

Woodbridge Town News



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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022



Laura Pirie, right, and Chris Dickerson, Woodbridge business owner and co-chairman of the 2030 Task Force, welcome residents to a brainstorming session

Residents Encouraged To 'Dream Big'

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

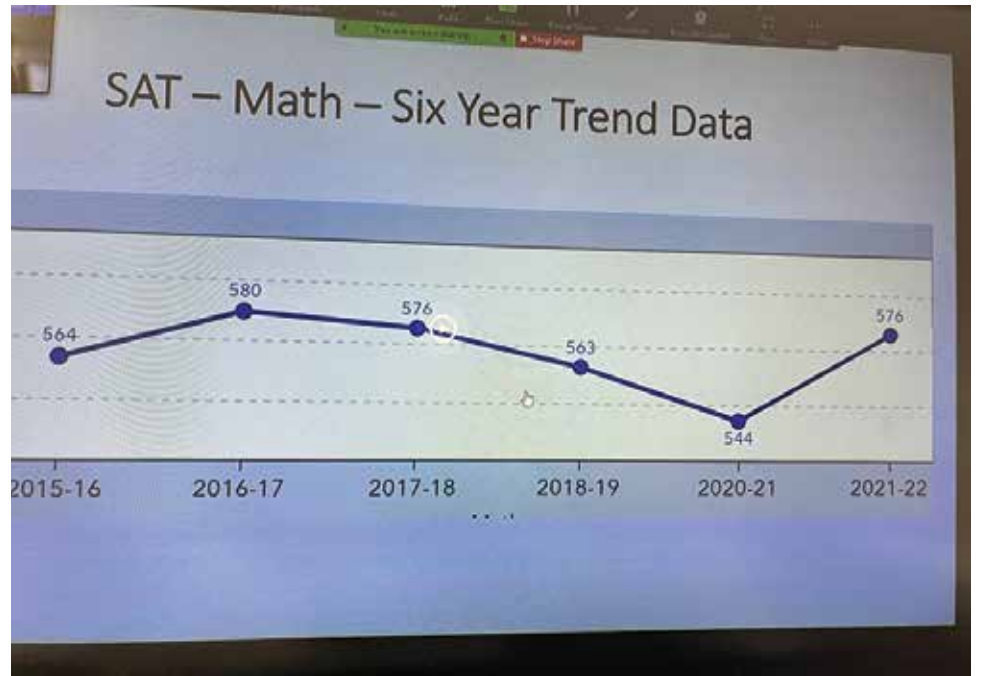
The town has embarked on a renewed effort to re-envision and enliven the town's business district, also sometimes lovingly called The Flats or "Downtown." On September 15, the 2030 Task Force invited residents and business owners, both from the commercial district as well as residential Woodbridge, to meet over a glass of beer and "dream big." The meeting took place under a large tent set up in front of New England Brewing Company, and the turnout was lively, with a mix of town officials, business owners and involved residents. About 40 participated.

Turns out, dreaming big is not all that easy for New Englanders who pride themselves on their sense of

prudence and fiscal responsibility. But some ideas did percolate, for example a zip line or a gondola over West Rock, an amphitheater with West Rock as the backdrop, a wedding venue; a skate park and ice rink; outdoor ping-pong; an all-seasons farmers market – the ideas were all taken in by consultant Laura Pirie, who encouraged the participants to "suspend disbelief."

The effort is under the auspices of the 2030 Task Force, an ad-hoc group of residents called by First Selectman Beth Heller to think about ways to grow the town's Grand List, which lists all the taxable properties. The hope is that a growing Grand List will spread the tax burden among more people. The name of the task force

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Test Results Show Continuous Student Improvements

Elementary And Secondary Schools Rank High in Comparable Districts

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Both the Woodbridge Elementary District and the Amity school system had positive news to share this month, when they laid out the results of the SBAC (Smarter Balance Assessment) and the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards). But the effects of the pandemic with its disruptions of the regular learning environment are still noticeable in the state assessment results, especially at the middle schools.

Beecher is No 1 - Overall, 80% of Beecher students met or exceeded standards in reading and 74% met or exceeded them in math. In the science assessment, which is administered in Grade 5 – and later again in grades 8 and 10 – 81.8% met or exceeded the

standards – which is not a bad result at all, except that it was down from 84.7% in 2018-19.

Even so, the scores in reading/writing and math put the school at the top of its District Reference Group (DRG), said school assistant principal, Jim Sapia, when he presented the results to the local school board.

"That's where we want to be," said board member Jeff Hughes in response.

"Kudos to the teachers," said Erin Williamson.

The DRGs are district groupings based on the socioeconomic status of the community they are located in. Woodbridge, Orange and Amity are

See "Test Results" On Page 18



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Scianna to Join Charter Oak Financial as Managing Director

Kristin Scianna has joined Charter Oak Financial as a Managing Director in the firm's Norwalk office. A well-connected leader across Connecticut's Gold Coast, Ms. Scianna is responsible for selecting elite advisors and teams to join Charter Oak's network, serving as a point of entry to the firm's client-centric support platform. She will be instrumental in furthering Charter Oak as a premiere destination firm for the region's most successful financial professionals.

Ms. Scianna began her financial career while still in college at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, earning her securities license shortly after graduation. In all, her experience spans 25 years of both personal practice and leadership, and includes roles at MetLife and New York Life.

"Kristin's ambition, perceptiveness, and conviction are her superpowers," Charter Oak Managing Partners Brendan Naughton and Brad Somma commented. "Importantly, these strengths are all rooted in doing right for the people in her midst. She will be a true asset to this firm and to the advisors she leads."

Ms. Scianna holds philanthropy close to her heart and believes deeply in the power of community. A Newtown, Conn. Native, she is a supporter of Parent Connection of Newtown, and a board member of the Resiliency Center of Newtown. She also founded



Krisin Scianna

Amity Parent Together alongside a dear friend to encourage communication between parents. She resides in Woodbridge with her three children.

Charter Oak Financial serves the risk management, business services and retirement and investment planning needs of families, individuals and businesses across the Northeast. Through our mission, vision, and guiding principles, we are committed to delivering exceptional client experiences, fostering a positive firm culture, and being an influence for good in our communities. Charter Oak's offices are located throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. To learn more, visit www.charter oakfinancial.com.

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“Dream” From Page 1

reflects the time horizon – the year 2030 – to make this a reality.

Yet Pirie did not leave the pie in the sky – or at least, that is her promise. Her firm, Pirie Associates, will synthesize the information gleaned from the meeting and from multiple surveys, and work them into a plan of what the business district could look like going forward. “Ideas are not solutions,” Pirie said. “Our team will synthesize them into solutions.” She said the surveys, in particular the residents’ survey, showed that any solution would be “nature-forward.”

What makes Woodbridge unique is the love of outdoor recreational activities, said Danielle Davis, a project architect with Pirie’s office. And that love is reflected in the types of businesses that draw traffic from out-of-towners, businesses such as the bowling alley, Woodbridge Running Co. and Amity Bike.

Pirie described the character of the district as “nature-forward,” “informal but tidy,” “open and airy.” Any plan-

ning would try to maximize its unique geographic location, with mixed use and “not too dense.”

Actually, the first exercise was to name the District, as some people avoid “The Flats” as being pejorative; a previous planning effort referred to “Woodbridge Village.” Residents were invited to write their ideas on a board, and later they were invited to add stickers for their favorite ones.

Another piece of the puzzle is the street scape preferences and traffic patterns. Pirie asked participants to fill out, based on photographs, which street scenes/buildings/amenities they would prefer and why.

The results will be presented at a subsequent meeting sometime in November, Pirie said. This meeting was just the first in a series of three. The third and last of the community meetings is planned to take place in early January.

Members of the 2030 Task Force are Chris Dickerson and Susan Jacobs, co-chairmen; Chris Lovejoy, Garrett Luciani, Jeremy Rosner and Teri Schatz.



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Publisher Rocky Salperto

Editor Marlene Silverstein

Production & Design J. Michael Kriz

Correspondents Melissa Nicefaro | Bettina Thiel

Contributing Writers Roberta Nestor | Ginny Reinhard

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Contact us:
Rocky Salperto Rocky@woodbridgetownnews.com
Marlene Silverstein Marlene@woodbridgetownnews.com
J. Michael Kriz Mike@woodbridgetownnews.com
Melissa Nicefaro..... Melissa@woodbridgetownnews.com
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Woodbridge Town News

Below are the next three issue dates & deadlines of the Woodbridge Town News.
Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

Upcoming Issue Date

Issue Deadline

October 28 | Election Issue..... October 21

November 18 | Thanksgiving Issue November 11

December 16 | Holiday Issue December 9

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

FROM OUR READERS

Amity Should Continue The Practice of Returning Surplus Funds to Taxpayers

Recently, the Amity Board of Education and the Superintendent of schools determined that they would no longer return surplus, unspent funds to the three towns which would ultimately benefit the taxpayers who supplied the funds. There was an agreement in place for many years that surplus funds would be returned to the three towns. However Amity has decided that based upon a vague, ambiguous state statute that uses the word shall instead of must, the money should be retained by the school district for use at their discretion. Over the past 10 years or so we are talking about millions of dollars that were returned to the taxpayers to lower their taxes. As much as 2-3 million dollars has been refunded in one year. Amity no longer feels that is proper and that the surplus should be retained by the district and used as they see fit. That will never benefit the taxpayers, even if they use it to offset the next year's budget

when the budget can be manipulated to appear as if it is fiscally prudent. The towns that provided these multi million dollar surpluses should have the control of the funds. As one prominent town official said, "Amity is just plain greedy."
The Amity Finance Committee met on September 12 for it's regular meeting and I announced my resignation from the committee. The AFC has been in existence since 2002 and I have been a member and Vice Chairman for those 20 years. The committee was formed to assure taxpayers that the three member towns would have representatives on the committee to have a direct view and involvement in Amity's finances. That ultimately allowed for passage of the budget after 18 failed referendums. Recently the committee has been rendered disregarded since whenever we vote no on an item, the full board disagrees and passes the item. I am not willing to devote countless hours to the AFC and be treated with no respect.
*Matthew T. Giglietti, Chairman
Woodbridge Board of Finance*

Woodbridge Town News

WTN LETTERS POLICY

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



OPINION

As we head into the beautiful fall season, I have several updates on some of our ongoing projects which I shared at the September 14, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

You may be aware that the Town of Woodbridge has been named in a civil lawsuit filed by the Open Communities Alliance Trust LLC. The Town will defend this case and we fully expect to be successful. Woodbridge is a diverse and wonderful community, which will be demonstrated at trial, and I am committed to contesting the claims made by the lawyers who brought this suit.

As the Board of Selectmen continue to focus on its Strategic Plan, one goal is to “Maintain and Invest in Infrastructure and Facilities,” I have created a new Town Building Committee to prepare for improvements and maintenance projects, such as roof replacement, at Beecher Road School and its surrounding recreational areas including the Kucinskas Loop.

Woodbridge Police Chief Cappiello informed me that officer Vinny Lynch, the School Resource Officer (SRO) at Beecher Road School, represented our Police Department in the filming of a “School Safety” public service announcement. It was one of several created in conjunction with WFSB and the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, which aired on Channel 3 during their newscasts and programming during August and will continue this month. I hope you get a chance to catch it!

The Ad Hoc Dispatch Committee, which has had many productive meetings over the past year, asked me, and I have agreed, to expand the scope of the committee’s charge to include review and discussion of ALL public safety matters related to Fire and Police.

Road paving is on-going, with

From the First Selectman BY BETH HELLER



milling completed, and paving will be completed shortly. As a Public Service announcement, this year, the roads included in paving are Homewood Road, Ford Road, Old Mill Road, Oxbow Lane and Oak Hill Lane from Rimmon Road to Highview Drive.

In addition, committee members have requested, and I have agreed, to revise the name of the ad hoc committee that is working to finish the renovation of the old fire house and the upgrade of the surrounding outdoor spaces. As a result, the Community and Cultural Center Building Committee name now better reflects the many uses for this new building, including recreational, meeting, and cultural spaces, as well as a focal point for gatherings for all residents. This project is completely funded with \$2 million in state grant monies.

At the most recent meeting of the Town Plan and Zoning Commission, a proposal from Toll Brothers to build over-age-55 housing on Bradley Road and Litchfield Turnpike was unanimously approved.

Related to my on-going efforts to ‘grow the grand list,’ I am also pleased to report that the 2030 Task Force had a very successful event on the evening of September 15th at the New England Brewing Company on Amity Road. At this public information session, about 45 residents, property-owners and business-owners joined the task force members to share their feedback and offer ideas after introductory remarks by the 2030 co-chairs Susan Jacobs and Chris Dickerson and a brief presentation from the consultants at Pere

Associates. Thank you to this committee for all their efforts! The Task Force remains in close communication with the Economic Development Commission, which has been focusing on support for existing businesses. Please continue to look for more information.

Additionally, I also reported at the Selectmen’s meeting that the Town submitted a new Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant application in August, asking the State for \$500,000 to renovate the gymnasium in the Center Building into a modern, comfortable multi-purpose gym and auditorium. As you all know, currently there is no ventilation or air conditioning, and the windows are inoperable. This area, which also serves as part of our emergency shelter system, as well as our Town voting venue, has been nearly unusable during the COVID pandemic. Our proposal includes upgrades to the electrical service to add HVAC to the space, renovate the restrooms, resurface and re-stripe the wood floors, and install safety padding along the walls. Our application received support from both State Senators Jorge Cabrera and James Maroney, and State Representative Mary Welanders.

