

Cabrera Seeks Re-Election In 17th State Senate District, Challenger Hoyt Speaks Out

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Given the close races of the past couple of election cycles, some political pundits in the state point to the 17th Senate District as one of the local races to watch.

Jorge Cabrera, a Hamden Democrat, won two years ago by 2,076 votes against incumbent, George Logan. Two years prior, he had lost to Logan with an even narrower margin. But Logan has moved to the Fifth Congressional District and is now vying for that seat. Senator Cabrera is seeking re-election for a second term. His candidacy is cross-endorsed by the

Working Families Party as well as the Independent Party.

The 17th Senate district encompasses parts of seven towns, each of which has very distinct needs. They are Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Hamden, Naugatuck and Woodbridge.

The Republicans are fielding a fellow Hamden resident, Kathy Hoyt, to carry their program into the ring. “I am not pleased with the current representation in Hartford,” she said in an introductory video on her website, hoytforsenate.com. She challenges Democratic leadership to improve the business climate in the state.

“A fiscally responsible state cannot

rely on taxpayers as a replacement for a successful business environment,” she posted on her website. “Residents in the 17th District are struggling to balance their own family budgets with no relief in sight, as prices continue to skyrocket on everything from food to energy to home heating oil.” By lowering or even rescinding taxes, the state could provide relief, she claimed, for example by lowering the sales tax, meals tax, plastic bag tax and many more.

She would be in favor of re-negotiating some of the decisions taken these past few years, including the decision to raise the minimum wage. “We must

re-examine bills such as the payroll tax, minimum wage increase, and the budget hikes the General Assembly enacted in 2019. These job-killing measures have placed an unnecessary burden on our small businesses and the middle-class residents. We must reform our legislative approach to encourage and attract business, creating more opportunities for growth.”

Crime rate up or down? “It is no secret that Connecticut has become notably less safe over the past few years,” Hoyt said in her video. “Murders in Connecticut have climbed by

.....

See “Hoyt/Cabrera” On Page 14

Dan Cowan Stands For ‘Parents Bill of Rights’



BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

“I envision a legislature that allows the people of Connecticut to make choices for themselves and their families,” that quote from Dan Cowan’s website at <https://22dac114.com/> pretty much encapsulates his political philosophy.

The Woodbridge resident, a Republican, is challenging Mary Welandar in the 114th House District. Cowan previously served on the Woodbridge Board of Education, from 2019 to 2021 — “some tough years in public education,”

.....

See “Cowan” On Page 13

Welandar Seeks Second Term



BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

With her first term in the state House coming to a close, State Rep. Mary Welandar is seeking a second term representing those living in the 114th House District – stretching from Orange and Woodbridge, up into the Wintergreen area of Hamden, and adding a slice of Derby after the most recent round of redistricting.

At a time when the public coffers are full, the Orange Democrat can point to a significant record of procuring financial support for projects

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See “Welandar” On Page 13



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I am happy to report that the Board of Selectmen met in-person for our most recent meeting on October 12th. Prior to last week, our last in-person Board meeting was in March of 2020, as we navigated to stay safe during the horrific COVID pandemic. Thank you to everyone for wearing masks that evening, as we endeavor to continue to respect each other, and try to keep one another healthy - especially those who are immunocompromised or recovering from an illness. If I have learned anything during my tenure as I enter my sixth year as your First Selectman, we in Woodbridge always take care of each other...and I thank everyone for their kindness.

First, I will give an update on all our projects:

The **Community & Cultural Center Building Committee** met on September 21st with two architects from Silver Petrucelli to review their proposal to create design and construction drawings for the interior of the Old Firehouse and to engage ARIS Land Studio to develop a conceptual master plan for the outdoor space. It is important for the outdoor and indoor space to work together from a design perspective. More specific schematics will be prepared for their October meeting and review and input from the Town Department Heads is planned for November. A presentation will be made to the Board of Selectmen at our December meeting with review and input from Town residents planned for January. This \$2 million project is funded from state grants.

The **Center Renovation Building Committee** has been meeting on a periodic basis. They have revised the initial Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Architectural/Engineering services for this project in mid-September. This revision was re-issued for bid on September 22nd. On October 6th, a Pre-Bid meeting together with a walk-through with those A/E firms interested in the project occurred. Any and all questions and clarifications pertaining to the RFQ were submitted to the committee no later than October 20th and they received formal Proposals including proposed fees from those firms on October 27th. The Building Committee will then carefully evaluate

From the First Selectman

BY BETH HELLER



these Proposals and are targeting to begin holding interviews with some of these firms by early to mid-November, with the goal to make a formal recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to retain the services of a specific firm and have this firm under Contract by mid-December. I am committed to try to seek state and federal funding for this project.

The renovation and upgrade project at the **Senior Center** is well underway with Olympus Construction and Silver Petrucelli & Associates working with Town staff to adjust issues as they arise. Regular meetings are scheduled every two weeks for discussion of the on-going construction. The demolition as well as the initial construction have begun and are already transformative. Silver Petrucelli submitted the project for review with United Illuminating to access available incentives for improving energy solutions. The good news is that the project incentive grant included \$8,000 for the HVAC ERV (energy recovery ventilation) units at \$250/Ton and \$1,864 for Lighting Design for a total of \$9,864. As the budget is very tight, these funds are a welcome addition. This project is funded with state grant funds. Most of the materials have been ordered and work will continue while awaiting delivery.

Our newly created ad hoc **Town Building Committee for Beecher School Capital Projects** had its first meeting on September 30th. In addition to building improvements, the committee will also be reviewing Beecher Pool issues, and possible security upgrades. The Board received a report from Kyle Elmy of the engineering firm of Weston & Sampson, giving us a detailed evaluation of, and recommendations to improve the pool's existing conditions and bring the Beecher Road School pool into code compliance. As you may know, the pool was built in 1972. Also, the Woodbridge BOE has a confidential report regarding a security study that was done recently, and the Committee will also review that

and make recommendations regarding necessary security school upgrades. We will apply for grant funding once we determine costs.

