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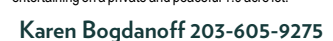
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023



# Town Dedicates Animal Shelter as ACO Eyes Retirement

# ELECTION COVERAGE

## PAGES 8-11 & 22-28



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# “TOGETHER, WE’RE GOING TO FIND A SOLUTION FOR THE COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTY.”

**INACTION IS NO LONGER AN OPTION.  
IT’S TIME TO MOVE FORWARD. WE’RE READY.**

The solution must begin with what our community wants. The time has come to take action and ensure that the Country Club property is an attractive, ongoing resource for all Woodbridge residents.

We will bring our residents together to implement a plan that considers all options including conservation, recreation, housing and energy generation to the benefit of **everyone** in Town.

- STEP 1: INPUT FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**
- STEP 2: RECOMMENDATION FOR TOWN VOTE**
- STEP 3: IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY DECISION**

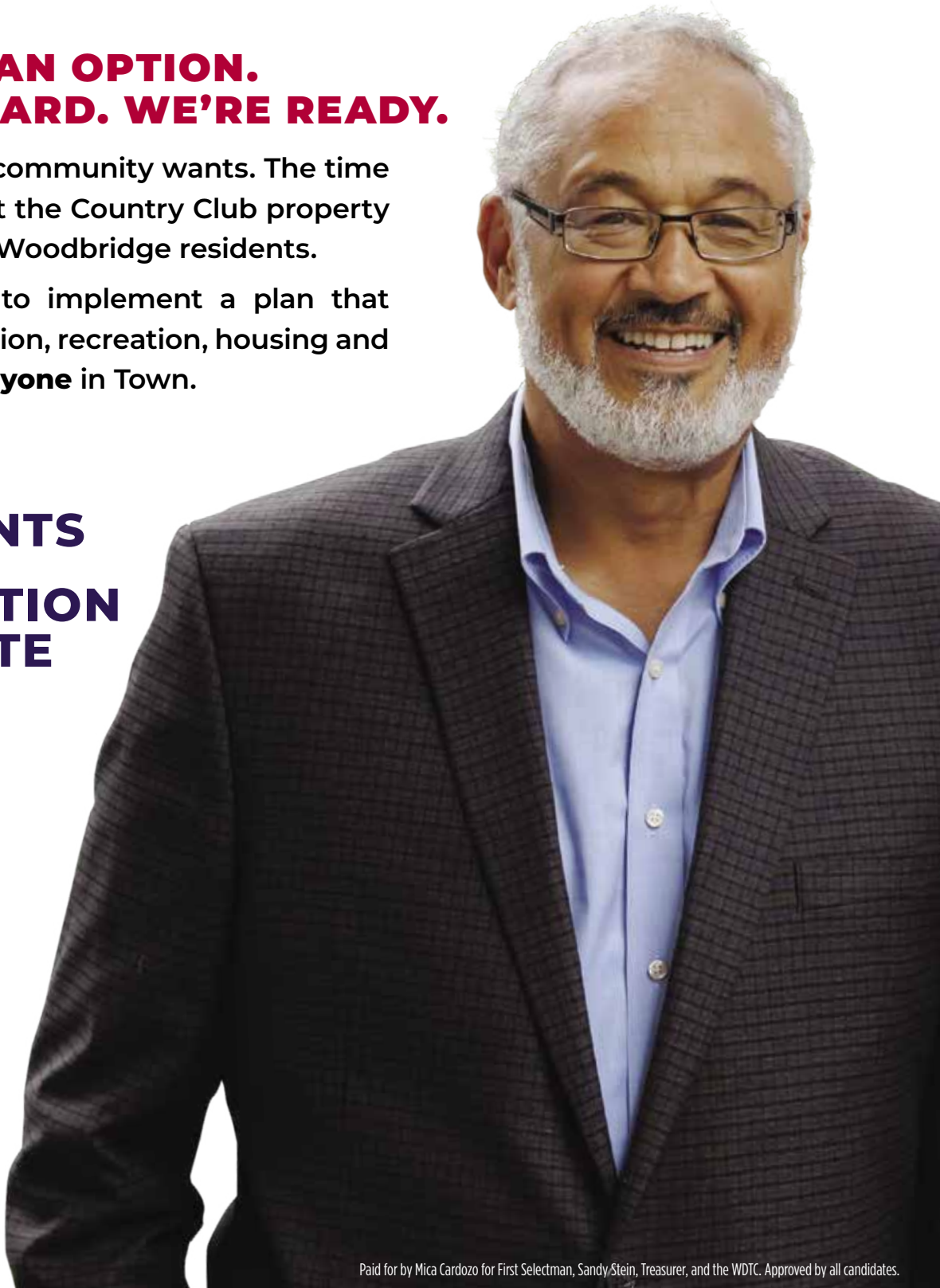
**MICA**



**CARDOZO**

Democrat for First Selectman

**DAY 1 READY**



Paid for by Mica Cardozo for First Selectman, Sandy Stein, Treasurer, and the WDTC. Approved by all candidates.

## ELECT MICA CARDOZO & THE DEMOCRATIC TEAM



MARIA  
**MADONICK**  
SELECTMAN



SHEILA  
**McCREVEN**  
SELECTMAN



‘FARMER STEVE’  
**MUNNO**  
SELECTMAN



PATRICK  
**REED**  
AMITY BOE



SUDHIR  
**KARUNAKARAN**  
AMITY BOE



STEVEN  
**LAWRENCE**  
WOODBIDGE BOE



ERIN  
**WILLIAMSON**  
WOODBIDGE BOE

THE REST OF THE TEAM

JEFFREY GINZBERG  
ASSESSMENT APPEALS

SHAWN FLYNN  
ZONING APPEALS

KAL WATSKY  
ZONING APPEALS

LAUREN FRANCESE  
ZONING APPEALS (ALT)







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Property Brochure



Seller Update



Javier Aviles (R)

Marty Halprin (U)

David Vogel (R)

Andrea Urbano (U)

**A Politically Diverse Team United in Its  
Commitment to Woodbridge**  
**VOTE ROW B**



Learn more at [WoodbridgeGOP.com](http://WoodbridgeGOP.com) or scan

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Woodbridge Town News

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

Upcoming Issue Date

Issue Deadline

November 17 | Thanksgiving Issue ..... November 10

December 15 | Holiday Issue..... December 8

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

FROM OUR READERS

Letter Writer is Correct on Speed Concerns

The most recent issue of the Woodbridge Town News included a letter from Mr. Michael Burns about people driving too fast on Newton Road. He is correct; I have observed cars crossing the center yellow lines to pass me on this road, even when I was driving at the posted speed. More aggressive enforcement of the speed limit is needed, especially in the early morning and late afternoon time periods when pedestrians are more likely to be on the road.

I would also suggest that walkers, runners, and bicycle riders think about ways to enhance their visibility. It is not always easy to see people when there are shadows on the sides of the road, particularly in the Fall when there is less sunlight. Drivers are often distracted by their mobile phones, their coffee, or their companions. If you are going to be out on the road, please wear brightly colored clothing, a reflective vest, or display a flashing light (there is one on your iPhone) so that you will be more visible to drivers – even those who are travelling at the posted speed limit.

Ronald A. Zlotoff, MD

It Makes Dollars and Sense

I have been on the Board of Finance since 2017 and have also had the privilege of serving on the Board of Selectmen, the Amity Board of Education, the Woodbridge Board of Education, and dozens of attendant building and ad hoc committees. As such, I have witnessed the Budget Process from every possible angle and can assure you that when we talk about Woodbridge Finances, the focus is always on Dollars and Sense.

The Woodbridge Budget Process is public, transparent and time-tested. Every budget cycle includes multiple public meetings where the Board of Finance hears from department heads as to both operational and capital needs.

Our town finance professionals look for every available revenue source for projects and long-term undertakings. Thoughtful consideration is given to municipal imperatives, as well as to municipal impossibilities.

No one gets everything they want in the budget process, and we often struggle to ensure that every department gets all that they need. Tough choices are front and center. We are audited on a regular basis in accordance with state law, we meet or exceed accounting standards for Fund Balance, and our Finance Department is a regular A recipient of Town Finance Awards.

Simply, the budget process offers repeated opportunities for community input and is transparent in every respect. Those who would impugn the process might, instead, support projects in town that would expand our tax base and alleviate the burden on residential properties.

After all, it just makes Dollars and Sense.

Susan L. Jacobs  
Vice-Chair, Woodbridge Board of Finance

Rebutting Misconceptions About Housing in Woodbridge

As a lifelong resident of this town, I have seen it evolve, sometimes painfully slowly, over the years. Today, I feel compelled to address ongoing discussions about housing, particularly the prospect of housing at the former Woodbridge Country Club site. Unfortunately, these discussions have stirred concerns among some residents, notably those represented by “United for Woodbridge,” a political action committee, and the “Woodbridge Republican Town Committee,” a political party that opposes any housing at the site.

It is crucial to debunk the misconceptions surrounding housing and its

See “Letters” On Page 15

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](mailto: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.



# Amity Teachers Union PAC Regards Teacher Retention as Most Significant Election Issue

Over the last three years, school districts across the State of Connecticut have experienced an alarming rate of teacher turnover. Amity is no exception. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 25% of Amity teachers have either resigned or retired from the district (this percentage represents 55 total teachers). In a climate survey administered by the teachers union in March-April 2023, approximately 60% of Amity teachers indicated they have considered seeking employment in another school district or in a career outside of education, and approximately 70% reported they are more likely to retire or leave education earlier than planned. Teacher retention deserves to be the top priority among Board candidates.

Studies by organizations such as the National Education Association and the National School Boards Association have shown that such turnover, especially that which occurs during the school year, has an overwhelmingly negative effect on student academic performance, student social-emotional wellbeing, and productivity in the workplace.

The good news is that the solutions are apparent. Competitive salaries, affordable and high quality healthcare, autonomy in classrooms, and working conditions founded in respect and trust by administrators and community members all contribute to the retention of highly qualified and effective educators. The implementation of such solutions, however, is dependent on the extent to which elected officials perceive teacher retention to be an issue and their steadfastness and belief in getting the job done regardless of the actions and resources it will require.

Fortunately, many of the candidates for the Amity Board of Education recognize that we are at a pivotal moment in public education and believe that retaining highly qualified teachers is integral to the overall success of students and the school system.

Unfortunately, current Board members were advised to not respond to our questions on teacher retention. At a time when schools districts are quite literally competing against one another for teachers, and given the number of teachers who we know have considered seeking employment in other school districts, we find it incredibly disheartening that the position of the Board’s attorney is to dissuade incumbents from publicly commenting on what they believe is necessary to prevent the highly effective Amity teaching staff from continuing to leave the district. This is a make or break moment, and there is no room for taboos or agendas.

Despite efforts to discourage public commentary on teacher retention, we believe that it’s clear where incumbents stand based on their record, their responses to our questionnaire (aea5.org), and their answers to the questionnaire distributed by Amity Allies (amityallies.org). With a mission to inform voters and to help elect public education allies to the Board, we have collected and synthesized information on candidates’ views regarding the centrality of teacher retention to upholding and improving the high quality education that community members expect from Amity. We also provide insight on their stance on inclusion, equity, and diversity. We believe that changing the inflammatory rhetoric that has unfortunately become commonplace, and entrusting teachers as professionals to make appropriate and sound decisions in creating a learning environment in which all students feel welcome and safe, is critical in all regards.

To view full responses to our questionnaire, visit our website: aea5.org.

**Bethany:**

*Donna Schlank (R)* has over 30 years of public education experience. She identifies that a culture of respect and acceptance is necessary to retain teachers. She understands that while respect can be shown through increasing teacher salaries, she also seeks to discover the other reasons why teachers are leaving. Donna is the only candidate to say that she would both oppose and support proposals to censor teachers and/or library materials from teaching about inclusion, diversity, and equity. This gives us extreme pause, as censoring teachers contradicts any prior messaging on entrusting them as professionals on the front lines of supporting our student body.

*Jennifer Turner (D - Incumbent)* has consistently been a champion for students and teachers since she joined the Amity Board of Education in 2017. Teacher retention and communication with families are among her top priorities. On the record, she has inquired a number of times about the existence or development of a teacher retention plan. Though there has unfortunately not been any sign of that from the District Office, Turner clearly recognizes that a fix is needed and that the fix is multifaceted. She understands that there is a clear connection between teachers’ working conditions and students’ learning conditions and that no one operates effectively when they feel disrespected and undervalued.

**Woodbridge:**

*Daniel Del Prete (R)* expresses concern about curricular resources, facilities, and teacher turnover and seeks a position on the Board to take action on those concerns. As a labor leader, he understands the role that teacher retention has on upholding and advancing a high quality education for students. He remarks that teachers feeling appreciated, comfortable, and well-paid is paramount to that goal. While believing in inclusion, diversity, and equity as a philosophy, he does not want to see the curriculum altered to solely drive that philosophy.

*Bruce Marien (R)* is a retired Amity teacher, a parent of three Amity graduates, and a product of public-school education. Despite being a registered Democrat, he is running on the Republican ticket, which speaks to his belief that the Board of Education should act as a non-political entity to provide the best possible public education to students. He is attuned to what is needed to prevent teachers from leaving the district: respect and competitive salaries. He believes in the principles of inclusion, diversity, and equity, but has concern that certain library materials stoke controversy more than they educate students.

*Sudhir Karunakaran (D - Incumbent)* is a Professor at the Yale School of Management and is a firm believer that public education should allow all students to access the resources needed to fulfill their highest potential. With his professional background, Sudhir has devoted significant time to improving Board communication with the community, especially with regards to transparency in budgeting and misinformation about Amity’s enrollment and rankings. He believes in teacher autonomy and seeks to devote more resources to professional development to enable Amity educators to continue to meet the changing needs of students.

*Patrick Reed (D - Incumbent)* is an education professional with over twenty years of experience. He fully recognizes and understands the monumental challenges that public education has faced over the last three years. Supporting teachers by creating an environment that values their contributions and provides them with the resources necessary to deliver high quality instruction and assessment is of utmost importance to Reed. Despite being discouraged to answer questions on teacher retention, Patrick Reed’s record suggests he is a staunch advocate for improving teacher salaries and working conditions. He understands that this is integral to bolstering student success and wellbeing.

To view full responses to our questionnaire, visit our website: aea5.org.



OPINION

From Marty Halprin

CANDIDATE FOR  
FIRST SELECTMAN



# Think Local, Vote Local, Vote Change

We’re approaching the close of our local election cycle. The focus should be on current and persistent Woodbridge issues. However, last month in her WTN column, Ellen Scalettar tried to insert presidential politics from two cycles ago into the discussion, in a poor attempt to distract voters from our town’s many challenges that have festered while local Democrats have been in charge.

Let me address Ms. Scallettar’s disingenuous statement. I have never been a registered Republican or Democrat; I have always been an Unaffiliated voter. I am honored to be running for First Selectman of my hometown and am heartened by the support I am receiving from many Woodbridge residents of all parties.

Let’s get back to the important issue here: addressing local problems. Like many residents, I have seen the stagnation of vital issues during the 18 consecutive years of local Democrat control which has led to the lack of resolution to the former Country Club of Woodbridge (CCW), the sixth highest mill rate in Connecticut, a deteriorating Beecher Road School building, and an Amity education system that is sinking in public rankings. Mica Cardozo served as Deputy First Selectman for four of these years and so bears some responsibility. Given this history, what should we do now? The surest way to get different results is to commit to a different path forward. Our politically diverse slate offers that path – focused on local issues and offering real solutions.

The former CCW has been badly handled since its purchase in 2009. The Democrat-controlled Board of Selectmen has been single minded in its plans for the property – develop the former CCW for housing. Residents have strongly objected, but their input regarding alternatives has been repeatedly ignored. The property, especially the clubhouse, has been left to deteriorate. Impartial data exploring our options has never been produced. In contrast, our Board of Selectmen (BOS) candidates Andrea Urbano, Javier Aviles, and David Vogel are committed to delivering data-driven decision making, transparency, and community engagement surrounding the property’s future, while focused

on alternatives to housing. With me they will lead a team that works hard to gather facts, engage residents, and finally achieve a fiscally responsible and environmentally responsible solution.

My fellow BOS candidates and I appreciate that many residents want a referendum vote on the annual Town budget. Together we will empanel a Charter Revision Commission to bring our local government into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We will be laser-focused on minimizing taxes. We will integrate the current piecemeal capital planning, and prioritize Beecher Road School’s campus needs.

Responsibility for the downward trend of Amity High School’s academics lies with the current Amity Board of Education (ABOE). Our ABOE candidates, Bruce Marien and Dan Del Prete, promise to focus on supporting teachers to execute improved curriculum and teaching methodologies for the benefit all students, with resulting improvements in rankings. Bruce is a former teacher at Amity – when its academic rankings were high – and Dan’s involvement in several local volunteer organizations along with his seven children in the school system demonstrate a tremendous commitment by both of these candidates to get Amity back on track.

We are fortunate to have incumbents Lynn Piascyk and Jeff Hughes running for the Woodbridge (Beecher) Board of Education. They have been on top of many important issues at the school. Lynn’s history is unmatched as a teacher and school board member while Jeff’s professional experience in building management benefits the effort to address Beecher’s campus challenges.

Our candidates for the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) offer an excellent mix of experience and fresh perspectives that the ZBA can certainly benefit from. Cynthia Gibbons and Christopher Dickerson share more than 20+ years of experience on ZBA while Cliff Lynch, Jr. and Jamie Nichol are first time candidates eager to serve Woodbridge. Both Cliff and Jamie are active volunteers in town and offer private-sector experience and common sense, as does our candidate for the Board of Assessment Appeals, Annitta Ingraham.

From Mica Cardozo

CANDIDATE FOR  
FIRST SELECTMAN



# Dear Woodbridge Friends and Neighbors

My name is Mica Cardozo. I am the Democratic candidate for First Selectman of our Town of Woodbridge and I’m asking for your vote.

I became a Democrat when I was asked to run as a Democratic candidate for the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen — a role I subsequently served in for two terms. It was an easy decision to transition from Unaffiliated because my values aligned with those of other local Democrats. These values include:

- › A belief in the critical importance of having experienced, transparent leaders who mean what they say.
- › A commitment to collaborative leadership that avoids ideological agendas and puts the wellbeing of our entire community at its center.
- › An obligation to protect what makes Woodbridge great—our schools, our natural beauty, our community spirit—while embracing the reality that a town frozen in time will not thrive.

I’ve had the pleasure of speaking with many of you over the past few months at community events or at your front doors. I’ve also sent campaign materials to your homes. Please know that I mean every single word of what I’ve said in person and in print. It’s time to take action, and with your support I will take action to:

- › Grow commercial activity in the Business District and support other reasonable opportunities to expand the economic base of our community to provide tax relief for homeowners.
- › End the Country Club logjam and ensure the solution serves to strengthen all aspects of our community.
- › Guarantee our high-performing schools continue to have the resources they need to educate the next generation of leaders.

Voters are welcome to read about additional town issues on the WoodbridgeGOP.com website. My running mates and I offer a fresh, open-minded, and collaborative approach as an alternative to what has become closed-door politics in Woodbridge. We must overcome the stagnant, exclusionary

- › Make certain that older adults have the opportunity to age in place in the community that they have nurtured and love.

This will not happen through a piecemeal, incremental approach. Woodbridge has evolved markedly over the past few years, as evidenced by our community’s robust real estate market, climbing school enrollment, and increasing diversity. We now have an opportunity to create solutions that build upon the positive connections between revenue growth and quality of life that did not exist before.

I understand how the Town works from 15 years of experience on our boards and commissions. But a First Selectman cannot do this alone. The ambitious action plan I want to implement as your First Selectman requires having a team of individuals with me who share my vision for the future of Woodbridge. Each one of these volunteer candidates shares my affection for what makes our community special and a belief that we can do even better. These include for:

- › Board of Selectman—Maria Madonick, Sheila McCreven, “Farmer” Steve Munno
- › Amity Board of Education—Sudhir Karunakaran, Patrick Reed
- › Woodbridge Board of Education—Steven Lawrence, Erin Williamson
- › Board of Assessment Appeals—Jeffery Ginzberg
- › Zoning Board of Appeals—Shawn Flynn, Kalman Watsky, Lauren Francese (Alternative)

In my recent letter to our community, I wrote that I believe Woodbridge is a town of exceptional people who deserve a local government that is no less exceptional. When you vote on November 7<sup>th</sup>, know that I mean every word.

