “intelligent fiction for the quick-witted.” The book is available from Amazon and other sellers.

Magner is a retired endocrinologist and scientist. He loves chess, amateur astronomy and poker. He is an internationally known poker player with substantial winnings who has played on TV. He published a chess book in 2011, and a humorous memoir in 2015.



Keep Devices In Top
Shape And Running Well

The need for reliable technology has never been more apparent. When the world hit the proverbial pause button in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, technology was crucial to keeping people connected to the world around them, helping people maintain some semblance of normalcy as it pertained to work and education.

Students and families who have invested in various electronics to help keep their household running should understand that maintenance is required to keep these devices running effectively. These tips can help keep gadgets in tip-top shape.

Protect devices from extreme temperatures. Electronic devices are designed to operate under an array of conditions, but pushing those conditions can result in damage. Most devices are fine between temperatures of 32 F and 90 F. But don't leave electronics in the car, in a sunny window or outdoors.

Clean devices regularly. Refer to the user's manual for the proper ways to clean the devices you rely on each day. Some may require a specific cleaner or a particular fabric to help ensure the device isn't scratched or damaged. Spray cleaners on a cloth and then wipe off devices, rather than spraying cleaners directly on electronics. Try a can of compressed air to remove dust from crevices or vents.

Invest in a surge protector. While surge protector power strips multiply the number of available outlets, they also serve a more important purpose. These devices will cut off power to plugged-in electronics if there is a power surge, helping to prevent damage.

Don't overcharge. It's essential to have gadgets charged and ready to go, but overcharging can reduce battery life. Do not leave devices charging overnight. Battery University™, a free educational website offering battery information, says that nickel- and lithium-based batteries should be stored with a 40 percent state-of-charge. This level minimizes age-related capacity loss and keeps the battery in good condition.

Use protective cases. Cases can prevent damage if devices are dropped and also may safeguard against scratched screens. Cases and covers also minimize dust and dirt on devices.

Keep software up-to-date. Security issues may arise when software is not updated, and programs may not run effectively or be compatible with others. Along the same vein, routinely clean out unused files to free up space, and clear cookies and browser histories to maintain speed and efficiency.

Routine maintenance can keep electronics working properly when they're needed the most.

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- 🍅 Beekeeping: Preparing Your Hive for Winter - September 12, 9:30am
- 🍅 Ditch Your Lawn: Biodiverse Landscapes - September 12, 10:00am
- 🍅 This fall: ranger program, outdoor movie and goat hikes!

41 Ford Rd, Woodbridge, CT (203) 736-8618
www.MassaroFarm.org

ELECTION 2020

Be A “Prepared Voter, A Patient Voter, And A Participating Voter”

This is the first of a series of articles on voter education. If you have a topic to include, please contact the registrars of voters and leave a message (203-389-3409). This first article covers registration processes and deadlines. The next article will be “How to vote by absentee ballot” and “Is it safe to go to the polls?”

The Secretary of State’s office will send out applications for absentee ballots to all registered voters in September.

Voter Registration

To register in Connecticut, you must:

- › be a citizen of the United States;
- › be a resident of Connecticut and of the town in which you wish to vote;
- › be at least 17 years old and will turn 18 on or before Election Day;
- › have completed confinement and parole if previously convicted of a felony, and have had your voting rights restored by Registrars of Voters.

Online Registration

Connecticut offers online voter registration. The website is www.voterregistration.ct.gov which will walk you through the process. You will need your CT driver’s license number or the last 4 digits of your social security number. The application will be immediately available to the registrars.

Mail-In Registration

You can also register by mail to vote in Connecticut by printing a voter registration form on the Registrars’ page on the Town website (woodbridgect.org), filling it out, and mailing it to your local election office. You can also register to vote in person if you prefer, but you must make an appointment since the Town Hall is closed due to the pandemic (203-389-3448). Mail applications to:

Registrars of Voters
11 Meetinghouse Lane
Woodbridge, CT 06525

The deadlines for this year’s November election are:

- › October 27th midnight for **online registration**;
- › **Mail in** voter registration applications must be postmarked by October 27th.
- › There is a special limited registration session on November 2nd between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm for those whose situation by age, residency or citizenship has changed between October 27th and November 2nd. This session’s location will be noted with signs on the Town Hall front door.