We recently received the contract documents from the state regarding the recently awarded \$500,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant for the new **HVAC system in the Center Gymnasium and nearby restroom upgrades**. I will provide updates once we review them, and the next steps to proceed with the project.

Lastly, we are working with Cardinal Engineering on the preliminary design and survey regarding the **Town Center Sidewalk Project**, funded with a state grant. This project most likely will be done in the summer of 2023 once school is out of session and our town center is less busy with traffic.

In a recent edition of the Woodbridge Town News, there was commentary stating that I as First Selectman did not intend to support the upcoming year's Amity Regional School District 5 budget. I did support passage of the current year's budget. I take this opportunity, as I will take other opportunities, to state unequivocally that I never made such a statement regarding next year's budget. I cannot imagine a situation where I would decide my vote on a budget I had not yet seen, and in this case, a budget that as far as I know, has not yet been prepared.

This inaccurate statement was misinformation about the Amity Regional School District 5's budget process. I remain committed that the Board of Selectmen, as well as the Board of Finance, are fully briefed on the actual facts.

Our annual **Veteran's Day Ceremony** will be held this year (after a two-year COVID hiatus) at 11 am on Friday, November 11th in the Center Gym. More information will be forthcoming in our newsletter and on our Town website. We will work toward providing adequate ventilation (doors

open, etc.), so please dress accordingly. Masks will be required.

Several months ago, I met with a clinical-stage nonprofit biotechnology company, *Cure Rare Disease*, letting us know they were interested in moving to Woodbridge. We encouraged them to come. *Cure Rare Disease* develops therapeutics for rare and ultra-rare neuromuscular diseases, such as two rare types of muscular dystrophy, known as Duchenne and Becker. I am so pleased that they have announced that they have acquired their first laboratory space in Woodbridge, and will relocate their Boston headquarters to the 30,000-square-foot facility at 4 Research Drive and expand research and development operations. The company also plans to lease 15,000 square feet to other life science and healthcare firms. This is great news indeed.

Woodbridge has responded to a request to show support for the Bristol Police Department after Sergeant Dustin DeMonte and Officer Alex Hamzy were shot and killed in the line of duty. A blue light shone outside Woodbridge Town Hall through Friday, October 21st when funeral services for both police officers were held in East Hartford. May their memory be a blessing.

Lastly, I remind everyone to remember to **VOTE on Tuesday, November 8th**. In-person voting will be held in the Center Gymnasium from 6 am to 8 pm. The ballot includes candidates for Federal Offices (United States Senate & United States House of Representatives), and other State Offices. There will also be a ballot question to authorize a change in the State Constitution authorizing early voting in Connecticut Elections. Absentee ballots are also available. Please contact either the Woodbridge Town Clerk's Office or the Registrars of Voters Office for further information. Most information regarding events and meetings is available on our Town website at www.woodbridgect.org. As always, do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or comments. You may reach me by email at bheller@woodbridgect.org or by phone at 203-389-3401. I would urge everyone to take some time to enjoy the spectacular colors of fall here in Town, and please stay safe! Thank you.



Woodbridge Town News

Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper

Mailed Free to Every Home in Woodbridge
Mailed Free to Every Business in Woodbridge & Bethany

Circulation of 3,654.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477
Phone: 203-298-4399

Publisher Rocky Salperto
Editor Marlene Silverstein
Production & Design J. Michael Kriz
Correspondents Melissa Nicefaro | Bettina Thiel
Contributing Writers Roberta Nestor | Ginny Reinhard

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Contact us:
Rocky Salperto Rocky@woodbridgetownnews.com
Marlene Silverstein Marlene@woodbridgetownnews.com
J. Michael Kriz Mike@woodbridgetownnews.com
Melissa Nicefaro..... Melissa@woodbridgetownnews.com
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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 18 Thanksgiving Issue	November 11
December 16 Holiday Issue	December 9

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

FROM OUR READERS

4th Annual Living Treasure Award Dinner A Great Success

The 4th annual Living Treasure Award dinner was a great success and a fabulous community-building event. Congratulations to the honorees: Susan Jacobs, Richard Jeynes, Dwight Rowland, and the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association. Many thanks to the businesses that donated, the individuals who supported, and the many volunteers who made the event possible.

We are grateful for the support of AAA Northeast, Acuity Hearing Solutions, Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society, Amity Garden Center, Amity Motors, Amity Physical Therapy, Andes Deli, Apizza Grande Bethany, Archie Moore's, B and B Transportation, Behavioral Health Consultants, LLC, Bethany Farm & Nursery, Beth-Wood Baseball league, Billy's Ice Cream, Big Y, Birchwoods at Oak Lane, Blue Check Deli, Brookside Market, Karen Bogdanoff – Realtor, Café Rebelde, Cappetta's Italian Imports, Pat Cardozo – Realtor, Carmine's di Vega, Chrisandras Country Store, Clay Date, Chip in a Bottle, Coachman Square at Woodbridge, Congregation B'nai Jacob, D'Aniello's Amity Bike, Dean's Hair & Nail Salon, Buddy DeGennaro – Realtor, Dip Top, Simon Donato, Dozo Asian Bistro, Dunkin' Donuts, Durante's Pasta, Elim Park, Ernie's Pizzeria, Explorers Learning Center, Fancy Nails, First Church of Christ, Foxwoods Casino, Friends of the Woodbridge Library, Hamden Rehabilitation & Health Care Center, Hairs 2 You, Nails by Hong, Infinity Dental Care, JCC of Greater New Haven, Jesse's Toys, Joyce Printers, Julia's Bakery, Karen Bellamy – Farmers Insurance, Katz's Deli, Laticrete International, Inc., Lasse's Caterers, Lock, Stock & Barrel, Chris Lovejoy–Realtor, New England Brewing Co., New England Cat Care, Oak Lane Tennis Club, Opal Stork Home Care, Palace Theater, Paolo's Restaurant, Progressions Salon, Pez Visitor Center, Ralph & Rich's, Representative Mary Welander, Rooster's Landscape Supply, Rotary Club of Woodbridge,