Mica Cardozo, Democratic Candidate for First Selectman

politics that leave our town’s many challenges unresolved year after year. We ask you to think local, vote local, and vote change. Our politically diverse candidates are well-prepared for the tasks at hand. We would be honored to receive your vote on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

“I love voting day. I love the sight of my fellow citizens lining up to make their voices heard.” — BETH BRODERICK



I hope you are all enjoying the beauty of Autumn in Woodbridge!

I am proud to announce that the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States (GFOA) has once again awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Town of Woodbridge for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Thank you to our Director of Finance Anthony Genovese, our Department of Finance staff, and the Boards of Finance and Selectmen for once again achieving this most prestigious award.

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, the Town’s Ad Hoc Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI) hosted “Woodbridge Like Me Day,” a celebration of the people, cultural, and civic organizations that make Woodbridge the wonderful place that it is. I thank the DEI Committee for creating this event, and for providing a forum for Woodbridge residents to come together and learn more about our town and neighbors. The event was delightful and well attended despite the rainy day! Many thanks also to DEI Committee Co-Chairs Tahera Parvez and Ellen Scalettar for all their efforts, and special kudos to Jennifer Sullivan, Assistant Library Director, for her help coordinating the event.

Despite the very rainy conditions, the Recreation Department’s Annual Road Race was well-attended, with 83 of the 96 runners who signed up for the event, running the course, (including my daughter-in-law). This annual event supports The Resident Assistance Fund coordinated by Human Services and has benefited residents for twenty years. Congratulations to the Recreation Department for that well organized community event!

The dedication and naming ceremony for *The Karen A. Lombardi Woodbridge Regional Animal Shelter* was held last week. It was a lovely event honoring the contribution of a remarkable friend to our community and a true

*From the First Selectman* BY BETH HELLER



friend of all creatures, great and small. Donations are always welcome to the work that the **One Big Dog** charitable organization contributes to this remarkable asset to our community.

Thank you to the Human Services Department, which has already offered four vaccine clinics this season, providing over 250 vaccines to Woodbridge residents and Town employees. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 virus infection rate has been steadily rising again this fall. It is essential that our residents get vaccinated, especially those who are most vulnerable. The Human Services Department will host one more vaccine clinic on October 30<sup>th</sup> in the Center Building gymnasium. Please call the Human Services Department (203-389-3429) for further information or to make an appointment.

I am pleased to report that Governor Lamont has approved this year’s list of municipalities receiving state grants for local projects. The grants are provided through the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP). This year we applied for and were granted a \$500,000 grant for the completion of the Fire Department’s Training and Storage Facility. This will provide adequate storage for all apparatus and Fire Department response items currently being stored in the Old Firehouse as well as creating a proper training facility to enhance public safety. It is very important to have all equipment necessary to the volunteers on one side of Center Road. The relocation of fire equipment from the old firehouse synergizes nicely with the project to transform the Old Firehouse into a valuable Community and Cultural center for use by all Woodbridge residents.

Each year, the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association hosts the Truck or Treat event on Halloween (October 31<sup>st</sup>) at the Firehouse from 5 pm to 8 pm. It is a fun, safe way for families to enjoy this festive holiday. We look forward to this wonderful evening and thank all the volunteers for their efforts on behalf of every Woodbridge resident!

I am pleased to announce that at the October 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting, the Board approved an increase in the tax abatement for qualifying volunteer fire fighters. The increase is commensurate with state guidelines and follows the recommendations of the Board of Fire Commis-

sioners and the Woodbridge Ordinance Committee. This adjustment serves to attract and retain volunteers who are then able to protect our Town.

At the October 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen meeting, the Board also approved a construction bid and funding for the long-awaited renovation and repair of the Police Department’s Communications Center (Dispatch Center). The Communications Center will be temporarily relocated within the Police Department during the renovation.

With the fall weather, many more residents and visitors are taking advantage of our beautiful walking trails. Woodbridge has an Ordinance requiring dogs to be leashed while on Town trails ensuring a pleasant and safe experience for all. This ordinance is enforceable with a penalty of \$100.00 for the first offence and \$200.00 each for future offences.

The bi-annual DEA Drug Take-Back Day will be held on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Police Department entrance. This is a safe, convenient, and responsible way to dispose of prescription drugs. It should be noted that the Woodbridge Police Department does offer 24-hour access to safe drug disposal year-round.

The Town of Woodbridge will present Fair and Affordable Housing Policies on October 30 at 6:30 pm at the JCC. This program is offered by the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) to all members of Woodbridge’s commissions, committees, and town residents as well as all Land Use Officials.

**I am pleased to share the Good News from our School Districts!**

In recent Niche data, Amity High School scored an A in academics (only eight schools, seven of them from Fairfield County, scored a higher grade of A+). Amity students continue to excel in state and nationwide competitions. The Amity Math Team placed 1<sup>st</sup> (Large School Division) in the Connecticut State Association of Mathematics Leagues competition, beating long-time winner and rival Greenwich High School. Amity’s student newspaper, The Trident, was selected for the 1<sup>st</sup> place award for schools of between 1,000-1,700 students in the American Scholastic Press Association’s annual student newspaper competition. This is the second year in a row that The Trident was the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner. Ad-

ditionally, 27 out of 315 (nearly 9%) of seniors were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Competition as Semi-Finalists or Commended Scholars!

We are so pleased to share that Beecher Road School has been selected as an Apple Distinguished School for 2023–2026, a three-year designation and a very high world-wide honor. BRS staff are being recognized for innovation using Apple technology to inspire, imagine, and impact teaching and learning. This was a year-long, extensive application process for many folks, and a huge accomplishment for our district. This is one more recognition of the amazing creativity our staff and students display and how powerful we can be when we work together.

Beecher Road students in grades 3-6 participate in several statewide accountability assessments each spring, and the spring 2023 data was released at the very end of August. BRS students scored first in our District Reference Group B (DRG B) in the areas of language arts and mathematics. This is amazing! Our district is extremely proud of the achievement and growth exhibited by our learners, and as a very proud Superintendent, I want to extend my appreciation and to recognize the planning, creativity, relationship building, and hard work of each teacher and para-educator who come to this building every day on behalf of our learners, as well as to recognize every employee in this district who works together to help all learners grow and succeed. Everyone matters.

The Municipal Election will be held on **Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**. In-person voting is at the Center Gymnasium from 6 am to 8 pm. Absentee ballot applications are available and may be obtained from the Town Clerk’s office and are also available on the Town website. Absentee ballots are available now and may be completed by mail or in-person at the Town Clerk’s office. Contact the Town Clerk’s office at 203-389-3424 for further information or assistance.

I have just one more reminder for your calendars. Please do not forget that Veteran’s Day will be commemorated on Friday, November 10 in the Center Building gymnasium at 11 am. This is always a beautiful event. I hope you will all take time out to attend, and honor our veterans.

As always, my door remains open to you. If you need to reach me, please call 203-389-3401 or email me at bheller@woodbridgect.org to chat or ask for an appointment.

“Voting is how we participate in a civic society - be it for president, be it for a municipal election. It's the way we teach our children - in school elections - how to be citizens, and the importance of their voice.” — LORETTA LYNCH



# ELECTION 2023 - SAMPLE BALLOT

State of Connecticut  
Official Ballot

Woodbridge, ConnecticutMunicipal ElectionNovember 7, 2023

Sheet 1 of 1

OFFICE PARTY	1 FIRST SELECTMAN VOTE FOR ONE	2	3 BOARD OF SELECTMEN VOTE FOR UP TO THREE	4	5 BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR UP TO TWO	6	7 BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS VOTE FOR ONE	8 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS VOTE FOR UP TO TWO	9	10 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS ALTERNATE VOTE FOR UP TO TWO	11	12 REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR UP TO TWO	13
	1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A	8A	9A	10A	11A	12A	13A
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	MICA CARDOZO	STEVE MUNNO	SHEILA MCCREVEN	MARIA MADONICK	ERIN WILLIAMSON	STEVEN LAWRENCE	JEFFREY GINZBERG	SHAWN FLYNN	KALMAN WATSKY	LAUREN FRANCESE		PATRICK REED	SUDIR KARUNAKARAN
REPUBLICAN PARTY	MARTY HALPRIN	ANDREA URBANO	DAVID VOGEL	JAVIER AVILES	LYNN PIASCYK	JEFF HUGHES	ANNITTA L. INGRAHAM	CLIFFORD LYNCH JR.	CYNTHIA GIBBONS	JAIME NICHOL	CHRISTOPHER DICKERSON	BRUCE A. MARIEN	DANIEL DEL PRETE
WRITE-IN VOTES	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C	13C

## Important Voter Information for the 2023 Municipal Election — November 7

The 2023 Municipal Election will take place Tuesday, November 7 in the Center Building gym between 6 am - 8 pm. The Registrars of Voters want to remind eligible Woodbridge voters of important dates.

Beginning October 6, Absentee Ballots will be available. You may fill out an Absentee Ballot application online

at <https://oabr-sots.ct.gov/OABR/absenteeBallotReqPortalHome.do>. You may also download an application at <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Absentee-Voting> which can be completed and mailed to the Town Clerk. You can also visit the Town Clerks office in person and complete an application

and receive an Absentee Ballot.

October 31 is the last day to register to vote. Register online via <https://voterregistration.ct.gov> (by 11:59 pm) or by mail (must be postmarked by October 31). Mail-in registration may be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office located in Town Hall.

On November 6 limited in-person

registration will take place for voters whose qualifications relating to age, citizenship, or residence were attained since October 31. Registration will take place at the Office of the Registrars in Town Hall between 9 am and 5 pm. Please contact the Registrars with questions at [registrars@woodbridgect.org](mailto:registrars@woodbridgect.org) or 203-389-3409.

# ELECTION 2023 - FROM OUR READERS

### In Support of Javier Aviles for Board of Selectmen

Javier Aviles is a kind and generous neighbor. In the years that we have known Javi, he has demonstrated his care and investment in both our little neighborhood and Woodbridge in general. Prior to his candidacy, Javi has expressed concern for issues close to us, including the safety of our children and pedestrians on Woodbridge's roads and for the future of the Woodbridge Country Club property. We are happy to vote for Javier Aviles for the Board of Selectmen and trust that he will bring his neighborliness and his care and concern for Woodbridge and its community members with him as he serves.

Ryan and Kathleen Mills

### Vote for Andrea Urbano for the Board of Selectmen

I have known Andrea Urbano, a candidate for the Board of Selectmen, for her entire life. Born and raised in Woodbridge, she has been an engaged member of the community since her youth and is well suited to address Woodbridge's needs as a Board of Selectmen member. After graduating

from the Beecher and Amity school system, she left Connecticut and attained her BS in Environmental Conservation and Political Science and her MS in Carbon Forestry. Andrea did not settle here for the school system like so many other residents, but in fact, is a product of it. She works as a supervisor at CT's Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection's Forestry Division where she is tasked with developing, implementing, and overseeing programs that benefit private and municipal woodland owners statewide. She remains in the Town she loves to raise her family, with both daughters currently attending Beecher. Andrea grew up experiencing firsthand the evolution of issues that have arisen in Woodbridge over the past thirty or so years. She is an active, involved citizen. She is a founding member and serves as the Vice Chair of Woodbridge's Agriculture Commission and serves as board member on the Woodbridge Park Association. It is at the Park Association meetings that I have witnessed Andrea's clarity of thought, youthful energy, insight, and knowledge. She listens, she thinks, and is not bound to partisan politics

or positions. She is a natural leader and will foster the change Woodbridge so desperately needs. Please consider supporting Andrea Urbano, a woman born, raised, and remaining in Woodbridge. She is better for Woodbridge and better for you.

Georgia Morgan

### Marty Halprin Will Deliver Results

First Selectman candidate Mica Cardozo has listed several good ideas for Woodbridge in his campaign literature. My question is: why didn't he deliver – or at least actively push for any of those ideas - during the four years he was Deputy First Selectman? He has been using his prior position to promote his candidacy, but when he had the job, he delivered none of the initiatives he now promotes.

We needed nearly everything he is now promoting during the years he was in office as Deputy First Selectman. He had his chance to deliver and simply didn't. I fear these good ideas will remain just ideas if he gets another bite at the apple. I think Woodbridge needs fresh leadership. Marty Halprin is the man for the job; he will champion

key initiatives and I'm confident he will actually deliver. Please join me in voting for Marty for First Selectman.

Matt Schwartz

### "Farmer Steve" Munno for Board of Selectmen

I whole heartedly endorse "Farmer Steve" Munno for a position on the Board of Selectmen. Steve is one of the most energetic, smart, and hard-working Woodbridge citizens whom I know. As the original development director of Massaro Community Farm, I witnessed, firsthand the truly miraculous job Steve did to jump start the rejuvenation of this abandoned 57-acre parcel.

Steve's leadership experience extends beyond Woodbridge. He served as Board President of the Connecticut Northeast Organic Farming Association (CT NOFA) from 2018-2023. I'm confident Steve will help devise workable solutions for addressing the re-use of the Woodbridge Country Club, maintaining our great schools and fostering civil, bi-partisan public conversations. Steve currently serves as both the Executive Director and

See "Election Letters" On Page 9



# ELECTION 2023 - FROM OUR READERS

*“Election Letters” From Page 8*

Farm Director at Massaro. He lives in the community with his wife and two children, and his school-age daughter attends Beecher Road School.  
*Jonathan Gorham*

**Mica Cardozo for First Selectman**

I’m writing to express my support of Mica Cardozo for First Selectman. My family has known the Cardozo’s since our children met nearly 20 years ago. Mica is one of the most sincere, open-minded, and pragmatic people I know. I can think of no one better suited to lead our town. Not only does Mica have extensive experience in town government, but he also genuinely has the best interests of the Town of Woodbridge at heart. Throughout many years of friendship, Mica has demonstrated the admirable ability to truly listen and consider issues from varying viewpoints. He delivers his own opinions thoughtfully and respectfully. This is the kind of thinker and leader I would like to see more of in government today. In these times of profoundly divisive politics, you will always find Mica on the ‘high road,’ seeking to build consensus and cooperation even in the most difficult situations. He is forthright in his beliefs and makes informed decisions with intellect and common sense. Mica Cardozo is a leader who will bring our community together and act upon our shared vision for Woodbridge. His personal attributes, as well as his extensive experience and collaborative nature, make him uniquely qualified to be a successful leader for our community. Please consider Mica Cardozo for First Selectman.  
*Suzanne Werth*

**Halprin Will Give Us His Very Best**

I’m writing to support Marty Halprin for First Selectman. I have known Marty for over 16 years. I have worked with and seen Marty in business settings and have gained a deep respect for him. He is a fair-minded, clear-thinking professional who respects people and provides leadership without a heavy hand. He is someone I trust to act fairly, and never shy away from asking the tough questions. Marty will hit the ground running, ready to go on day one given his extensive involvement with the town he was born and raised in. He understands and deeply cares about the town’s needs. He will give us his very best without using “politics” as a crutch or hindrance. As a long-time unaffiliated voter, he will be inclusive, determined, and forthright. He will bring forth a new era of bipartisanship. Marty Halprin will be an excellent First Selectman!

*Brooke Hopkins*

**Elect Steve Munno**

We have known Steve Munno through his steadfast dedication to our unique community farm for nearly 15 years. Massaro Farm is a Woodbridge treasure, and we owe its success in very large part to the skill and leadership of Steve Munno. As the Farm Director of Massaro Farm since its inception in 2009, Steve has been a tireless steward of the land and an inspiration to the many young farmers he is helping to educate and train. His hard work and community building is well-known. Steve is a careful listener and is skillful at finding common ground. He has been a statewide leader in farming and agricultural organizations. Moreover, he has been instrumental in making Massaro Farm an important part of what makes Woodbridge the terrific town that it is. We are grateful that Steve agreed to bring his intellect, skill, and dedication to the Town level and we urge our fellow Woodbridge voters to elect Steve Munno on November 7<sup>th</sup>.  
*Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim*

**Founding Members of WDPC Endorse Cardozo**

As founding members of the Woodbridge Dog Park Cooperative, we wholeheartedly endorse Mica Cardozo for First Selectman. Mica’s guidance and cooperative spirit were essential to our efforts in wending our way through the challenging approval process. His steadfast support was a crucial factor in the successful creation of the first community dog park in Woodbridge – which has quickly become one of the most popular assets of our Town. We witnessed Mica’s ability to listen to all sides of the issues, and we were especially and continuously impressed by his integrity and respect for others. Mica’s impressive team for Board of Selectmen also includes Sheila McCreven, who, in her role as Woodbridge Communications Director, provided valuable expertise and encouragement to our small group of dog park founders – leading to a positive outcome. We urge our fellow residents to vote for Mica Cardozo for First Selectman along with his very qualified “A team” on November 7.  
*Bonnie Blake, Ramie Ackley, and Deena Myers*

**Halprin is a Man of True Character**

I appeal to you, no matter what your party affiliation, to vote for Marty Halprin, a man of true character. Having known Marty for seven years, I am sure that he will be an outstanding First Selectman. Here’s why: For Marty, keeping our community members

and children safe is a calling. About five years ago, there were a number of threats towards Jewish schools and synagogues. Marty was integral in installing additional security measures at Ezra Academy. As in his firefighting career, he acted decisively and got the job done quickly. Marty is unselfish and happily assists those in need. Soon after moving into town, we noticed a leak in our ceiling. We asked Marty for a plumber recommendation. Instead, he drove right over and spent 4 hours exposing and fixing the leak. Why does my silly leak matter? Well, if you know how much care he took to fix our little leak, it is easy to see that he will bring the same dedication and attention to running our town. Imagine what he will do to fix the infrastructure issues at Beecher Road School! Fixing BRS is part of his platform, and you can believe it when he says it will get done. I know that Marty will serve unselfishly and decisively, always keeping the best interest of our town and our kids in mind. He has my vote, and I hope he has yours as well.  
*Brittany Branson, MD*

**Mica Cardozo – A Man of the Highest Integrity**

As all who know or have met Mica Cardozo are aware, he is a man of the highest integrity. When Mica tells you who he is, what he stands for and what he will do as First Selectman, you can go to the bank on it. I worked closely with Mica in his role on the Board of Selectmen to address various Town projects and I can personally attest to this ability to get things done by listening to all voices and bringing people together. He is an extraordinary man and we will be fortunate to have Mica lead our Town as First Selectman. I cannot help but contrast Mica with his Republican opponent who has not been as forthright and transparent as one might hope. First, he claims objectivity by being an unaffiliated candidate, suggesting no connection with MAGA and Trump. Yet he publicly touted his Trump vote in 2016, and he reluctantly admitted to persistent questions from Woodbridge voters that he voted for Trump again in 2020. Second, he refuses to engage in a public forum with Mica. An Amity High School student club worked diligently to have the two candidates speak before Woodbridge students and voters. After first agreeing, the Republicans changed their mind, leaving the students with no way to officially notify the public. Mica stood outside the High School at the appointed time and talked with voters who arrived. Woodbridge voters deserve to know their candidates in a comparative public forum. Mica’s experience in Town, his business background and his highest

standards of honesty and integrity will make him an extraordinary First Selectman.  
*Dick Blackwell*

**Proud to Support Cynthia Gibbons for Zoning Board of Appeals**

We support Cynthia Gibbons for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Cynthia is both a lifelong resident of Woodbridge and current Zoning Board of Appeals member. She has expertly fulfilled her role in this position and as former Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Professionally Cynthia is Director of Finance/Business Operations for Post Acute Services with Yale New Haven Health System. Her strong business foundation and previous experience with the board make her the ideal candidate. She is ready to seamlessly continue serving Woodbridge. Cynthia has the experience and commitment to uphold the strong values of Woodbridge. She is dedicated to carrying on her role and we can’t think of a better person to do so. She is clever, engaged and dynamic and just what our town needs to be a place we are all honored to call home. Without hesitation, we strongly encourage you to support Cynthia Gibbons for the Zoning Board of Appeals.  
*Josephine and Kerry Shamaly*

**The Need for Open Dialogue**

I have had several conversations with Mica Cardozo and am struck by his willingness to listen and to consider all sides of complex issues. It is quite clear that when it comes to the Country Club of Woodbridge (CCW), he will be eager to reach out to those holding different opinions in order to build consensus. I have read and studied the “Ten Top Reasons to Preserve the Former Country Club of Woodbridge” with a great deal of skepticism, thought and concern. While not doubting the veracity of the many facts presented, I question the weight of the argument. It pales in comparison to the urgent needs of our community and the primary reasons to consider this property for opportunity housing. During the public comments at a recent Affordable Housing Committee meeting, Alana Rosenberg said, “It is disheartening to see so much resistance to the proposal to use a segment of the Country Club of Woodbridge while also preserving open space for town use, even in the face of a lawsuit as we use town resources fighting the right of people from lower economic opportunities to live in our town.” She further stated, “There aren’t many times in life when the ethics of a situation are as clear cut as this one.”  
*See “Election Letters” On Page 10*



ELECTION 2023 - FROM OUR READERS

“Election Letters” From Page 9

We all appreciate open space and understand the importance of it, but in light of the fact that we own 155 acres of land with public water and sewer, surely, we can devote 30 of those acres to opportunity housing. There are seniors who want to downsize, those who work in town but cannot afford to live here, young families just starting out, hardworking cost burdened individuals, among others who will benefit from a much-needed change in our outdated housing policies. Mica Cardozo is undoubtedly the candidate who will best facilitate this conversation and move us forward.