Election Day Registration (EDR)

Connecticut does offer registration on Election Day at designated locations in each town. In Woodbridge it will be in the senior cafeteria in the Center Building. You must have proof of identity AND residency for EDR.

DMV Registration

You can register to vote while at the Department of Motor Vehicles, but please check all information carefully before completing the process.

Work at the Polls

Registrars are looking for people to work at the polls on November 3rd. The hours for work are 5:15 am to 9:00 pm. A training session is scheduled for Sunday, November 1st from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Absentee ballot counters will be in a central counting area and will work from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (training is included at that time). Please call the registrars at 203-389-3409 and leave a message with your name and phone number if you are interested.

Justin Farmer Receives Endorsements

Planned Parenthood Votes! CT and Connecticut Young Democrats endorsed Justin Farmer’s campaign for the 17th State Senate District.

Justin is a 25-year-old second-term Hamden Legislative Councilman, representing the town’s 5th District. He is running for State Senate in the August 11 primary election to represent the communities of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Hamden, Naugatuck, and Woodbridge. Justin has Tourette’s Syndrome, and wears noise-canceling headphones to manage sensory-input issues. If elected, Justin will be the first state-level elected official in American history with Tourette’s Syndrome.

Planned Parenthood Votes! Connecticut is the advocacy arm of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. Justin worked for Planned Parenthood from 2018-2019, and is a passionate advocate for reproductive justice.

Connecticut Young Democrats is the state chapter of the Young Demo-

crats of America—the largest youth-led, partisan political organization in the nation. Its mission is to “empower young people to get involved in their political space, turn out to vote and run for office.”

Justin is honored to receive the support of both of these organizations.

Justin has also received endorsements from DSA (both national and local chapters), Run For Something, Hamden Action Now, Sunrise Connecticut, Sunrise New Haven, and the Yale Endowment Justice Coalition. Justin is running a grassroots campaign that is committed to giving a voice to those who are underrepresented, welcoming more young people into politics, and fighting for progressive change in Connecticut. Since Justin decided to challenge the endorsed candidate, his campaign has consistently attracted the attention of Democratic and progressive organizations across the state and nationwide press.

DeBarba Receives Support from NHCYR

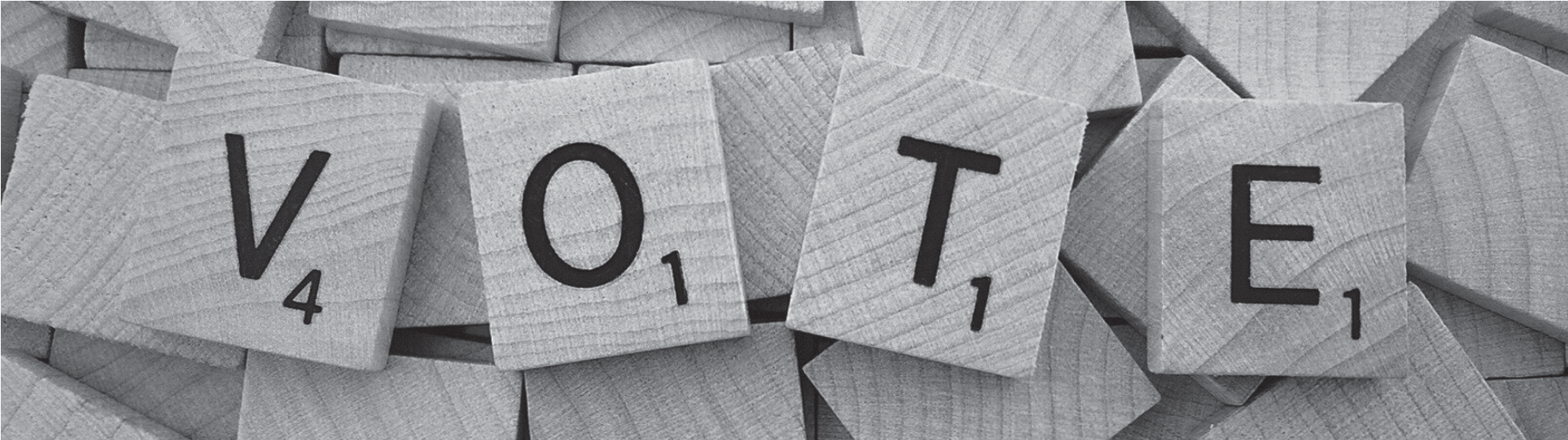
The New Haven County Young Republicans have endorsed Dan DeBarba for State Representative of the 114th district, which includes Derby, Orange and Woodbridge. The organization said, “Dan is uniquely qualified for this moment. We are confident he will utilize his extensive experience as a hospital administrator to be a strong advocate for the residents of the 114th district in Hartford. Additionally, having served as a medic in the Connecticut National Guard, Dan has shown his willingness to serve his fellow citizens – an attribute we desire in all of our elected officials.”