Since the Selectmen’s meeting, we have received wonderful news from Governor Lamont that our project has been awarded, and \$500,000 in state funding is now approved for the renovation of Woodbridge Center Gym, as part of a package of \$31.3 million in ‘State Grants for Infrastructure Improvements’ in 77 small towns across the state. We will get to work right

away to get this project underway as soon as possible.

As a reminder, on Saturday, October 1st the 40th Annual Woodbridge Road Race and Fun Run will take place in the center of town. The Fun Run begins at 9 am at the Fitzgerald Fitness Trail on Beecher Road and the 5K starts at 10:30 am in front of the Library on Meetinghouse Lane. Registration is on-line ONLY up until race time. From 8 am to 12 noon, the Woodbridge Police will have a table at the Road Race near registration, in conjunction with Human Services, collecting donations for the Woodbridge Food Pantry.

On Sunday October 9th, our Annual Celebration of Diversity event “Woodbridge Like Me” will be held on the Woodbridge Town Green from 11 am to 2 pm. This is hosted by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, and includes live performances, a community mural, music, food trucks and more!

Please save the date of Monday, October 31st (which is Halloween) for the Annual ‘Truck or Treat’ event sponsored by the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association. The fireworks display is also scheduled for that evening.

For further information on Town events, visit woodbridgect.org,

Finally, please save the date of Monday, November 11th for the always beautiful and moving Veterans Day Ceremony at 11 am at the VFW Memorial Monument on the Town Green. More information and updates will follow.

Please continue to stay safe, and take some time to enjoy the colorful changing leaves. As always, do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have either at 203-389-3401 or bheller@woodbridgect.org. Thank you!

BULLETIN BOARD

Friends Of Beacon Falls Library Hosting Book Sale & Tea Cup Auction - Friday, September 30, 2022, 3pm-8pm & Saturday, October 1, 2022, 9am-2pm @ The Beacon Falls Library, 10 Maple Avenue, Beacon Falls. For additional information, please call 203-305-3895.

Yale Concert Band Fall Concert, Friday, October 7, 2022, 7:30p.m., Woolsey Hall, New Haven, Free. Re(new)al by Viet Cuong: percussion concerto feat. compressed air, crystal glasses, and other percussion “pecu-

liarities,” featuring guest artists Yale School of Music percussion quartet; Mariachitlán (Juan Pablo Contreras); Adagio for Wind Orchestra (Joaquin Roadrigo). Guest conductor Wayne Magee (Director of Bands, Massachusetts Maritime Academy): On a Hymn-song of Philip Bliss (David Holsinger) and Early Light (Carolyn Bremer). Free admission, no tickets required (please carry proof of up-to-date vaccination status; ASTM or KN95 style face masks required). For information, 203-432-4111, <https://bands.yalecollege.yale.edu/>.

New Resident Welcome Event, all new residents are invited to attend the upcoming New Resident Welcome event on Sunday, October 9, 2022, 10:30am on the Town Green, 4 Meetinghouse Lane. The meet-up immediately precedes the 2nd Annual Woodbridge Like Me Day to take place on the Green from 11 am to 2 pm.

2nd Annual Woodbridge Like Me Day, Sunday, October 9, 2022 (rain date, Monday, October 10, 2022) 11am-2pm, the Woodbridge Town Green. This free event features live

performances, a community mural project, local organizations, music, food trucks and more, and is a celebration of our vibrant and diverse Woodbridge community.

Ansonia Nature Center Annual Autumn Festival – October 15, 2022, 11am-4pm, 10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, 203-736-1053, attractions include horse-drawn wagon rides, pumpkin painting, crafts, face-painting, raffles, a haunted trail walk, creepy crawlies with James Tully, animal shows and more.

“Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns.” — GEORGE ELIOT

OPINION

Matt Giglietti Resigns from Amity Finance Committee

SURPLUS ISSUE WAS “THE LAST STRAW”

Below is the transcript of Matt Giglietti announcing his resignation from the Amity Finance Committee (AFC) on 09-12-22 after serving for 20 years as the Vice-Chairman of the AFC since its inception in 2002. Mr. Giglietti is the Chairman of the Woodbridge Board of Finance.

Matt Giglietti:

The Amity Finance Committee was started in 2002, 20 years ago, because we had had 18 failed referendums, and the taxpayers were not allowed to approve a budget because there was so much fraud that was committed by the former Board of Education. So, the board started the Amity Finance Committee, which was made up of the three chairmen of the town boards of finance, together with three members of the Board of Education. And that satisfied the taxpayers and shortly thereafter, the budget passed.

I’ve noticed I’m the only one that’s been doing this since its inception. Bethany and Orange have changed their representatives several times, always good people, like Sharon and Joe, a number of them. But I’m still around because I always felt like doing it. I could work with Amity and the taxpayers, for Amity. And, hopefully, keep the one with us who make my time here meaningful. And it’s always worked.

Except the past year and a half, I have felt that we are disregarded and not terribly important to the board because there are very, very few instances where we vote no on something. Very few. I think you both will agree with that?

And yet every time we vote no, it goes to a full board and they ignore our vote. Just this past month, there was discussion about the one percent or two percent of the capital not occurring, and I said to Sharon and Joe, “Guys, don’t waste your time. We’ve got all the surplus money now. They’re going to go for two percent.” But you guys voted for one percent, I abstained. The board approved two percent. And so, I said to myself, “What am I doing here?” I mean, and there’s other things. There’s the five percent increase in the health insurance. So, I’ve been disillusioned for a while now.

But the last straw for me was the surplus issue. Something that I always had disagreements with Mr. Leahy about, and that is the surplus, and his feeling that we should vote for a lower budget and I always said, “Look, I’m content.” They’re first to say it’s very transparent and whatever they don’t spend, they return to the taxpayers, who gave the money in the first place.

But of course, we all know now that that’s no longer going to happen. And I know it’s easy for the administration and the board to say, “Well, the statute is very clear. The Board shall...” Keep that word in mind, “shall... use any budget appropriation which has not been expended by the end of the fiscal year and reduce the net expense of the district for the following year.”

I contacted four very, very qualified attorneys I work with and I read this to them and they all chuckled that the word “shall” is being used. I printed off this, if you all want to Google it, it’s a legal document, it’s called “Shall and Must.”

“Use ‘must,’ not ‘shall’ to impose requirements. ‘Shall’ is ambiguous and rarely occurs in everyday conversation. The legal community is moving to a strong preference for ‘must’ as the clearest way to express a requirement or obligation.”

“First, lawyers regularly misuse it to mean something other than ‘has a duty to.’ It has become so corrupted by misuse that it has no firm meaning.”

“Second, it breeds litigation. There are 76 pages in Words and Phrases that summarize hundreds of cases interpreting ‘shall.’” One of the attorneys in particular I spoke to said he would have no problem defending Amity if they decided to continue the precedent and return money to the towns because the word “shall” is not binding.

However, the board moved, based on the auditors, – who never picked it up, but they are auditors, and you can never criticize them for doing this – and a couple of attorneys who said that.

And again, the “shall” means, according to my attorneys, they can keep the money or they can return the money. It gives them the leeway. But they decide to keep the money. And like I said, that is the final straw for me. So, with that gone, again I have no reason to come to these meetings and try to pay on things, to lower until we get a surplus, and it’s not happening. So, I decided to resign.

And I’ve been approached, there’s a large group of people out there, I hope you’re all aware of it, who are into stuff that I’m not into, this DEI, CRT. But there was an unbelievable email that went out this week that I am not a part of and there’s going to be a lot of negative stuff coming out about Amity with this. These people are...I mean, the roster of people here are just amazing. I know many of them. A couple of them are clients of mine, to be honest with you. And so, I think there’s going to be a lot of fighting and bickering about this stuff and it doesn’t interest me. But, however, two of the people in this have asked me to get them on board with the finance, to work with them on finance, and I’ve agreed to do it. So, there’s where I’m going to be spending my time.

I will now be working with Jim Leahy. How does that sound? We’ve clashed for years and now we’ll be working together. I’ll be working with Jim. And I plan to try and recruit as many finance people from the three towns as I can, to join us. Because the only thing we can do now is to be watchdogs of the budget. The money’s going to go right back to them and they can do with it what they’d like to

do. And so, we will be looking at the budget and making recommendations.

I mean, Jim, pretty much on his own, had two budgets fail. Now I think the third would have failed, too, because the only reason it didn’t is because our First Selectman came out with the statement that we should support the budget, something she regrets. And I can assure you, she won’t do it again, because she’s already disappointed, too, about the surplus.

So, with that, I enjoyed being here for most of the time and I will be moving onto this next phase. And the only other thing I’d like to say is that I hope I can get a member of our board to join us. When I explained to them why I left, I don’t know why they wouldn’t want to join it when, again, I don’t think we really accomplish very much. We sit here and we vote and yes and no, and all this. And then in the end, when something important is decided, the full board just overrules us.

And so, it’s up to you. But that’s where I’ll be and we’ll see if I can get somebody from my Woodbridge Board of Finance. It’s going to be awhile because we’re meeting this Thursday and there’s only four of us there, so I don’t know. It’s something we’re going to have to look into. Because at your next meeting, you might not have somebody to replace me, if we have somebody to replace me at all. I guess if we can’t get anybody to replace me, then that’s the end of the Finance Committee.

So, with that I will resign. Like I said, I was planning to resign at the beginning of this meeting, but that’s not going to work. So, at the end of this meeting, I will resign so that this meeting can continue on.

Thank you.

Watch at: <https://bit.ly/MattGiglietti>

A Beginner’s Guide to Fall Planting and Maintenance

Spring and summer are perhaps the busiest times of year for gardeners. However, fall also is a prime time to tend to gardens.

The tree and bare root retailer Bower & Branch advises that soil temperatures in many regions of the country may still be warm enough to encourage root growth well into the start of winter. Furthermore, fall is often the ideal time to plant, fertilize and keep a garden going or to get a head start on next year’s bounty.

Here are some tips to make the most of the fall gardening season.

Think about fall annuals and bulb planting. Near the end of September, start planting cool-weather-loving pansies and violas for pops of color as summer flowers fade. Also, it’s a good idea to stock up on bulbs that will bloom in the months to come before they sell out in stores. Wait until the temperatures really cool down before planting them in desired spots for spring sprouts.

Sow salad seeds. Lettuce, spinach, radishes, and arugula tolerate cooler temperatures. Try new and interesting lettuce varieties and enjoy salads well

into the fall season.

Take inventory of the sun. Positioning a garden carefully means maximizing hours of sunlight, which begin to dwindle in the fall. Experts say gardens grow best in sunny locations that receive six hours of direct sunlight each day. This is where container gardens can be helpful, as they allow gardeners to move plants into spots that will get ample sunlight.

Fill in landscaping gaps. Some fall plants can add color around the landscape and brighten up homes to add curb appeal. In addition to pansies

and violas, asters, kale and chrysanthemums are fall blooms. Keep in mind that mums can come back year after year. So take them out of those flower pots and get them into the ground. They can be enjoyed next year as well, sprouting in early spring and developing leaves and buds through late summer.

Clean up unwanted growth. Fall is an ideal time to cut back spent vegetable plants and get rid of errant weeds. Rather than bagging leaves, mow them

See “Fall Planting” On Page 7

OPINION

From the Democratic Town Committee

BY ELLEN SCALETTAR
WDTC CHAIRMAN



Did You Know?

As we go about our busy day-to-day lives, few of us are focusing on **Election Day, 2022: Tuesday, November 8th**. Before we know it, we will be voting on the direction our state and our nation will take on fundamental issues, such as: climate change, reproductive rights, gun laws, book banning, education, voting rights, economic justice, and more.

As American citizens and as Woodbridge voters, it is incumbent upon us to exercise our right and our responsibility to inform ourselves about the candidates and issues—and to vote!

Did you know that there is a proposed Connecticut Constitutional Amendment to expand voting access on the ballot this year?

At a time when so many Republican-led states are enacting legislation to restrict voting access, it is especially noteworthy that Connecticut is moving to expand the franchise by making it easier to vote. The question on the ballot is, “Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to provide for early voting?”

Connecticut is one of only a handful of states that does not allow early in-person voting. Because our election laws are in our State Constitution, this change must follow the process for amending the Constitution. If this ballot question passes, it will authorize the General Assembly to pass legislation setting the parameters for early in-person voting. The earliest date that we would see early voting available would be 2024.

Early voting is different from absentee voting. Absentee voting is permitted only for specified reasons; early voting offers all eligible voters greater flexibility as to when to cast their ballot, without worrying if they can make it to the polls on Election Day.

Did you know that you can learn more about the Democratic candidates on their websites?

State Representative:

Mary Welander
welandersforct.com;

State Senator:

Jorge Cabrera
jorgecabreract.com;

State Senator:

James Maroney
maroneyforus.com;

U.S. Senator:

Richard Blumenthal
RichardBlumenthal.com;

Congresswoman:

Rosa DeLauro

RosaDeLauro.com.

To see the websites of the Democratic statewide Constitutional candidates, go to: ctdems.org. On that site, got to “Voting” and then “Election Info.”

Did you know that extreme views are on the ballot in Connecticut this year? For example, there are Republican candidates who are Trump loyalists; candidates who are anti-choice; and candidates who would ban from school libraries books they deem inappropriate. More than ever, we all need to stay informed.

Did you know you can register to vote in person or online? You can register to vote at the Town Clerk’s office or online if you have a CT Department of Motor Vehicles ID at my vote.

ct.gov/register. CT also allows Election Day Voter Registration, if you have not registered by November 8th. There is more information about Election Day Voter Registration here: myvote.ct.gov/EDRinfo.