Elaine Feldman

Endorsement for Dave Vogel

My wife and I have been residents of Woodbridge since 1991. We raised our two sons here, and truly love the town. Every interaction that I have had with Woodbridge departments including the Police Department, Public Works, & the Building Department have been first rate.

However, I have some concerns. The lack of progress by the town leadership while the exquisite property of what was once the Woodbridge Country Club decays is extremely concerning.

One of my sons went through the Woodbridge school system graduating Amity High in 2014. The Woodbridge/Amity School system was one of the major reasons we moved to Woodbridge originally. Our experience during those years was very good.

Over the recent years, some of my friends whose children more recently graduated from our system have not had the same quality experience. The concerns I have heard about center on academic excellence taking a back seat. (A recent survey shows Amity High School’s ranking in Connecticut falling from #28 in 2022-23 to #39 in 2023-24).

We no longer have children in the school system. What concerns me though is not only my land values, but future generations of my family (should they choose to live in Woodbridge) who may attend schools in town.

Despite being a registered Democrat, these are some of the reasons I am supporting Dave Vogel for the Board of Selectmen. I have known Dave for over 10 years. His views for the future of this town not only align with mine, but he is smart, hard-working, and passionate about making our town the very best it can be.

Michael Weiner

Vote Row B

Drive by the Town Line Farm on Baldwin Road and you can’t help but be quieted by the magnificent pastoral scene. The farm was recently threatened by intensive development. Ellen Scalletar, then First Selectman and now Democratic Town Committee Chairman met with town residents who sought her help to save it. Scalletar flatly refused.

Undaunted, those residents worked with the farm owners, the Land Trust, the Connecticut Farmland Trust, and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture to protect the 85 acres. Now the farm will be a source of food and peace for the community forever.

Drive by the golf course (I live a short walk from it). That same administration is trying to force housing on the property. Imagine it intensively developed. Housing will increase taxes, traffic, and noise, strain the school system, and degrade the town’s quality of life. Or it can continue to be a peaceful haven for wildlife and people.

To save it we must change the administration, whose agenda is driven by Hartford and Washington DC ideologies, instead of by We the People. Vote local. VOTE ROW B.

Blake Cramer

Vote Andrea Urbano

I’ve been a neighbor in our beautiful town for over six years. My two kids go to Beecher, we go to summer concerts on the green, and this Halloween, we will attend the Woodbridge Fire Department’s Truck-or-Treat (with their amazing bonus fireworks display). We have relatives in other parts of CT and New England, but we chose this town to raise our family. And, of course, no town is perfect. There will always be room for improvement.

While there is so much to love, I, like so many of you, have been frustrated by high taxes and an old country club that continues to remain in limbo after all these years, among other challenges. There are solutions to these issues, solutions that appeal to the townspeople, so why haven’t we seen progress? Aren’t we teaching collaboration and decision making in our schools? Shouldn’t we aim to model these qualities in real time? Well, I will model this for my children by voting for change.

I will vote for Andrea Urbano for Board of Selectmen. A farmer and environmental steward, her education in conservation and forestry, her leadership and strategic planning skills, and her dedication to not only Woodbridge, but our state of Connecticut as a professional public servant are

more than enough to qualify her as a top candidate for this role. I met this wonderful woman through Beecher a few years ago when both our eldest kids were in the same third grade class. Within a week, she was sharing vegetables from her farm and inviting me for walks on local trails. I found out soon after that in her spare time she advocates for transparency around local issues, hosting meetings at our library to share knowledge and ideas of what’s going on behind the scenes.

Cut to 2023, in addition to her full-time job, two kids, and farmstand, she spends her free time campaigning for change, chatting and connecting with residents, just bursting with positivity and action. I am awestruck. This is the person I want at the table helping make decisions for our town. I trust Andrea Urbano to meet our modern needs without compromising Woodbridge’s historic and rural integrity. I trust her to make a better Woodbridge.

Sylvia Pessin

Make the Election a “Referendum”,

In 2021, over 300 Woodbridge residents petitioned the Board of Selectmen to hold a referendum on the country club property. We believed it was time for the people to decide the issue. It’s bad enough – if not maleficence – that the administration sat on the clubhouse site for 15 years instead of selling and restoring it to the tax rolls. But to subsidize housing developers with town-owned land only adds insult to injury.

Though the administration didn’t honor our petition, we can make the coming election a referendum on the 145 undeveloped acres. We have to dislodge the grasp the present administration has on the property. Let’s take hold of the chance to better our town and relieve the taxpayer. It’s time for change.

James Urbano

Amity Parents Express Gratitude

As parents of Amity students, we are writing to express our gratitude to Sudhir Karunakaran and Patrick Reed for their dedication to our children and educators and for their effectiveness on the Amity Board of Education. We value Amity’s rigorous curriculum that prepares our children for top colleges and universities.

Sudhir supports Amity’s academic excellence and reminds us that Amity has excelled as measured by state assessment and standardized tests. We have benefited from his professional expertise in data science as he explains

the fallacies of the negative narratives being pushed about Amity.

Patrick’s background as a school psychologist enables him to support Amity’s strengths, while identifying areas where student needs could be better met. He has worked to assure appropriate supports for teachers and staff and opportunities for all children to succeed.

In stark contrast, we are dismayed by the Republican candidates’ misleading information and negative commentary about Amity. It undermines our schools, our teachers and the education of our children. Their goals of policing the curriculum to fit their agenda and restricting access to books celebrating diversity in the school library are all too reminiscent of the language of the far-right Moms for Liberty, a national far-right group making its presence felt in Connecticut.

We have the responsibility and the opportunity to take a firm stand for continued excellence at Amity. Please join us to re-elect Sudhir Karunakaran and Patrick Reed to the Amity Board of Education.

Julie Katz, Karen Sklarz, Elizabeth Hull, Judi Young, Ke Xu and Oscar Fornoles, Lauren Cohen, Ruche Srivastava and Slavek Mejnartowicz, Tahera and Riz Parvez, Sumithra Sudhir, Yonatan Zamir and Claire Coleman, Loredana Cirillo, Padmaja and Saurabh Vilekar, Scott and Joi Prud’homme, Atul and Shamlee Kulkarni, Linda Christy

Amity High School Outstanding

It perplexes me why recent opinion articles and advertisements by the Republican candidates have bashed Amity Regional High School. As a parent of a current student, I can attest that the school is outstanding. There has not been a cut back in AP or honors classes offered and the school has only improved under the direction of our new Principal Mr. Andre Hauser and our Superintendent Dr Jennifer Byers. Our school is more than just the US News ranking. It has a dedicated Guidance team and so many exceptional teachers and coaches. We have top flight Art and Theater Departments. Unfortunately, the school had to cut an Art teacher this year and we have not seen the support for the reasonable funding requests the past few years for those who have complained about the school. Amity and Beecher Schools in Woodbridge are the main reason why my family moved here. We must continue to be supportive and appreciative of how great our schools are.

Marjorie Kanyusik MD



# When Should Children Trick-or-Treat Without Adult Supervision?

Kids go through many rites of passage throughout childhood. There is the first time they go to school and leave parents behind for several hours per day. Another rite is sleeping over at a friend or family member's house or even summer camp. Still another may be being allowed to attend a movie alone with a friend. Small rites of passage signify a child is getting older and is ready for more responsibility and trust. Such may be the case when parents conclude that their children are ready to engage in Halloween fun without an adult chaperone.

There is no set age when a child can walk around the neighborhood trick-or-treating unattended. Just as with other tests of responsibility,

such as staying home alone or being able to ride bikes with friends, it is up to parents to gauge their youngsters' readiness. Halloween for older children often is less about candy and more about hanging out with friends. Therefore, parents probably needn't worry that their kids will be traveling solo since a large group of children will likely be visiting homes together. Many parents find that anywhere between ages 11 and 13 are good times to let their children go trick-or-treating with friends. However, this decision may be based on several factors.

Time of day: It's best to limit a first time trick-or-treating without parents to daylight hours. What looks familiar during the day may be less familiar af-

ter sunset. It's generally safer for kids to be out and about before night falls.

Other participants: Parents should weigh the personalities of their kids' friends as well. For those who are assured that others in the group are mature and responsible, there's no need to continue to clip the proverbial wings of trick-or-treaters. But if parents are leery of any shenanigans that may take place, it may be better to wait things out a little longer.

The neighborhood: Is the area relatively safe with limited vehicle traffic? If so, then parents may feel more comfortable letting kids on the younger range of that age spectrum trick-or-treat without them. Urban neighborhoods or ones where houses

are separated by a lot of land may warrant some adult supervision.

Constant contact: Parents who utilize GPS apps to keep tabs on their children's whereabouts may feel more comfortable letting them trick-or-treat with friends. These apps will show exactly where the child is at the time and can trace the route kids take. Many children get smartphones while young, which can alleviate concerns about getting in touch or keeping track of kids left to their own devices.

When to let kids go out trick-or-treating without adults is a decision each family needs to make based on their unique circumstances and preferences.

## Transform Your Home into a Haunted House

Many transformations occur during the month of October. Leaves begin to turn various shades of orange and red, while the weather gets decidedly cooler. In the meantime, neighborhoods across the country begin to look quite different, with many homes decked out in the garish garb of Halloween.

The National Retail Federation together with Prosper Insights & Analytics reports that decorating one's home for Halloween is the second most popular way to celebrate the holiday. Only purchasing and sharing candy beats out home decor. Individuals spend billions collectively on Halloween each year, and one of the ways they can have some frightening fun is by transforming a regular, unassuming home into a haunted house. There are certain necessities to turn a an otherwise typical home into a suddenly spooky abode.

**Scene setter:** Start with a scene setter if you would like to decorate both inside and out. Scene setters are plastic or paper backdrops that can be tacked up on walls to make a house look completely different, particularly under low light. A scene setter is an investment of time and money, but it can be reused each year and really make a room take on a new look quickly.

**Lawn graveyard:** Visitors to the home who have to step through a graveyard will know there are more scares ahead. It's relatively easy to make your own grave markers from wood or foam. If you're not handy, you can purchase them from a Halloween



supply store. Disturb the earth by the markers to make visitors believe each grave is fresh. A bony hand sticking out of the dirt or some wilted flowers placed by the graves also can set the scene.

**Floating candles:** Simulate the look of levitating candles with an easy craft. Take toilet paper or paper towel cardboard tubes and use hot glue on the top to make it look like beads of dripping wax. Paint the tubes with white chalk paint, as this type of paint is thick and covers easily. Glue a battery-powered tea light to the top for the wick. Poke a hole through both sides of the tube and thread some fishing line through. Use your mounting device of choice to attach the fishing line to the ceiling indoors or outside to hang each candle. When the lights are dim, it's very difficult to see the fishing line and the candles will appear to be floating.

**Haunted archway:** Make an arch using PVC pipes, and thread jack-o'-lanterns or papier mâché heads or masks through to create an ominous arch that greets visitors.

**Handprints:** Use window-safe paint to create bloody handprints on the inside of windows. This is a design touch that will enhance both the interior and exterior of the windows.

**Fog machine:** Use a fog machine to spread a creepy mist where you need it, whether on a front porch or indoors.

Haunted houses come together with various design touches that are easy to execute.

### "Voter Education" From Page 1

the Woodbridge Country Club property; to initiate a charter revision and adopt the town budget by referendum; to propose tax abatements for senior citizens; and more.

Mica Cardozo, the Democratic candidate for First Selectman, meanwhile has his own list of priorities. On his website, <https://www.micacardozo.com/micas-plan> he lists first and foremost a "2030 Plan," to create a thriving commercial district. He also pledges to work to solve the Country Club conundrum, which has divided the town for many years. Recognizing that "Education has been an engine of success for our community," Cardozo pledges to establish a strong partnership with both Beecher Road School and Amity. Plus, he lists a Green Energy sustainability plan among the areas he wants to work on. "My goal is to develop a sustainability plan that leverages renewable energy opportunities for our Town and evaluates recycling and composting options."

In addition, the election to the Amity Regional Board of Education has generated a lot of interest, given that there are a lot of new names on the ballot, in particular in Orange – which may change the makeup of the board in significant ways. There are several sources to learn about these candidates. The Amity Allies site was pulled together by Orange Democrat Robert Lim: <https://www.amityallies.org/voter-guide/woodbridge>. Unfortunately, the Orange Republican candidates did not contribute to this effort. However, some personal statements can be found on the website of the Orange Republican Town Committee.

All four of the Woodbridge candidates, the two Democratic incumbents as well as two candidates on the Republican ticket, submitted responses. As your cursor hovers over the picture of the candidate, you can click on it to read their responses. Bruce Marien, a Democrat, is running on the Republican ticket, mainly, so he said, "because that was the only slot available." Truth be told, his assessment of the current leadership at Amity does align with the Republican party, in particular his concern that Amity has slipped in the standings, compared to other Connecticut schools.

Democrats like Dr. Sudhir Karunakaran, an incumbent on the Amity board, have pushed back, saying the information was inaccurate and based on outdated information. Amity is in fact among the top 20 schools, he showed in great detail. This debate plays out on both the RTC and the WDTC websites.

New this year is a voter's guide published by the national League of Women Voters, called [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org). The local branch, the Amity League of Women Voters, swung into action and contacted local candidates for the First Selectman spot, the Board of Selectmen and the Amity Board of Education. It took some searching to find the local page, but once there, the reader can see all the responses to the same question side-by-side.

Given the retirement of First Selectman Beth Heller, along with three of the five currently serving selectmen, Woodbridge is entering a new era of town government, and voters have a chance to give direction in what is important to them. A few moments of Internet research are well worth the effort.

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



# HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



## Our Lady of Assumption Christmas Bazaar and Craft Fair

The Ladies Guild of Our Lady of the Assumption, 81 Center Road, Woodbridge, is hosting a CHRISTMAS BAZAAR and CRAFT FAIR on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 9am - 3pm.

Over 35 crafters, a fabulous Bake Sale, a White Elephant Sale, Children's Craft Activities, Meet Santa from 11-2, Generous Raffle Baskets, and Breakfast and Lunch will be served by the Knights of Columbus. Christmas trains will be running all day!

The Children's Choir will also perform!

## Document Shredding Event at Temple Beth Sholom

**Date:** October 29, 2023  
**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. Questions? Email fundraising@tbshamden.com.

Come early! Once the truck is full the event is over!

Temple Beth Sholom is an egalitarian conservative synagogue with over 350 member families and singles from the Greater New Haven community.

## Congregation Beth El - Keser Israel Events

### Elm City Kallah

On Saturday, October 28, Maharat Rori Picker Neiss will speak at BEKI as part of the weekend Kallah. Her topic is "But My Ineffable Name I Did Not Make Known," asking what this name is, what it signifies, and what is it to "know" God.



Picker Neiss serves as Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis, Missouri and is chair of the cabinet of Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis. She is a David Hartman Center fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America and a CLAL Rabbis Without Borders fellow.

She will also speak on October 27 at Westville Synagogue and October 29 at Congregation B'nai Jacob. Elm City Kallah is made possible by generous grants from the James M. Shure Educational Fund and the Greater New Haven Jewish Federation.

### Green Team Event

Energize CT Home Energy Audits will be the focus of a BEKI Zoom program at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, November 1, arranged by BEKI's Green Team. These "energy check-up" audits are free or low-cost to Connecticut renters and homeowners, subsidized by rate-payers at UI and Eversource. Auditors review insulation, weather-sealing, heating & cooling, lighting and other systems, fixing small issues on the spot, and identifying subsidies and rebates available to support larger improvements over time. Speakers will include one of Connecticut's top-rated auditors, Michelle Long, along with two BEKI members who have benefited from the audits. Email office@beki.org to request the Zoom link.

### Celebrating Gender Diversity

Rabbi Dr. Jay Michaelson will speak on BEKI Zoom Wednesday, November 15 at 7:30 pm on the topic "Celebrating Gender Diversity in Jewish Tradition, Values, and Theology." While our current understandings of gender may be recent, the phenomenon of gender non-conformity is found throughout Jewish history, Biblical

text, and even theology. Coming to appreciate what's not new about the gender spectrum can help us be more informed congregants today. Michaelson is a political commentator, a rabbi, and the author of nine books including the bestselling God vs. Gay? The Religious Case for Equality. He holds a JD from Yale Law School and a PhD from Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Email office@beki.org to request the Zoom link.

### Fair Trade Hanukkah Gelt

As part of the congregation's continued commitment to ethically-sourced products, all chocolate served at BEKI carries certification that it has been screened against child slavery. For the 5<sup>th</sup> year, BEKI is bulk ordering fair trade chocolate Hanukkah candy coins, either milk or dark chocolate. Orders are due by November 19. For more information, email office@beki.org or call 203.389.2108 x 114.

### Children's Programs

Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, and Junior Congregation, all led by parent or grandparent volunteers, meet each Saturday. For more information, consult Education Director Annie Norman-Schiff at anormanschiff@beki.org.



### Youth Group

BEKI's Kadima youth group, for students in grades 4 through 8, offers a chance for tweens and grade schoolers to make new Jewish friends and have a lot of fun. Kadima started off the year with blueberry picking at Bishop's Orchards. The next events are a November 12 ropes course program and a Hanukkah party on December 9. Contact anormanschiff@beki.org for more information.

### Study with the Rabbi

Rabbi Eric Woodward leads a discussion of the weekly Torah portion on Thursdays. Talmud class meets Sunday, November 19 and other select Sundays.



Details at beki.org.

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

Woodbridge Town News

ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

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# HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



## Shir Magic 2023 at Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven

On Saturday, November 4 at 7:00 pm, Temple Emanuel presents Shir Magic, the annual musical celebration honoring the memory of our late Rabbi Emeritus, Jerry Brieger, z”l. Elana Arian will headline the concert, accompanied by the Temple Emanuel Band.

Tickets, which can be purchased on the TE website, [www.tegnh.org](http://www.tegnh.org), or at the door, are \$25 for adults, \$15 for teens and free for kids 12 and under.

Elana Arian is a composer, multi-instrumentalist and prayer leader. One of the leading voices in contemporary Jewish music, her compositions are sung in spiritual communities, synagogues and summer camps all over the world. She serves on the faculty of Hava Nashira, the Wexner Heritage Foundation, Shirei Chagiga as well as the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in New York.

Raised in many styles of music including classical, jazz and folk, Elana studied conducting, violin, jazz guitar and songwriting at Yale. She performs as a soloist, as a studio musician and with a wide variety of artists including Peter Yarrow, the Dirty Projectors

and Catie Curtis. She has appeared in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Tanglewood and the White House, and in the pit orchestra for several Broadway shows. She recently released her fourth album of original music, *The Other Side of Fear*.

Established in 2009, the TE Band has become an integral part of the musical fabric of Temple Emanuel. The musicians, ranging in age from middle school to retired folks, and ranging in ability from intermediate students to professionals, represent a wonderful cross section of the TE community. The band, directed by Laurel Shader, plays at Kabbalat Shabbat services several times each year and at various special events and celebrations. The band’s repertoire includes traditional melodies and contemporary tunes arranged by Laurel Shader and Anna Zonderman.

For more information about Shir Magic and all events, celebrations and services at Temple Emanuel, please go to the TE website: [www.tegnh.org](http://www.tegnh.org), or call the temple office at 203-397-3000. Temple Emanuel is located at 150 Derby Ave. in Orange.

## The First Church of Christ, Woodbridge

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

### Interim Minister

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

### Kid’s Church at First Church!

Families meet at the church at 10:00 and at 10:10 the children are walked over to the Parish House for Kid’s Church by Forest Vandeflor, our project leader for children’s ministries, along with an adult volunteer. This is a great time for the children while their parents are at the worship service! We’ve also added a fabulous new program: Picture the Bible that has already been a great success here at First Church!