DeBarba thanked the organization for its endorsement. He said, “At a time when far too many politicians

offer empty promises of so much in exchange for nothing but votes, it is heartening to know that the members of the New Haven County Young Republicans understand this and care so deeply about Connecticut’s future.” DeBarba continued, “It is with great pride and optimism that I thank the New Haven County Young Republicans for their endorsement.”

DeBarba is a longtime Orange resident and his three children are graduates of Amity High School. DeBarba is the former president of Norwalk and Danbury Hospitals and is currently the chief financial officer of a large health-care system in New York. Additionally, he and his wife own a small business in the area.

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Town of Woodbridge Meetings for the Month of September 2020



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

9/1	Darling House Committee	4:00 PM	
9/8	Police Commission	6:15 PM	Police Department
	Town Plan & Zoning Commission.....	7:30 PM	Town Hall
9/9	Board of Selectmen.....	5:00 PM	Town Hall
9/10	Economic Development Commission.....	7:00 PM	Town Hall
9/14	Library Commission	6:00 PM	Library
	Human Services Commission	7:00 PM	Center Building
	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:30 PM	Town Hall
9/16	Inland Wetlands Agency	7:30 PM	Town Hall
9/17	Investment Committee.....	5:30 PM	Town Hall
	Board of Finance.....	6:00 PM	Town Hall
	Conservation Commission.....	7:30 PM	Town Hall
9/21	Fire Commission	6:00 PM	Fire House
	CUPOP	6:30 PM	Town Hall
	Recreation Commission	7:00 PM	Beecher Rd School So
9/22	Gov't Access TV Commission	7:30 PM	Town Hall

“Field” From Page 1

which developed an action plan to address these chemicals. The appeal recognizes that the commission attempted to impose a condition with respect to PFAS/PFOS, but calls that condition “arbitrary and capricious” in that it is unenforceable and unreasonably vague.

The plaintiffs in the appeal are Max Silverstein, whose property abuts the Amity property; and Catherine Scott and Thomas Raich, who argue that their property will receive storm water runoff from the site.

The infill for the all-weather field is made up of crumb rubber, ground up car tires. The material, critics say, leaches chemicals as they break down. Players may also inhale dust and ingest particles, which some studies have

found to contribute to cancer risks and other health issues. The appeal also points out that zoning regs prohibit the dumping of refuse or other waste materials during excavation or filling activities. Field Turf engineer Chris Hulk, at the TPZ meeting, said the company had confirmed with the manufacturer that their product does not contain any of the chemicals.

Andrew Dyjak, Field Turf regional vice president, said that tests had shown effluent water “as clean or cleaner than the water that goes in.” The turf system that is to be installed here promotes rain water to go through the infill to a silica sand base, which serves as a filter. The crumb rubber system has been tested more than any other system, he said. Plus, the project has been reviewed by town’s engineers and the Regional Water Authority.

The Benefits Of A New Approach To Learning For Students

The validity of the adage “necessity is the mother of invention” was on full display during the COVID-19 outbreak. People quickly had to learn to adapt to a new way of life, including an educational system that was transformed dramatically by social distancing guidelines.

More than 76 million students are enrolled in United States schools, per the latest Census Bureau information. In 2018, 2.12 million students were in Canadian postsecondary institutions alone. In a matter of days, millions of students who once attended classes in-person were forced to transition to virtual learning instruction. The process showed just how flexible learning systems can be, and how virtual instruction may become more than an emergency protocol in the future.

Schools utilized systems like Google Classroom, Canvas and virtual meeting apps to connect and learn. While in-class lessons provide the socialization and one-on-one interaction that can be vital for students’ academic success, there are many different reasons why virtual instruction can be a key component of learning models as well. When virtual learning is used in conjunction with traditional teaching, students may have a more well-rounded experience. Here are some potential benefits that may unfold as more data is collected.