Senator Jorge Cabrera, Senator James Maroney, Seven Angels Theatre, Solun Restaurant, Chris Sorenson – Merry Mountain Farm, Starbucks Coffee Company, April Stirling – Realtor, Stop & Shop, Susman, Duffy & Segaloff, PC, The Garden Club of Woodbridge, The Liquor Factory, The Red Barn, The Willows, The Write Approach, Town Fair Tire Centers, Trader Joe's, Traditions Golf Club, Oak Lane, Ron Osach – Attorney at Law, U.S.S. Chowder Pot III, Vancord Cybersecurity, Visiting Angels, Whitney Rehabilitation Care Center, Wines and Spirits of Woodbridge, Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee, Woodbridge Hardware, Woodbridge Republican Town Committee, Woodbridge Running Company, Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association, Yale Repertory Theatre, Scott Zimmerman, and Zeisler & Zeisler, P.C.

Many thanks to those individuals who helped make the Living Treasure event a success. These include: celebrity servers, committee members, donors, staff, and volunteers: Amity student volunteers, Cathy Austin, Janet Ciarleglio, Jennifer Clarke-Lofters, Pat and Joe Crisco, Susan Davidson, Jen DiBlanda, Gary DiBlanda, Mark Dutka, Jessica Esposito, the Finance Department, Bob Garofalo, Tony Genovese, Margaret Hamilton, Beth Heller, Tom Kenefick, Paul Kuriakose, Leo Club members, B. Patrick Madden, Kristy Moriarty, Teresa Nakouzi, Gerry Shaw, Principal Analisa Sherman, Deputy Police Chief Smith, Dr. Guy Stella, Ellen McDonald, L. Faith Miller, Brad Parsons and Building Maintenance Department, Nancy Pfund, Lynn Piascyk, Public Works Department, Dwight Rowland, Analisa Sherman, Sandy Stein, Carlos Torres, Eric Werthmann, Judi Young, and the year-round support of Human Services Commission members. We also thank all who attended, including the friends and family members of the award-winners, for their support.

Many thanks to all those who help support the Woodbridge Center.
Jeanette Glicksman
Director Woodbridge Human Services

WTN LETTERS POLICY

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

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



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Thank you to the staff of our library.

The Woodbridge Library Commission would like to express its heartfelt appreciation to the staff of the Woodbridge Town Library for their continued commitment to serve our community during the challenges of the past few years.

During this Thanksgiving season we felt it especially important to express our gratefulness for their ongoing dedication.

Your perseverance is inspiring.

OPINION

From the Democratic
Town Committee

BY ELLEN SCALETTAR
WDTC CHAIRMAN



No Time for
Complacency

If you are not planning to vote on November 8th, or if you think your vote doesn't matter, please reconsider. I know it is tempting to think that we are safe because we live in Connecticut, a pro-choice, pro-education, pro-common sense gun laws state, a state where we believe in science, in the need to address climate change, and in the dignity of all people.

But, as we have learned in recent years, if we take these values and the protection of these rights for granted, we do so at our peril.

As in so much of the country, Connecticut's Republican Party candidates are radically different from the Republicans of the past. In our State's races, these candidates include supporters of the dangerous lie that our elections cannot be trusted; they include determined anti-choice and anti-public health advocates, and they include those who would undermine the expertise and dedication of our teachers and educators under the guise of "parents' rights." Donald Trump himself is holding a fundraiser at Mar-a-Lago for the Connecticut Republican candidate for United States Senate.

Republican leaders in Congress have told us their plans, should they take control. These include not only disbanding the January 6th Committee investigating the insurrection at the Capitol, but possibly investigating the Committee members themselves. Republican Senators have proposed enacting a national ban on abortion (so far expressly discussed at 15 weeks), and sunseting the safety net. The latter means creating an opening to curb Social Security and Medicare.

The list goes on...and on. The importance of voting defensively to protect our rights and our democracy cannot be overstated.

At the same time, here in Woodbridge we have the opportunity to vote FOR an extraordinary slate of Democratic candidates. You are no doubt familiar with at least some of them and their records of dedication and accomplishment; other names may be new to you. Please visit the candidates' websites to learn more:

› Governor Ned Lamont: <https://nedlamont.com/>;

- › Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro: <https://rosadelauro.com/>;
- › U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal: <https://richardblumenthal.com/>;
- › State Representative Mary Weland: <https://www.welandforct.com/>;
- › State Senator George Cabrera (State Senate District 17): <https://www.jorgecabreract.com/>;
- › State Senator James Maroney (State Senate District 14): <https://www.maroneyforus.com/>;
- › Attorney General William Tong: <https://www.williamtong.com/>;
- › Stephanie Thomas for Secretary of the State: <https://votestephaniethomas.com/>;
- › Sean Scanlon for Comptroller: <https://www.seanforct.com/>;
- › Erick Russell for Treasurer: <https://www.erickforct.com/>.

And here are a few additional election-related reminders:

- ✓ There is a ballot question for your consideration: "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to provide for early voting?" A "yes" vote would support this important expansion of voting opportunities in Connecticut. For more information, go to: <https://my.lwv.org/connecticut/article/early-voting-faqs-what-ballot-question-means-connecticut-voters>;
- ✓ It is not too late to register to vote: <https://voterregistration.ct.gov>;
- ✓ You can still request an absentee ballot: <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Absentee-Voting>.

We have stark and crucial choices when we go to the polls on November 8th. Our Democratic candidates have proven their commitment to our community, our state and our country, as well as to our Constitution and to our shared values as Americans.

PLEASE VOTE!