### Weekly Bible Study

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

### Boy Scout Troop 907

Troop 907, chartered by First Church, has an active upcoming schedule. This includes working with the town of Woodbridge and other Woodbridge troops with the annual “Scouting for Food” which occurs on Saturday, October 28 from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Please donate non-perishable food items. Troop 907 will be assisting at the Our Lady of the Assumption church annual Holiday Bazaar on November 11. The Woodbridge Veterans Day ceremony is also on November 11 and the scouts will be participating. Recently scouts and adult leaders helped with Woodbridge Camp Whiting maintenance work on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>; troop 907 uses this town-owned camp twice a year every year. The troop recently hiked Sleeping Giant State Park as a “shakedown” hike also on October 14<sup>th</sup>, before the upcoming Appalachian Trail hike, see the photos.

Troop 907 is an active a vibrant troop and is always welcoming new scouts. Feel free to stop by the usual troop meetings at the First Church Parish House, rear entrance, on Thursday evenings at 7:00 to check us out. Annual rechartering is underway, this is an excellent time to welcome new scouts and adult leaders! More at

[troop907.org](http://troop907.org).  
*Rich Forselius – Troop 907 Committee Chair/Chartered Organization Representative*

### Upcoming Events Monster Bash

*Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup> @ Parish Hall, 5 Meeting House Lane, Woodbridge from 3-4:30PM*  
Join us in your costumes for our spooky family event. There will be plenty of tricks and treats at Parish Hall.



**Valerie Tutson**  
*Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> @ Parish Hall, 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge 1:30-3:00PM*

Award-winning Storyteller Valerie Tutson is coming to Woodbridge. Join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and an hour of spirited stories by Valerie Tutson.

### 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](mailto:office@uccw.org).*

### Office Hours

The Church office in the Parish House is open from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

### Join the FCCW Choir!

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

### For More Information

Visit our website at [www.uccw.org](http://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!





# LOCAL SPORTS



Bottom Row L-R: Kathleen Kapralos, Alex Awe, Alex Wilson, Calin Angelucci, Grayson Forcier; Middle Row L-R: Landon Villacis, Cal Behun, Emmett Baldino, Cam Villacis, Brady Bartels; Top Row L-R: Coaches Dan Baldino, Manager Chris Bartels, Alex Wilson, Michelle Wilson, Craig Behun; (Not Pictured: Zeke Green, Will Ranini)

## 8U All-Star Team Finishes Strong

Congratulations to our 8U Beth-Wood All-Star Team. They finished their regular season with an impressive 7-1 record.

Some of the most memorable wins were against Norwalk, Oxford, and

a last inning come from behind win against Newtown B. We wish them luck as they develop into great ballplayers.

We are very proud of our Beth-Wood All-Stars. Good luck next season team!

TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE | LEGAL NOTICE

WOODBRIDGE CODE OF ORDINANCES

The following Amendments to the Ordinances of the Town of Woodbridge were adopted by the Board of Selectmen at the October 11, 2023, Regular Meeting and shall become effective November 10, 2023:

REPEALED: Section C of Article III – Fire Commission 75-22 Duties and Powers is repealed in its entirety.  
Adopted: by the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen October 11, 2023 - Effective: November 10, 2023

REPEALED: Chapter 42, Article 1. Country Club Enterprise Fund  
Section 42.1 though Section 42.6 is repealed in its entirety  
Repealed: October 11, 2023 Effective: November 10, 2023

AMENDED: ARTICLE IX – Tax Abatement for Fire Department Personnel  
§ 382-2. Abatement granted – shall be amended as follows:  
The property taxes of each firefighter who has served as a volunteer firefighter for the Town of Woodbridge for not less than two (2) immediately preceding calendar years (includes probationary year) and who has active membership in the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association, inc., and meets the requirements of this article shall have any real and/or motor vehicle property taxes owed to the Town of Woodbridge by such firefighter abated in an amount equal to the lesser of the total amount of real and/or motor vehicle property taxes owed to said town for such fiscal year or an amount as set forth in the following schedule:

§ 382-21 A. shall be amended as follows:  
A. For two or more years of service abated by \$2,000.00  
B. Deleted  
C. Deleted

§ 382-23. Application of abatement shall be amended as follows:  
The tax abatement under this article shall be applied against any real property taxes owing to the Town of Woodbridge and/or to motor vehicle taxes owing to the Town of Woodbridge at the sole choice of the volunteer firefighter. In the event that the tax to which the abatement is applied is paid in installments, then the exemption shall be applied 50% percent to each installment. In no event will the tax abatement, in combination with other tax benefits for which the volunteer may be eligible, exceed the volunteer's total tax obligation to his/her town of residence.

§ 382-25. Applicability.  
The tax abatement under this article shall be applicable for any real property or motor vehicle of a volunteer firefighter eligible for such abatement, whether such property is owned individually, jointly, or as tenant in common with one or more other persons.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in section 382-7, if property is held in trust for a volunteer firefighter who would otherwise qualify for this tax abatement, the tax relief may still be granted if the volunteer firefighter is the primary beneficiary of the trust during his or her lifetime and meets all other requirements under this program. The application for tax abatement shall contain a copy of the trust agreement which shall be reviewed and approved by the Assessor and Town Counsel prior to approval of the application.

Effective Date: The amendments herein shall take effect and be applicable to taxes owing beginning with taxes on the grand list of October 1, 2023.  
Adopted: by the Board of Selectmen October 11, 2023 Effective: November 10, 2023

Attest: Stephanie Ciarleglio, Town Clerk

# EDUCATION



Left to right: Dr. Keith Smolinski, Musical Director, Andrew Mordecai (Kristoff), Kane D'Amico (Olaf), Fred Hulley, Sponsor, Maeve Culbertson (Elsa), Jane Nolan (Anna), Alexios Selearis (Hans), Judy Primavera, Sponsor, Dr. Jason Tracy, Principal

## The Bethany Spartan Players Fall Production Announced!

With a generous grant from their headlining sponsor, The Jamie A. Hulley Arts Foundation ([jamiehulleyartsfund.org](http://jamiehulleyartsfund.org)), The Bethany Spartan Players are pleased to announce its production of Frozen Jr., Friday, November 10, 6:30 PM, Saturday, November 11, at 6:30 PM, and Sunday, November 12, at 2:00 PM. The Bethany Spartan Players look forward to sharing this compelling story about sisterhood and friendship on the Amity Bethany stage!

Andrea Kennedy has teamed up with Amity staff members Keith Smolinski, Robert Fragione, Marissa Nall, and Amy Benton to bring this amazing show to the stage!

Advanced tickets are available at <https://tinyurl.com/frozennov2023>. Tickets are \$16/adult, \$12/student, and children under four are free. Stay after the show to meet Anna, Elsa, and your favorite Frozen characters!

# STUDENT NEWS

Dean's/President's List

Goodwin University

Lindsey Deleo, from Woodbridge, CT, has earned a spot on the Goodwin University Dean's List and Goodwin University's President's List for Summer 2023. Dean's List inclusion requires a student to earn a minimum 3.5 GPA, the equivalent of an A- average,

during a given academic session. President's List inclusion requires a 4.0 GPA. The student must also be enrolled in a minimum of six academic credits to qualify. Goodwin University congratulates Lindsey on making the Dean's and President's Lists and demonstrating such a high standard of excellence in the classroom and beyond!





CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Garden Club Holds First Meeting of the Season

On September 12 the weather was perfect for the first meeting of the Garden Club of Woodbridge 2023/2024 season. A member's lawn, leading to spectacular rolling hills, was the meeting location. Members eager to catch up with each other after the summer hiatus enjoyed delicious tea sandwiches and desserts. Club president, Cathy Wick, opened the meeting by giving Joanne D'Angelo, an award honoring Joanne as a Connecticut Life Member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut. Joanne was chosen for this award for her distinctive leadership, accomplishments, and exemplary service. She is only the second person in the club's 90-year history to serve two full terms as president. The afternoon culminated in a tour of Maria Kayne's extensive, award-winning dahlia garden. Dahlias of all shapes, colors and beauty were on display. Containers of Maria's multicolored flowers graced the tables at the meeting.

On October 3, the garden club hosted the Garden Club of Orange. Guest

speaker, Tovah Martin, presented "Terrariums and You." She explained that a terrarium is created in a glass container with a glass lid. Saran Wrap can be used in place of a glass cover. Terrariums are self-watering, increasing the humidity in the container. Small plants are ideal to use, and orchids thrive in this environment. Terrariums need water every 10 days to two weeks, but if the inside of the container has condensation, water should not be added. After the presentation, Tovah created a terrarium by adding 3/8" pebbles to her glass container, and mixed horticulture charcoal with the pebbles. Next came organic soil and miniature plants. She emphasized that plants must be firmly put into the soil by pushing the soil down to eliminate air pockets. A raffle took place for the terrarium.

The Garden Club of Woodbridge is open to all. If you want more information, or want to know about meetings, please contact Mary Jane, [wpurcell@snet.net](mailto:wpurcell@snet.net).

"Letters" From Page 4

potential impact on our town. One significant misconception we must challenge is the notion that various housing options that include 1, 2, and 3-bedroom units, as well as 55+ communities, strain our local schools. Smaller housing units are less likely to have school-age children. This debunks the argument that housing significantly affects our schools' financial well-being. Promoting a diverse range of housing options can create an environment that encourages people to make Woodbridge their home while increasing the tax base and not affecting the school's financial wellbeing.

The former golf course location, with proximity to a major research university that needs workforce housing, makes it an ideal housing site. The site boasts access to public sewers and water, is not within a public water supply watershed, and has potential for public transportation, making higher density feasible. Also, the site can be linked to the town's business area, stimulating economic development by creating a concentrated pool of resources and consumers. This concentration can breathe life into our local economy, fostering innovation, collaboration, and business growth. These outcomes could have a favorable impact on job creation and the prosperity of our local businesses, but it seems some would rather ignore these possibilities.

Higher-density housing can also provide environmental benefits by curbing suburban development and urban sprawl. Compact housing often integrates energy-efficient and eco-conscious design elements. The former golf course consists of enough acreage to incorporate open space complementing housing and is near Yale University's 200-acre nature preserve and bird sanctuary that extends along 3,000+ feet of the town's eastern border with New Haven—facts that those opposing higher-density housing seem unwilling to acknowledge.

We have an opportunity to pursue a balanced approach that respects the importance of conserving open spaces while simultaneously welcoming the benefits of housing. It is absurd that we need to make the case for housing considering its potential benefits. Housing could serve as a catalyst for economic growth and community unity. By embracing diversity in housing options and planning developments thoughtfully, Woodbridge can become economically dynamic, socially inclusive, and environmentally responsible. The future of Woodbridge rests in our hands, and it's unfortunate that some appear to prefer ignorance over progress. Let us make a choice that we can take pride in, one that will shape Woodbridge for generations to come even if relics of the past resist it with unfounded disdain.

Scott Hunter

HEALTH & FITNESS

Beware of the Pitfalls of Fall and Winter

**By KYLE BRANDAY MSPT/C-PS**

When the leaves falling are telling you to grab a rake and get the yard clean, consider how easy it is to make the wrong moves and hurt yourself. Raking requires upper body strength and endurance. Warm up to yard work by exercising your primary muscles that include biceps, deltoids, rotator cuff, forearm and parascapular muscles. Do it before and after raking.

Simple exercises like arm circles, pendulums, forearm and upper trap stretching will help loosen these muscle groups. Proper posture while raking is a must. Stay upright, head up, shoulders back and don't hunch forward. Good postural habits will prevent rotator cuff impingement, strain on neck and upper back and puts the upper body in position for the greatest mechanical advantage to create force and leverage. You'll also use less energy. Once you've got those leaves raked into piles, now comes the real trial. The body's trunk and core are being tested, requiring the lumbar spine and hips to generate force to move leaf piles. The strain is on your obliques, glutes, and hip rotators along with the lumbar extensor muscles. What that means is there's a lot of muscle groups interacting to get those leaves moved. Never bend from the waist to pick up these mounting piles of leaves. It is vital to squat and bend your knees while you pick up leaves. Keep a flat back while you lift. This takes the stress off the



Kyle Branday

lower lumbar spine eliminating the possibility of strains and sprains or worse injuries such as herniated discs and sciatica. Helpful, also, are warm up and cool down exercises such as hamstring, knee to chest, and trunk rotation stretches.

Kyle Branday, MSPT/C-PS, is a licensed physical therapist and partner at Amity Physical Therapy, founded 18 years ago by Michael Dow MSPT CEO/Director with offices in Woodbridge, Hamden and Branford, Milford and Wallingford. Kyle is a graduate of Quinnipiac University with his Masters in Physical Therapy. He works with patients of all ages and ability levels, treating high level athletes with fractures and sprains to gait and balance dysfunction in the elderly. Kyle can be reached to set up an evaluation at (203) 389-4593 or visit [www.amitypt.com](http://www.amitypt.com).

## TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE

### WARNING OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Electors of the Town of Woodbridge are hereby notified and warned that the BIENNIAL TOWN ELECTION will be held at The Center Gymnasium, 4 Meetinghouse Lane, in the Town of Woodbridge, Connecticut, on Tuesday, the Seventh day of November 2023 (November 7, 2023), from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. (EST) for the purpose of:

Casting their votes for candidates to fill the following offices:

- One (1) First Selectman for a two-year term;
- Five (5) Selectmen for two-year terms;
- Four (4) members of the Woodbridge Board of Education for four-year terms;
- One (1) member of the Board of Assessment Appeals for a four-year term;
- Two (2) members of the Zoning Board of Appeals for four-year terms;
- Two (2) alternate members of the Zoning Board of Appeals for four-year terms;
- Two (2) members of the Amity Regional Board of Education for four-year terms.

Absentee ballots will be counted at the polls.

Election Day Registration will be held in the Senior Center Cafeteria, 4 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. (EST).

Stephanie Ciarleglio  
Woodbridge Town Clerk



Fiscal Responsibility is not the property of the party of Lincoln.

**WE’LL MAKE EVERY PENNY COUNT.**

MICA

CARDOZO

Democrat for First Selectman

“Not voting is not a protest. It is a surrender.” — KEITH ELLISON



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# AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



Leslie Pruitt from Agency on Aging South Central CT provides information on Medicare changes in 2024 at the Lunch & Learn held on October 4

Becket Greten-Harrison, owner/founder of Hearts at Home, presents the Lunch & Learn: Decoding Cardiovascular Discomfort on October 18

**Contact The Woodbridge Center:**  
More information on available programs and services can be found on The Center's page of the Town Website. Call 203-389-3430 or email kmoriarty@woodbridgect.org with questions or for more information. Follow us on Facebook (The Woodbridge Center, Woodbridge CT) for current updates, local information, and fun programming photos. Also, please make sure you are on our email blast list to receive the latest Woodbridge Center updates. Call to subscribe.

The Center will be closed on November 7 for the Municipal Elections. Please remember to vote.

**November Coffee Bar**  
*The Center Café, no charge*  
Stop by The Center between the hours of 9 am – 4 pm and enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea at no charge. Sponsorship for the month of November is provided by Barry and Hyla Vine.

**Art Wall**  
*The Center Café*  
The artwork display for the month of November is provided by local photographer and Center member Phyllis Gamm.

**Upcoming Programs**  
**In-person Lunch For everyone 55 and older**  
*Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12-1 pm*  
*The Center Café*  
Tuesday lunch includes a choice of hot entrée with roll and sides or a sandwich, dessert, coffee/tea and water. Thursday lunch includes a choice of two sandwich options, dessert, coffee/tea and water. The price for all lunches is \$5.00 for residents, \$6.00 for non-residents, with a \$1.00 additional fee for take-out (waived for sandwich choice). Please RSVP with The Center 203-389-3430 by noon the day before.

- Choices for November include:
- 11/2 Tuna salad on a wrap or roast beef/cheese on a roll;
  - 11/7 Closed - Election Day;
  - 11/9 Turkey/cheese on a wrap or egg salad on a roll;
  - 11/14 Baked ziti or tuna salad

- on a roll;
- 11/16 Sponsored Thanksgiving Day Luncheon (see details below);
  - 11/21 Chicken Marsala or roast beef/cheese on a wrap;
  - 11/23 Closed – Thanksgiving;
  - 11/28 Vegetable and cheese frittata or chicken salad on a croissant;
  - 11/30 Tuna salad or turkey/cheese on a wrap.

**Popcorn and a Movie**  
*Tuesdays at 1 pm*  
*The Center Lounge*  
View a variety of movie genres with freshly popped popcorn at The Center.

- 11/7 Closed – Election Day;
- 11/14 Scent of a Woman (1992 – Al Pacino);
- 11/21 The Greatest Showman (2017 – Hugh Jackman);
- 11/28 You've got Mail (1998 – Tom Hanks & Meg Ryan).

**Lunch & Learn – Know Before You Vote**  
**Mica Cardozo and the Democratic Slate**  
*Friday, November 3, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm*  
*The Center Café, no charge*  
Election Day is November 7. Join us at The Center for an informative session with Mica Cardozo and the Democratic slate to discuss their ideas for the Town of Woodbridge with an opportunity for attendees to ask questions. Lunch provided by Mica Cardozo for First Selectman. Pre-registration is required. Call The Center 203-389-3430 by Tuesday, October 31 to register.

**Ask the Nurse Program with OVNA**  
*Second Tuesday of the month – November 14, 11 am – 12 pm*  
*The Center Consultation Office in The Center Café*  
A registered nurse from Orange Visiting Nurse Association (OVNA) will be available to monitor your blood pressure, check your weight, and answer questions to help guide your health and wellness.

**November Birthdays Celebration**  
*Tuesday, November 14, 12-1 pm*  
*The Center Café*  
Celebrate November birthdays at The Center during lunch on Tuesday, November 14 from 12-1 pm. Cupcakes or cake will be provided by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. Future birthdays will be celebrated on the third Thursday of each month.

**AARP Smart Driver Class**  
*Wednesday, November 15, 9 am – 1 pm*  
*The Center Lounge*  
Fee: \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members  
This course teaches proven driving techniques to help keep you and your loved ones safe on the road. It may also provide a multi-year discount on your auto insurance. Please RSVP with The Center.

**Sponsored Thanksgiving Day Luncheon**  
*Thursday, November 16, 12-1 pm*  
*The Center Café, no charge*  
Enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving feast in The Center Café catered by Lasse's Restaurant of Milford. This event is sponsored by the Woodbridge Police Union, The Linden at Woodbridge, The Holli Shanbrom Real Estate Team - Coldwell Banker Realty, Coachman Square at Woodbridge, and Autumn Lake at The Willows. Space is limited. Please call The Center 203-389-3430 to register.

**Snow Globe Vase Craft**  
*Thursday, November 30, 12:45-1:30 pm*  
*The Center Café, no charge*  
All supplies and instructions will be provided by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center to make a seasonal Snow Globe Vase. Please call to pre-register.

**Regular Programs Exercise**  
Not sure if a class is right for you? Try a complimentary class first!

**Aerobics Class with Laura Richling**  
*Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 am*  
*Center Building Gymnasium*  
Fee: \$3.00 payable at the start of each class  
A complete cardio and strength training workout to music offered twice/week. Pre-registration is not required. Bring your own 1- or 2-pound hand weights, if you have them, to use during the class.

**Indoor Pickleball**  
*Monday through Friday, 12:30-3:30 pm*  
*Center Building Gymnasium*  
Annual fee: \$20 for residents, \$25 for non-residents  
All levels are welcome. The annual fee includes outdoor play as well. Call for more information.

**Outdoor Pickleball**  
*Every Day*  
*Outdoors on the Town Courts*  
Annual fee: \$20 for residents, \$25 for non-residents  
The annual fee includes indoor play as well. Call for more information. Stay tuned for information on when the nets will be taken down for winter.

**Hobbies/Social Bridge**  
*Wednesdays, 1-4 pm*  
*The Center Café*  
Seasoned bridge players are welcome to play bridge every Wednesday in The Center Café. Please call prior to initial play.