Did you know that absentee ballot applications are available now, and that permissible reasons to vote absentee have expanded? You can obtain an Absentee Ballot application from the office of the Town Clerk or by downloading one from myvote.

ct.gov/absentee. This link also explains the conditions that allow you to vote absentee.

Did you know about the WDTC Day of Action and the DEI Committee’s Woodbridge Like Me Day?

On Saturday, October 1, the day of the Woodbridge Recreation Department’s Road Race, the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee is organizing a Day of Action to support State Representative Mary Welander and our other Democratic candidates. Please join us at 10AM at the WDTC table on the Woodbridge Town Library Lawn.

On Sunday, October 9, please join your neighbors and friends in celebrating the diversity of our community and the variety of our interests at Woodbridge Like Me Day from 11-2 on the Town Green.

Did you know that the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee would welcome your involvement? If you are interested in learning more about the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee, please get in touch with us by email: woodbridgeCTdems@gmail.com or visit our website at woodbridgeCTdems.org.

Other Side of the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE
WRTC CHAIRMAN



Under The Gun, Town Should All Be On One Side Of The Aisle

The August 30 filing of the lawsuit by Open Communities Trust, LLC, 2 Orchard Road LLC, Garden Homes Fund, Sally Connolly and Cary Ross, claiming, among other things, that the Town of Woodbridge and the Woodbridge Town Plan and Zoning Commission are in violation of the Connecticut Zoning Enabling Act, the Connecticut Fair Housing Act and a section of the Connecticut Constitution, is very serious business. The 67-page filing repeats some claims made in the earlier, denied zoning variance application for 2 Orchard Road that received so much attention over a year ago.

In the October 30, 2020 edition of the Woodbridge Town News, this column went into the history of our zoning, explaining the sewer and water issues. In essence, with no sewer system or city water, residents must rely on septic systems and well water, which requires homes be built in low density and, as single-family homes, the population in any given home would not be excessive. The original zoning was implemented in 1932, and in the recent past has been changed substantially to address issues raised in that 2 Orchard Road application. There is much, much more to the story, which is now in the hands of the law firm engaged by the Town to defend us.

A criticism leveled on our First Selectman during the first bout with the applicant, now plaintiff, is that there was little or no information coming from Town Hall regarding what steps the Town was taking, what resources were engaged, or what efforts were being made to resolve the situation. And while everyone involved in the defense of our town must measure their words, as we are now in litigation, there must be a better effort made to keep residents informed about this

lawsuit. Our reputation has been unjustifiably dragged through the mud on multiple online, broadcast and social media platforms and thus far our First Selectman has said too little.

We know who we are and what we’re not. Open, yes. Racist, no. Exclusionary, no. This lawsuit cherry picks public comments made by some residents and pins them into “evidence” supporting their wildly inaccurate and offensive claims. In this litigious environment we must all be mindful of public statements we make that can be twisted, spun or misconstrued. Which brings me to the point on in-person Board of Selectmen (BOS) meetings.

Whether as a result of the previous column chiding the First Selectman regarding the continuation of Zoom-based BOS meetings, or just good timing, the First Selectman recently announced the September BOS meeting would be in person and open to the public only to reverse that announcement within a few days. If there was ever a time the BOS needed to hear from, and to speak to, residents live and in person, the time is now. Let’s hope for a reversal of the reversal as the lawsuit takes center stage for our town leaders.

As critical as the Woodbridge Republicans have been about the way in which important town issues have been handled (and we believe it has been a “target rich environment” for criticism), now is the time for everyone to be on the side of the aisle that defends our town. Let’s share personal experiences as evidence that the accusations leveled against us are false to their core and support the First Selectman in the effort to defeat this unjust lawsuit with every available resource. Our good name and the future of Woodbridge depend on it.

“Fall Planting” From Page 6

with a grass catcher and then add the mix to a vegetable garden as an excellent soil insulator. The nitrogen and carbon will fertilize the soil, enhancing growing possibilities and limiting weed growth.

Propagate plants in the fall. As temperatures gradually begin to cool, start taking cuttings from perennials, gathering seed pods from azaleas and rhododendrons and dividing hardwood cuttings, says the resource

Gardening Know How. Consult with a garden center or horticulturist on the proper ways to propagate stems using rooting hormone and other techniques.

Continue to water plants. Water is essential in the fall and winter as roots can still be growing. Gradually reduce watering duration as plants go dormant.

Fall planting and maintenance can extend gardening season and improve the chances of growing a healthy spring garden.

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

WOODBRIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

From the Amity Board of Education
By Paul Davis, Amity BOE Chair

Amity Board of Education
By-Law Policy 9020

The Amity Regional School District No. 5 Board of Education recognizes that communication is a continuous two-way process. The Board believes that it is important to keep the public informed about educational programs and, in turn, that the community should have the opportunity to provide input. Communication will be a concurrent responsibility of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools will work with the members of the Board of Education to conduct an active and comprehensive program throughout the school district and community for the prompt dissemination of information about decisions made at all Board meetings. Releases to the press and brief summaries of Board meeting actions prepared for distribution to staff members, parents/guardians, and community are regarded as appropriate media of information for meeting the requirements of this by-law. Press releases relative to Board of Education action shall be released only by the Board Chairperson or the delegated agent of the Board.

Amity Arms School
Security Personnel

After a carefully considered and deliberate 3-year process, the Amity Regional School District will be transitioning some existing and qualified school security staff to armed school security officers. The addition of at least 1 armed school security officer in each of our school buildings was a goal of the Ad Hoc Amity School Security Committee. The armed school security officer is not intended to replace the members of law enforcement who currently serve as School Resource Officers (SROs), but rather, to enhance safety in our schools during times when SROs and other law enforcement officials are not able to be in our school buildings. In addition to securing entry to the school, school security staff assist at arrival and dismissal, monitor security cameras, hallways, and bathrooms, supervise the cafeteria and parking lot, and assist in other non-instruction settings and events.

In 2013, the Connecticut General Assembly passed legislation allowing boards of education to employ retired police officers to provide school security services. These police officers must have retired in good standing from a local or the state police department and

are required to participate annually in firearms training and training specific to the duties of a school security officer.

In spring 2019, the Amity Regional Board of Education provided the funding necessary to add armed school security officers to each of our schools. Concurrently, the Board Policy Committee developed both a policy and regulation on the requirements, duties, and use of both armed and unarmed school security officers. Modeled from those developed by the Newtown Board of Education, both the policy and regulation were reviewed not only by the Board of Education, but also the Board's legal counsel and our Bethany-Orange-Woodbridge law enforcement agencies. The policy was passed in October 2020; the regulation has been modified and adjusted throughout summer 2022.

Beginning on October 1, 2022, the Amity Regional School District will have at minimum, one armed school security officer in each of our school buildings. Students are likely to know most of the armed guards, as several of our existing security staff met the statutory requirements to transition to the role of armed security guard.

Senior Parking
Lot Painting

In what is anticipated to become a new Senior Year tradition, members of the Class of 2023 had the opportunity to design and paint their parking spaces in the senior parking lot this year. Designs had to be submitted to administration in advance to ensure there was nothing inappropriate. In addition to the standard parking fee, seniors who wished to paint their parking spot paid an additional \$20 – a fundraising activity for the Class of 2023. The level of creativity and talent in the parking space artwork is remarkable, and we invite the community to visit the parking lot outside of school hours to see our students' creativity first-hand.

Middle School Digital
Media Elective

As a result of the support from the community for the 2022-2023 Amity Board of Education Budget, a new Digital Media Communications elective has been added to the course offerings at both Amity middle schools.

See "Policy 9020" On Page 9

Students of STEM Offers
Free STEM Tutoring

The next generation will be defined by technology. Over 3.5 million STEM-related jobs will be unfilled by 2025. Surprisingly, few elementary schools have adopted any formal tech education, and only 50% of high schools even offer a Computer Science class. Aarav Patel, a Junior at Amity Regional High School, has set out to fix this. He started Students of STEM, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that connects kids with knowledgeable high school STEM tutors for free.

Aarav Patel found his passion for coding early on. Eventually, after navigating between a maze of videos and websites, Aarav learned to code in Python. However, he feels a lot of time and effort could have been saved if there was more guidance available. Aarav believes that a more streamlined and well-guided learning process can help more people break into the STEM world.

Now in high school, Aarav sees that much has remained the same over the past years. Despite more kids wanting to code, there is little support for them to take the necessary steps. At the moment, students can either enroll in a pricey online class or struggle through a process of self-learning, creating an inherent barrier against

students, specifically from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Aarav wants to help provide guidance so students can enjoy a more streamlined and enjoyable learning experience. So, he decided to start Students of STEM, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to providing free high-quality education in coding, math, and problem-solving. After launching in the summer, he and a group of 12 other volunteers were able to host numerous online classes in the Greater New Haven area.

With school starting up again, Students of STEM hopes to expand to other regions and school districts throughout the US. The organization has received a Google Ad Grant which it hopes to use to market their services. They hope more people can take advantage of their services so more kids of all backgrounds can learn the analytical skills of the future.

To register your child for a class, please go to <https://studentsofstem.org>. Additionally, if you would like to support Students of STEM's mission, please spread the word. By letting more people know about this opportunity, we can make a difference and help more kids pursue their passion in STEM!

STUDENT NEWS

Graduations
Hobart and William
Smith Colleges

Heidi Aversa, of Woodbridge, CT, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychological Science and Sociology during the 2022 Commencement Ceremonies of Hobart and William Smith Colleges, held on Sunday, May 22. Aversa, the child of John & Heidi Aversa graduated Cum Laude.

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI - The University of Rhode Island celebrated more than 4,000 of its newest alumni during the University's 136th Commencement. Close to 3,600 undergraduate degrees and more than 800 graduate degrees were conveyed to students during the

ceremonies which took place May 20-22, 2022. Terran Travis of Woodbridge received a Doctor of Physical Therapy.

Dean's/President's List
Southern New Hampshire
University

Manchester, NH - Sarel Botha of Woodbridge has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Summer 2022 President's List. The summer terms run from May to August. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer

WOODBIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Brian Seiter an Award-Winner at Hamilton College Convocation

Brian Seiter, of Woodbridge, was named the recipient of The Alfred J. and A. Barrett Seaman Prizes in Writing at Hamilton College's annual Convocation ceremony on August 24. Seiter, a junior majoring in history and public policy, is a graduate of Hopkins School. Members of the administration welcomed students and new faculty, and academic achievement prizes were awarded to students at the ceremony officially marking the beginning of Hamilton's 211th academic year.

The Alfred J. and A. Barrett Seaman Prizes in Writing were established in 2001 by A. Barrett Seaman, Class of 1967 and a trustee of the College, and by his father, Alfred J. Seaman, Jr. Recipients must be sophomores

who demonstrate excellence in writing, richness and clarity of thinking, and the ability to effectively communicate to a wide audience.

Hamilton College, a leading liberal arts institution located in Clinton, New York, is where exceptional students explore passions through an open curriculum and robust research, internship, and off-campus study opportunities. Students graduate ready to lead purposeful lives thanks to highly regarded faculty mentors, generous resources that support each student's interests, and a loyal alumni network. The College's need-blind admission policy ensures access for talented students with limited financial means. Learn more at www.hamilton.edu.

"Policy 9020" From Page 8

Students who take this course have the opportunity to engage in podcasting, blogging, short film creation, and video editing. The course provides another elective choice to students – adding to existing electives of band, chorus, and Mandarin. The addition of this particular course was based on a review of elective choices offered at other middle schools and to introduce some of the Career Technical Education (CTE) offerings provided at Amity Regional High School. Interest and enrollment in the course is strong.

Convocation and Professional Learning

Amity's Convocation and Professional Learning Days took place on August 24th & 25th. Over the two days of professional learning, the offering of topics provided teachers with new ways to enhance instructional practice in their classrooms. Mr. Sebastian Little provided a keynote message on the end of the day on August 25th. A Cheshire High School and Yale graduate, Mr. Little's presentation on "The Great Reset" aligned with the Convocation theme of Reset, Reboot, and Recharge. He will return in January to work with faculty and students.

AMSB Fall Musical

For the AMSB 2022 Spartan Play-

ers fall production, students will be performing Matilda. Show dates will be November 11 – 13, 2022 at Amity Middle School Bethany.

Annual Student Assessment

At the September meeting, Amity Board members received a brief summary of the spring 2022 state assessment results. Amity Regional High School was top performing on the SAT when compared to similar CT school districts. Results of the middle school assessments showed Amity students performed comparably in English and math. This September, students in the middle schools took the annual STAR reading and math assessment. Data from the assessment will be reviewed at the district and building levels to identify areas of strength and opportunities for growth. On October 12th, there will be a focused assessment day for ARHS students – 9th grade students will take the PSAT 8/9; 10th grade students will take the PSAT, and 11th grade students will take the PSAT/NMSQT. Seniors will have an excused day and will be encouraged to schedule college visits, complete the college applications, or update resumes and job applications.

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Welcome Back to a New School Year

BY LYNN PIASCYK,
MARIA MADONICK,
SARAH BETH DELPRETE,
JAY DAHYA, BROOKE HOPKINS,
JEFF HUGHES, STEVEN LAWRENCE,
MIKE STRAMBLER AND
ERIN WILLIAMSON

The school year has begun, and at Beecher Road School (BRS) we are busy welcoming back students and preparing for a wonderful year ahead.

Led by Principal, Analisa Sherman, and Assistant Principal, James Sapia, this year the Woodbridge School District welcomes Carolyn Borchering as our new Director of Special Services and Donna Coonan as our new Director of Business Services & Operations. In addition, the Board is thrilled that Interim Superintendent Christine Syriac is back at the helm as we partner with CABA Search Services in selecting the next Superintendent.