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

Other Side of the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE
WRTC CHAIRMAN



A Woodbridge-Centric
Approach to November 8

Election time. Television and on-line ads everywhere. Social media swimming in political content. All trying to hit the target that will motivate voters for or against a candidate, or even an entire party. This column has made it a point to focus on Woodbridge issues and now that we're in the thick of the "silly season" it is incumbent upon the local Republican Party to present our state candidates in the context of their stances and potential impact on Woodbridge. Draw your own conclusions on national issues, we're keeping this column close to home.

The most serious issue we face as a town is the lawsuit regarding affordable housing. We're being accused of terrible things, but the root cause of the situation is the state law that pushes the "10%" formula for affordable housing on all 169 towns and cities in the state. It's been on the books for decades, but recent legislative changes – imposed by the Democrat majority in Hartford – have created a punitive scheme designed to dismantle local zoning control in communities like Woodbridge that do not meet the 10% goal. We are facing an expensive and likely drawn-out process as the result of the lawsuit. The Republican answer? In the 2022 Republican Contract with Connecticut, our candidates are committed to "take a more honest and equitable approach to affordable housing rules" and "lead the fight for local control of development." The idea is to change the current approach to create incentives for towns to encourage development of affordable housing instead of dealing with the specter of having local zoning control stripped away (in other words, use a carrot, not a stick). This is a better pro-affordable housing approach. To Woodbridge, and towns throughout Connecticut, this means the one-size-fits-all statute imposed by the Democrat majority in Hartford will be revised to provide a sensible approach to solving Connecticut's housing crisis. This is what Republican candidates want to bring to Woodbridge – and the entire state for that matter – a smarter approach to affordable housing that starts with local control.

Such an important change must come from the state legislature, so who we send to Hartford matters. State Senate candidates Kathy Hoyt (17th District) and Kim-Marie Mullin (14th)

and House candidate Dan Cowan are squarely in our corner when it comes to defending Woodbridge against the public attacks levied against us and have promised to work for legislation to rid us of the state laws that have created this turmoil. It is appropriate to ask their Democrat opponents where they stand on this sensitive issue. Woodbridge's future hangs in the balance.

Gubernatorial candidate Bob Stefanowski supports changes to the affordable housing laws and has also offered his **Connecticut F.I.R.S.T. Plan – Fight Inflation, Reduce State Taxes**. On the Fight Inflation side, he proposes reducing the sales tax to 5.99% and eliminating the additional 1% tax on prepared food. This would take a little of the sting out of the record inflation hurting so many family budgets. Yes, Woodbridge is considered an affluent town, but there are many, many families here who would welcome the break. Similarly, for the many self-employed residents eliminating nuisance taxes that you're now paying the state would offer relief. On the Reduce State Taxes side, Bob proposes making up to \$10,000 in property taxes (excluding vehicle taxes) deductible from your state income tax calculations. With our mill rate being the seventh highest in the state, every one of us could benefit. And where is Governor Lamont on this? Do you see anything in his platform that addresses the needs of Woodbridge as Bob Stefanowski's does?

Candidly, divisive issues like abortion are not on the table in Connecticut. Stefanowski is pro-choice and thus cannot be tagged with the "anti-women" label that Democrats are quick to stick on Republicans. Bob Stefanowski's consulting work in Saudi Arabia does not translate to his endorsement of Saudi human rights violations any more than Gov. Lamont's personal contribution to the re-election of pro-second amendment Montana Governor Steve Bullock makes Governor Lamont a member of the NRA. These are distractions we need to filter out to make an informed decision about which slate and which candidates, when viewed through a Woodbridge lens, is and are best for us. The case is strong that a vote for Republicans on November 8th is a vote for a better future for Woodbridge.

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OPINION

Will Budget Surplus be Returned to Taxpayers?

Common Questions About the Amity Budget and Surplus (Part 1 of 2)

BY DR. K. SUDHIR
AMITY BOE AND AFC MEMBER

A recent Op-Ed published in Orange and Woodbridge Town News stated that the Amity BOE voted not to return the surplus to towns. This is the first of a 2-part article to answer common questions and clarify misconceptions about the Amity budget surplus. The second part will be published next month.

1. *We saw the Op-Ed in the Orange and Woodbridge Town News with the headline "Amity Votes Not to Return \$1.5 Million Surplus to Towns." We are shocked that the BOE would not return unspent money from the budget to the towns and the taxpayers. What is going on?*

NO SUCH VOTE WAS TAKEN by the BOE. This article and the headline are factually wrong.

Here is the story: When there are unspent funds from the budget, the Amity BOE traditionally appropriates a portion of the funds for one-time nonrecurring capital improvements as allowed by state statute, and then returns the remaining funds to the towns in the following year. The towns then use the returned funds at their discretion for other town needs, even though taxpayers voted the expenses only for the school district.

Before he became BOE chair, Paul Davis noticed that the current process may be violating state statute, which requires that unspent funds be used only to reduce the school district's budget in the following year. So, he requested the administration get a legal opinion. Connecticut General Statute §10-51 subsection 5(c) states: "*The Board shall use any budget appropriation which has not been expended by the end of the fiscal year to reduce the net expenses of the district for the following year.*"

For the September 12 BOE meeting, the lawyers and auditors gave written opinions that the statute requires that unspent funds be used only to reduce future expenses of Amity; they cannot be returned to towns and spent on non-education items. To learn more, the Amity BOE invited the auditors and lawyers to the October 17 meeting. They reiterated their earlier opinions in person.

The administration also surveyed 12 other regional school districts. Ten of these districts use unspent funds towards future budgets or capital reserve and are in compliance with the statute.

The board will discuss the issue again in November. Though the **Board cannot vote on whether to follow a law or not**, it will decide on how best to return unspent funds to taxpayers

without violating the law.

2. *Will taxpayers and towns be adversely affected by the change, if Amity BOE decides to follow the recommendation to use the unspent funds to offset the following year's expenses?*

Practically, there will be no change to taxpayers' costs as in either case, the unspent funds will cover a cost that ultimately has to be paid by the taxpayer. But there are benefits for taxpayers and the town in following the law, rather than continue a practice advised as illegal by auditors and lawyers.