**Mahjongg**  
*Mondays and Fridays, 1-3 pm*  
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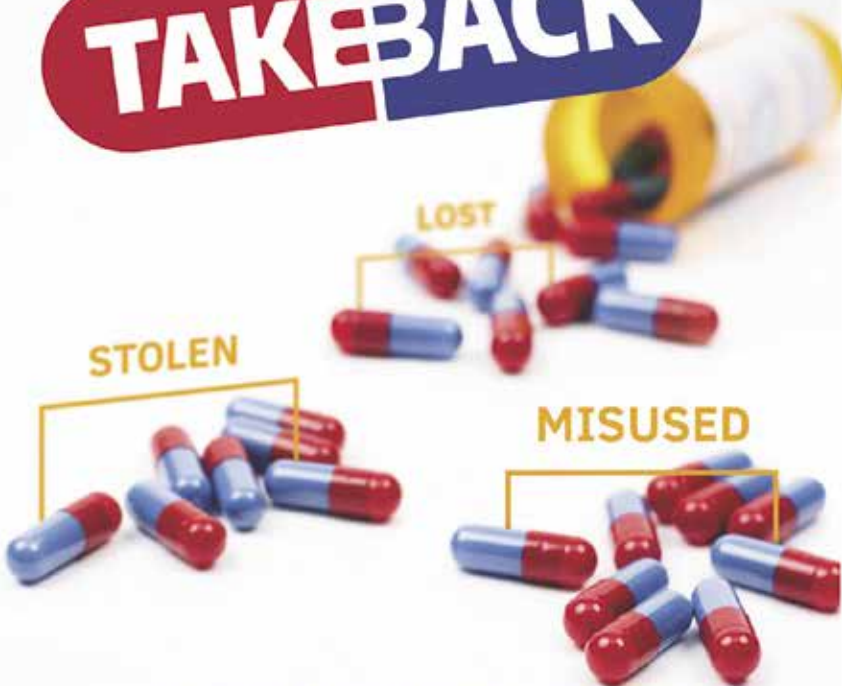
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# Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



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Sign up for Youth Services Notifications: <https://www.woodbridgect.org/list.aspx>

See Youth Services' Website: <https://www.woodbridgect.org/160/Youth-Services>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WoodbridgeYouthServices.CT>

## Fall Paint Party - Friday, 11/17/23

Amity Middle School-Bethany students are invited to a Paint Party by Picasso Parties on 11/17/23 in the West Cafeteria 2:30 – 4:00 pm. Fee of \$15 includes instruction and materials to paint a beautiful fall scene. No artistic ability or training needed. Payment by check and permission form must reach Youth Services by 11/15/23. Contact us at 203-389-3429 to sign up.

## Toys 4 Kids

Collection boxes for the Toys 4 Kids program, which serves local families, will be located in the Woodbridge Library and in the Woodbridge Center Building beside the gym at 4 Meetinghouse Lane. Please be generous to allow all children to enjoy the spirit of the holiday season.

## Job Bank Seeks Woodbridge and Bethany Teens Who Want Work

The Job Bank guides teens ages 13-18 as they apply, interview, and earn money doing odd jobs for Woodbridge residents. Teens are needed now, especially for raking and yard work. Contact

the Job Bank to schedule your interview. Other jobs include babysitting, housework, animal care, tutoring and tech assistance. Residents may call 203-389-3429 to hire a student.

## Woodbridge Youth Advisory Board

Woodbridge Youth Services seeks Woodbridge parents to join its Advisory Board which meets five times per year (September through May). Contact Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3429 for more information.

## Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge Drug and Alcohol Action Committee (BOWDAAC) Seeks Members

Our local prevention council works within our communities and local schools to provide programming and share information regarding vaping, tobacco, drug, and alcohol use. Contact Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3464 to get involved. Group meets monthly during the school year.

## Drug Take Back Day

National Drug Take Back Day will be held on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Woodbridge Police Department at 4 Meetinghouse Lane and at High Plains Community Center in Orange from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. All unwanted/expired medications will be taken (including liquids and sharps). Volunteers from the National Pharmacy Association will be on site in Orange to answer any questions, along with the Orange Police Department, BOWDAAC, and CERT.

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# ELECTION 2023 - DEMOCRATS

## Candidate: First Selectman Mica Cardozo

Mica Cardozo is the Democratic candidate for Woodbridge First Selectman. In addition to having served two terms as Deputy First Selectman, he brings to his candidacy 15 years of volunteer service to the Town on boards and commissions, including the Economic Development, Police, Fire, Agriculture, and Recreation Commissions. Mostly importantly, Mica is committed to initiating the action and change necessary to move Woodbridge forward.

In addition to Mica's volunteer leadership positions in Woodbridge, he built a career as a business development and sales executive at AT&T. As he rose through the ranks of the corporate world, Mica was recognized as a seasoned leader with a keen ability to motivate personnel and deliver results. He was especially known for his strong problem-solving skills and his ability to plan, execute, and oversee projects. These are the skills that are critically important for our Town leader. When combined with Mica's Town experience and deep understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing our community, he is uniquely qualified for the role of First Selectman of Woodbridge.

Now that Mica has retired from the corporate world, he is eager to apply his Town and business experience for the benefit of Woodbridge residents. Mica understands that the position of First Selectman is different from the other positions he has held and offers a greater opportunity to set agendas that enhance the vitality and wellbeing of our community. He has said with respect to the Country Club property and other town initiatives, that he is open to all options - but inaction is not an option. And he means it!

Mica's plans to take action on the country club property and to control our increasing mill rate are grounded in his knowledge of how the Town works and in his experience as a leader who brings people of disparate interests together to advance goals for their common good. He anticipates in particular forging alliances among residents that will help to deliver a viable long-term plan for the country club, stay attentive to the needs of our re-



tired and older residents, and ensure appropriate funding for the needs of our outstanding schools.

The sixth of nine children born to parents who emigrated from Cape Verde, Mica grew up in Bridgeport, Connecticut. The warmth and spirit of his household is evident in his demeanor,

his embracing and kind nature, and his emphasis on cooperative problem solving. For those who have had the good fortune to meet his siblings, these family traits are striking. Mica is highly principled and firmly believes in what is fair and good.

Mica and his wife Pat moved to Woodbridge almost 30 years ago for the same reasons so many other families choose to live here: the excellent schools, our natural beauty, and the warm, small-town feel. Mica values Woodbridge as a place where people know their neighbors, local shop and restaurant owners, community leaders, and more.

Mica and Pat raised two daughters - Rachel and Micaela - who thrived at Beecher Road Elementary School, Amity Middle School, and Amity High School. They remain grateful to the fine teachers and administrators and to the Town residents who have generously supported first rate education over the years. Mica has volunteered for many years as a youth sports coach, has been and remains active in many civic organizations, and is an avid UCONN and professional sports fan.

Throughout this past summer and fall, Mica has been going door-to-door meeting residents and listening closely to their ideas and concerns. He agrees wholeheartedly with the view of so many that planning for Woodbridge's future requires looking at our community holistically—that our schools, businesses, open spaces, and quality of life are all interconnected. He understands that our town departments, boards and commissions must interact and operate in a cooperative environment, and he has the disposition, experience and knowledge to make that happen.

Mica Cardozo will bring the considerable skills he has garnered through his family life, his professional experience, and his knowledge of our Town's government to benefit us all.



## Candidate: Selectman Maria Madonick

"I believe economic development and the growth of our tax base is the most pressing issue in Woodbridge. We have a beautiful community and need to find a way to continue to provide robust education, recreation, and police and fire services to our growing community."

Maria Madonick has been a prominent and active member of our community since 2015. Her unwavering commitment to public service, her extensive educational background, and her experience in the healthcare sector make her an exemplary candidate for the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen. With a wealth of accomplishments and a deep-seated passion for making a difference, Maria is well-prepared to contribute significantly to the town she has come to love.

Maria's journey in Woodbridge began when she and her husband, Michael, decided to settle in this welcoming and vibrant community, raising their four children here. Like many of their fellow residents, they were drawn to Woodbridge for its central location, beautiful trails, and open spaces, along with its exceptional educational districts. The desire to give back to their new hometown was instilled in Maria from an early age by her grandparents and parents, who emphasized the importance of public service and community involvement through their own actions and contributions.

After serving on the executive board of the Beecher PTO and her involvement as a MAG parent in 2021, Maria decided to take her commitment to community service a step further by running for the Woodbridge Board of Education. Her experience and leadership within the board have been instrumental in steering the district towards a path of continuous improvement. She currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Board and takes the lead on several important committees, including the Chair of the Ad Hoc Enrollment, Instructional Use, and Space Planning Committee, Chair of the Policy Committee, and a member of the Finance Committee. Her extensive experience as an educator, nurse, and healthcare professional has proven invaluable in these roles.



Maria is deeply proud of the accomplishments of the Woodbridge Board of Education over the last two years, recognizing that there is still much work to be done to ensure that the district continues to grow and flourish.

Maria has made significant contributions in the healthcare sector as

well, working as an Advanced Practice Nurse with Yale New Haven Health (YNHH). During her time at YNHH, Maria was actively engaged in clinical practice, system operations, and quality improvement initiatives. In addition to her clinical work, Maria serves as a clinical educator for Fairfield University and the YNHH School of Nurse Anesthesia. Her dedication to education and the development of future healthcare professionals has been influential in shaping the future of healthcare in the region.

Beyond her healthcare career, Maria is also a founding partner of Modern Anesthesia Care Solutions, PLLC. This venture reflects her entrepreneurial spirit and her drive to bring innovative solutions to the healthcare industry. It is a testament to her ability to lead and create positive change in various professional settings.

With her multifaceted background as a nurse, educator, healthcare professional, and community leader, Maria Federico Madonick brings a diverse and holistic perspective to the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen. Her unique experiences and skills are a testament to her commitment to improving the lives of Woodbridge residents and ensuring that the town continues to be a thriving and inclusive community.

Her involvement in the Woodbridge Board of Education, her leadership on several important committees, and her professional accomplishments make her a compelling candidate for the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen. As a nurse, educator, and dedicated parent, Maria is well-equipped to contribute to the betterment of Woodbridge and continue to strengthen the bonds that hold this community together. Her commitment to public service and her passion for education will undoubtedly make a significant impact on the future of our town.





# ELECTION 2023 - DEMOCRATS

## Candidate: Selectman Steve Munno

“Many of you know me as Farmer Steve. Community is at the center of my work and life, and I am running for the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen for the opportunity to serve our community.”

“Farmer Steve’ Munno is deeply committed to making a difference. With extensive experience, a strong focus on inclusivity and kindness, and a passion for community, Steve is well-prepared to serve as a member of the Board of Selectmen, making Woodbridge an even better place for all its residents.

Steve’s journey in Woodbridge began in 2009 when he was hired to breathe new life into the Massaro Farm property, a vital community asset. Over the years, Steve has continued his dedicated service at Massaro Farm, where he now serves as the Executive Director. His work at Massaro Farm has exemplified his commitment to fostering a sense of community and sustainability in Woodbridge.

Alongside his work at Massaro Farm, Steve is a devoted family man. He and his wife have two children, one of whom is currently attending Beecher Road School, with another set to start there next year.

Steve’s educational background is equally impressive. He is an alumnus of Wesleyan University, where he undoubtedly gained the critical thinking and problem-solving skills that have served him well in his roles as a community leader. Furthermore, he holds a Certificate in Ecological Horticulture from UC Santa Cruz, showcasing his expertise in environmentally responsible farming practices, and a Certificate in Climate Change and Health from the Yale School of Public Health, demonstrating his commitment to public health and its relationship to the environment.

Steve Munno is not just a leader in Woodbridge but also a regional advocate for sustainable farming and ecological practices. He is currently serving on the board of the Connecticut chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association (CT NOFA), a role he has held since 2012. His leadership



qualities and dedication to the cause have been further exemplified by his tenure as Board President from 2018 to 2023. His involvement in CT NOFA demonstrates his passion for sustainable agriculture and the promotion of eco-friendly farming practices, values that align closely with

Woodbridge’s commitment to the environment.

Beyond his service on the CT NOFA board, Steve has been a driving force within the Woodbridge community itself. He has been a key member of the Woodbridge Agricultural Commission. His knowledge and expertise in farming and agriculture have been invaluable in shaping the direction of local agricultural policies and practices. Steve’s contributions have helped ensure that Woodbridge remains a place where agriculture thrives and is sustainable.

Steve’s love and dedication to Woodbridge are evident in every aspect of his life. His involvement in Massaro Farm, his roles in regional organizations, and his contributions to the Agricultural Commission are all evidence of his unwavering commitment to making Woodbridge a better place for everyone. His leadership, agricultural expertise, and dedication to environmental sustainability make him a standout candidate for the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen.

“Farmer Steve’ Munno is a community leader, an advocate for sustainable farming, and a dedicated family man. His experiences, education, and contributions to the Woodbridge community and beyond make him a perfect fit for the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen. By electing Steve, Woodbridge residents are not only getting a leader who cares deeply about the town but also someone who has the knowledge and experience to make it even better. Steve’s passion for inclusivity, kindness, and community shines through in all that he does, and he is excited to bring his skills and dedication to a new capacity in Woodbridge, working tirelessly to enhance the town and the lives of its residents.

## Candidate: Selectman Sheila McCreven

Sheila is running for re-election to the Board of Selectmen where she currently serves as Deputy First Selectman. She was elected to the BOS in May 2021 after 20 years of public service to Woodbridge and having held continuous elective office since 2005.

On the BOS, Sheila chairs the Ordinance Committee and co-chairs the Strategic Planning Committee which created a comprehensive document to guide the work of the BOS. Since November 2022 she has also chaired the Town Building Committee for Beecher Road School Capital Projects which is on-track to complete a much-needed school roof replacement project during summer 2024. In this capacity she draws on her previous experience serving as Secretary of the Town Building Committee that managed the project to enhance security and extensively renovate Beecher Road School that concluded in 2016.

Sheila will advocate for continued strong support of our schools, appropriately investing in town infrastructure, fostering sustainable business growth, and carefully planning the future of the CCW parcel. With a deep understanding of our town’s history and its unique challenges and opportunities, she has a proven record of effectively contributing to local governance and has earned the trust of residents by consistently asking probing questions as budgets are formulated, searching for cost efficiencies, and making fiscally responsible decisions. Sheila’s institutional knowledge and track record are key components that help her make informed decisions for the town’s future.

As a fierce proponent of transparency, Sheila is committed to continually doing more to enhance the BOS’s ability to hear citizen voices. She’s been at the forefront of transparency efforts, championing the use of technology to make local government more accessible, from leading the effort to establish Government Access TV in 2001, to her recent support on the BOS to put the town’s budget online and look to revamp our website posting of zoning regulations. She will remain dedicated to ensuring that the BOS continues to improve ways to engage citizens effectively so the public’s input guides decision-making, making our town government more responsive and accountable.

Prior to her election to the BOS, Sheila was a member of the Amity BOE from September 2014 to June 2021 serving on the Policy Committee, as CABA Liaison, as chair of the Personnel



Committee, and as Board Secretary. She also chaired the ABOE’s ad hoc-committee to explore options to share services and become a K-12 regional district while ensuring we retain local control of our schools. She is a strong advocate for appropriately funding our schools while maintaining budget controls that demonstrate respect for all taxpayers.

Sheila was previously elected to the Board of Assessment Appeals serving from 2013 to 2015, and prior to that served two 4-year terms on the Woodbridge BOE, to which she was first elected in 2005. She served as Chairman from 2007-2011.

She began her public service as an appointed member of the ad hoc committee that established Woodbridge Government Access TV in 2001, serving as chair of that committee as it transitioned to a commission. From 2012 to 2015 Sheila also served as chair of the Commission on the Use of Publicly Owned Property (CUPOP) while it contributed to the process of creating the Town’s current Plan of Conservation and Development. She also worked as Deputy Registrar of Voters from 2015-2017 and has been a member of the Sperry Park Committee since 2011.

In addition to her wide range of experience on boards and commissions, Sheila brings to the Board of Selectmen a professional background in communications and public relations, which includes past positions with the United Nations Department of Public Information in NYC, the Citywide Youth Coalition in New Haven, Woodbridge Town Hall, and her current job at Yale University where she is Director of Communications and Content Strategy in the Office of International Affairs. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Media Arts and Advertising from the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

Sheila also has wide-ranging community experience having served on the Board of Directors for several local non-profits, including the Amity Teen Center and the League of Women Voters – Amity. She is currently the president of the Board of Directors of the East Side Burying Ground Association.

Sheila and her husband have lived in Woodbridge since 1997 and have three grown children who graduated from the Beecher and Amity school districts. She enjoys writing about local history and genealogy research and has traced her maternal lines back to several of the families who settled Woodbridge in the 1640s.

# VOTE

## Tuesday, November 7



# ELECTION 2023 - DEMOCRATS

## Candidate: Amity Board of Education Sudhir Karunakaran

Dr. Sudhir Karunakaran, known as K. Sudhir, has been a member of the Amity Board of Education since 2021. Sudhir has resided in Woodbridge with his wife, Sumithra, since 2002. They are proud parents of two daughters, one an Amity graduate and the other currently attending Beecher.

As a chaired professor of marketing and economics at Yale, Sudhir brings a unique blend of personal commitment, management expertise, and a strong service mindset to our community. He passionately advocates for excellence within Amity schools and is committed to nurturing a thriving educational environment for all students, regardless of their backgrounds, to reach their full potential.

Sudhir’s extensive experience as a management professor and consultant for Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations has been invaluable during his service on the Amity Board. He has been an active member of the Amity Finance Committee and also served as an ad-hoc member of the communications committee. Sudhir adopts a fact-based, data-driven decision-making philosophy in assess-

ing critical aspects of the school district, including budget management and school performance.

Sudhir believes in fostering transparency and clear communication with town citizens. Recognizing the importance of informed citizenry in decision-making, he has taken proactive steps to make complex issues accessible to the public. Through many articles published in our local town newspapers, Sudhir has successfully clarified misunderstandings on important topics such as the budget surplus, student enrollments, inclusion initiatives, and school performance. His goal is to ensure that the decision-making process remains grounded in objective data rather than being swayed solely by emotion.

Sudhir’s vision is clear—to advance the educational excellence of Amity schools. With his experience and dedication, he is well-equipped to empower students, support educators, and uphold the longstanding tradition of excellence that our schools represent in Woodbridge. Sudhir hopes to continue to enjoy the support of our community in achieving these shared goals.

## Candidate: Amity Board of Education Patrick Reed

Patrick Reed has been serving our community for the past four years as a member of the Amity Board of Education, with leadership roles as the Chair of the Facilities Committee and Vice Chairman of the Board. He and his wife, Dr. Anamika Reed, have 12-year-old twin daughters who are sixth graders at Beecher Road School and will enter Amity Middle School in the fall.

Professionally, Patrick is a school psychologist with 17 years of experience. This provides him with a deep understanding of the educational landscape, the strengths and weaknesses of our schools, and the needs of our students.

During his tenure on the board, Patrick has consistently advocated for policies that prioritize the well-being and academic success of our students. He believes every child deserves access to a high-quality education and has worked tirelessly to ensure that our

district provides just that. He has been part of a team that has made significant improvements in our schools, from enhancing curriculum to supporting teachers and staff.

If re-elected, Patrick is committed to continuing the pursuit of excellence in education and working to ensure that our schools remain safe, inclusive, and conducive to learning. He will continue to advocate for responsible budgeting to make the most of our resources and provide the best opportunities for our students.

“I am proud of the progress we’ve made, but there is still work to be done. I am deeply invested in the success of our schools and the future of our community. I remain committed to steadfastly championing our schools and teachers because our children are Amity’s greatest resource. I humbly ask for your support and the opportunity to continue serving on the Amity Board of Education.”

## Candidate: Woodbridge Board of Education Steven Lawrence

Steven Lawrence moved to Woodbridge in 2012 and currently serves on the Woodbridge Board of Education.

He and his husband are the parents of two children enrolled at Beecher Road School and Amity Regional High School. Steven is an expert in insti-

tutional philanthropy and provides consulting services to foundations, philanthropy-serving organizations, and non-governmental agencies to uncover new insights and make strategic decisions.

He holds degrees from Cornell University and the University of Chicago.

## Candidate: Woodbridge Board of Education Erin Williamson

Erin Williamson joined the Woodbridge Board of Education in August of 2021. She has two children currently attending BRS and serves on the BRS Diversity Committee.

Ms. Williamson has over 20 years of direct service, program management, and applied research experience in the fields of social service and criminal justice, with particular expertise in the areas of human trafficking and child sexual exploitation.

Erin currently serves as the Chief Programs and Strategy Officer for Love146, an international human rights organization working to end child trafficking and exploitation. She also sits on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children & Youth in the United States.

She has a Masters in Public Administration and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

## Candidate: Zoning Board of Appeals Shawn Flynn

Shawn Flynn’s dedication to family, integrity, and service, along with wide-ranging experience are what best qualify him as a candidate for reelection to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Presently a senior analyst at Yale University, his professional background includes nearly twenty years of delivering data-driven strategy in a variety of industries. Shawn’s public service experience includes: former member of the CT Air National Guard, former co-chair of Yale Veteran’s Network, OSA youth

soccer coach, and current member of the Woodbridge EDC. His military service helped him earn a BA in Economics from WCSU. He and his wife, McKenzie Granata, moved to Woodbridge in 2012 with their two children who are presently in 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Shawn enjoys spending time with his family outdoors, DIY projects, cutting firewood and fishing. Active participation, understanding our neighbor’s needs, and fostering compromise are areas that Shawn is focused on.