As the 2022-2023 school year begins, we know that we are building back after some very challenging years. Academically, research shows, and our community has experienced, the significant impact COVID has had on learning loss. As a result of the pandemic, remote learning, and staffing shortages, the ability to provide consistent and continuous Scientific Research-Based Interventions (SRBI) services was impacted. SRBI is a tiered approach that provides services and interventions to students based on their academic needs. To mitigate learning losses, BRS is focusing on and investing in efforts to improve our SRBI process, maximize in-person learning, and develop more efficient solutions for managing day-to-day staffing shortages. We believe that these investments, as well as the individualized approach provided by SRBI will offer our students the resources they need to make up learning losses and achieve academic success.

Recognizing the District's commitment to creating a caring, creative

community that models and inspires the joy of learning, embraces diversity, and celebrates the unique qualities of each person, Beecher is also investing resources in professional development that focuses on school climate, culture, and community building. This initiative will be part of rebuilding and strengthening the positive activities and practices that make BRS such a special place for our students and community.

As part of our community building efforts, we are looking forward to opening our doors for more community involvement. These efforts already started in September with in-person Open Houses, the first time since 2019, and will continue throughout the school year. BRS will also be inviting volunteers back in the near future. Volunteers are a special part of our culture, and their assistance is critical to supporting various projects we offer throughout the year.

As we open our doors, we have over 850 students (pre-k - 6th grade) in the building. Unlike many other districts that have decreasing enrollment, recent enrollment projections estimate that by 2031, BRS will be home to 991 students. We are excited to work with the town to prepare for this increase, meet the needs of our physical building, and ensure the District's ability to support the future learning that will take place within its walls.

In addition, this year, the Woodbridge School District will continue to operationalize its strategic plan, a process that began in the spring of 2022. Administrators and teachers have formed teams to develop action plans around each of the strategic goals. These action plans will be implemented beginning in January 2023.

As we begin this year, we also want to thank you, the town and community! Your ongoing support of our youngest learners is an investment in a vibrant future for Woodbridge!



Attention Teachers!

We want to know what's going on in your classroom!
Let us know about any fun activities or holiday projects.
You can also send us your pictures. (Parental consent required)

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

OPINION

Amity Votes Not to Return \$1.5 Million Surplus to Towns

MAJOR IMPLICATIONS FOR TOWN REVENUE & ACTUAL BUDGET NEED

BY JIM LEAHY, VICE-CHAIRMAN ORANGE BOARD OF FINANCE

Author Note: The goal of balancing Town needs with taxpayer affordability is a challenging one. In my view, one of the requirements of being a member of the Orange Board of Finance (OBOF) is to inform the public. In fact, I consider this an obligation of this elected position. What we are talking about is the spending of millions of dollars of hard-earned money of the people who reside in the Town.

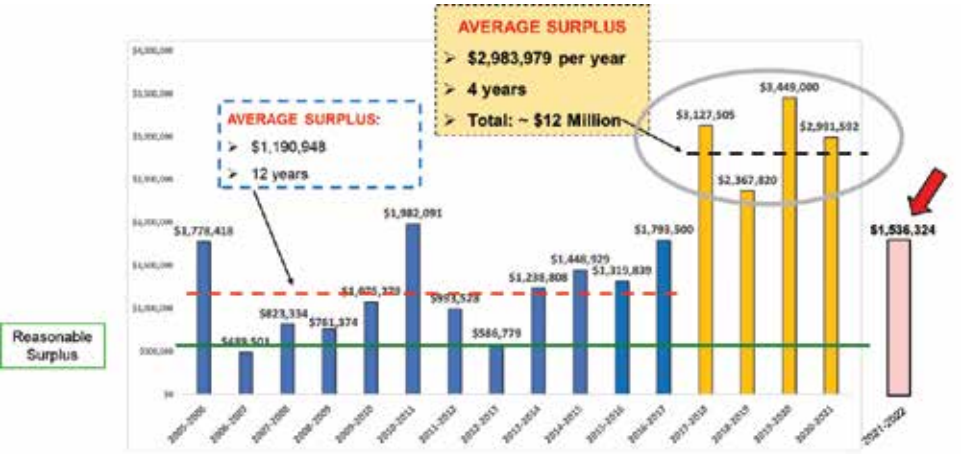
Being a member of the OBOF requires not only monthly review of the budget expenditures but analyses of a significant volume of data. The job also requires a questioning perspective of funding requests, with a keen awareness of the difference between “wants” and “needs.” This method not only applies to the Town budget but also to the budgets of both Amity and Orange schools, which take up a major portion of our resources.

Over the years, one way to achieve that balance of needs and affordability is to communicate a message of “Doing More with Less,” to set a culture by which we strive to operate. In my view, this approach is consistent both with the Town’s heritage and with what we all do in our personal lives.

In this article, I will summarize and share recent events and learnings at Amity focusing on 3 major items: (1) Share the amount of the Amity FY 21-22 Surplus; (2) Examine the current FY 22-23 Amity budget in light of the Surplus; and (3) Summarize recent events & decisions related to the Amity FY 21-22 surplus and identify immediate implications.

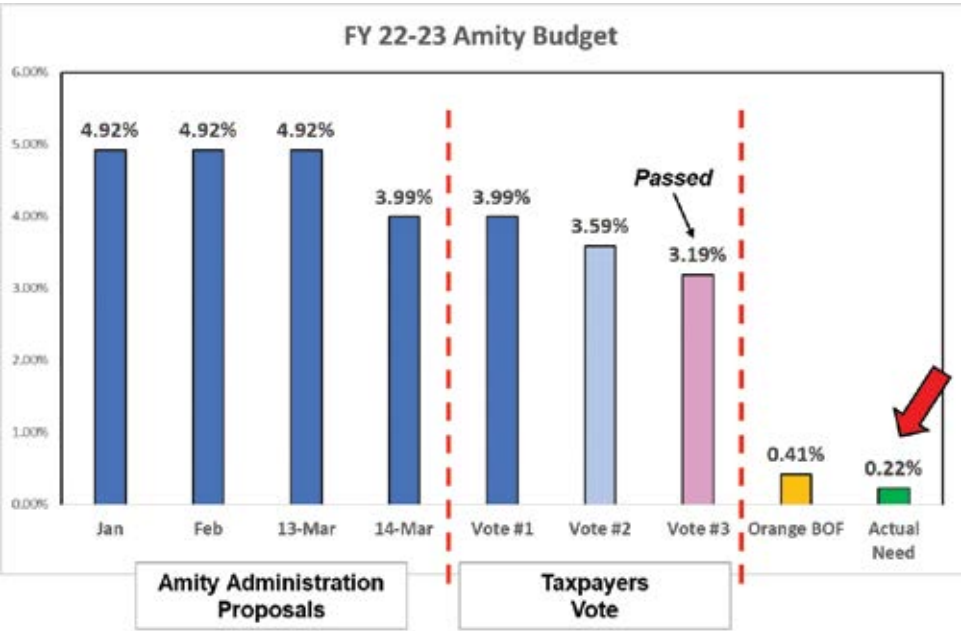
1. Amity FY 21-22 Surplus AMOUNT

At recent Amity Finance Committee (AFC) meetings, I was able to confirm that the surplus for FY 21-22 was \$1,536,324.



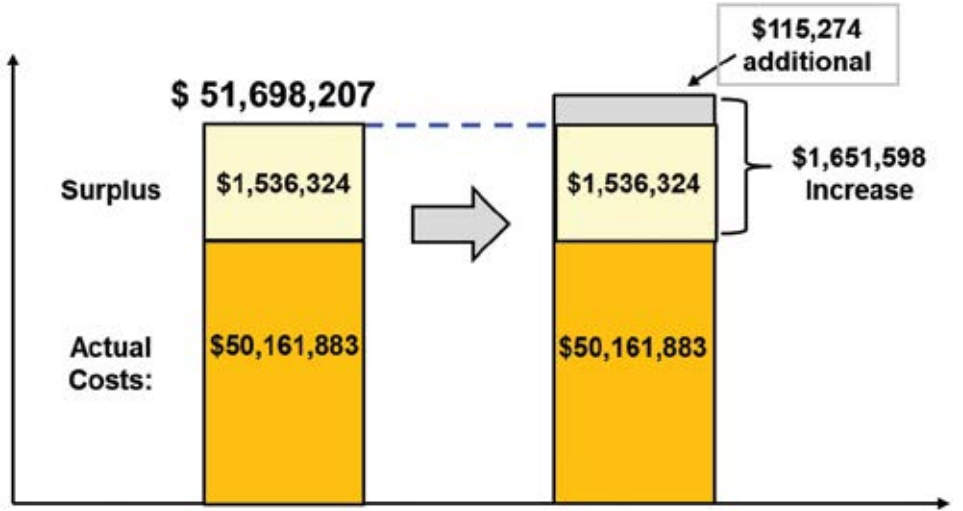
2. Examining the new FY 22-23 Amity BUDGET

It is always a best practice to base future year budget increases on the actual amount spent in the prior year. Moffett, long-time OBOF member, put it this way: “Budgeting should be based on ACTUALS because – as seen by the Amity surpluses – the prior year’s budget is inflated to begin with.”



	Increase/(Dec)
SALARIES	793,202
BENEFITS	448,419
PURCHASED SERVICES	476,122
DEBT SERVICE	31,881
SUPPLIES (INCLUDING UTILITIES)	(60,141)
EQUIPMENT	32,204
IMPROVEMENTS / CONTINGENCY	(96,500)
DUES AND FEES	26,411
TOTAL EXPENDITURES increase	1,651,598

Now we have the Actual surplus data for FY 21-22, \$1,536,324. In addition, at the September meeting, the Amity Administration confirmed their needed increases totaled \$1,651,598 across 8 major expense categories for the current FY 22-23.



As visualized in the accompanying graphic, a sizable amount (93%) of Amity’s budget need for FY 22-23 can come directly from the surplus embedded in the FY 21-22 budget. That amount of \$1,536,324 is already there in FY 22-23 budget to begin with.

This fact means NEARLY ALL of the Increase spending for needed services to educate Amity students – for which a budget is prepared – would be covered by the funds in the budget that were surplus in FY 21-22. Therefore, **only \$115,274 of additional funding is required** to satisfy ALL of Amity’s actual increased needs for FY 22-23. This increase would be a modest 0.22% increase from FY 21-22.

Of note, this Actual Need of 0.22% for Amity’s Budget increase is far lower than all FY 22-23 budgets proposed, discussed, and voted on this year. In fact, the **bi-partisan Orange BOF unanimously voted** to support a 0.41% increase for Amity that turns out to be reasonably accurate, if anything a little overstated.

3. Recent Events & Decisions related to the FY 21-22 Amity Surplus

In August, Amity Finance Committee voted unanimously (with 2 abstentions) to use \$516,982 of FY 21-22 surplus funds (1% of the budget) to support the Amity capital reserve fund. However, the Amity BOE rejected this unanimous vote of the AFC and voted to use \$929,175 of FY 21-22 surplus funds (~ 1.8% of the budget) to support the capital reserve fund.

Also, Superintendent Byers announced that she made a recent request to lawyers about regional school systems and budget surpluses. These attorneys had indicated -- citing an obscure CT State statute -- that Amity “shall” not return surplus money to the taxpayers of Member Towns that funded the Amity budget.

Matt Giglietti, Vice Chairman of the AFC and Chairman of the Board of Finance in Woodbridge then contacted four attorneys who chuckled at the word “shall” because the word “shall” is not binding. Consequently, this finding led him to conduct an Internet search on the words “Shall” and Must” and the major distinctions between the two words: “Shall” is so corrupted by misuse that it has no firm meaning while “must” denotes a requirement or obligation.

Mr. Giglietti stated further that in particular one of the attorneys said “he would have no problem defending Amity if they decided to continue the precedent and return money to the towns.”

Then based on the State statute and the recommendation of Superintendent, **Amity BOE decided to RETAIN ALL funds from the FY 21-22 surplus, and**

See “Amity Surplus” On Page 11

Woodbridge Town News

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“Amity Surplus” From Page 10

not return ANY MONEY to the Member Towns of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge.

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
Bethany Orange Woodbridge
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525



May 8, 2022

Dear Amity Community:

- In 2020-2021, we budgeted for a full school year, yet operated in a hybrid model for most of the year due to the COVID pandemic. Teachers aligned purchases with the hybrid model and many accounts saw a decrease in spending as classes did not operate on a full scale. Fall and winter sports were not at full operation, reducing costs for transportation, officials, and supplies. Unexpected revenues were received when the federal government approved multiple rounds of ESSER funding and when the special education grant funding was higher than expected. **The monies in the budget that were not spent were returned to the towns.**
- In 2019-2020, we budgeted for a full school year, and closed our doors in March 2020. Athletics and field trips were cancelled, supplies were not purchased, substitutes were not needed, and salaries, payroll taxes, and the medical account were all significantly under budget as notal school operations ceased. **The monies in the budget that were not spent were returned to the towns.**
- In 2018-2019, the establishment of suitable programs for students with disabilities within the Amity Regional School District allowed a return of students from more expensive outplacements, resulting in a savings to the budget. Higher revenues were realized from favorable interest rates and a higher special education grant reimbursement. **The monies in the budget that were not spent were returned to the towns.**

The District, over the past five years, has returned 80% of the unspent funds to the towns.