A.) GREATER TRANSPARENCY: Directly using unspent funds to reduce the next year's Amity expenses is more transparent as the spending is what taxpayers voted for. When the funds are returned to towns, they use taxpayer-approved school funding for other town needs without taxpayer oversight. Using unspent funds to reduce the next year's education expenses keeps money where taxpayers approved.

B.) REMOVING LEGAL RISK: Not following the law puts the Amity school district, the BOE, and all member towns at risk of future litigation costs.

3. *Why did the Amity BOE retain \$929,175 of FY 21-22 surplus funds (~ 1.8% of the budget) to support the capital reserve fund instead of returning it to taxpayers?*

Many board members' natural inclination was to return all surplus to taxpayers. But after careful consideration of the costs and benefits to taxpayers and students, the board members ALL voted UNANIMOUSLY to fund two major items in the school's capital plan: (1) replacement of leaky roofs in the two middle schools (about \$710K) and (2) long overdue replacement of musical instruments (about \$190K). In addition, members voted to allocate about \$25K for preliminary costs (to obtain bids, architectural drawings etc.) to upgrade the lecture hall.

Remember capital costs will be incurred by taxpayers one way or another. Using current unspent funds for these capital costs NOW is prudent and cost-effective because: (1) delaying roof replacement can potentially increase future costs from mold, damaged walls; (2) issuing bonds for such relatively small capital expenses will incur significant bonding costs.

Indeed, state law allows school districts to appropriate part of the surplus (up to 2% of budget) for capital expenses, because when used prudently, it saves money for taxpayers.

Amity Board Chair Reflects on Budget Issues

BY PAUL DAVIS
CHAIR, AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

On Thursday June 9, 2022, two months prior to my election as ABOE Chair, I appeared before the Orange Board of Selectmen as a private citizen with questions related to the return of unexpended funds by the regional school district to the three towns. After reading four months of critical articles about District Budgeting released by the vice chair of the Orange Board of Finance, I became concerned that maybe we needed to look at the issues more closely. I believed that funds appropriated for the Amity Regional School district by the voters in the three towns, which make up the district, are designated strictly for use by the school district. Following that line of reasoning I felt that any funds returned to the towns should be recycled into the following year's Amity Budget thereby benefiting the taxpayers directly by reducing the need for greater increases in the mill rates. Members of the Board of Selectmen did not agree and felt that the town should decide how the funds are used, so I decided to research the issue more thoroughly.

I started my research with the State Statutes (Section 10-51) governing regional school district financial operations. I was somewhat shocked and surprised when I found only one sentence related to unexpended funds, "The board shall use any budget appropriation which has not been expended by the end of the fiscal year to reduce the net expenses of the district for the following fiscal year." Having served as a State Representative for ten years using statutory language, the term "shall," unless there is some sort of qualifier, is almost always mandatory. The question of sending money back to the towns arose immediately. Is it possible, after all these years of returning unexpended funds to our towns, that we have been violating state statutes? I forwarded this information to the administration and asked if we could get a legal opinion which we did from our attorneys who are experts on municipal and education law and from the State Department of Education. Both indicated that the statute is very clear on the handling of unexpended funds.

Nowhere in State Statutes could I find any language which permits regional districts to return unexpended budgeted funds to the towns.

On Friday, September 30 I read several newly released news articles and opinions about Amity finances, many with inaccurate, exaggerated, condescending, and false information. A headline read "Amity Votes Not to Return 1.5 Million Surplus to Towns". This is simply not true. No such vote, nor any discussion about this ever took place. The Board is currently working with our auditors and legal team to determine what course of action is best, within the law, to get funds back to the taxpayers. Superintendent Byars never said she made a request to lawyers about regional school systems and budget surpluses. She asked for a specific legal interpretation of a State Statute; it was done at my request, and it certainly is not an obscure statute found by a group of lawyers. I also read statements that the BOE overrules the Amity Finance Committee. None of our committees have authority to rule on anything. They can only make recommendations which are then considered by the whole board within the context of what is best for the District. Overwhelmingly the Board generally supports the recommendations of the committees as they have done on almost every budget presentation in recent years.

Perhaps the most stunning implication was that the ABOE was acting improperly in not sending unexpended funds back to the towns just because it is a State Statute. What kind of lesson would we be sending to the students of our district in finding out we were doing something illegal and were just going to continue to do it?

I take no pleasure in feeling the need to respond to so many published inaccuracies about Amity School District finances and policies. I would ask the public to view our meetings for yourself, send in questions, make suggestions, and become part of the process. To our elected officials, positive input is always welcome. We all do a better job for our communities when we work together. Our kids are the future. We can always do more.

OPINION

Amity Budget Surpluses Equal Over-Taxation!

Fair Way to Handle Surpluses: Return Funds to the Towns

BY MATTHEW T. GIGLIETTI CPA
CHAIRMAN, WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF FINANCE

Since Amity announced that it would no longer be returning budgetary surpluses to the three towns and the taxpayers who provided the funds in the first place, the chair of the Amity board has written several lengthy letters explaining why this change is necessary and in the best interest of all parties concerned.

This change to not return budget surpluses to the Towns came about based on an obscure and until recently unknown state statute which asserts that surplus funds should be used to offset the next year's budget. For the past 15-16 years Amity has refunded surpluses to the three towns in proportion to their contributions to Amity. Over this period of time, Amity's auditing firm never once indicated in the audit report that this was improper.

Never once did their lawyers indicate it was improper. Never once did the State of Connecticut, which reviews all reports, indicate this was improper. Interestingly, the current chair of the Amity board, while he was a regular board member, voted for the budgets and thus endorsed the return of funds to the three towns. Now, he is insisting that Amity must retain all surplus funds to be used at its discretion, instead of returning the money to the three towns.