## Candidate: Zoning Board of Appeals Kal Watsky

Kal Watsky and his family moved to Woodbridge in 1992; his children both graduated from the Beecher Road School. He has been a dermatologist in private practice in New Haven since 1990 after completing residency training at Yale-New Haven

Hospital. He has served on the boards of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and Congregation B’nai Jacob; he is currently a member of the board of the Jewish Foundation and is active in several professional organizations.



# SAVE THE DATE

## Town of Woodbridge 2023 Election

### Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>



# ELECTION 2023 - DEMOCRATS

## Candidate: Zoning Board of Appeals (ALT) Lauren Francese

Lauren K. Francese grew up in Woodbridge and moved back to town with her husband, Mike, and their three children in 2018. Her children currently attend both Woodbridge and Amity school districts, and the whole family has enjoyed being involved in many of the incredible arts, athletics,

and community programs that Woodbridge has to offer. Lauren holds a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and has been a public-school educator for 18 years. She is excited about the opportunity to serve the town of Woodbridge as it continues to evolve as a vibrant, welcoming community.

## Candidate: Board of Assessment Appeals Jeffrey Ginzberg

Jeffrey Ginzberg currently serves on the Board of Assessment Appeals, and has served as chairman for the past three years. He is a partner in the law firm of Perelmutter, Potash & Ginzberg, P.C. Attorneys at Law, with offices in Seymour and Fairfield, where he has practiced law for over

37 years. He has lived in Woodbridge since 1994 with his wife Lynn. Both of his children attended Woodbridge public schools and they graduated from UCONN. His daughter is a Connecticut high school teacher, and his son is a digital media design expert in Los Angeles.

# ELECTION 2023 - REPUBLICANS

## Candidate: First Selectman Marty Halprin

Born and raised in Woodbridge, Marty has always called Connecticut home. Marty graduated from the University of Hartford with an accounting degree and then returned to Woodbridge to join his father in running his family's home and building inspection business. While working as a licensed home and building inspector, Marty joined the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Department where he was an active member for several years before becoming a professional firefighter with the City of Milford.



Properties (CUPOP), the Executive Board of Firefighter Union Local 944, and Congregation B'nai Jacob's Executive Board, Marty has served diverse constituencies while remaining steadfast in his philosophy that organizations can always do better.

Seeking to provide a positive community-wide

event, Marty established the JCC's annual Touch-A-Truck Event and served as its chair for two years. Marty has been routinely recognized for his effective and approachable leadership qualities, receiving multiple awards, including the Robert Eisner Community Service Award (2017) and the Kavod Society Award (2017).

Marty's list of responsible leadership doesn't stop there. As the Chair of the B'nai Jacob House Committee for more than four years, Marty oversaw the budget and management of B'nai Jacob's 60,000 sq. ft. building, including all of its capital projects, staff, and landlord-tenant governance.

When not volunteering or working, Marty can be seen around town (and the greater Amity school district), cheering on his three daughters at their respective sports competitions, school recitals, and scouting events.

"My business knowledge as a property manager and emergency management experience as a professional firefighter will help me successfully lead my hometown as First Selectman. As a lifelong unaffiliated voter, I will bring both parties together and champion the right decisions for all residents, irrespective of politics."

## Candidate: Selectman Javier Aviles

Born in Puerto Rico and raised in Louisiana, Javier attended Louisiana State University where he majored in Accounting. During college, Javier also worked full time at a public accounting firm which helped him develop the skills and knowledge he needed to pass the Uniform CPA Exam less than a year after graduating.



evision shows, and knows most of the songs from Coco Melon, Disney, and The Wiggles by heart!

When Javier isn't advocating for clients or chasing his daughters, he keeps busy serving Woodbridge through various roles on town Boards and Commissions.

He has served as the Dep-

uty Registrar of Voters, and was the 17<sup>th</sup> District election moderator for the 2022 Federal mid-term elections in Woodbridge. Javier also serves as a Commissioner on the Commission on the Use of Publicly Owned Property, and is a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Javier is running for a seat on the Board of Selectmen because he believes there is much more we can do to preserve the wonderful rural character of Woodbridge, while still investing in our excellent public schools. Javier will work to stabilize the financial future of the town (and the mill rate), pursuing new public and private sources of revenue, while leveraging his financial expertise to seek efficiencies in spending. Javier will advocate for tax and support programs that help keep our seniors in the homes they currently own in Woodbridge, and believes this is a key factor in helping control the town's mill rate.

Upon graduation, Javier accepted a position with Merrill Lynch, worked his way up the organization and was promoted to a managerial position in 2008, one of only two selected in the entire company that year. Javier excelled in this role, where he served as a client advocate inside one of the largest and oldest brokerage firms on Wall Street. Javier quickly earned a reputation as a leader, earning him some of the toughest assignments in the most difficult markets all across the country, and even an international assignment in London. Javier continues to perform a similar role today at JPMorgan Wealth Management, using his 21 years of industry experience to protect clients and manage risk.

Javier and his family moved to Woodbridge in 2017 after the birth of their first daughter. He and his wife Kelly now have two young girls that keep them particularly busy. Once an avid movie buff, Javier has now become a connoisseur of children's tel-



# VOTE

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7



# ELECTION 2023 - REPUBLICANS

## Candidate: Selectman Andrea Urbano

Andrea was raised in Woodbridge, attended Beecher Road School, and graduated from Amity High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Conservation and Political Science from the University of New Hampshire, and a Master of Science in Carbon Forestry from the University of Vermont. Andrea returned to her home state and town and has the privilege of raising her two kids in Woodbridge.

Andrea is a professional public servant for Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Forestry Division. As a supervisor, she manages staff, establishes and maintains stakeholder partnerships, and implements federal programs at the state level. She develops and implements statewide programs that support Connecticut taxpayers and promote the health, function, resilience, and stewardship of the State's private and municipal forest lands and natural resources.

As a resident and volunteer, Andrea applies her published research, education, leadership, advocacy, and public service skills as she strives to enhance Woodbridge's community. Alongside others, Andrea successfully spent years advocating for the creation of Woodbridge's Agriculture Commission. She is a founding member of our Agriculture Commission and serves as its Vice Chair. She is also a Board Member of the Woodbridge Parks Association. Andrea's engagement in the Woodbridge community began decades ago, as a Woodbridge Youth Services volunteer and advocate for Massaro Community Farm. She served as an early member of the Massaro Community Farm's Education Committee, where she was instrumental in establishing the educational hiking trail still used for Massaro Farm programs today.

She now spends her free time with



her family operating their small farm, Sperry Falls Farm. It is a great source of pride for Andrea to provide her community with access to locally grown organic fruits, produce, and specialty products.

Woodbridge is long overdue for sound leadership and drivers of thoughtful and intentional change. To meet this need, Andrea is running to serve on the Board of Selectmen. She has the skills, motivation, and experience necessary to promote strategic planning and data-driven, taxpayer-based decision making.

As an Unaffiliated voter, she stands for good government, not partisan politics. Andrea feels strongly that our local government needs to restore transparent, nonpartisan decision making for the benefit of the Town and for the benefit of you. Andrea will advocate for a budget referendum and an elected Board of Finance. She will work to minimize ad-hoc committees and to strengthen the productivity of Town Commissions.

Andrea has been a longstanding advocate for protecting Woodbridge's historic and rural integrity while addressing modern-day needs. She knows housing on town-owned land is not required by state law. It is environmentally irresponsible and would only exacerbate Woodbridge's fiscal challenges. The Town needs to stop pursuing housing development on the former Country Club of Woodbridge (CCW) and instead must effectively analyze the alternatives offered by residents. Andrea will fight to proactively vet all these ideas and will do the hard work of engaging constituents to forge consensus on the former CCW's future.

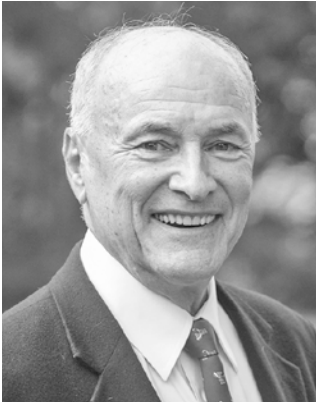
It would be Andrea's honor to address protracted issues and the enduring needs of Woodbridge and its taxpayers as a member of the Board of Selectmen.

## Candidate: Selectman David Vogel

Born and raised in Springfield, Missouri, David attended Yale University. After earning his B.A. in Physics and History of Science, David began a career in coaching and administration at Yale. He worked for three (3) decades as a Head Coach of rowing.

David, his wife Leah and their two daughters moved to Woodbridge in 1998, choosing our town because of the small-town rural flavor, the convenient location between the Yale boathouse in Derby and the campus in New Haven, and of course, the excellent school system.

His career at Yale included stints in senior management for Alumni Relations and a position as Senior Associate Director for Major Gifts in the Yale Office of Development. Along the way, David added volunteer service with some non-profit organizations to his list of commitments. He served as the President of the Board of U.S. Rowing, the national governing body of the sport – and was the only collegiate coach ever to hold that position. Currently, David serves as Chairman of the Board for Whitney Center, the continuing care retirement community in Hamden, CT.



David has served as moderator for elections in Woodbridge and other CT towns. In 2021 he was elected to the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen.

David is running as an incumbent for another term on the Board of Selectmen to effect change in Woodbridge. "As an incumbent I have witnessed how partisan politics neuters the functionality of the Board of Selectmen. I will work to change the Selectmen's course from partisanship to leadership, and to ensure we openly debate local issues while focusing on the good of the community as a whole." David supports bringing our town budget to referendum as so many Connecticut towns are doing. "Our antiquated Town Meeting method is contrary to the state's embracing early voting. We need an annual budget referendum in order to give as many voters as possible a say in our budget and in our mill rate. In a true democracy, citizens are the governing body, not small groups of political party leaders." Also, David wants to help move our government toward action and away from the current reactive and stagnant process that the Democrat leadership has been following.





# ELECTION 2023 - REPUBLICANS

## Candidate: Amity Board of Education Daniel Del Prete

I moved to Woodbridge in 2016 from New Haven because Woodbridge reminds me of where I grew up in New Jersey. My wife and I wanted a larger house for our seven children and we purchased with my wife's mother to have a multi-generational household. We had previously cared for my wife's grandmother in New Haven and have enjoyed a multi-generational home for over 12 years.

I have served as a New Haven Fire-fighter for the past nine years. I am also a certified EMT and Haz Mat Technician and take tremendous pride in being able to serve the community at large. I carry these skills and certifications with me on a daily basis, together with a desire to work not only for my family but everyone I meet.

In addition to my commitment to public safety and my family, I am currently on the Amity Middle School Bethany PTO as the Color Fun Run

Co-Organizer, dedicating my personal time to others as well. I have done this for over 3 years and continue to grow the event and impact the PTO has on the school. I have also been on the executive board of New Haven Fire Fighters local 825 for the past 7 years and Vice President for the last 5.

I am running for the Amity Board of Education because I have always been an active participant in my children's lives and community. I want to be involved in designing, implementing and executing the curriculum and environment at Amity for the benefit of all its students. My family will be utilizing the school for the next 15 years and I feel I can contribute to the educational ecosystem while getting active feedback from my children and their peers along the way. I am a principled person who values consistency, transparency, discussions to create growth, and working as part of a team.

## Candidate: Amity Board of Education Bruce Marien

I am a long-time resident of Woodbridge. My three children graduated from our public school system. As a second-career educator, I recently retired from being a science teacher and varsity wrestling coach at Amity High School. I have an established history of contributing to the local community through active leadership roles in Boy Scouts of America, Woodbridge Fathers Baseball League, and Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

Prior to my Amity High School experience, I was a professor of chemistry in the Connecticut State University system and completed a 25-year industrial career as a Vice President of Research and Development in a global chemical company.

Academically, after achieving success as an undergraduate scholar-athlete, I earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Maryland

and began my career in industry. As a 50+ year member of the American Chemical society, I have published over 20 technical papers and am a named inventor on seven U.S. utility patents. I continue to be a life-long teacher and learner.

Reason for running for Amity Board of Education: As a parent, a teacher and a coach in the Amity community for 38 years, I offer a much-needed perspective for the Amity Board of Education. Our three children passed through the Amity school system to become successful adults. After a long career as an executive in the chemical industry, I taught chemistry at the high school and coached the varsity wrestling team. I am particularly concerned with the decreased academic ranking of our school versus its peers and the changed teaching/learning environment in the school post-COVID.

## Candidate: Woodbridge Board of Education Jeff Hughes

Jeff Hughes was raised in Derby and graduated from Notre Dame High School in West Haven. In 2002, Jeff earned dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Horticulture and Agronomy from UCONN Storrs. He met his future wife Jen at Delaney's in New Haven. When they decided it was time to settle down and have children, they scouted area towns and decided a top-flight school system was their priority. Residents of Woodbridge for eleven years, their daughter and son are now students at Beecher Road School and Amity Middle School, respectively.

Jeff always worked while in high school and college. His love of horticulture has kept him involved with several landscaping and construction businesses both as an employee and as an owner/operator. He continues to work as a property owner/manager in addition to his current job at Yale University.

Jeff worked his way through the ranks of Yale, starting as an assistant manager in the dining halls. He is now Area Manager at Yale University with oversight of all the Residential Colleges and Athletic Buildings. His job involves overseeing all programmatic and capital improvement projects

while managing a team of 9 facilities superintendents and 125 union employees. He is currently involved in university-wide sustainability initiatives.

In his four years as an elected member of the Woodbridge Board of Education, Jeff has been the Chairman of the WBOE Facilities Committee, a member of the Town Building Committee for Beecher School Capital Projects, and a member of the Ad Hoc Enrollment, Instructional Needs and Space Planning Committee.

"As a professional facilities manager for Yale and a current member of the Woodbridge Board of Education, I offer the expertise needed to efficiently and effectively tackle both Beecher's most pressing campus deficiencies and its long-term capital needs. I also want to correct the misconception that Woodbridge needs additional housing to solve its financial problems. Having been intimately involved in Beecher Road School, I know firsthand that increased enrollment will burden our already overcrowded crown jewel. In addition, increased housing creates a need for increased town services. We need to come together and increase our commercial tax base."

## Candidate: Woodbridge Board of Education Lynn Piascyk

Lynn Piascyk was first elected to the Woodbridge Board of Education in 2015 after retiring from teaching at Beecher Road School in 2014. She was elected Vice Chair of Woodbridge Board of Education ("WBOE") in 2019 and Chair of WBOE in 2020. She is a graduate of Beecher Road School ("BRS") and Amity High School. During her 36-year tenure as a teacher at BRS, she was presented the Award of Excellence for Distinguished Service and was the district's 1993 Teacher of the Year. A resident of Woodbridge since 1964, Lynn also serves as a Justice of the Peace and is on the Board of Directors for the Amity and Woodbridge Historical Society. She holds a B.S., M.S., and Sixth Year Professional Degree of Advanced Study as a Classroom Teacher Specialist. As Chair of the WBOE, Lynn takes an active role serving as an Ex-Officio member on all Board sub-committees. Lynn has also

served the Town on the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Human Services Commission, serving as Secretary for four years.

"Woodbridge has always been well known for its excellent education system. As a member of the Woodbridge Board of Education since 2015 and chair of the Board since 2020, I have helped to move the district forward during challenging times that included the pandemic and multiple administrative changes. Woodbridge needs strong leadership, and I have a proven track record of leadership in our schools. My life experiences as an elementary educator, historical knowledge of the district, and skill base allow me to bring a unique perspective to the Woodbridge Board of Education. It is always my priority to assure that the school remains in the forefront of educational excellence. We must never forget that the future lies with today's children."





# ELECTION 2023 - REPUBLICANS

## Candidate: Zoning Board of Appeals Cynthia Gibbons

A Woodbridge native, Cynthia Gibbons is a graduate of Beecher Road School and Amity High School. She holds a B.S. and MBA from Quinnipiac University. She has served on the Woodbridge Zoning Board of Appeals since 2013. Cynthia currently is the Director of Business Operations and Finance at Yale New Haven Health in

the Post Acute Division. She holds a certification specializing in Administration of Home Health and Hospice Organizations (CHCE).  
“I have served on the Town of Woodbridge Zoning Board of Appeals with fairness, thoughtfulness and experience and strive to continue to give back to the town I call home.”

## Candidate: Zoning Board of Appeals Clifford Lynch

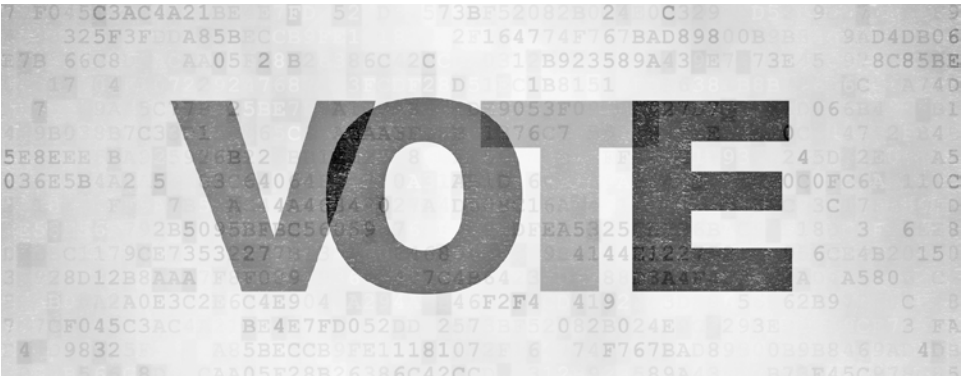
Clifford Lynch, Jr., is a lifelong resident of Woodbridge. Cliff graduated from Beecher Road School, the Amity School system, Quinnipiac University, and Gupton Jones College of Funeral Service.  
Cliff is a funeral director with the Iovanne Funeral Home in New Haven. In Woodbridge, he currently serves as a member of the Sperry Park Commission and has recently been nominated for the role of Justice of the Peace. Cliff is a parishioner of

Our Lady of the Assumption Church. He is a member of the Greater New Haven St. Patrick’s Day Parade Executive Committee, having served as Grand Marshal in 2017. He and his wife Shannon enjoy raising their two children Clifford and Eiley in Woodbridge.  
“I’m running for Zoning Board of Appeals in an effort to give back to a town that has given my family and me so much. I want only the best for our town and everyone who lives here.”

## Candidate: Board of Assessment Appeals Annitta Ingraham

I am proud to be a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Woodbridge resident. I was raised on a small family farm on Greenway Road. I grew up living on property that my grandparents, aunts and uncle cleared themselves. I come from a long line of hard-working people on both sides of my family.  
I am a product of the Woodbridge/Amity school system and I know firsthand how valuable that is. My formal education includes a B.S. in business administration from Southern Connecticut State University, an M.B.A. from Fairfield University and an Associate’s Degree in Nursing from St. Vincent’s School of Nursing. While nursing school and becoming a Registered Nurse came after my business education, I have always been passionate about helping people.  
I have a variety of interests and that’s reflected in my work history. My first career was working with special needs adults. I still help a family

with two adult autistic children. My professional career has primarily been around project management. I am currently an IT Project Manager at United Healthcare where I have worked for the last 23 years.  
I have worked in many areas of the company, but one of my most proud accomplishments was being part of the team that launched a care management program for members facing cancer treatment. In addition to my full-time job, I am a realtor, landlord and house flipper. I know how to get things done in a large organization and I also know what it takes to run a small business.  
I am running for the Board of Assessment Appeals. The Appeals process is an important one because it looks to balance reasonable requests for financial relief due to special circumstances while protecting the financial interests of the town. If elected, I would be a reliable, honest and practical member of this important elected board.