So, in what may be a major surprise to many taxpayers, Amity Leadership has decided to return NO Surplus Money from FY 21-22 to the Towns. This decision is all the more challenging to understand after years & years of Amity championing its “no big deal” approach to surpluses since “we give the money back to the Towns.”

Further, many taxpayers may recall a document dated Sunday May 8, 2022, five days after the first referendum failed with 64% voting against. This 2-page unsigned document on Amity letterhead was widely posted on social media & reiterated a casual attitude about budget surpluses, stating three times in bulleted paragraphs “the monies in the budget that were not spent were returned to the towns.” And then concluded – in a one sentence bolded paragraph – **“The District, over the last 5 years, has returned 80% of the unspent funds to the Towns.”**

Finally, there are two immediate implications from these recent events:

Implication #1 CARRY-OVER Funds. The \$1,536,324 surplus in the Amity FY 21-22 budget results in a \$607,149 “carry-over” of money (surplus of \$1,536,324 less \$929,175 allocated to the capital reserve fund that the ABOE voted for, over-ruling the AFC vote as noted earlier).

Implication #2 ORANGE REVENUE SHORTFALL of \$700,000: For the current FY 22-23, Orange budgeted \$700,000 in revenue from an anticipated large Amity surplus and receiving 50% share of that surplus to support the Town FY-22-23 operating budget. An Amity surplus of \$1,536,324 occurred as estimated; but now Amity Leadership decided not to return any surplus funds to the Towns. Therefore, Orange now has a “\$700,000 shortfall” in its current FY 22-23 budget.

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ARTS & LEISURE



Enjoy Fall at Massaro Community Farm

Please enjoy one of these events coming up at the farm. Registration is offered through Eventbrite.com unless otherwise noted.

Nature Journaling and Drawing for the Novice returns with Peabody instructor Linda Miller. Take in the fall colors and changing seasons with this continuation of the series we offered over the summer. Class is for all levels but particularly geared to novice artists & writers or those simply looking to connect with the natural world on a new level. Instruction will cover writing, sketching and introduction to watercolors. Sundays from 3:00-5:00pm, October 9, 16 and 23. We'll send a materials list upon registration. Rain or shine; dress for outdoor weather. Starting at \$50/pp.

School Vacation Days Return for your child aged 6-11. Massaro Farm offers a full day of activities and outdoor adventures exploring the farms fields and woods, Monday, October 10, 8:30am-3:30pm. Children should bring a reusable water bottle, lunch, and weather-appropriate clothing. Snack will be provided during programming. Program runs rain or shine. Space is very limited. \$60/per child.

Family Fun Day on the Farm: Enjoy a magical evening on the farm Saturday, October 15 beginning at 4:00pm, that will culminate in the screening of the Halloween classic, Hocus Pocus. Complete a spooky craft with Seymour's Pretty Little Witchcraft. Sit in on a reading of Fearsome Creatures of the Lumberwoods by local children's book author, Hal Johnson. Books available for purchase. Bring a picnic and your blanket or chairs and join us for the movie screening on the farm lawn. Entrance is FREE. Only steady rain cancels. Please RSVP on SignupGenius.com.

International Harvest Fest: Celebrate the gift of harvest in spectacular and diverse ways by coming out for International Harvest Fest on Saturday October 22 from 1:00-4:00pm. Co-hosted by EcoWorks and Global Local Gourmet, this event will feature cooking

demos, a harvest mandala, eco-friendly arts & crafts, a wellness tent, food tastings, farm games and a scavenger hunt. Rain or shine (with tented areas for inclement weather). Purchase your tickets online in advance; \$15/pp or \$35/per family.

Fall Farm CSA: Subscribe to our fall CSA and enjoy six weeks of fresh farm vegetables starting the first week of November. Sign up on our Grown-By page and pay online or drop off/mail in payment to the farm. Pickup will be available Fridays on the farm or on Wednesdays at District in New Haven. Please note there will be no Tuesday pickup at the farm. Capacity is limited for this fall program so we encourage you to sign up now! Farm pickup: \$180/6 weeks; New Haven pickup: \$200/6 weeks. Grownby.app.

Celebrating the CT Farm to School Connection: October is Connecticut's Farm to School month. This year, Massaro Farm elected to process some of its tomato harvest into gallon-sized containers that could be made available to local schools for use in cafeterias. We're grateful for the partnership with Gracie's Kitchen that allowed us to process our organic tomatoes into these convenient sizes for larger-scale food production and for districts like Branford working to incorporate more locally produced items into school food service. If you know of a district that would be interested, please have them call the farm office so we can plan for next year.

Buy a Brick: Bricks are now on sale to support the upcoming construction of a post-and-beam pavilion in the Learning Garden by students of Emmett O'Brien Technical School. The pavilion will provide valuable shade/sun protection for staff and be a gathering space for the many educational programs taking place at the farm. Your brick commemorates you or a loved one and becomes the foundation for the pavilion. Bricks come in two sizes and can be purchased through the farm's website or using the following



Gabriella Durso [Photo Credit - Fels Photo]

Woodbridge Native Brings Home National Title

A panel of distinguished judges chose Gabriella Durso as the 2022 USA National SLICC Ambassador. The crowning took place at the Innisbrook Resort in Palm Harbor, Florida. The national pageant was live streamed to thousands of viewers from around the nation. Gabi is a 10-year old, 5th grade student at Beecher Road School. She is the President and Founder of the Good Night Sleep Tight PJ Program, which is a 501(c)(3) and Connecticut Public Charity that services hospitalized and housing insecure children

by providing new, cozy pjs. She is a member of the CT Jades travel softball team, is a member of WAC and a Jr. Officer for the Delta Sigma Kappa service sorority. The U.S.A. Ambassador Pageant is a charity driven organization that promotes "SLICC" success through leadership, integrity, character, and confidence. Contestants are encouraged to implement these ideals throughout their pageant experience and in their everyday lives. The U.S.A. Ambassador Pageant National Office is based out of the Tampa Bay Area, Florida.

link. <https://brickmarkerusa.com/donors/massaro.html>. 4" x 8" - \$100; 8" x 8" - \$250. Massaro Community Farm is a non-profit, certified organic community farm on 57 acres of land whose mission is to keep farming, feed people, and build community. In addition to growing vegetables for seasonal subscribers, the

farm donates thousands of pounds each year to hunger relief. The farm serves as a hub of education for all ages and shares its space with the community. The farm's nature trail is open to the public 365 days a year. For more information visit our website at www.MassaroFarm.org or contact Executive Director Caty Poole at 203-736-8618 or at caty@massarofarm.org.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Garden club members show some of the items that were for sale in 2021

Plant Sale Sponsored by the Garden Club of Woodbridge

The second annual fall plant sale sponsored by the Garden Club of Woodbridge will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2022, from 10 am to 1 pm on the Church Green, Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge.

Members will offer a large selection of perennials, and possibly some shrubs or trees from their gardens. Perennials for sale will include iris, peonies, hosta, coreopsis, coneflower, columbine, day lilies and more.

Fall is a great time to add plants to your garden! Since the soil remains warm through autumn, perennials will have time to settle in and continue to grow below ground even after frost. Fall planting will jump-start their growth next spring.

In conjunction with the plant sale, Woodbridge will be having its annual 5K road race, the church will sponsor an apple pie table, the Friends of the Library will hold a mini book sale, and the Boy Scouts will be present.



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Call 203-298-4399 to place your ad!

Third Tasting to Support Leukemia Patients

The Nicole Donzello Foundation is having its third annual Tasting fundraiser to benefit leukemia patients and their families at Smilow Cancer Hospital. The event, which features wine and beer tasting as well as goodies from more than 15 restaurants, is scheduled for Saturday, October 15, at 7-10 p.m. at The Woodbridge Club, 10 Milhaven Road. It is open to anyone age 21 and over. Tickets of \$75 include entry and a tasting glass; tickets of \$125 include entry, exclusive tasting hour, 6-7p.m., a tasting glass, t-shirt & 10 raffle tickets. Tickets can be purchased online at nicholedonzellofoundation.org. The annual fundraiser will feature 50+ wines, more than 13 breweries with 40+ beers, distilled beverage bars & loads of food from fabulous local

restaurants. Follow them on Facebook for updates, including info about raffle items and more. A DJ will entertain you throughout the evening. The Nicole Donzello Foundation is the brainchild of Woodbridge resident Nicole Donzello, who has been battling leukemia for a number of years now. During the course of her treatments, she has met several patients who find themselves stretched to the limit due to financial burden and other responsibilities. The Foundation is stepping in to help ease the burden. Last year, with the funds raised at this event, the foundation awarded 18 need-based monetary grants averaging \$1,642 per grant to patients and their families at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven Hospital. In 2021 14



Woodbridge 4-H Club Update

The Woodbridge 4-H Club is one year old! It was a successful first year with many accomplishments. During the first year our club members worked on research and advocacy on the Pollinator Pathways project. Many pollinators cannot travel far distances. If their habitat is fragmented it makes it challenging to migrate and find suitable mates, feeding and nesting. The Pollinator Pathways Project aims to create pesticide free corridors of native plants for pollinators by encouraging towns and private landowners to limit use of pesticides and include native plants in landscaping. The Woodbridge 4-H club did a video presentation to the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen explaining the importance of the Pollinator Pathway and to ask that Woodbridge be added to CT's Pollinator Pathway. The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously in favor and on Earth Day our First Selectman, Beth Heller, issued a Proclamation that the town would adopt pollinator friendly practices in maintenance of town property and green spaces. This was an invaluable opportunity for club members to practice public speaking and advocacy and learn about our local government. In addition to the Pollinator Pathways Project, the club had its first opportunity to participate in the 96th Annual Middlesex & New Haven County 4-H Fair at Durham Fairgrounds August 5th-7th. Club members exceeded expectations and walked away with 5 Courts of Honor, 15 Blue Ribbons, 4 Red Ribbons and 1 White Ribbon. Our Club project on the Pollinator Pathways won Court

of Honor and individual members achieved Court of Honor in Poultry, Photography and Math. Other areas in which club members won awards include Science (Engineering), Animal Products like eggs, Gardening Exhibits, Decoupage, Collage, Jewelry Making, Flower Arranging and various other projects. The 4-H program, which is run by UCONN's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources County Extensions, is a wonderful way for children to explore limitless areas of interest they may have – including STEM, Art, Livestock, Culinary Arts, Performing Arts and many more. It is also an opportunity to work on skills like public speaking, advocacy, and do service projects. In the coming year we will continue our work on the Pollinator Pathways Project, including designing a Web Page for Woodbridge linked to the Northeast Pollinator Pathways Project, and continue advocacy. We will also continue work on our Poultry Club and to provide members with the opportunity to explore their own interests in areas they may wish to enter at next year's Middlesex & New Haven County 4-H Fair. We are excited to announce that the Woodbridge 4-H Club will now be known as Amity 4-H. We have new members and leaders from neighboring towns and will be expanding the ages we can accommodate. If interested in finding out more about Amity 4-H, please contact Joi Prud'homme at seasidejoi@outlook.com, Enrene van Tonder at van-tonder77@gmail.com or Kevin Dingle at raven.ridge.farm.274@gmail.com.

grants were awarded averaging \$1,645 per patient. One of the recipients posted the following letter on the Foundation's Facebook page, "I have leukemia, and with this diagnosis my whole world changed. I have not worked this year and most likely will not return to work anytime in the near future. I am home bound, other than my medical appointments and treatments. But then that sweet day came when a lovely gift arrived in my mailbox from The

Nicole Donzello Foundation...When I received the donation, I felt deep gratitude because I knew I wasn't alone. I knew someone cared about me, that my life matters." When donors give to the Nicole Donzello Foundation, they are giving far more than money, it also tells the recipient that their life is valuable and that they are not forgotten. "Best of luck with your treatment, Sarah, and remember- you are NEVER alone," Donzello answered back.

AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



Left: Participants enjoy Ilana Zaks performance of *The Violin Reimagined*. This wonderful event made possible through a grant from Agency on Aging; **Right:** J. Esposito, Woodbridge Center, Chef B. Pfnausch, Coachman Square, C. Davino, Director of Community Relations, Coachman Square, K. Moriarty, Woodbridge Center Director, and J. Glicksman, Human Services Director, get ready to distribute food at Coachman Square’s Annual Town Picnic (drive-thru) on September 13.

BY KRISTY MORIARTY

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

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

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

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

Sponsored lunches for Woodbridge residents over 60 years of age: Spooky Sponsor Social with lunch and a movie: Come to the Center Building gym between 12-1 pm on October 27 to express your appreciation to the past year’s drive-thru sponsors and learn more about these generous local businesses. After going through this Health Fair style event, pick-up a delicious lunch to go sponsored by Coachman Square at Woodbridge and Whitney Rehabilitation Care Center to enjoy before watching Phantom of the Opera in the Library Meeting Room at 1:15pm. Please RSVP by October 20 to participate in this fun event.

Upcoming events/programs:
Lunch and Learn: Hearing Loss

is Tiring: Join Dr. Willa Horowitz, audiologist/owner of Acuity Hearing Solutions, LLC, for a presentation to learn ways to conserve and preserve hearing and understand the consequences of not recognizing or treating hearing loss. A delicious lunch (sandwich, chips and dessert) sponsored by Coachman Square at Woodbridge, will be served. This workshop will take place on October 3, from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in the library Meeting Room. Please call 203-389-3430 to register.

In-person Virtual Visit to Vermont: Come enjoy a virtual visit to Vermont while exploring the delicious tastes for which Vermont is known. Sponsored by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, this program will take place on October 7 from 1-2 pm in the library Meeting Room. Please call to RSVP.