Pace: Virtual learning affords students the chance to work on lessons at

a pace that fits their individual needs. Students can go back and re-read or re-work problems until they’re satisfied they have learned their lesson. Lessons can be slowed down or sped up depending on proficiency, creating a customized educational experience.

No more weather days. Many school districts include snow or extreme weather days into their calendars, adding on extra days at the end of school year to meet the specified number of educational days. Remote learning can take over in these times and keep school districts from having to pad calendars.

Convenience: The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later to provide students the best chance to get the amount of sleep they need. Still, most adolescents currently start school before 8:30 a.m. Remote learning enables students to complete their assignments when it works best for them. This may help them get more sleep, too.

Apps: Learning apps are a new wave of educational tools that have helped buoy virtual instruction. Primary school students or those with individual education plans may benefit the most from reinforced app skills that match their learning pace in fun ways.

Virtual home instruction may become a large part of the educational landscape even after it’s no longer a social distancing necessity.

“If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you.” — ZIG ZIGLER

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Or Shalom Happenings

- Weekly Services**
All Services are currently through Zoom. Please call our office.
- Minyan Services**
- › Sunday 9:00 AM
 - › Monday 8:30 AM
 - › Thursday 8:30 AM

- Shabbat Services**
- › Friday 7:30 PM
 - › Saturday 9:30 PM

Zumba Gold at Or Shalom – Via Zoom
Congregation Or Shalom announces the continuation of ZUMBA GOLD on Tuesday night at 7 PM. ZUMBA Gold is an easy to follow dance movement program that incorporates music from every decade to create an upbeat and fun exercise class. Burn lots of calories, meet new friends, and have a blast. No experience needed and classes are on a drop-in basis. Contact Robin at zumbarobin@gmail.com or call 203-314-8176 or temple office at 203-799-2341.



Congregation Or Shalom

We are happy to add Zumba Gold with Danielle Pettit. Zumba Gold is perfect for active older adults who are looking to dance and have a good workout while increasing balance, range of motion and coordination. Call or email for dates and times daniellepettit75@yahoo.com, 203-509-3683 (cell).

YAHAD
We're delighted to announce the fourth year of YAHAD, a Wednesday afternoon and Sunday morning community Hebrew School for grades Pre-K through 7. Please call our office for more information.

Church School Starts a New Year

The First Church of Christ Woodbridge will continue "attending" the You Tube Sunday services offered by the North Haven Congregational Church on Sundays 9:30 am. led by the Rev. Scott Morrow. The exception is Sunday September 6th when we will have our own ZOOM service at 10 am, led by our former intern the Rev. Anya Powers who we are proud to note was recently ordained in Colorado.

Our Church School begins a new school year on Sunday, September 13th with 2 virtual services. Programming for children grades 4 and under are scheduled after the morning church service. Youth in grades 5-12 are invited to join a 20-minute Sunday School session each Sunday evening at 6pm.

Our office remains closed, but our staff is hard at work. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us using the contact information listed below. We would be happy to hear from you.

As always, we invite all members of the community to join us for our weekly services:

Sunday Services – To receive the instructions on how to link with a service, please notify us by Friday morn-



The First Church of Christ

ing. You can either call us at (203) 389-2119 or email us at office@uccw.org;

Church School – The Church School year begins virtually on September 13th. To receive the weekly ZOOM invite links, email JoAnna Rubino, Director of Christian Education at growfirstchurch@gmail.com;

Boy Scout Troop 907 – meets weekly on Thursdays at 7 p.m. During the pandemic, the troop is holding its meeting via ZOOM;

Weekly Bible Study - Wednesday, 10-11 Bible is on hiatus for September.

For more information on these events, please contact us at (203) 389-2119 or office@uccw.org. Visit our website at uccw.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/uccwoodbridge.

High Holy Days at Temple Emanuel 2020/5781

The pandemic has caused Jewish communities all over the world to experiment with new and creative ways of celebrating Shabbat, holidays and milestone events. This year, Rabbi Michael Farbman and Temple Emanuel will celebrate the High Holy Days on line, bringing our community together virtually as we have been doing every week since March – celebrating together while staying apart.