When you consider that over the years these surpluses have amounted to millions of dollars, one year the surplus was over three million, it seems unconscionable that they should retain these unspent taxpayer dollars. If they budget \$50,000,000 to fund Amity but only spend \$47,000,000, they have overtaxed the taxpayers of the three towns \$3,000,000 dollars and should return this \$3,000,000 to the three towns. Remember budgetary surpluses equal over taxation! Repeated bloated budgets take resources away from other needs our towns have, including elementary education. Amity is not the only school system that taxpayers support.

Now Amity will tell you they are going to use all surplus funds to offset the next year's budget and thus reduce the amount the taxpayers will have to contribute. Is that after they fund their unending list of projects? The surplus could easily disappear into the next year's budget without any transparency to the taxpayers. Trust me, provide me with the detailed budget and I could reduce the Amity budget by \$2,000,000 with little effort.

In my view, the only fair way to handle these massive surpluses is to return the funds -- in good faith -- to whoever supplied them in the first place. That, of course, is the taxpayers from Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge.

I urge all taxpayers to be aware of what is going on at Amity. In nearly fifty years residing in Woodbridge, I have never seen the massive level of dissatisfaction with Amity, in both budgeting, financial, and education related issues. Board meetings are never ending due to the high volume of public comments critical of what is going on. Not to mention the concern about the amount of time of student time spent on progressive agenda issues, leaving less time for learning the basics. Many parents believe this shift is the root cause of the dramatic drop in Amity's rankings among CT secondary schools. Amity used to be in the Top 5 and has plummeted to #22 in the latest ranking.

It's a sad commentary on the state of Amity, and the dissatisfaction appears to be gaining momentum. I know many people who are unhappy and they are highly respected, genuine people who are concerned about the direction Amity has taken.

As far as the Amity budget and finances are concerned, a large group of financial people will be getting together in the near future to assess the financial situation at Amity and carefully review the budget and to keep all taxpayers informed as to financial developments. So, there is much more to come as we begin to provide taxpayers with all the information needed to understand Amity's finances.



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 lower lumbar spine eliminating the



Kyle Branday

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.



WOODBIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

From the Amity Board of Education

By Paul Davis, Amity BOE Chair

Regional School District Unexpended Funds

At the October 17, 2022, Amity Board of Education meeting, Board members were able to discuss with the Board’s legal counsel and the Board’s financial auditor the CT State Statutes (Section 10-51) governing regional school district financial operations. Of concern was the statutory language that states, “the board shall use any budget appropriation which has not been expended by the end of the fiscal year to reduce the net expenses of the district for the following fiscal year.”

Attorney Floyd Dugas addressed the use of the word “shall” in the statute. He clarified with Board members that “shall” is generally applied as a mandatory term – unless clarifying language allows for some discretion. Statute 10-51c does include any additional clarifying language. He advised the Board of their responsibility to adhere to state statutes.

Superintendent Jennifer Byars and Director of Finance Terry Lumas provided summary research on how other regional school districts comply with the statute. While there was variation among the twelve regional school districts surveyed, there were some common practices identified. None of the regional school districts apply an estimated surplus of the current fiscal year to offset the next fiscal year. All twelve regional school districts wait until the fiscal year close on June 30th and the full financial audit is completed in mid-winter before using the unexpended funds. Five of the districts apply the audited unexpended funds to the next fiscal year’s budget. For example, funds remaining at the end of fiscal year 2022 are audited and identified as unexpended funds in fiscal year 2023, and will be applied toward the next fiscal year, which is fiscal year 2024. Five of the districts put the audited funds into reserve accounts – funding capital non-recurring, medical insurance reserves, pension funds, or a general contingency account. Several districts spend down the projected surplus on large capital projects late in the fiscal year so that a minimum amount of the budget becomes unexpended funds. Only one regional school district returns the audited surplus to their sending towns by way of a check.

Mr. Michael VanDeventer shared his recommendation on the best practice for the application of the surplus funds from the perspective of an accountant and auditor. He stated his opinion that the application of the audited funds to reduce the appropriation for the next year’s budget is a fiscally sound way to comply with the

statute. He reiterated the opinion of Attorney Dugas that willful failure to comply with a statute would be a fiscal liability for the district.

The BOE will finalize discussion and possible action on the best manner in which to comply with the statute at the November 14, 2022, Amity Board meeting.

Board Tables Decision on Amity Continuing Education Program

The Board tabled action on disbanding the Amity Continuing Education Program until the November 14, 2022, Board meeting. Interest in the Amity Continuing Education Program has been declining since 2013. The number of program offerings, actual courses, and enrollment had been decreasing and the suspension of course offerings during the pandemic has failed to rebound. Additionally, town Park & Rec programs, Youth Service Bureaus, offer nearby robust continuing education programs and online learning opportunities are providing attendees and facilitators with a wider array of options other than the Amity Continuing Education Program. Additionally, an open position for a Program Director remains vacant. Current classes will run through December; there are no classes planned for the spring session. The most successful program, the summer theater camp for students, will continue through the Drama Student Activities Account.

Policy Committee Updates

In response to concerns expressed last spring and more recently about student behaviors and discipline, the Board of Education Policy Committee is in the process of reviewing all the policies in the 5131 series. These are the policies that govern student conduct and discipline. Included with this review are updates in our bullying policy in response to changes in state statutes and concerns brought to the attention of the Board. Additionally, following the September Board of Education meeting, and as a follow-up to public comment, the policy committee is developing a policy and regulation on the selection of materials for the library media center, as well as updating the policy governing the selection and adoption of textbooks. As with all committee work, recommendations are forwarded to the full Board for review, changes, and final approval.

PSAT Testing Day

On Tuesday, October 12, 2022, all
See “Board of Education” On Page 11



Community Mourns Loss of Beloved Teacher

By Bettina Thiel
Orange Town News Correspondent

Many Orange residents were moved to embrace and offer support to a local family recently, after the father, a long-time Amity shop teacher, died unexpectedly. Bill Battaglia, 46, left behind his wife of 17 years, Liz, who is battling breast cancer, and their two children, Duke and Stella, 11 and 8 years old.