New start date: FREE Lifestyle Change (Diabetes Prevention) Program - offered in-person and on Zoom: Concerned about your health risks as you age? Want to live healthier but don’t know where to start? Join this updated evidence-based Lifestyle Change Program led by a certified lifestyle coach. The program now includes 16 weekly sessions followed by 7 bi-weekly sessions on healthy eating, type 2 diabetes prevention, weight loss, stress management, physical activity, and more. A weekly 45-minute exercise class with Laura Richling is included as well as six private sessions with a Registered Dietician.

This program, valued at \$1500, is provided at NO COST to everyone 60+ years of age. It is co-sponsored by the South Central CT Agency on Aging and by non-profit Monitor My Health, in an effort to promote good health. Weekly lecture/discussion takes place every Tuesday 1-2 pm in the Center Building room 16 with fitness classes every Tuesday 12-12:45 pm in the Center Building, room 16. Join any-

time. New session begins October 11. Call to register.

Lunch and Learn: What’s New for Medicare in 2023 and How to Prepare for the Annual Enrollment Period: This workshop presented by Jeffrey Comen, local Medicare Advocate/Broker, will cover what is new for Medicare in 2023 and how to prepare for the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period. Learn what is covered and not covered, when to sign up and what options are available to add to Original Medicare (i.e., Medicare Supplements, Prescription Drug Plans and Medicare Advantage Plans). This is an educational seminar only- no plan or carrier specifics will be discussed. A delicious lunch (sandwich, chips, and dessert), sponsored by Coachman Square at Woodbridge, will be served. This workshop will take place on October 12, from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in the library Meeting Room. Please call 203-389-3430 to register.

Murder Mystery: Get into the Halloween spirit with this suspenseful, interactive game of mystery and intrigue. Participants will be divided into teams, then will look through a case file together. There will be evidence reports, toxicology and autopsy reports, and actual evidence from the crime scene. Be sure to call 203-389-3430 to sign-up for this fun program that takes place October 13 from 11 am – 12 pm in the Center Building room 16.

Diabetes Management Class: This 6-week program, led by Mary Swanziger, BSN, MPH, CDCES, provides the tools you need to better manage your diabetes or prediabetes whether you are newly diagnosed or have had diabetes for years. Spouses or support persons are welcome to attend. Brought to you by Griffin Hospital and Agency on Aging of South Central CT. Mondays from 6-8 pm in the library Meeting Room beginning October 17. Please call to RSVP.

Lunch and Learn: Conservatorship, Guardianship, and Supported Decision Making: This workshop, presented by Drazen Rubin Law, provides information on navigating the complicated world of special needs planning including key benefits and available resources as well as power of attorney, estate planning, financial considerations, and more. RSVP to enjoy lunch while attending this presentation on October 19 from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm in the library Meeting Room.

AAA Driver Improvement Class: Members and non-members may be able to lower their auto insurance costs by taking this class on November 14 from 9 am – 1 pm in the library Meeting Room– space is limited. No charge. Pre-registration is required.

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

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

Pickleball: Monday through Friday, 12:30-3:30 pm, in the Center Building gym and enjoy the new nets outside 7 days/week. New players please call to register. All levels are welcome. Call for more information. There is an annual fee of \$20 for residents, \$25 for non-residents.

Zumba Gold with Amanda Aranzullo: Friday, 9-9:45 am, in the Center Building gym. Who says exercise can’t be fun? This fun “dance party” focuses on all elements of cardiovascular

See “Woodbridge Center” On Page 17

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES



2nd Annual Woodbridge Like Me Day

The Town of Woodbridge Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion invites the public to attend the 2nd Annual Woodbridge Like Me Day on Sunday, October 9 from 11 am to 2 pm on the Woodbridge Town Green. The free community event features live performances, a community mural project, local organizations, music, food trucks and more, and is a celebration of our vibrant and diverse Woodbridge community. In the event of rain, Woodbridge Like Me Day will be held on Monday, October 10.

Many local organizations will be a part of this year's event. While more may join, organizations that will participate include: 4-H, 10Selden, Amity Allies, Amity Diversity in Action, Amity & Woodbridge Historical Soci-

ety, Beecher Road School GreenTeam, Beecher Road School PTO, Boy Scout Troop 63, Girl Scout Troop 410, Girl Scout Troop 60163, Rotary Club of Woodbridge, Woodbridge Community Council, Woodbridge Conservation Commission, Friends of the Woodbridge Library, JCC of Greater New Haven, Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee, Woodbridge Republican Town Committee, and other Town of Woodbridge Departments. Performances will include World Champion Taekwondo, Tinkle Toes Dance Academy, Butterfly Chinese Dance Troupe, Aiping Tai Chi, and Interfaith Choir.

To learn more about the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, please visit woodbridgect.org.



Deputy Chief Ronald Smith, Officer Stefano Mauriello, Chief Frank P. Cappiello

Officer Stefano Mauriello

The Woodbridge Police Department recently welcomed a new patrol officer, Stefano Mauriello, to the force.

Officer Mauriello joined the Department following a career of several years with the Waterbury Police Department where he served in its Patrol Division as a Field Training Officer and as a member of the Crisis Intervention Team. He is a graduate of both Johnson and Wales University

and Post University, and holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

Police Chief Frank Cappiello stated that Officer Mauriello's experience and positive attributes will be an asset to the Department and the community. He congratulated Officer Mauriello on his accomplishments thus far and wished him the best for a successful, rewarding and safe career with the Woodbridge Police Department.

HUMAN SERVICES



The 4th annual Living Treasure event honoring Dwight Rowland, Susan Jacobs, Rich Jeynes, and the 93 years of volunteer service of the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association was held at the Woodbridge Fire Station recently. Also in attendance at the award dinner were State Senators James Maroney and Jorge Cabrera and State Representative Mary Welander.

A COVID Booster Clinic will be held on October 13 beginning at 9 am in the Center Building gym. The COVID-19 virus changes over time and the protection from previous boosters wanes. Keep your protection up to date by getting the most recent booster vaccine. This new bivalent vaccine is designed to give broad protection against COVID-19 including the Omicron variant. This clinic will be provided by QVHD; booster shots will be available to Woodbridge residents 55+ and town employees. Please call 203- 389-3429 to schedule an appointment.

Two Flu Clinics: Human Services will host flu clinics this fall on October 18 from 12-3 pm and October 25, 11 am-1 pm in the Center Building gymnasium. High-dose and regular quadrivalent vaccines will be available at each clinic. Please indicate whether you wish to receive the high-dose vaccine when making an appointment. Preregistration is required for each clinic. Please call for more information on participating insurance and an appointment time slot.

Safety Programs: In honor of Alzheimer's Awareness month, the Woodbridge Police Department, in conjunction with the Human Services Department will launch two new safety programs, the Alzheimer's/Dementia Safety Alert Program and the Autism Safety Alert Program. These two programs are designed for families of individuals with dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or those with autism spectrum disorder. This program will create a data base to be used by the Police Department in cases of missing persons and interactions with police, etc. Family members and caregivers will be asked to register loved ones to provide information to a data base which can be accessed by officers when needed in an emergency. Please call for intake forms.

Food Drives: Please consider donating to two upcoming food drives.

The Woodbridge Police Department will accept non-perishable food items on October 1 at the Woodbridge 5K Road Race, and the annual Boy Scout food drive and collection will take place on October 29. Each food drive benefits the Woodbridge Food Pantry and local families.

Food Pantry: Residents in need may call for access to non-perishable food each month. The food pantry currently needs donations of tomato sauce, peanut butter, jams and jellies, canola/olive oils, shelf stable milk, coffee, hot and cold cereal, mac and cheese, snack foods, salad dressing, condiments, dish soap, deodorant, paper towels, cleaning sprays, laundry detergent, and gift cards for groceries. Kindly check expiration dates prior to donating.

Energy Assistance Program: Qualifying residents may now schedule an appointment to apply for the 2022 - 2023 CT Energy Assistance Program administered by TEAM, INC. For more information regarding this program, please call Judi Young at 203-389-3429.

Adopt-A-Family: Human Services seeks sponsors for the Adopt-A-Family program. The program provides holiday food and gift card baskets for the December holidays to Woodbridge families in need. Distribution of the baskets will take place in early December. If interested in sponsoring a family, please call the department by October 29. Gift cards are also welcome for this program.

Alzheimer's Walk: Each year, Human Services and The Woodbridge Center sponsor a walk team for the Walk to End Alzheimer's. The team, Motrin in Motion - Woodbridge, raised \$500 for this great cause through local donations. If you would like to donate, please visit the team's page at <http://act.alz.org/goto/MotrininMotionALZ> or you may send a check to The Woodbridge Center.

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Woodbridge New Resident Welcome Event

The Woodbridge Ad Hoc Community Council invites all new residents to attend the upcoming New Resident Welcome event on Sunday, October 9 at 10:30 am on the Town Green at 4 Meetinghouse Lane. The meet-up immediately precedes the 2nd Annual Woodbridge Like Me Day to take place on the Green from 11 am to 2 pm.

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

New residents will have an opportunity to take a walking tour of the Town Center campus, ask questions, and meet other new residents.

To RSVP for this event please email Toni Belenski at tbelenski@woodbridgect.org.

Town of Woodbridge Meetings for the Month of October 2022



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

10/3	Town Plan & Zoning Commission.....6:30 PM Human Services Commission7:00 PM	Town Hall
10/11	Library Commission6:00 PM	Library
10/12	Board of Selectmen5:00 PM Housing Opportunity Study Committee7:00 PM Zoning Board of Appeals7:30 PM	Town Hall Town Hall Town Hall
10/13	Community Council.....9:30 AM Economic Development Commission.....6:00 PM	Town Hall Town Hall
10/17	Fire Commission6:00 PM Police Commission.....6:15 PM	Police Dept
10/18	2030 Task Force6:00 PM	Town Hall
10/19	Diversity & Inclusion Committee.....6:30 PM Inland Wetlands Agency.....7:30 PM	Library Town Hall
10/20	Center Building Renovation Cmte10:00 AM Board of Finance.....6:00 PM Conservation Commission.....7:30 PM	Police Dept. Town Hall Town Hall
10/24	CUPOP5:30 PM Recreation Commission7:00 PM	Town Hall Beecher School So.
10/26	Gov't Access TV Commission7:30 PM	Town Hall

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



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

Home Alone Class

A two-day class for ages 9-12 Thursdays, October 13 & 20 from 4:00-5:00 pm will be held in the Woodbridge Library meeting room. Students learn about answering the door and phone, emergencies, calling 911, healthy snacks, and internet safety. Snack is provided. Advance payment of \$15 and permission form will reserve your spot. Call to sign up early as space is limited.



Halloween Spooktacular event from previous year

Halloween Spooktacular

Seventh and eighth grade Woodbridge and Bethany residents and all Amity Middle School-Bethany students are welcome. Grab a costume and be there on Friday, October 28 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the AMSB gym at 190 Luke Hill Road in Bethany. Fee of \$7 covers games, DJ, dancing, refreshments, and raffle. Get your team of 5 together for the Mummy Wrap. More details on website, Facebook, and in school newsletter. Adult and mature high school student volunteers needed. Woodbridge Youth Services and the Town of Bethany sponsor this event.

Woodbridge Job Bank Seeks Teens Who Want Work

The Job Bank in Woodbridge offers occasional jobs to teen residents (ages 13 – 18) who would like to work in Woodbridge to earn some extra cash. Youth Services provides an opportunity to learn about the interview process, safety on the job, and how to negotiate pay.

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

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

Volunteers Needed

The Woodbridge Youth Advisory Board makes recommendations for Youth Services programming and seeks to include a diverse membership to support our diverse population. A few positions remain open for adults and high school students. Community Services hours will be approved. Interested residents may contact Youth Services for information.

BOWDAAC-Let's Talk Prevention

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



Shamiel Gary

Shamiel Gary Motivates Students

Former NFL player Shamiel Gary presented a motivational speech to Amity Middle School students and held sessions to discuss goal setting, self-respect, and celebration of others. Students were excited to play games and hear Gary's talk about self-reflection and being your best self. Woodbridge and Orange Youth Services, BOWDAAC, and Amity Regional School District sponsored the event.

See "Youth Services" On Page 17

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Recreation News



Visit our new office in the lower level of Town Hall at 11 Meetinghouse Lane. Our hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. A new online registration is now available through the Recreation Registration

link on the Home Page of the Town website, woodbridgect.org. To get started, set up a new account to view all recreation options, then conveniently register and pay. Please call with questions, 203-389-3446.

“Woodbridge Center” From Page 14

health, muscular conditioning, flexibility, and balance. No prior Zumba experience required. The fee is \$30 for a 6-week session.

Hobbies/Social:

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

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

Painting for Pleasure with local artist Carole Abbate: Monday, 10 am - 12 pm, in the library Meeting Room. Create your own paintings as Carole helps inspire beginners to intermediates to paint with acrylics or watercolors. Paint the subject of your choice - bring in a note card or photo for inspiration. No experience necessary. Call to sign-up for this 6-week, \$36 class.

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

Services offered (for Woodbridge residents only):

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

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

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

Meals: Healthy, well balanced, flash frozen meals for \$5.25/meal are available. Order by noon on Monday for delivery to your home during the same week. Choose from a wide variety of options including honey glazed salmon, baked ziti, chicken piccata, and fresh Cobb salad with grilled chicken breast. Meals include a roll, fresh fruit, and dessert. Two meal minimum order with a ten-meal limit. See website (<https://woodbridgect.org/541/Lunch-Meal-Programs>) for a complete list of offerings.