- SELICHOT** – Saturday, September 12 at 7 pm
Joint URJ Selichot with Temple Emanuel, Congregation Mishkan Israel (Hamden), Temple Beth David (Cheshire) and B'nai Israel (Southbury)
- EREV ROSH HASHANAH** – Friday September 18 at 7 pm
ROSH HASHANAH DAY I – Saturday, September 19 at 10 am
- › Family Service at 3 pm
- ROSH HASHANAH DAY II** – Sunday, September 20 at 10 am
- › Tashlich at 3 pm (planning for a physically distanced outdoor service)
- KOL NIDREI (Erev Yom Kippur)** – Sunday, September 27 at 8 pm
YOM KIPPUR MORNING – Monday, September 28 at 10 am



Temple Emanuel

- › Study session with Bennett Graff at 1 pm
 - › Family service at 3 pm
 - › Mincha at 4:30 pm
 - › Yizkor, Neila and Havdalah at 6 pm
- EREV SUKKOT** – Friday, October 2 at 6:30 pm
EREV SIMCHAT TORAH – Friday, October 9 at 6:00 PM
- Links to digital versions of Mishkan HaNefesh, the high holy day Machzor, information about how to access virtual services and additional details about these events and all other events and services at TE are on the Temple Emanuel website, www.tegnh.org. You can also call the temple office at 203-397-3000. Stay connected with our community. Keep your physical distance while maintaining your social connections. Hope to "see" you soon!

Congregation B’Nai Jacob Events

Adult Education
Learn with Rabbi Shapiro
– Bread and Torah
Every Shabbat morning 9 am on Zoom
– Monday Evening Classes beginning October 19 7:30 pm, Topic TBA

Congregation B’nai Jacob wishes you a healthy and happy new year.



Congregation B’nai Jacob

KOL NIDRE Free and Open To The Public
September 28 At 6:15 PM on Zoom
Requires pre-registration with the B’nai Jacob office (phone 203-389-2111, or email office@bnaijacob.org) in order to secure a link to the Zoom service.

ZOOM SCHEDULE of weekly services and classes:
Call the office for Zoom information
Morning Minyan at 7:45am (Mon-

day-Friday), 9:00am (Sunday);
Evening Minyan at 6:00pm (Sunday-Thursday);
Shabbat Shmooze at 6:00pm Friday;
Kaballat Shabbat at 6:30pm Friday;
Bread & Torah at 9:00am Saturday;
Shabbat Morning at 10:00am Saturday.

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Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

Outdoor Services

(weather permitting)

- › Sundays 9:00 am**
- › Mondays 5:45 pm**
- › Fridays 6:00 pm**
- › Saturdays 9:30 am

** also available via Zoom, like other daily services

Prayer books and chairs are provided or bring your own. In case of bad weather, services move inside. Washrooms are available if needed. So that records can be kept for possible contact tracing, RSVP to bekitefilla@gmail.com or jjtilsen@beki.org.

Children’s Services

Children’s Shabbat and High Holy Day programs are being held outdoors. For more information, consult Youth & Family Programming Director Annie Norman-Schiff, anorman-schiff@beki.org.

High Holy Days

High Holy Days at BEKI will be a combination of outdoor services, inside services, live streaming, and pre-recorded elements. Tashlikh will be offered at three locations on Sunday, September 20. For more information: office@beki.org.

Upcoming Programs

From 8:00 to 9:00 pm on Zoom, BEKI Schmoozes include a presentation and time for questions.

Wednesday, September 9, Robin Goldberg will lead a session of **Meditation and Teshuva**. A certified instructor of Heart Rhythm Meditation, she will present a program that is perfect for beginners too. All are welcome to meditate Jewishly, seated at home in whatever manner is comfortable for you.

Thursday, September 10, Rachel Adelstein will present **Majesty in Music** for the High Holy Days, an exploration of why holiday melodies became so elaborate. The program will include listening to examples of High Holy Day music from many communities.

An ethnomusicologist with a PhD from



Rachel Adelstein



Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

the University of Chicago, she has a particular interest in contemporary Jewish liturgical music.

Saturday, September 12, **Selichot**. A family-oriented Havdalah ceremony, followed by a program about racial justice and teshuva, then Selichot prayers.

Monday, September 14, Jay Sokolow will lead text study on the topic of **Heshbon Nefesh - Taking a moral inventory in Judaism and in the 12 Steps**. Not only a local radiologist, he is also a committed student of Jewish texts.

Thursday, September 24, Jennifer Klein will speak on **The Relations of Care: Reflecting on the Dignity of Work, Racial Justice, and Interdependence for Teshuva**. She will focus on the idea of teshuva as it pertains to racial inequities in the care of our elderly and disabled, specifically, the women and men—often people of color—who provide that care. A Yale professor, she has published articles and a book about home health care workers.