Bill was a career and technical education teacher, running the tech ed classes at Amity High School for some 17 years until he took a job with Waterbury Public Schools three years ago. He recently left the classroom to work for Technical Education Solutions, Inc., a company that counsels schools and provides professional development for teachers using manufacturing equipment. It was at his place of work that he was found unresponsive in his car on October 4.

Since this career switch happened just a few weeks before his passing, his life insurance had lapsed. Cindy Sullivan, Liz’s sister, set up a Go Fund Me page in his honor. More than 600 donors have made contributions, collecting well above the \$50,000 goal. Sullivan said they are keeping the page up for as long as there are contributions coming in. The family’s predicament has prompted contributions from people as far away as California and the UK.

Liz is Special Education director for Madison Public Schools. Luckily, she can manage to do quite a bit of

work from home. She is undergoing chemotherapy and the cancer seems to respond well, Sullivan said. The children found comfort in going to school. They wanted to return to school soon after their father’s funeral. “The school has been incredible,” Sullivan said.

It was the kids’ particular concern whether they would have to move, Sullivan said. The money collected through the Go Fund Me page is designed to ensure they can stay where they are.

Sullivan said her sister found comfort by the community support they experienced, and even smiled a little when, at the funeral, former students of her husband’s spoke about how he had changed their lives.

At the Amity Board of Education meeting on October 17, Orange resident Glen Ketchian addressed the board about issues; but first he commemorated Bill Battaglia, saying, “he was an inspiration to my oldest son.”

“Billy had an amazing aptitude for all things mechanical,” his obituary read. “He had a special fondness for cars, boats, and motorcycles. He always shared his mechanical expertise whether it was fixing a car, a boat, or nailing a roof, he was always there to help a friend.”

And that love was returned, whether he knew it or not. “I was a student of Billy’s,” wrote one young man as a message to the family. “He pretty much is the reason I’m in the auto field, I wouldn’t have been here without him... sorry for the loss of a great man.”

Attention Teachers!

We want to know what’s going on in your classroom!
Let us know about any fun activities or holiday projects.
You can also send us your pictures.
(Parental consent required)
Woodbridge Town News
P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477 • edit@WoodbridgeTownNews.com

WOODBRIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

APT Sponsors Quinnipiac University Symposium

Recently, Kyle Brandy MSPT/C-PS, and a graduate of Quinnipiac University’s master’s degree program in Physical Therapy, returned to the university, participating in a panel discussion. A partner in Amity Physical Therapy, Brandy brought 18 years of physical therapy experience to the session; the panel concentrated on the graduate students in physical therapy and their abilities to succeed in a competitive environment upon graduation with doctoral degrees.

The first event of its kind at the university’s graduate school, discussion focused on the pragmatics of pay schedules, benefit structure, interview

process, social networking sites and mentorship.

Benefitting both third year graduate students and current DPT (doctoral) candidates, Amity Physical Therapy’s platinum sponsorship helped to highlight the more practical side of physical therapy for students entering the marketplace as future clinicians.

No stranger to discussion groups through online zoom presentations and other formats, Kyle Brandy and other clinicians in the practice author helpful blogs on the website at www.amitypt.com. He can be reached at 203-389-4593 in the Woodbridge office.

“Board of Education” From Page 10

ARHS students in grades 9-11 took the grade-level specific PSAT test during the school day. This is the first year that Amity Regional High School has tested all three grades. Results of the assessments will be used to guide instructional improvement efforts throughout the school year. Students in grades 9-11 expressed appreciation for the opportunity to practice on these tests before moving on to the SAT later in their school experience.

Grade 12 students were encouraged to use the day to work on their post-secondary planning and the college application process. The ARHS Counseling Department is commended for planning and directing the greatly-expanded testing program for this year – nearly 1000 tests were administered to Amity students.

OBOA Day of Dialogue

The high school’s sixth annual One Book One Amity (OBOA) Day of Dialogue, focused on the Summer 2022 theme of “Going Global”, took place on Thursday, October 13, 2022. Students

attended a keynote presentation from IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services), Connecticut’s largest refugee resettlement agency, and two workshops of their choice selected from more than 30 options presented by a combination of ARHS faculty members and volunteers from the community.

Amity Transition Academy and University of New Haven Expand Partnership

The University of New Haven Clinic Coordinator in the School of Health Services, and the Amity Pupil Services Department have been collaborating to develop school-based experiences for students in the Speech and Language Program at the University of New Haven. Through this anticipated partnership, students from the University of New Haven will be completing clinical practicum and internship experiences across the Amity school community with a specific focus on the Amity Transition Academy. The growing partnership between Amity and the University of New Haven will continue to provide our students with unique and beneficial experiences.



Front Row: (Left to Right) Judy Primavera, sponsor, Maeve Culbertson ; Back Row: (Left to Right) Thayer Doyle, Vice Principal, Fred Hulley, sponsor, Grace Millard, David Tobin, Victoria Pelton, Keith Smolinski, Musical Director