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

Friendly Visitor Program: Call Judi Young, Senior Social Worker, at 203-389-3429, to arrange for a friendly visitor.

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

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



Deputy Chief Ronald Smith, Officer Patrick Meehan, Chief Frank P. Cappiello

Officer Patrick Meehan

The Woodbridge Police Department recently welcomed a new patrol officer, Patrick Meehan, to the force.

Officer Meehan joins the department following a lengthy career with the Connecticut State Police, where he served in various capacities in patrol as a Trooper First Class and then as a Detective assigned to the

Central District Major Crimes Unit. He is also a veteran of the United States Navy.

Police Chief Frank Cappiello stated that Officer Meehan brings a wealth of law enforcement expertise and knowledge to the Woodbridge Police Department and wished him many years of success and safety.



Hippo Chow Down inflatable

ATTENTION WOODBRIDGE RESIDENTS!

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“Youth Services” From Page 16

Seventh Grade Picnic an Attendance Record Breaker

Woodbridge Youth Services’ Annual Seventh Grade Picnic saw the highest attendance in the history of this event with over 130 incoming seventh graders ready for fun. These young

teens came together at Amity Middle School-Bethany Campus to bring their energy with the DJ pumping dance music and running interactive games. Many competed on the “Hippo Chow Down” inflatable while others enjoyed Cornhole, Giant Jenga, pizza, and raffle prizes. Youth Evening Programs are sponsored by Woodbridge Youth Services and the Town of Bethany.

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.

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“Test Results” From Page 1

part of DRG B, along with towns such as Cheshire, Trumbull and 15 others.

Sapia also presented data looking back to two previous assessment cycles, in particular those taken in the spring of 2018 and the spring of 2019. Although the assessment was administered at the height of the pandemic in 2020-21, the state waived those results as incomparable data points, because some districts tested in person, others did not. The state did use the data to show quite clearly that the school districts that taught in person fared better than those who did not.

Beecher students at or exceeding grade level standards:

Grade 3	
ELA	73%
Math	80%
Grade 4	
ELA	79%
Math	81%
Grade 5	
ELA	84%
Math	66%
Grade 6	
ELA	85%
Math	80%

As for the dip in fifth grade, Principal Lisa Sherman said that group was in third grade when the state shut the schools. In fourth grade they were learning in all different ways, and last year was the first somewhat normal year. They are now in sixth grade.

“We do have to unpack it more,” Sherman said, about all the results.

“We all know the Smarter Balance is just one data point – it’s an important data point, but just one data point at how we look at our students,” Sapia said.

For Level 1 and 2 students – those who do not meet the achievement standard or are approaching the standard, the test results may provide information about the need for interventions, Sapia said, but there again, the test results are just one piece of the puzzle.

Board member Maria Madonick said she saw growth at all grade levels as the years progressed. “Our strength is our teachers, our staff and administration,” she said.

Amity results: Similarly, newly minted Amity Assistant Superinten-

dent Frank Purcaro presented the Amity results to the regional Board of Education at its meeting on September 12. The SBAC tests in literacy and math are being administered up to grade 8, so only the two middle schools administer them. The NGSS science assessment is done in grades 8 and 11, and showed some weakness, in particular in grade 8.

At the Orange Middle School, 52.1% met or exceeded standards, in Bethany 67% - for an average of 60%. Before the pandemic, both middle schools did remarkably better, with 82% in Orange and 86% in Bethany.

At the high school, 68.4% met or exceeded science standards in Grade 11, down from 71% in 2018-19.

SBAC results for grades 7 and 8 were as follows:

Grade 7	
English Language Arts	80% (from 81% in 2018-19)
Math	67% (from 78% in 2018-19)
Grade 8	
English Language Art	68% (from 85% 2018-19)
Math	59% (from 82%)

SATs

The good news in the report was that Amity Juniors – this year’s Senior class – scored really well in the SATs, which attest to college readiness. In fact, they scored at about pre-pandemic levels, Purcaro said in his report.

SAT Results:

ELA	87% (2020-21 82%, 2018-19 81%)
Math	66% (from 52% in 20-21, 64% in 18-19)

The math results actually put them at the top of the DRG, he said, and in ELA Amity tied in second spot with Avon.

“The SAT results were tremendous for the high school,” said new principal Andre Hauser. He said the college board passes back extremely detailed information to the schools. “They tell us that with this type of question our kids outperform others, with this type of question they struggle more,” he said, adding that all information that will inform instruction going forward.

“Our goal is to move all students forward,” he said.





Steps Anyone Can Take To Protect Local Wildlife

The opportunity to experience local wildlife is one of the many alluring features of spending time in the great outdoors. Unfortunately, wildlife is being threatened in many parts of the world as the human population increases and spreads to regions that historically have not been home to large numbers of human beings.

Numerous local, national and international environmental organizations are dedicated to protecting local wildlife. But such organizations can always use a helping hand, and the following are some simple steps anyone can take to protect local wildlife.

Sign up for local trash pick-ups. The organization Environment America reports that scientists have found fragments of plastic in hundreds of species. For example, researchers found such fragments in 44 percent of all seabird species. Local park and beach clean-ups can help reduce that figure and make these beloved spaces look even better. Signing up for park or beach clean-ups also provides a great reason to get outdoors.

Make an effort to cut back on your energy consumption. This effective approach can benefit local wildlife and animal lovers' bottom lines. The Animal Welfare Institute notes that many power plants rely on fossil fuels, the

extraction of which can be harmful to local habitats. That ultimately and adversely affects local wildlife. Reducing energy consumption can cut back on the need to extract fossil fuels, and it also can lead to lower energy bills for consumers.

Support eco-friendly legislation. Legislators fighting to protect local wildlife need all the help they can get. Individuals can lend a hand by supporting legislators who are working to maintain local habitats so wildlife can continue to thrive. Share information about political issues related to local wildlife via social media and volunteer to help local politicians and nonprofit organizations spread the word about the importance of protecting the species who call your region home.

Do not get too close to wildlife. The beauty of wildlife can be hard to resist, but the AWI urges animal lovers to keep their distance from animals they see in the wild. Do not handle young animals found in the wild, no matter how vulnerable they appear to be, as the AWI notes that it's not uncommon for mothers to leave their young alone for long periods of time while they forage for food.

Wildlife faces an uncertain future in many parts of the world. Individuals can do their part to protect wildlife and ensure their long-term survival.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Allie's Dream Launches Program For Developmental Disabilities

First Program In 30 Years To Be Founded By A Special Needs Young Adult's Parent

Allie's Dream, an independent not-for-profit organization serving individuals with cognitive and developmental disabilities, announced the official launch of a full-time day service program for young adults with developmental disabilities who transition out of the educational system at age 22.

As the first Day Service Program in Connecticut in 30 years to be founded and managed by a parent of a special needs individual, Allie's Dream provides young adults multi-sensory exposure to the arts with a diverse and quality curriculum for learning about the world and diverse cultures. The curriculum, encompasses numerous activities, including Art Therapy, Music Enrichment, Movement, Dance, Theater, Physical Therapy, Aquatics, Cultural, and Social Inclusion.

Lili Vasileff, President and Founder, Allie's Dream, explained that as a single mom of Allie—her special needs daughter—she decided that more had to be done to provide for quality of life and necessary fulfillment to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities upon their graduation from public school at age 21. "I am thrilled that after much hard work, planning and in spite of the pandemic, our program is now a reality. It was conceived to change and shape the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities by providing unique experiences and opportunities," said Vasileff. She added, "Our program aims to create a nurturing and inspiring atmosphere, making sure that every

participant is empowered by enrichment through the arts, educational, social, recreational and therapeutic support services in order to enhance social connections among their peers and in the community."

Vasileff went on to explain that 1 in every 5 children has special needs and nonprofit organizations deliver the bulk of state sponsored services to adults with disabilities, with no more money than they received fifteen years ago. In addition, the Covid pandemic has compelled many agencies to fold, downsize, or place individuals on waiting lists and some will not be helped indefinitely, due to the sector enduring 48% work vacancy rate.

"We concentrate on attracting outstanding staff to sustain our arts-based immersion program. We focus on ability instead of disability, by encouraging the pursuit of personal interests, thereby providing greater opportunities for personal success and creative expression," stated Vasileff. "We help guide future decision making, so that each person can make satisfactory progress through high quality learning experiences based on valid assessments, their abilities, and realistic goals."

Based in Woodbridge, CT, Allie's Dream is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization and a qualified vendor of program services of the Department of Developmental Services of the State of Connecticut. Additional information about the organizations and its program can be found at www.alliesdream.org.

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WOODBRIDGE LIBRARY

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

Library Announcements

Saturday Hours Have Returned

Visit us Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm and Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. We will be closed on Monday, October 10 for Columbus Day.

Support the Friends at Woodbridge Like Me

The Friends of the Library will be selling some selected books, DVDs and CDs, on Sunday, October 9 from 11 am to 2 pm at the Town of Woodbridge's "Woodbridge Like Me" event. Featured for sale: novels and memoirs from many cultures, language books and CDs, American history titles, poetry volumes and books concerning American social experiences, as well as travel and art books from around the world. Prices will be the usual low Friends of the Library prices with all proceeds benefiting the Library.

Pumpkinpalooza Returns! Saturday, October 15

Join us for a morning of pumpkin decorating! This event will take place in the Grove with two separate sessions starting at 11 AM and 11:30 AM. Café Rebelde will be here for all of your caffeine and snack needs! Small gourd pumpkins will be provided, but feel free to bring your own to decorate as well! Registration is required for the specific session you will attend—space is limited, please book your spot on our website!

New Online Card Registration Available

Are you a Woodbridge resident? You can now sign up for a library card online! Visit our website, woodbridgetownlibrary.org. After registering, you will immediately be able to use your new account to place holds on items for pick up at the library. We will then contact you via email within 2 business days with your new library card number. At this time, you will get full access to our electronic resources, including downloadable books and magazines. Please note that this is a temporary registration that will expire in 30 days. Before the 30 days is up, please visit the Woodbridge Town Library in person to verify your name and address. At that time, you will receive a permanent library card.

Do We Have Your Email Address??

Sign up for our email newsletters to receive notifications about events, new offerings, and library hours/closings. We typically only send one email



WOODBRIDGE TOWN LIBRARY

a week. Join our mailing list by visiting our website and entering your email address in the form provided. That's it! (You can also give us your email address while in the building.)

Notary Services

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

Library Information

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

What's available at the Library:

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

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

Call or email to place holds, ask questions, find out information, and more.

Department Phones and Emails

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

Socialize with us!

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Instagram: [@woodbridgetownlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/woodbridgetownlibrary);
TikTok: [@woodbridge_town_library](https://www.tiktok.com/@woodbridge_town_library).

Library News

We need you! And your art!

Exhibition spaces are available for

any and all 2D media. Fill out the form here: <https://woodbridge.lioninc.org/events/art-exhibits/>. Contact Kira Edic at kedic@woodbridgetownlibrary.org for more information.

The Library is now FINE FREE!

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

Museum Passes Available

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

From Adult Services Social Security Strategies & Your Retirement Future

Thursday, October 6 at 6 PM

Learn about the key concepts you need to know before applying for Social Security, how to factor Social Security into your retirement plan, regulation changes, and more! Register online or at the library.

Stress & Disease

Tuesday, October 18 at 2 PM

Up to 90% of all visits to doctors' offices are stress-related, according to Harvard. Stress can be considered as much a risk factor for disease as smoking. Why can two people be in the same situation and respond to stress in different ways? Can changing the way we carry stress be a learnable skill? Come and learn the difference between good and bad stress, increase awareness of how stress impacts the body, and hear about the emerging pattern matching specific symptoms and diseases with specific stresses. Register online or at the library.

Indoor Film Screenings

Thursdays at 7 PM

Join us on Thursday evenings for a movie screening in our Meeting Room.

No registration is required to attend, but seating is first come, first serve. This month, movies will be shown every Thursday except for October 6. Where the Crawdads Sing will be shown on October 13!

Woodbridge Writers Workshop

Tuesday, October 25
from 3 PM to 5 PM

Gather with area writers as we read and critique our works in a friendly atmosphere. Register online or at the library. Every fourth Tuesday of the month.

Woodbridge Scrabble Group

Wednesdays at 11 AM

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

From The Children's Department

Llama at the Library: Saturday, 10/1 @ 2 pm. Registration required. All ages welcome!

Teen Advisory Board: Monday, 10/3 @ 2:30 pm. Ages 13+. Registration required.

Author Visit: Gail Lerner! Wednesday, 10/12 @ 4:30 pm. Hear about her new middle-grade book! Registration required.

Fall Yoga for Kids: Wednesdays, 10/12 & 10/26 @ 11 am. Ages 18 months to 5 years. Registration required.

Animal Facts Club: Monday, 10/17 @ 6:30 pm. Ages 7+. Registration required. Meets monthly.

Creative Writing Club: Wednesday, 10/19 @ 6:30 pm. Ages 8+. Registration required.

Halloween Magic with Ed Pop: Saturday 10/22 @ 2 pm. Registration required. All ages welcome!

Graphic Novel Club: Tuesday, 10/25 @ 6:30 pm. Ages 9+. Registration required. Meets monthly.

Trick or Treat in the Library: Thursday 10/27, 10 am to 7 pm. Wear your costume! All ages welcome.

More information and registration available on our website or at the Children's Desk.

Ongoing Events—Come Every Week or When You Can! No Registration Necessary.


Baby Group: Mondays @ 10:30 am. Ages newborn-18 months. Songs, rhymes, and finger plays.

Storytime: Wednesdays @ 10:30 am. Ages infant-3 years. Fun stories, music, and props.