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



Jay Sokolow



Jennifer Klein

“Beecher” From Page 3

Christine Syriac responded by saying that she would be meeting with the union’s executive board, feeling confident that the school could meet at least some of their concerns. “I think there are areas where we can work together to try and find some comfort,” she said.

During the online meeting some parents spoke out in support of the teachers. Every hair salon can only run on 50% occupancy, said one parent. But at the school, they will accept 1,000 people into the building for long periods of time. “None of this makes sense,” she said.

Another parent expressed concern about delaying the re-opening of school, especially for special education students. She said her child was scheduled for a placement meeting, which never happened in the spring. When the governor ordered schools closed, the state allowed schools to postpone the IEPs (Individualized Education Program). “Ten more weeks could be catastrophic,” she said.

Board of Education Chairman Lynn Piascyk said the number of students who were “in” or “out” was fluctuating, and she expected it to stay that way. As of August 28, when the teachers held their annual convocation, it was in the 70/30 range – with about 70% of students attending class, and 30% choosing remote learning from home.

The plan is to have nine teachers teach remotely from home – one for each grade level, plus a specialist and a special education teacher. The district was working with the WEA to work out a Memorandum of Understanding regarding privacy protection for teachers and students during live streaming. The district also is working to limit online class sizes, as some had grown to 34, 35 students, and that number is likely to increase, especially if families

need to quarantine. Parents can switch from one modality to the other, however, the school needs a week’s notice to fit the student into a classroom, so that “when the student arrives, they feel safe and welcome,” Piascyk said.

School reopening: Beecher Road School students are slated to return to school for the first time in close to six months come Tuesday, September 8., at least for those whose last name starts with a letter from L to Z. The other half of the alphabet, A to K, will start a day later, on Wednesday, September 9. The rest of the week the school will open to the whole student body, minus those who chose remote learning. The first week of school will be minimum days.

The delay in the opening of school, which was originally planned for August 31 became necessary after Tropical Storm Isaias cut off electricity and Internet, not only to the school itself, but to many of the administrators’ homes as well. “This storm has put our efforts back by a few days, said outgoing School Supt. Robert Gilbert at the August 17 Board of Education meeting. The building was still closed several days after the storm. “We can do a lot remotely if we can get in touch with each other,” he said.

The reason the district starts with the second half of the alphabet on the first day of school, a Tuesday, is to coordinate with Amity. That way the students from one family will go to school on the same day. The Amity District is starting the school year in the hybrid learning mode, with A-K attending class on Mondays and Thursday, and L-Z attending class on Tuesday and Friday.

Of those Beecher families who signed up to attend school in person, 67% will be driven to school, rather than taking the bus. The hours are the normal school hours, 8:35 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



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How Students Can Start Clubs At School

Extracurricular activities can enrich students' school experience. An enjoyable extracurricular activity can help students apply lessons learned in the classroom while also making it possible for them to expand on those lessons while having some fun and meeting some new people.

Many students find extracurricular activities that can provide both social and academic benefits. For example, student-athletes may learn the value of perseverance and working with others by participating in team sports. However, some students may not find the right fit when looking for extracurricular activities, prompting them to explore starting their own clubs at school. Such an endeavor can be rewarding, and there are certain steps students can take to make their efforts more successful.

Speak with school officials. It's best to get the go-ahead from school officials before doing too much heavy lifting. Schools may have rules in place that prohibit certain types of clubs. For example, schools may prohibit poker clubs or other activities rooted in games of chance. So it benefits students to get the go-ahead from school officials before moving forward. Officials also may mandate that any club officially affiliated with the school must have a designated faculty advisor, so students should have someone in mind once they learn the club is allowed.

Gauge student interest. Students thinking of starting their own club

should gauge the interest of fellow students as well. Some schools may require a minimum number of members, so speak with friends and classmates to gauge interest. High school students can speak with students in all grade levels, as extracurricular activities should be all-inclusive and not exclude potential members because they're underclassmen.

Decide your goal. Extracurricular clubs should have a defined purpose so members can get the most out of it. For example, a school film club may aspire to introduce classic movies to young film fans, but also to discuss the techniques filmmakers employed in making the films. A stated purpose can help ensure club meetings stay the course and don't get sidetracked.