## Candidate: Zoning Board of Appeals (ALT) Chris Dickerson

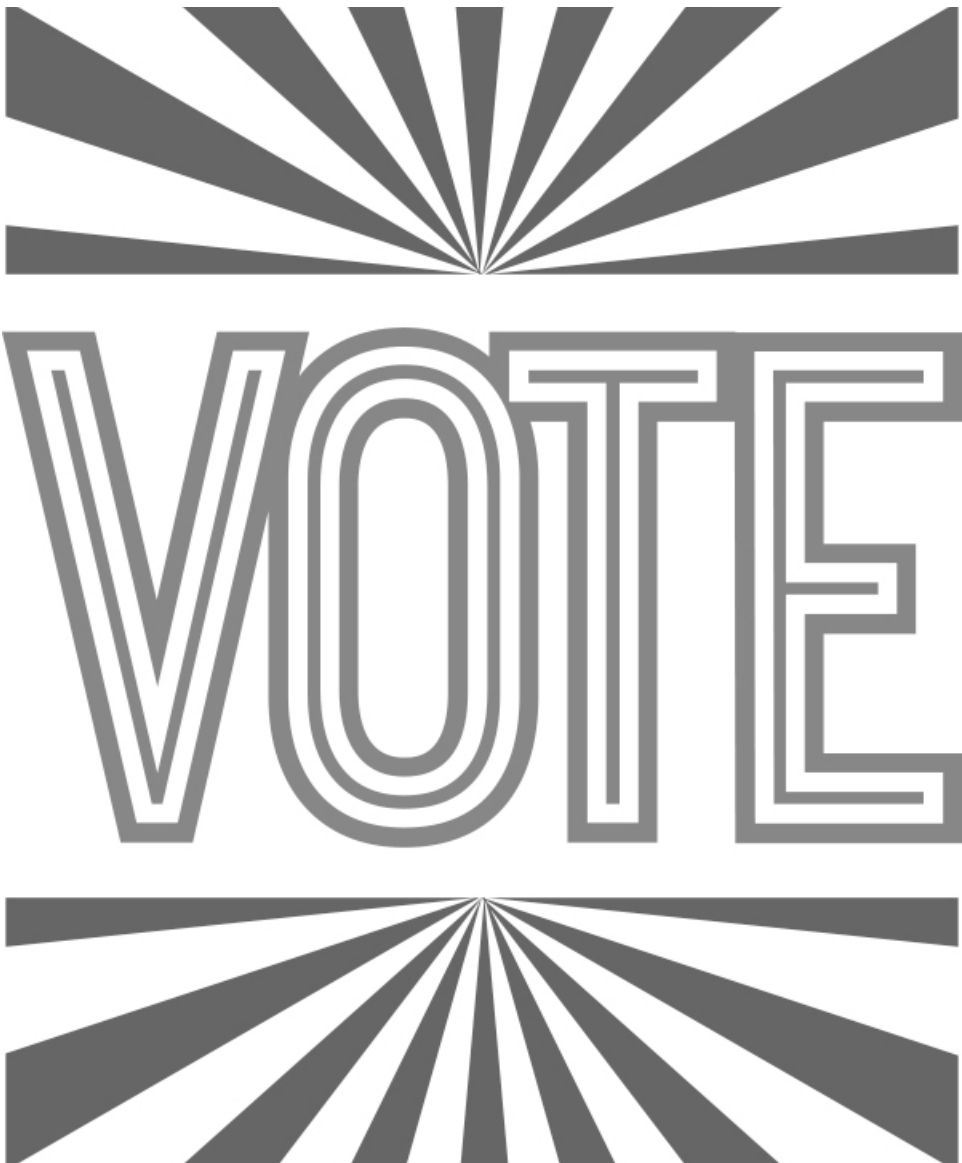
Chris Dickerson is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Woodbridge resident, descended from immigrant Italian farmers who settled in the Woodbridge Flats over 110 years ago. He has served the Town of Woodbridge on various boards and commissions, including the Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Selectmen and Town Plan and Zoning Commission, for nearly 30 years. Chris is currently co-chair of the 2030 Committee, which is working to enhance the business district, and is chair of the Woodbridge Traffic Committee. Chris is also President of the Woodbridge Park Association, a private non-profit organization whose mission is to protect open space in Woodbridge.  
Chris owns the Woodbridge Running Company, which has two retail

stores selling running shoes, apparel, and accessories. The Woodbridge Running Company celebrated its 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary this past August. Chris has also coached Cross Country and Track & Field for over 30 years - first at Amity High School and then at Quinnipiac University.  
Chris says, “Woodbridge is a special town – located next to a major city but with an abundance of open space. We have a growing business district, many hiking trails, and schools that have been among the best in Connecticut. I appreciate the opportunity to run for a seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals. If elected I will use my experience to help residents when they have zoning issues. It would be an honor to be elected on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.”

## Candidate: Zoning Board of Appeals (ALT) Jamie Nichol

I have lived in Woodbridge for 29 years. My wife and I have raised our son, an Amity graduate, and our daughter, now attending Bethany Middle School, in our wonderful town. I am the owner of JTN Landscaping and Excavation, an excavation and landscaping business that I’ve built over the last twenty-plus years. My family and I also own and run a small produce farm in Milford.  
“I am running for a position on the Zoning Board of Appeals because I be-

lieve it is important to implement our zoning laws with common sense and fairness to all. With my professional background, I understand both zoning laws and the realities that sometimes make it hard for homeowners to comply with those laws. To maintain the small-town look and feel that our residents enjoy, I will work with the Zoning Board of Appeals to balance juxtaposition between the town’s zoning laws and our residents.”





# WOODBRIDGE LIBRARY

All information accurate at press time. Be sure to check our website [woodbridgetownlibrary.org](http://woodbridgetownlibrary.org) or call us before your visit for any changes to our hours or events.

## From Adult Services Arts & Craft Supply Swap

Come to the information desk with any unwanted craft supplies and browse other supplies brought by community members. Accepting supplies from now until the end of November.

## Adults Art & Craft Club

Wednesday, November 1 at 5:30 PM

Want to learn knitting? Working on a needlepoint? Have a project you want to show off? Join us Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> to unleash your creativity! Bring in your art and craft project, or use library-provided acrylic painting supplies, and enjoy the company of community members and refreshments. For questions or registration, email Donna: [dfaryna@woodbridgetownlibrary.org](mailto:dfaryna@woodbridgetownlibrary.org).

## Recipe Swap Potluck

Thursday, November 9 from

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Come and join us at the Woodbridge Town Library for a delicious potluck! Bring your best dish and recipe instructions to share with everyone while you sample other delicious home-cooked meals. To register, call (203) 389-3434 or visit our website.

## Blue River Jazz Band

Monday, November 20 from

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

The Blue River Jazz Band play America's traditional, classic, "hot" jazz and swing music from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This concert was made possible by the Gerry Hellman Eckhardt Fund for the Woodbridge Library. Please register online, by phone, or in person at the Reference Desk.

## "After Here" Book Talk

Monday, November 27 from

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Join us for a discussion of "After Here," a story written by Dave Wolfe. A small segment of "After Here" will be read, followed by a discussion of the afterlife, offering audience participation of their own experiences. Please register online, by phone, or in person at the Reference Desk.



## WOODBRIDGE TOWN LIBRARY

## RECURRING ADULT PROGRAMS Woodbridge Writers Workshop

Every first and third Tuesday of the month, from 3 to 5 pm.

Gather with area writers as we read and critique our works in a friendly atmosphere. Register online or at the library. More information on our website or call the reference desk.

## Woodbridge Scrabble Group

Wednesdays at 11 AM

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

## Film Screenings

Thursdays at 7 PM

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

## Upcoming Titles

**The Little Mermaid (2023)**

November 2, Rated PG |

Fantasy, Musical | 2h 15m

The youngest of King Triton's daughters, Ariel is a beautiful and spirited young mermaid with a thirst for adventure. Longing to find out more about the world beyond the sea, Ariel visits the surface and falls for the dashing Prince Eric. Following her heart, she makes a deal with the evil sea witch, Ursula, to experience life on land.

Please visit our website or stop by the library to see the rest of our film screening lineup for November.

## Saturday Morning Meditation

Every Saturday at 10:15 am, one hour of silent Vipassana (mindfulness) meditation is hosted by Dr. Aruna Pawashe, a retired lecturer and scientist from Yale University.

She has been practicing Vipassana (Which translates as: seeing things as they really are) meditation for over 15 years. She is a volunteer and a trustee member for the Vipassana Meditation Center in Shelburne, Massachusetts. Aruna has hosted many Vipassana

meditation programs over the years throughout the greater New Haven area. When she is not available, Mrs. Nita Lathia, her colleague and fellow Vipassana meditation practitioner, will host the group meditation event.

Registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome too! Zoom option is available: <https://woodbridgetownlibrary.org/events/meditation/>.

## From The Children's Department

Lots of great programs for kids! Please visit our events page for more information: <https://woodbridgetownlibrary.org/events/>.

## From The Friends Of The Library

Check out our page on the library's website to see all of the great things we've been doing! Thank you as always for all of the community support. Your contributions and book donations allow us to make updates to the building and bring fantastic programs (among other things) to the library which benefits YOU.

## Library Announcements

The library will be CLOSED on Friday, November 10 in observance of Veterans Day. We will be open our regular hours on Saturday, November 11.

## Now Open Saturdays Year-Round

The Woodbridge Town Library is open on Saturdays year-round:

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

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

## Online Card Registration Available

Are you a Woodbridge resident? You can sign up for a library card online! Visit our website, [woodbridgetownlibrary.org](http://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 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.)

## Need a Notary?

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

## Library Information

Visit the Library website 24/7 to access digital resources - [woodbridgetownlibrary.org](http://woodbridgetownlibrary.org). We are fine-free and have automatic renewals on most items. Call or email to place holds, ask questions, find out information, and more.

## Department phones and emails

Adult Services/Reference: 203-389-3434; [reference@woodbridgetownlibrary.org](mailto:reference@woodbridgetownlibrary.org)

Children's Department: 203-389-3439; [childrens@woodbridgetownlibrary.org](mailto:childrens@woodbridgetownlibrary.org)

Circulation/General info: 203-389-3433; [circulation@woodbridgetownlibrary.org](mailto:circulation@woodbridgetownlibrary.org)

Not sure who you need? Email [ask-us@woodbridgetownlibrary.org](mailto:ask-us@woodbridgetownlibrary.org).

## Socialize with us!

- › Facebook: [@woodbridgetownlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/woodbridgetownlibrary)
- › Instagram: [@woodbridgetownlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/woodbridgetownlibrary)
- › TikTok: [@woodbridgetown\\_library](https://www.tiktok.com/@woodbridgetown_library)

**“Voting is a right and a responsibility. Teaching young voters the value of this right and responsibility will show them the power they possess to shape their future.” — ALEX PADILLA**



“Woodbridge Center” From Page 18

intermediates to paint with acrylics or watercolors. Bring in a picture or a photo for inspiration. No experience is necessary. Call to sign-up for this 6-week, \$36 class. Sessions run concurrently with classes prorated if applicable. Join anytime. Please call to register.

**Pinochle**  
Thursdays, 1:30-4 pm  
The Center Lounge

Anyone interested in playing pinochle, or learning to play pinochle, is invited to join the pinochle group on Thursdays from 1:30-4 pm in the Center Lounge. Please call The Center prior to first attendance.

**Stitch Craft**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
10 am - 12 pm  
The Center Lounge

Bring your current knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, or other craft project to work on while having an enjoyable time socializing.

**Services Offered**  
**Ask the Nurse**  
**Program with OVNA**  
Second Tuesday of the  
month, 11 am - 12 pm  
The Center Consultation  
Office in The Center Café

A registered nurse from Orange Visiting Nurse Association (OVNA) will be available to monitor your blood pressure, check your weight, and answer questions to help guide your health and wellness.

**Ask a Cardiology PA**  
**(Physician’s Assistant)**  
**Program with Becket**  
**Greten-Harrison**  
Fourth Thursday of the  
month, 11 am - 12 pm  
The Center Consultation  
Office in The Center Café

Becket Greten-Harrison, PA and founder of Hearts at Home, will be available on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month to help answer questions and concerns about your health, check vital signs including blood pressure, and perform a brief exam upon request. EKG monitoring is also available. Consultations are private, informal, and strictly confidential. No notes or other personal information will be saved.

**Computer Lab**  
Computers and laptops are located in room 11 of the Center Building Human Services corridor, which is open Monday through Fridays, 10 am - 2 pm. Printing is available (first 5 pages free).

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

**Delivered Meals (Woodbridge residents only)**  
Healthy, well balanced, flash frozen meals for \$5.25/meal are available for delivery. Order by noon on Monday for delivery to your home during the same week. Choose from a wide variety of options including lasagna, vegetable and cheese frittata, crab stuffed tilapia, and turkey pot pie. Meals include a roll, fresh fruit, and dessert. Two meal minimum order with a ten-meal limit. See The Center’s page on the Town website for a complete list of offerings. A wide variety of frozen soups are also available for \$1.50 per 10 oz. container.

**Friendly Visitor Program (Woodbridge residents only)**  
Call the Human Services Social Worker at 203-389-3429 to arrange for a friendly visitor.

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

**Job Bank (Woodbridge residents only)**  
Residents may call Nancy Pfund, Youth Services Director, at 203-389-3429, to hire a student worker. Schedule now for fall clean-up, party assistance, baby-sitting, and more.

# Affordable Housing Workshop Is Open to The Public

The town will present a workshop on fair and affordable housing policies, which is to take place at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 30, at the JCC’s Vine Family Auditorium at 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge.

This workshop is designed primarily for those serving on commissions and committees, but it is open to town residents interested in learning more about this topic. It is required training for land use officials (Plan & Zoning Commission members and those serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals) and will satisfy the one-hour affordable housing requirement. This training is also open to all land use officials in the South-Central Regional Council of

Government (SCRCOG) towns.

Attorney Mark Branse will run the workshop. The former Glastonbury town planner who transitioned to a legal career, said his ambition was to become the kind of town attorney that he was looking for when he was a municipal official himself. Attorney Branse has 40 years of experience in municipal land use and environmental law and has provided legal services to land use agencies in over two dozen municipalities, representing applicants and neighborhood associations in over 70 towns. He is currently an attorney at Halloran Sage and helps clients address land use and zoning issues.

# The Story of Count Dracula

The image of a menacing yet somewhat alluring man with canines piercing the neck of an unsuspecting victim has been circulating for more than 100 years, and is believed to have evolved from ancient Romanian folklore.

Count Dracula, a mythical, blood-sucking undead creature, is based on a very real individual who has a unique place in Romanian history. Vlad Dracula, nicknamed "Vlad Tepes" ("Vlad the Impaler"), was the ruler of Wallachia in the mid-1400s. He hailed from Sighisoara in Transylvania, but spent most of his adult life in southern Romania, according to Romania Tourism.

"Dracula" translates to "Son of Dracul," meaning "dragon" or "devil." Vlad the Impaler was the second legitimate son of Dracul and is one of the most important rulers in Wallachian history as well as a national hero in Romania. Vlad plundered Transylvanian Saxon villages who supported his opponents, and took captured people back to his home where he had them impaled.

Despite his brutal military strategy, there is no evidence that Vlad the Impaler had any ties to the supernatural. That connection is due in large part to the 1897 novel "Dracula" penned by Irish author Bram Stoker, which inspired the vampire trope. Having never traveled to Romania himself, Stoker

evoked authority by including many real locations in the country in his work. The book's narrative was built around letters, diary entries and newspaper articles, so that readers could very well believe that Vlad the Impaler truly was condemned to live off the blood of the living for all eternity.

"Dracula" helped pave the way for more Dracula adaptations, including the 1922 film "Nosferatu," which is the Romanian word for vampire. This, combined with the dense, dark ancient forests of Transylvania, and the fact that Romania Tourism says that Transylvania sits on one of the Earth's strongest magnetic fields, help add to the mystery surrounding this area of the world — and the possibility that there really could be an undead predator feeding on the living.

Depending on the account, Dracula can shift his shape to a vampire bat or even mist. Additional accounts say that he will be burned by sunlight, although in Stoker's version he is able to move about during the day despite typically being nocturnal. Hollywood films helped solidify the persistent myths about Dracula over the years.

Count Dracula is a famed character that often inspires Halloween costumes. The fictional count is based on a Romanian ruler who may have killed, but not by sucking anyone's blood.





OPINION

# Amity's Academic Performance Remains Strong

Community Polarization in Addressing Student's Requests For Inclusivity Led To Amity's Ranking Drop On Niche

BY DR. SUDHIR KARUNAKARAN  
AMITY BOE MEMBER AND PROFESSOR, YALE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Last month, Patch.com published an article titled “Amity Regional High School Lands Among Top 25 In State,” celebrating Amity’s number 24 ranking on Niche. On the surface, it seemed like good news. Amity scored an A in academics. Only eight schools, seven of them from Fairfield County, scored a higher grade of A+. Amity tied with 15 other schools at A for academics.

As an Amity BOE member and a Woodbridge parent, I was puzzled by why we ranked 24<sup>th</sup> when only 8 schools surpassed us in academics. My analysis of the Niche data shows that if not for our community’s inclusion controversy, we would be ranked 16<sup>th</sup>, comfortably in the top 20.

Niche Grades

Amity Regional School District No. 5

Amity Regional High School

#4 in Best Public High Schools in New Haven County

A Overall Grade • Public • 9-12 • WOODBRIDGE, CT • ★★★★★ 361 reviews

A

Overall Niche Grade

How are grades calculated?  
Data Sources

A

Academics

B+

Diversity

A-

Teachers

A-

College Prep

A-

Clubs & Activities

C

Administration

Among the 15 schools tied for an A in academics, Amity is competitive on other factors. It holds an A- on Teachers, College Preparation and Clubs, which is at par with this set of schools. Our B+ on student diversity reflects the student population of our three towns – it is about average among these 15 schools. Amity falls short comparatively only in one area; with a C grade, it is at the *bottom 10% of all Connecticut schools for administration*. This C grade drives our rank down. Why is this grade so low?

Polarization around Inclusion drives down Administration Grade and Amity Rank

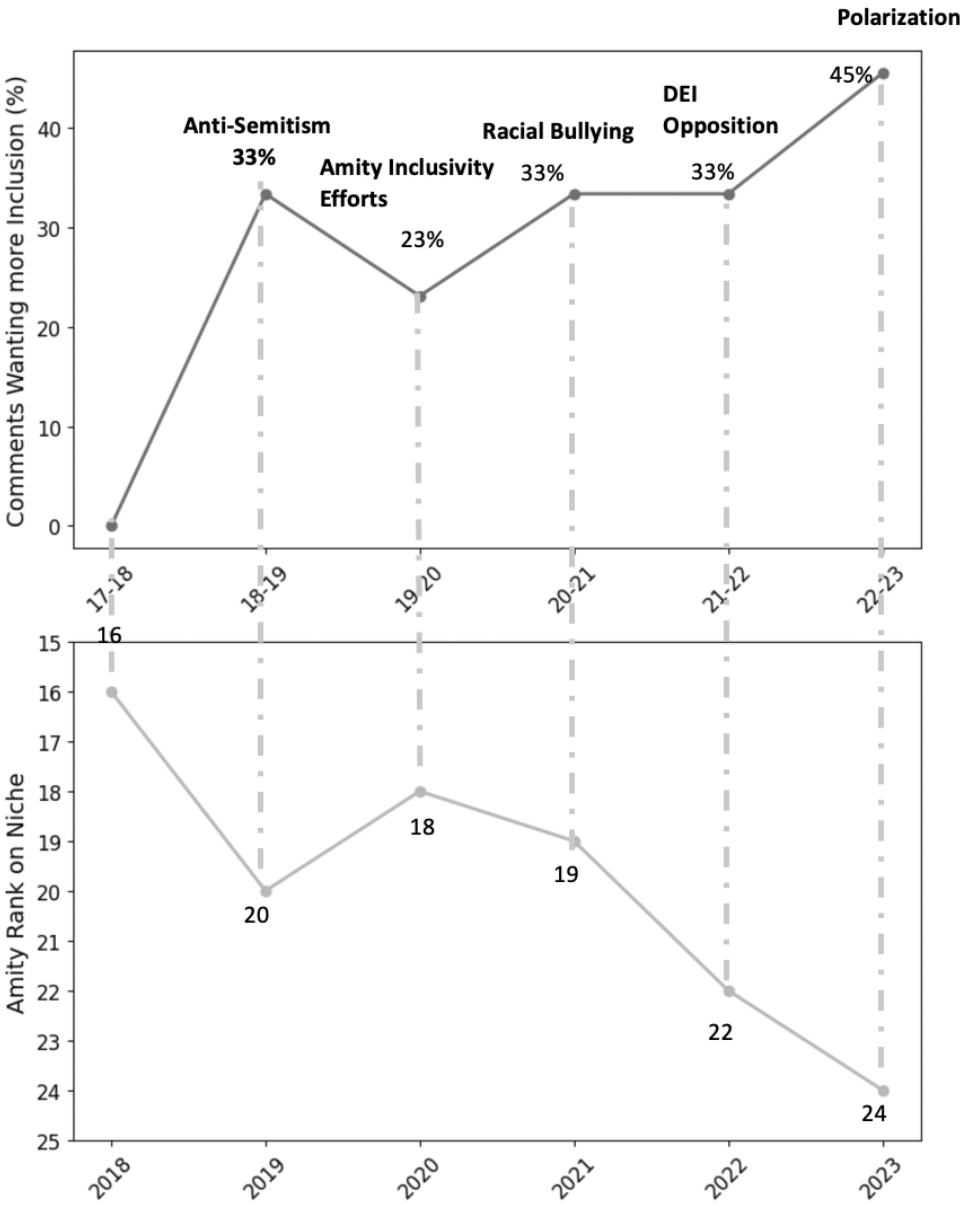
Niche’s ratings for Administration are derived from comments and ratings on its website. So, I looked at all the comments and ratings from 2017 to 2023. The chart is remarkable in how the share of comments on inclusivity tracks Amity’s rank drop over the last 6 years. I highlight the history and the main takeaways across the last 6 years.