Thursday Crafts: Thursdays @ 4 pm. Ages 3 and up. New make and take craft every week.

Coffee and Crafts: Fridays @ 11:30 am. Ages 2 and up. Coffee and pastries from Café Rebelde.

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

The First Church of Christ Welcomes You To Our Worship Services

Interim Minister

The Rev. Susan Murtha is the Interim Minister at FCCW and has made quite an impact. Worship has been filled with God’s Holy Spirit in music and prayer, in God’s Word and sacrament. Plan a visit to see what is “happening.” You can also read about her on our website. We are honored to have such an extraordinary individual here with us at First Church!

“Remember the Ala Mode”

We are excited to announce that FCCW, in collaboration with the Woodbridge Road Race and the Woodbridge Garden Club Plant Sale, will be holding its Pie ala Mode event again this year on Saturday, October 1, from 10 am – 1 pm. Come and join us on the church green for seasonal delights, like fresh cider and warm apple pie ala mode (\$3), and a free scoop of ice cream for all children. We will also be having a face painting event for the children.

Boy Scout Troop #907

Activity in scouting is year-round, for troop 907 that is no exception. During our annual week of summer camp, the troop again formed a joint contingent with Troop 600 from Hamden and provisional scouts attending camp without their home troop. Youth leadership worked together to form patrols, participate in camp-wide activities from archery to nature jeopardy to canoe races, ultimately gaining the highest accolade of the week, super troop. They also worked on skill badges, boating, fishing and enjoying fellowship at campfires. The high point of the week was the opportunity to welcome Ben Rickel, into the highest honor in scouting, our newest Eagle Scout.

On the weekend of September 16-19, the troop enjoyed great weather for the Bicycle Campout on Block Island. The troop laid out two loops on the island, one 7.5 miles and the other 8.5 miles. These included the

Abrams Animal Farm, the Southeast Lighthouse, Mohegan Bluffs, Painted Rock, Rodman’s Hollow, Dead Eye Dick’s, the town beach, Great Salt Pond and the North Lighthouse. All scouts exhibited camaraderie and support for each other.

The troop will be supporting the October 1 “Remember the a la mode” in front of the Parish House. The troop is also very appreciative of the church Men’s Fellowship recently donating a volleyball net to the troop, thanks! Also, thanks to church parishioners who recently helped with purchasing chrysanthemums, the troop fall fundraiser.

Scouting is an ongoing adventure that you cannot predict what you will experience just around the corner or down the next trail. Troop 907 is an active outdoor unit that is planning more adventures this fall and winter including canoeing on the Connecticut River.

If you are interested in joining the ride, the troop meets Thursday evenings at First Church of Christ Parish House, rear entrance, 7:00-8:30 pm or ‘contact us’ on our website <http://www.troop907.org>.

Sanctuary Décor Restoration

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

Music at First Church

The music committee is pleased to announce that even though Nenad Ivovic’s time at Yale has come to an end, he very much wants to continue in his position with us as Director of Instrumental Music. He will be studying...

See “FCCW” On Page 22

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



Document Shredding Event at Temple Beth Sholom

Date: Sunday, October 23, 2022
Time: 9am-12pm
Location: Temple Beth Sholom, 1809 Whitney Avenue, Hamden (in the parking lot)
Cost: Small Copy Boxes (18 x 12 x 12 inches or smaller) - \$10 per box
Large Banker Boxes (18 x 18 x 24 inches or larger) - \$20 per box
Also Available:
› Hard Drive Destruction & Computer Recycling - \$20 each
› CRT Computer Monitors - \$20 each
› Hard Drive Only - \$10 each
All items should be in a box that can easily be picked up. Paper items only. No trash bags, paper bags, etc. No trash or non-paper items. No CDs, X-Rays, etc. Paper clips and staples CAN be shredded.
On-site shredding truck provided by Affordable Solutions, LLC. Payment via cash or credit card.
Questions? Email fundraising@tbshamden.com.
Temple Beth Sholom is an egalitarian conservative synagogue with over 350 member families and singles from the Greater New Haven community.



Submitted by Troop Committee Chair and Chartered Organization Representative, Rich Forselius

“FCCW” From Page 21

ying to get his Doctor of Music at the City University of New York. Over this summer he has been performing many concerts throughout Europe. Nenad is now back playing for the Sunday morning worship services.

Weekly Bible Study

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

Zoom Option

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

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

Office Hours



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

Join the FCCW Choir!

New members are always welcome. Join us for rehearsals each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Pre-school space is available

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

For More Information

Visit our website at www.uccw.org for resources such as our calendar of events, monthly newsletter, ministry and volunteer opportunities, photo galleries, scout info, and much more! Follow us on Facebook and stay up to date with parish happenings, including memorials and baptism announcements. Feel free to email us or call the office with all your questions. We are happy to hear from you!

Events at Chabad of Orange-Woodbridge

Yom Kippur at Chabad of Orange-Woodbridge

No Membership, No Affiliation, No Tickets. RSVP Requested, Donations Appreciated.

This Year, join a meaningful and inspiring High Holiday service, in a warm, safe and welcoming atmosphere.

You may see yourself as unaffiliated, Reform, Conservative, or Orthodox. At Chabad we see you as Jewish. No Labels. No differences. Chabad is home for every kind of Jew.

Our services are refreshingly casual and easy to follow. The English-Hebrew annotated prayerbook, along with song and commentary, make everyone an active participant.

So you're invited! We have night & day services. To see the full schedule - www.chabadow.org/highholidayschabad.

Family Apple Picking

Spend your morning together with other young families from the community. This is open to all, feel free to bring grandparents/cousins/neighbors!

Sunday October 2

- › 10 am - 12pm
- › @ Norton Brother Farm
- › 466 Academy Rd, Cheshire, CT 06410
- › \$5.00 per person \$20 max per family
- › Hay ride! Apple picking! Picnic lunch!
- › www.chabadow.org/apple

Deli on Derby Pop Up & Sukkot Family Festival!

We are bringing back the good memories and delicious Deli on Derby for a Sukkot Pop Up. Indulge in a delicious corn beef or pastrami sandwich on rye. Or how about a fresh bowl of chicken soup? All these and more will be available at the Deli on Derby Pop up on October 13 at 5:00 pm @ Chabad. Life size inflatables! Live Music! Sukkah! Free entry. Food for sale. www.chabadow.org/deli

Simchat Torah with Chabad

Monday, October 17

Services 7:00 followed by Lavish Kiddush & Hakafot

New and Exciting Bat Mitzvah Club

Geared to Bat Mitzvah aged girls (5-7th graders). Our club meets once a month on Mondays. This club is all about sharing experiences, friendship and fun with other girls on their Bat Mitzvah journey. Each meeting will include discussion-based learning, activities, crafts & food! The Bat Mitzvah Club is the best gift you can give to your daughter during this sensitive and beautiful time in their life.

*The Bat Mitzvah Club is designed as a supplemental enrichment program independent of any Bat Mitzvah Ceremony. For more information - Riki 202-404-4997-

Fresh off the Press Kids After School Enrichment Program

Geared to kids ages 5-7
There are 2 ten-week sessions
The program meets on Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 with an optional early drop off and late pickup + dinner (transportation from school available upon request).

The curriculum includes visual arts, steam, experiential learning, holidays, culture & music. At the CKids After School Enrichment Program Judaism comes alive in an experience your kids won't want to miss. For more information - Riki 202-404-4997, www.chabadow.org/afterschool.

Jewish Birthday Program

Birthdays are super special and always fun to celebrate – here's a way to add some more meaning & fun to your child's birthday! Sign up (completely FREE) to join the CKids Jewish Birthday Club and your child will receive an exciting birthday package delivered to your doorstep right around the time of their Jewish Birthday! It's that easy! To sign up www.chabadow.org/birthday.



HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



Orange Congregational Church

Orange Congregational Church invites you to join us for worship Sundays at 10 a.m. in our Sanctuary on the corner of 205 Meeting House Lane and Orange Center Road. You can also view our livestreamed services online at our "Orange Congregational Church, UCC" YouTube page.

Church school takes place in-person during worship, and fellowship and coffee hour follows afterward. Both our Senior Choir and Handbell Choir have begun meeting again for practices and are singing during worship. We also have a crib room for babies and toddlers on Sunday mornings. Our in-person youth group meets periodically for different events and prepares for an annual mission trip in June.

For adults, we offer the following programs on Zoom: a weekly evening "Praying the Bible" group, a weekly afternoon "Art of Scripture" group, a monthly "Virtual Book Club", and

a monthly "Community Reflection" group. We are also excited to announce the return of our Music on the Green concert series! There will be four concerts for the 2022-23 series, the first taking place on Sunday, November 6th at 4:00 p.m. with the Ekklesia Ballet performing. Other concert dates and more information can be found on the "Music" page of our church website.

Please visit orangecongregation-alchurch.org for more information on our worship, faith formation, and music programming. The church office can be reached at 203-795-9749 and is open weekdays from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, which means we welcome all people into the full life and leadership of the church regardless of race, class, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or family type. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Outdoor Rosary

The Holy Infant Church Women's Guild is holding an outdoor Rosary on Saturday, October 15 at 10 am in front of the church at 450 Racebrook Road. Please meet at the Virgin Mary statue and bring a chair. If it rains, it will be held inside the church.

A Family Pizza Night will be held on Sunday, October 16 from 4 to 6 pm. Amici's Pizza Truck will be catering. It is \$25 for adults, \$15 for children 6 - 12, children under 5 free. It includes all you can eat pizza, stuffed breads, salad, pasta, cherry and lemon

ice, Foxon Park soda, water. Amici's pizza chef Aerin Zavory is a renowned chef who, in 2018, appeared on the TV show "Chopped" and came in first on the competition. This past June she competed on "Beat Bobby Flay," and went up against the Iron Chef himself, and again she emerged the winner. She has worked under James Beard Award and Michelin Star recipients and continues to perfect the art of Italian cooking. Tickets are available at the church Rectory, 203-799-2379. No tickets will be sold at the door.



ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

Send us your organizations events listings and items of interest. We will publish them for free.

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

Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

Yom Kippur

Tickets for Yom Kippur services can be purchased from the BEKI office; email office@beki.org or call (203) 389-2108 x114. Active-duty military, police personnel, and full-time students may enter for free with valid official ID; however, advance arrangements are required.

Children's Programs

On November 4, and every First Friday of the month, BEKI's Kabbalat Shabbat service is kid-friendly, though not specifically a children's service. Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, and Junior Congregation, all led by parent volunteers, meet in person each Saturday morning.

In Person and Online

BEKI offers in-person services twice daily, led by Rabbi Eric Woodward and congregants. Details at beki.org. Weekday services also are on Zoom. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

Healing Service



Rabbi Woodward will lead a Kabbalat Shabbat healing service on Friday, November 18, and on the third Friday of each month.

Two Sukkah Parties

The annual Sukkah Hop (a progressive party around Westville) will be October 10 (rain date October 15). Details at beki.org.

BEKI Apizza will be Wednesday, October 12 in the sukkah (inside in case of rain). Vegan and gluten free pies will

be available. Reservations are due by October 6, \$10/adults, \$5/child under 12, \$30 maximum/household.

Elm City Kallah

On Saturday, October 29, Dr. Rachel Korazim will speak at BEKI as part of the week-end Kallah. Her topic is the Miz-rachi (Sephardic) voice in Israeli lit-

erature. Through such poets as Balfour Hakak, Shimon Adaf, and Roni Somek, she will explore the long journey of Jews from Moslem countries from early marginalization to empowerment.

Dr. Korazim teaches at such well known learning centers as Pardes and the Shalom Hartman Institute. A graduate of Haifa University with a PhD in Jewish education, she has created a global community of learners who study Israeli poetry online. Details at beki.org.

Dr. Korazim will also speak on October 28 at Westville Synagogue and October 30 at Congregation B'nai Jacob. Elm City Kallah is made possible by a generous grant from the James M. Shure Educational Fund.

Current Exhibition

BEKI's galleries are filled with a second installation of pre-1950 ancestor photographs and mini-biographies that portray the diverse ethnic backgrounds of members. The exhibition is open to the public by appointment; email office@beki.org or call 203.389.2108 x 114.

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

Temple Emanuel: High Holy Day Schedule 2022/5783

SHABBAT SHUVAH, KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE – Friday, September 30 at 7:30 pm

KOL NIDREI (Erev Yom Kippur) – Tuesday, October 4 at 8 pm

YOM KIPPUR MORNING – Wednesday, October 5 at 10 am

YOM KIPPUR CHILDREN'S SERVICE – Wednesday, October 5 at 9:45 am For children in pre-K through 4th grade.

MINCHA– Wednesday, October 5

at 4:45 pm
YIZKOR, NEILA and HAVDALAH – Wednesday, October 5 5:45 pm

Sukkot and Simchat Torah details can be found on the TE website

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

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

Coming Spring 2023:

THE VERO

AT ORANGE

— A LEISURE CARE COMMUNITY —

Scheduled to open spring 2023, excitement is building for the area's newest senior community – The Vero at Orange. Managed by Leisure Care, The Vero is backed by more than 50 years of excellence in hospitality-focused senior living, bringing a unique and refreshing approach to retirement. Our residents will enjoy premier dining, our signature PrimeFit Wellness program, travel opportunities, an active social calendar, and more – you name it, we've got it.

We can't wait to welcome you home.
Call (203) 867-0123 to learn more today!



CALL (203) 867-0123 TO LEARN MORE. | 197 INDIAN RIVER ROAD, ORANGE, CT 06477 | THEVEROATORANGE.COM

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