Learn the ropes of being a club officer. School-sponsored clubs require some considerable effort to maintain. Students who want to start their own club can speak with officers of existing clubs for pointers on everything from organization to fundraising. Clubs should have some structure, and officers from existing clubs can be great resources when trying to develop that structure in a new clubs.

Have fun. Of course, one of the goals of any extracurricular activity is to have fun. Club founders and officers should keep that in mind and aim to make sure each meeting is fun for all members.

Students who start new clubs at school can employ various strategies to ensure such clubs are fun for all.



Cyber Safety Is Important For Every Grade

People rely on the internet every day. In recent months, reliance on digital technology was pushed even further as social distancing measures had the world going online for school and work and to maintain relationships with friends and family.

A 2018 report from Pew Research Center indicated that nearly 25 percent of young adults in America reported being online almost constantly. Common Sense Media says teens spend an average of nine hours a day online, compared to roughly six hours for those between the ages eight and 12 and 50 minutes for kids younger than eight.

Students must exercise caution when spending time online. Connectivity can be empowering, but it also puts students at risk from others and even their own, sometimes irresponsible behaviors. Staying safe online should remain a priority for students who must spend more time on the internet and using digital education tools. These are some tips for maintaining cyber safety.

Exercise caution when sharing information like your name, address, phone number, and other personal data online. Check with a trusted parent or teacher before sharing private data.

Report any online activity that makes you feel uncomfortable, scared

or confused, whether it is directed at you or a classmate.

Think carefully before you post comments online. Data remains online indefinitely, and your words and actions today can greatly affect your future.

Respect others online by refraining from demeaning or bullying comments.

Do not try to get around firewalls and blocked websites set up by school administrators. These limitations are there for your protection.

Stick to school-sanctioned assignments and internet browsing when using school-issued devices. Administrators may have the right to monitor student activity without students' knowledge and you can easily get yourself in trouble.


It is easy to hide or fake one's identity on the internet, so never take someone you meet or speak with online at face value. Never meet up with someone you do not know or only met online.

Talk to your parents or educators about extortion and ransomware that tries to trick you into providing payment in some shape or form to prevent a perpetrator from releasing private information about you, advises the Readiness and Emergency for Schools Technical Assistance Center.

Various steps can be taken to promote cyber safety among students, parents and administrators.



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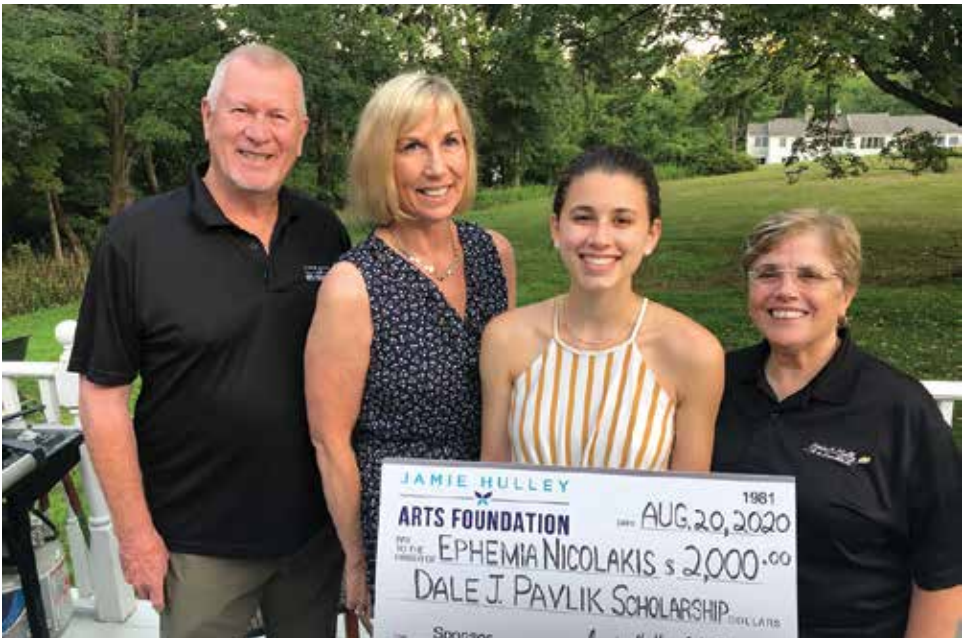
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Amity senior Ephemias Nicolakis was awarded the Dale J. Pavlik Memorial Scholarship to study communication & graphic design at Quinnipiac University. Dale, an Amity alum, was a talented graphic designer and Creative Director and Owner of DJP Design, LLC. Family & friends created this award in Dale’s memory through the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation. Pictured in Photo: Fred Hulley, Debra Pavlik, Ephemias Nicolakis & Judy Primavera.