- Pre-2017-18:** No mention of inclusion in comments. Amity ranked 16 in 2018 and had a 4.8/5 rating (not shown in chart).
- 2018-19, Antisemitic Incidents:** Share of comments asking for more inclusivity increase from 0% to 33% in 2018-19. Rank drops from 16 to 20.
- 2019-20, Amity Inclusivity Efforts:** Amity commits to inclusion efforts with help of local clergy, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). Amity launched “No Place for Hate” initiative with ADL and committed to integrate inclusivity in curriculum. Share of comments seeking more inclusion drops from 33% to 23%. Rank improves from 20 to 18.
- 2020-21, Racial Bullying:** Racial bullying incidents increased calls for more inclusion (33%). The average rating fell to 3.4/5. School ranked at 19.
- 2021-22, Opposition to DEI:** Community opposition to DEI efforts arises. Average rating declines to 3.2. Rank drops to 22.
- 2022-23, Polarization:** As opposition to DEI increases, more comments (45%) urge for more inclusivity. Comments against inclusion efforts appeared for the first time (27%, not shown in chart). Together 72% of comments mention inclusion. Ranking drops further to 24.

How share of comments wanting more inclusion track Amity's rank drop on Niche

Addressing student concerns on inclusivity is not merely the right thing to do, but the analysis also suggests that it will help Amity improve its rank. The inclusion efforts at Amity are commonsense initiatives in response to student requests. Opposition to the inclusion efforts based on what has been done elsewhere intensifies and amplifies inclusion concerns among our students, but it also increases polarization. The controversy hurts our rank. The rank drop has nothing to do with academics, as that grade remains an A.

To assess how much this controversy and polarization has hurt Amity’s rankings, I reverse engineered Niche’s grade-to-rank relationship with a statistical tool called



vregrression. I find that if Amity had scored an average B+ (among the 15 schools with an A) on administration, it would be ranked 16<sup>th</sup>—identical to its 2017 rank prior to these controversies.

U.S. News also has an Administration component in its ranking, but since its data is not visible to the public, I am unable to analyze how the polarization impacted Amity’s rank there.

Let us move past the division on inclusion and celebrate Amity's excellence

There is much to celebrate about Amity’s academic excellence in terms of real performance. In the 2021-22 state assessments, we ranked 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in Math, English and Language Arts, and Science respectively. In the National Merit Scholarship competition, we were 5<sup>th</sup> in the state with an impressive 27 out of 315 students (8.6%) recognized as “semi-finalists” or “commended scholars.” Amity is pursuing excellence in an inclusive way—both among the top students, and across the board.

There is more. Amity’s Math Team placed 1<sup>st</sup> (Large School Division) in the CT State Association of Mathematics Leagues competition, beating long-time winner, Greenwich High School. Amity’s student newspaper, The Trident, placed 1<sup>st</sup> (for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row) among schools with 1,000-1,700 students in the American Scholastic Press Association’s annual student newspaper competition. These are just a glimpse of what we can take pride in. Let us honor our students and our educators who make this possible.

It is disheartening that there is a harmful and misleading narrative by some in the community that Amity’s academic excellence is declining and its inclusion efforts are the reason. This misleading narrative of declining academic excellence is demotivating for our hardworking students and educators. It needlessly hurts our school’s reputation and harms our community’s attractiveness.

Let us remember that Amity’s commonsense inclusion efforts arose from our students’ emotional pleas in 2018 and 2020 for a safe and inclusive school environment. Further, our efforts are no different from those at other top ranked districts, who remain highly ranked. Neglecting student concerns and pleas for a safe and inclusive school environment is not right. There is little reason for division around it.

Amity’s academic excellence remain strong. It is time we as a community move past division and controversy around this issue and refocus on our shared goal of continuing to provide the best education for all our students in a safe and inclusive environment.



OPINION

Amity Board of Education News – October

By PAUL DAVIS  
AMITY BOE CHAIR

Amity Supports Rigorous and Challenging Academic Classes: The Milford-Orange Times and the Orange Town News recently published an editorial from a local resident that contained damaging misinformation about the Amity Regional School District – information that is harmful to our students, our teachers, our schools, and our community. It is regrettable to have to continuously correct such misinformation, however the Board finds it necessary to provide the unequivocal correct facts. At no point has the Superintendent of the Amity Regional School District made a recommendation to eliminate Honors level classes. At no point has the Board of Education voted to eliminate Honors level classes. The 2023-2024 Amity Regional High School “College Admissions Profile” reports that Amity offers 39 Honors level classes in addition to 27 Advance Placement courses. In fact, the Strategic School Plan developed by the Superintendent and approved by the Board of Education includes goals to expand the number of advanced classes by increasing dual-enrollment courses through partnerships with Connecticut colleges. These dual-enrollment courses will not only be academically rigorous but will also allow Amity students to earn more college credits for classes taken in high school. The district applied for and received a grant from the Connecticut State Department of Education to support this exact goal. The Board is committed to ensuring students have access to opportunities and resources necessary to develop to their full academic potential – including Honors, AP, and dual-enrollment courses.

National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists and Commended Scholars: Congratulations to the seven Seniors who have been selected as Semi-Finalists in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship

Program: Aditi Bhattamishra, Haseeb Chaudhry, Edward Han, Deborah Luo, Jack Morrison, Alice Xu, and Annika Yun. They are among the top 16,000 scorers nationwide out of the more than 1.3 million students who took the PSAT-NMSQT test during their Junior year. Amity is tied for the 5<sup>th</sup> highest number of Semi-Finalists among all public high schools in Connecticut this year. All seven recipients were recognized at the October 16, 2023 Board of Education meeting and are now in the competition to become National Merit Finalists later this year. Additionally, that evening, the Board recognized another sixteen Amity students as Commended Scholars for having been named among the top three percent in the country.

Pass Demonstration: The Board of Education received a demonstration of “Pass” (formerly E-Hall Pass) during its October meeting. Mathematics teacher Michelle Shoop and Library Media Specialist Vicki Hulse demonstrated how students or teacher can create virtual hall passes; how hall passes are approved and ended by teachers; and the information available in the teacher’s dashboard. They discussed how Pass is used to schedule intervention support, use of the library, and how Pass has reduced student traffic in the halls. Principal Andre Hauser shared how Pass is used during emergency situations to improve student safety and accountability. Technology Director Shaun DeRosa answered several questions on data privacy and collectively the presentation clarified concerns and misinformation identified during the September Board of Education meeting, including the following – 1) Students do not need to download the Pass application onto their phone. Students may access Pass through their school issued device; 2) Students do not need to carry their phone or device with them when using Pass; 3) Pass does not track a student’s location – it

is a record of where a student is coming from and where they are going; 4) Pass does not download data from a student’s phone or device; and 4) Pass is FERPA compliant, CT Student Data Privacy Act compliant, encrypted with minimum 256 encryption on its servers, and by contract, the data is owned by the District and may not be used by Pass or sold to a third party.

PSAT Administration: Students in Grades 9 and 10 took the PSAT on October 12, 2023. During the test administration, students in grades 11 and 12 were involved in a variety of activities, including a grade-wide team-building activity, information sessions on senior internships, Spartan Seminar lessons on academic integrity and a powerful presentation from the “For Cameron” organization – a local non-profit dedicated to education of the risks of self-medication and recreational drug use and lessening the stigma and shame of addiction. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, juniors will take the PSAT, seniors will have the opportunity to spend the day off-campus working on their post-secondary plans, and 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in grade level activities, including their opportunity to see the presentation from “For Cameron.”

Senior Planning: The Counseling Department hosted its annual Senior Parent Night (September 20, 2023) and Financial Aid Night (September 27, 2023) to provide families the information they will need to assist their children in researching, applying to, and financing their college educations. School Counselors have spent the last month conducting small group “College Application Process” meetings with seniors to ensure that all of our students have the information and support they need to successfully develop and carry out their post-secondary plans.

Frozen Jr. Coming to Amity Middle School Bethany: The date(s) for the

Amity Middle School Bethany fall musical, Frozen Jr. have been announced and tickets are on sale now! Actors and crew are hard at work to bring this heartwarming story to life on the AMSB Stage on Friday, November 10, 2023, 6:30 pm; Saturday, November 11, 2023, 6:30 pm; and a final matinee performance on Sunday, November 12, 2023, at 2:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased through the AMSB PTSO Board. Also, any families with an aspiring Anna, Elsa, or Olaf at home, are encouraged to send their future actor/actress in costumes to the musical; the cast will be available during intermission and after each show for photo ops.

Hispanic Heritage Month: The Board of Education received a presentation from Middle School World Language Content Leaders Elaine Hashemian and Theresa Garrity during the “3A’s and POG” item on the October Board agenda. Middle school Spanish teachers shared how they integrate cultural instruction with direct teaching and acquisition of a new language. Through a grant from the Jaime Hulley Foundation, they shared how 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from both middle schools participated in an interactive presentation centered on the music and culture of various Hispanic countries. Additionally, students participated in advisory activities to broaden students’ understanding of the contributions and influence of Hispanic culture in their lives. At the high school, students in Amity’s National Spanish Honor Society started the month off with a special message during morning announcements followed by a curated playlist of music that was broadcast between classes throughout the day. Throughout the month Amity students and the National Spanish Honor Society presented information on Hispanic culture and history with announcements, videos, and displays around the school.

Halloween Party Ideas for Adults

Halloween may seem like child’s play, but many adults participate in Halloween hijinks. According to the National Retail Federation, \$1.7 billion was spent on adult Halloween costumes in 2022, while \$1.2 billion was spent on kids’ costumes. Witches, vampires, ghosts, and pirates top the list of popular costume categories.

When all dressed up, adults will need some place to have fun, and parties with friends typically are events that fill not only Halloween itself but the days leading up to it. Those who will be planning Halloween parties for adults may be inspired by these frighteningly fun ideas.

Hallowine Time

Make a Halloween party even more spirited with a wine-themed party. Guests will enjoy a wine tasting with various offerings. Party hosts can try to find wines with macabre-sounding names.

Classy gathering

While Halloween may be about ghastly and ghostly decorations in many cases, some party hosts may want to have parties that offer subtle nods to Halloween instead. Black-and-white-striped plates on orange or purple chargers can set the tone for a fancy Halloween fête.

Murder Mystery Party

Murder can be the name of the game for a Halloween party when guests have to follow a script and figure out “Who done it?” Some of the biggest challenges with this type of party is creating the characters and writing the storyline. Free printable scripts make it easier for event planning. Murder Mystery themes also can be included in office parties for team-building activities.

Ghouls Night Out

Girlfriends can get together and plan a coordinated costume theme and then have a girls night out by

visiting various bars or restaurants around town.

Scary Surgeon

Plan a party around a mad scientist or scary surgeon concept. Decorations and foods can be geared around the idea. Instead of Jello™ shots, for example, there can be syringe shooters filled with a similarly spiked mixture. Replicate the look of body parts with various foods, like hot dogs made to look like cut fingers or toes.

Halloween party ideas for adults abound. A little inspiration can ensure such parties are frighteningly festive.



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**“Shelter” From Page 1**

Officer Karen Lombardi,” she said in her speech. “It is my honor and my privilege to name this building after her, as a forever testament to her unwavering love and support for creatures great and small.”

Lombardi, who was first hired in 1975, when the facility was still under the auspices of the state, also is considering retirement in the not-too-distant future. By the end of the year she will reduce her hours and take on primarily administrative functions, she said. A recent Academy graduate has been identified to work with ACO Jessica Moffo. A half-dozen or so volunteers come in to help with the care of the animals.

The recent renovations included largely mechanicals, such as new air handlers and heaters, which required a new enclosure. One major improvement in recent years was for the water company to extend the water line to

the end of Bradley Road, where the facility is located. It allows them to use city water, whereas before, bottled water needed to be provided. Another new feature is a spacious handicap accessible bathroom, to bring the public facility up to code. The reception area, where the public first interacts with the staff, got a fresh coat of paint, new desks for the ACOs and a new counter-top. But the footprint of the facility has not changed, said architect David Stein.

The renovations were paid for in part by a state grant, and both state Reps Nicole Klarides Dita and Mary Welanders were on hand to celebrate the ribbon cutting. Klarides Dita praised Lombardi for the care she provides day in and day out. Animal control must be available “365 days a year, 24 hours a day,” she said, “we can’t thank her enough.” During times when the shelter is closed or the ACOs are on the road, the public can call the police department for help. Welanders talked

about her cat who had become a part of her family. “A pet makes a home,” she said, thanking Lombardi for her work.

The facility shelters not just dogs and cats, but many other animals as well. On the day of the dedication, they were almost full, with 11 dogs waiting for adoption in a facility that has capacity for 14. There were also cats, bunnies, two goats and peacocks. Two horses that had been boarded in the back of the building had been adopted out to Goshen just the week prior. A chicken coop is also on the property. The chickens help with tick control, according to ACO Jessica Moffo.

Lombardi took the opportunity to thank the staff, and the veterinarians who support the shelter; and last, but not least, the town’s Finance Director and Administrative Officer Anthony Genovese.

Long-time volunteer Laura Torrence spoke, representing the One Big Dog Respite Fund, a non-profit run jointly

by Lombardi and Torrence. The fund contributed \$100,000 to the renovations. Torrence also sponsored a memorial bench in memory of her son Edward. The other benches also have commemorative plaques for people who have given generously, namely the late Bridget Albert, Dr. Liubi Tosici of the Animal Clinic of Milford and the late Janice Wright, whose generous donation to “One Big Dog” helped trigger the state grant.

Lombardi said the public is invited to contribute and commemorate the animals in their lives or the animal lovers. A large plaque will be installed inside the facility in the future to allow for more names to go up.

The facility, which is now known as the Karen A. Lombardi Woodbridge Regional Animal Shelter, is located at 135 Bradley Road and can be reached at (203) 389-5991. The facility is shared by the towns of Seymour, Bethany and Woodbridge.

“Being a young guy coming from high school, you hear about voting, but you don’t know how to do it or where you go because it’s all new to you.” — KEVON LOONEY



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# Amity Allies Releases Voter Guide

Board candidates respond to questions relating to the board and district operations, including budget, curriculum, school libraries

Amity Allies, an independent group of local parents and caregivers, has released its voter guide for the candidates running to serve on the Amity Board of Education in 2023. The guide provides candidate responses to ten questions regarding matters that relate to the board and district operations, including budgeting, curriculum, the selection of materials in the schools' libraries, and creating a welcoming climate in the schools.

"The voter guide is the next milestone in our mission to provide voter education regarding public education in the three towns of the Amity district," says Robert Lim, Chairperson and

Co-founder of Amity Allies. "We are excited to be able to share in-depth perspectives from candidates on matters of substance. An educated citizenry is foundational to American democracy, and we're glad to help voters make an informed choice that will have a meaningful influence on the future direction of our schools and our children."

The voter guide is available online at <https://www.amityallies.org/voter-guide>. Amity Allies is an independent group of parents and caregivers from the Amity district of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge working to improve voter awareness within their community.

## THE AMITY BOARD OF ED VOTER GUIDE IS HERE!

MAKE AN EDUCATED CHOICE ABOUT OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

Learn what Orange, Woodbridge, and Bethany's candidates for the ABoE think about important issues at Amity schools

Discover which candidates chose to say nothing at all

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# HUMAN SERVICES



Woodbridge resident Joe Modiano receives his flu vaccine at the 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 Fall vaccine clinic hosted by Woodbridge Human Services. This clinic was provided in partnership with Griffin Health.

**Human Services News and Services:** Call 203-389-3429 or email [humanservices@woodbridgect.org](mailto:humanservices@woodbridgect.org) for more information.

**Vaccine Clinics:** The Human Services Department will hold the last vaccine clinic this season. All insurance will be accepted. Vaccines require an appointment. Please call the Human Services Department at 203-389-3429 to schedule or for more information.

October 30 from 10 am to 4 pm in the Center Gym: this clinic, in partnership with Valley Pharmacy, will provide access to five different vaccines including the COVID-19 booster, Flu (both high and regular dose), RSV, Shingles (Shingrix), and Pneumonia (Pneumovax-20). No walk-ins, please.

**Food Pantry:** Residents in need may call for access to non-perishable food each month. If interested in donating, the food pantry needs dish soap, cleaning products, laundry soap, peanut butter and jams/jellies, coffee (both ground and instant), shelf stable milk, canola and olive oil, condiments-especially ketchup, canned chicken, pasta sauce, snack foods, and personal hygiene products such as deodorant, toothpaste, razors, and shampoo.

**Energy Assistance Program:** Qualifying residents may schedule an appointment to apply for the 2023 - 2024 CT Energy Assistance Program administered by TEAM, INC. For more information regarding this program, please call Judi Young at 203-389-3429.

**Food Drive:** Please consider donating to the annual Boy Scout food drive

and collection which will take place on October 28. This food drive benefits the Woodbridge Food Pantry and local families in need. Last year town residents donated close to two tons of food. We hope we can match that effort again this year. Many thanks to the scouts of Troops 63, 907, and 410 for their efforts each year. Look for more information from the Boy Scouts to each residence coming soon!

**Bloomin' For Good, a Stop & Shop program:** The Human Services Adopt-A-Family program has been selected by the Store Leadership Team at Stop & Shop to benefit from the Bloomin' 4 Good Program. The Resident Assistance Fund will receive \$1 from every specially marked \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold during the month of October from the Stop & Shop in New Haven and in November at Stop & Shop in Seymour. It's a great time to buy flowers and benefit a great cause too!

**Adopt-A-Family and Resident Assistance Fund:** There's still time to adopt a local family for the Holiday Basket Program. This program provides food baskets for the December holidays to Woodbridge families in need. Distribution of the baskets will take place in early December. Please contact Human Services by October 30 to participate in the adopt-a-family program or, if you would like to contribute to the Resident Assistance Fund (RAF), please call Human Services to donate gift cards or monetary contributions. Year-round donations to the RAF are welcome at any time.



# Recreation News



**Radio City Christmas Spectacular Bus Trip:** Join the Woodbridge Recreation Department on Sunday, November 19 for a fun filled day in New York City!

- › Bus leaves at 8:00 am at 11 Meetinghouse Lane in Woodbridge;
- › Arrives in New York at 9:30 am (Shop/Lunch on your own);
- › Show is 2:00pm (Start lining up at 1:30pm);
- › Leave New York From Radio City directly after the show at 4:00pm;
- › Arrive in Woodbridge at approximately 5:30pm;
- › \$150 per person. Includes ticket to the show and transportation;
- › Gratuity not included;
- › For information on how to register please call the Recreation Office at 203-389-3446 or visit <https://secure.rec1.com/CT/woodbridge-ct/catalog>.

**Winter Youth Programs:** Registration for winter programs will begin on November 6. Programs include Bowling, Indoor Tennis, Taekwondo, Kumon, Cooking, Basketball, Little Scientists, Indoor Soccer, Chess, &

Gymnastics. Check our registration website for a complete listing <https://secure.rec1.com/CT/woodbridge-ct/catalog> or register in person at our office location in the lower level of Town Hall 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Registration for youth winter basketball leagues is currently in progress. Limited spots remain. Call the Rec. Dept. Office for details.

**Fall Adult Programs:** The Adult Badminton Program continues on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the Beecher South Gym. Memberships available or \$10 drop in. Bill Banick classes take place Monday through Friday, 8:30- 9:45 am. Tuesday night sessions 5:30-6:45 pm. Classes will take place in the Center Building, Room 16 or outside weather permitting. Yoga with Diane King new session begins on Wednesday, November 1. Monday and Wednesday morning classes take place from 10:30-11:45 am, and Monday evening classes from 5:30-6:45pm in Room 16 at the Center Building. For more information, please visit our website at <https://secure.rec1.com/CT/woodbridge-ct/catalog>.





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