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How Parents Can Govern Screen Time

Technology has transformed nearly all facets of life, including education. While desks and blackboards can still be found in the classroom, technology has become more and more influential in regard to how students learn.

Many teachers now employ tablets and other devices to help students better understand their coursework. Devices can make for useful learning tools, but when does screen time cross over from useful learning tool to something that's potentially harmful to students' overall health? The American Academy of Pediatrics has produced age-specific guidelines that can help parents determine if their school-aged children are spending too much time staring at screens.

Children between two and five years of age

Parents should limit screen time for this age group to one hour per day of high-quality programs. The AAP advises parents to co-view with children in this age group so they can help kids understand what they're watching and how it applies to the world around them.

Children ages six and older

The AAP does not provide specific information regarding how many hours children ages six and older should use screen media. However, the AAP advises parents to make sure such media does not take the place of

adequate sleep, physical activity and other behaviors essential to health.

In addition to following AAP recommendations about screen time as closely as possible, parents can take steps to ensure their children are not spending too much time using their devices.

Promote extracurricular activities. Urging children to participate in extracurricular activities that do not employ screen media, such as sports, music lessons and academic clubs, can be a great way to get kids to put down their devices and engage in in-person interactions with their peers.

Establish no-device hours at home. The AAP recommends that parents designate certain times of the day as media-free times for the whole family, and not just children. Parents can put down their smartphones and tablets and engage with their children without the television on. In addition, make sure devices don't make it to the dinner table, as nightly, device-free dinners together can help families build strong bonds.

Establish media-free zones. Designate certain areas of the home, such as the kitchen and dining room, as device-free zones. Keep devices out of bedrooms unless children need them to do their homework.

Devices in the classroom can help young students fulfill their academic potential. Parents can govern their use outside the classroom by adhering to some simple strategies.



Recommended Tech For Students

Shopping for school supplies once entailed stocking up on pens, pads and notebooks. Students today still buy many of the same items, though they also now stock up on electronics.

Technology and education now go hand-in-hand. For students to find success both in and out of the classroom, the right tech can make all the difference.

High-speed internet: Connectivity is key in a digitally driven world. Students need access to the internet for homework, lectures, email, entertainment, and much more. The faster your internet speed the better. According to the resource HighSpeedInternet.com, streaming videos on a single device or web browsing requires between five and 40 Mbps. Downloading large files or using multiple devices simultaneously requires high speeds. When accessing the internet via smartphones, make sure your plan has unlimited data or provides enough data to ensure interruptions do not occur.

Laptop or notebook computer: Laptops and notebook devices are similar in that both offer many types of software preloaded that a student will need. The devices seem interchangeable, but there are some differences. Laptops are generally larger than sleek, light notebooks. Notebooks are sized to fit easily into backpacks. Notebooks tend to have minimal features, including less RAM capacity and slower speeds, helping to keep their costs down. Some notebooks may have very small

amounts of hard drive storage space, requiring users to purchase external storage devices.

Headphones: Most schools now require students to have their own dedicated pair of earbuds or over-the-ear headphones so that work conducted on a computer does not disturb others also working on their own devices. Headphones also can make it easier to hear and comprehend videos and other digital lessons while doing homework.

Chargers/battery packs: Devices must maintain power to help kids learn. Students can benefit from having a backup charger or battery pack to maintain functionality on their devices.

Storage and charging base: Keeping electronics neat and accessible for the family may mean rethinking counter-top or other storage spaces. Charging stations hold multiple devices and allow them to charge simultaneously.

Touchscreen pen: Many notebook and laptop computers have touchscreens that respond to pens/styluses and make drawing or writing on the screen more detailed.

Printer/scanner: While many schools have adopted paperless formats, there may come a time when printing an assignment or report is necessary. A quality ink-jet printer can fit the bill. A scanner to scan photos or documents also makes it easier to complete assignments.

The above are just some of the many gadgets that can assist students with their studies.



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