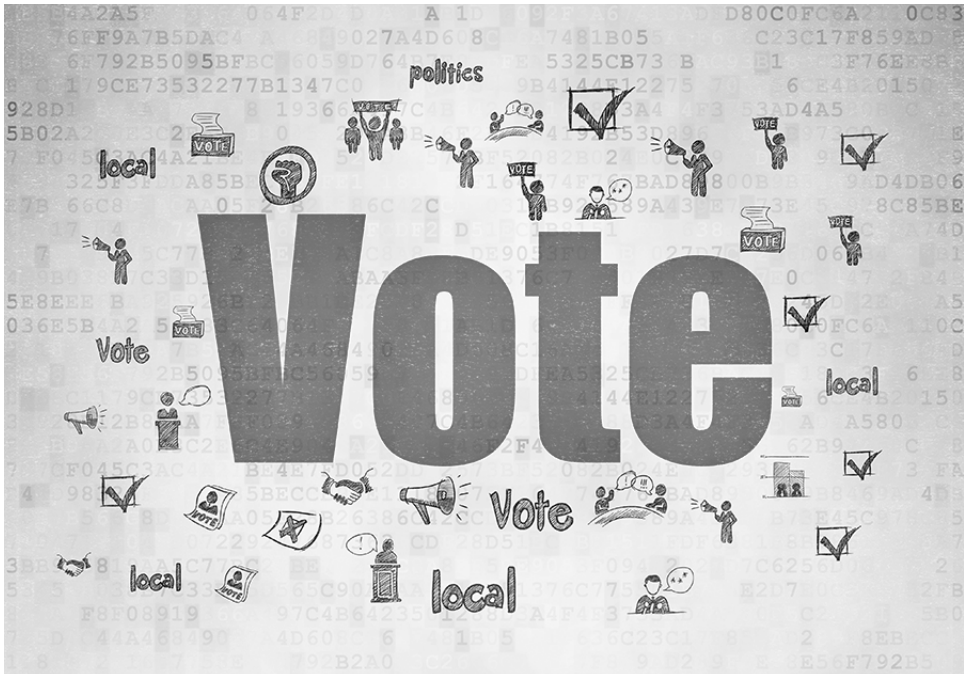
The Spartan Players Announce Fall Musical Production

With a generous grant from its headlining sponsor, The Jamie A. Hulley Arts Foundation (jamiehulleyartsfund.org), The Spartan Players (Bethany campus) are pleased to announce its production of “Matilda Jr.”, Friday, November 11, 6:30 PM, Saturday, November 12, at 6:30 PM, and Sunday, November 13, at 2:00 PM. The Spartan Players look forward to bringing this energetic story to life

on the Amity Bethany stage!

The Squarefoot Theatre Company’s Patrick Laffin has teamed up with Amity staff members Keith Smolinski, Robert Fragione, Marissa Nall, and Talia Marinaccio to bring this amazing show to the stage!

Advanced tickets are available through amsb.ptboard.com and will be on sale at the door for all performances.



ELECTION 2022

Senator Maroney: An ‘Independent Voice’

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

State Sen. James Maroney currently represents the 14th Senatorial District encompassing Milford, Orange, and a slice of southern Woodbridge and western West Haven. In the upcoming election he is seeking his third term. He is cross-endorsed by the Connecticut Independent Party as well as the Working Families Party.

“Now, more than ever, we need to put our differences aside and get things done for people,” he was quoted in campaign literature. “That’s been my focus.”

In the most recent legislative session, Maroney served as co-chair of the General Law Committee and the Legislative Regulation Review Committee; also, vice chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee, and member of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee, as well as the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee and the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

His signature piece of legislation in this legislative session was to help pass strong consumer data privacy laws, the Act Concerning Personal Data Privacy And Online Monitoring, which had bipartisan support. The statute grants consumers the right to access, correct, delete and obtain a copy of personal data, and to opt out of the personal data mining for the purposes of targeted advertising, certain sales of personal data.

Maroney also points to tax cuts in the 2022 state budget benefitting families, namely a \$250 per child tax rebate for up to three children. The budget also increased the property tax credit and the number of people eligible for the property tax credit.

Despite the tax cuts, the budget also made “historic investments in student mental health, and early childhood education, protecting the environment, and more,” he wrote.

Maroney supported legislation benefiting both state police and veterans.

For the troopers, he supported a pay increase and health coverage for on-the-job post-traumatic stress for all police officers. He also supported a \$1million student loan forgiveness for police officers throughout.

For veterans, the budget provided for continued funding for veterans to attend manufacturing certificate programs; providing families up to \$1,800 for funeral expenses; and extending benefits to individuals released from service with any other than honorable discharge.



James Maroney

On the environmental front, he supported measures to move away from tail pipe emissions by making electric vehicles and e-bikes more affordable through rebates; providing more charging stations; and creating a grant program to switch school buses from diesel to electric. There is also a push underway to update traffic signals to reduce emissions from idling.

He has helped channel state funds to the towns he represents, namely West Haven: \$193,000 to the police department for the purchase of body cameras, dash cameras and video storage devices; Milford: \$277,000 for the Bureau of Aquaculture for repairs and renovations; \$600,000 for Bridges Healthcare Inc. to purchase a new HVAC system; \$67,000 for the police department for body cameras and dash cameras; \$750,000 to construct a walkway along the Wepawaug River; and Woodbridge: \$2.3 million to convert the Old Firehouse into a community center.

Looking forward, he is hoping to continue his work in the areas of data privacy, early childhood education, workforce development and the cost of higher education.

Data Privacy: Senator Maroney plans to continue his work on data privacy and he is working with other legislators from around the country to develop controls for AI and Algorithmic Decision Making. This is a topic that impacts us all, as AI is now making decisions related to who to grant interviews to, insurance rates, healthcare, housing, and more. Further, he plans on looking at healthcare data that is not protected by HIPAA, yet still often extremely sensitive.

Early Childhood Education: During the pandemic, Connecticut has lost 20,000 childcare slots, he stated, and there are tens of thousands of children who are in need of quality early childhood education. As a con-

Newcomer Challenges Senator – With A Smile

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Kim-Marie Mullin is a new arrival, not only to the political scene, but to the area. Moving to West Haven in the middle of the pandemic, she used her spare time to fix up a run-down bungalow she had bought, steps away from the Sandy Point Bird Sanctuary, and to clean up the open spaces around it – where illegal dumping had left anything from refrigerators to lawnmowers and mattresses.

“I didn’t wait for someone to help,” she said in a phone interview, and pretty soon neighbors chipped in and she began organizing a Neighborhood Association. She considered running for City Council, but did not meet the one-year residency requirement.

In the meantime, the scandal broke about State Rep. Michael DiMassa, a Democrat, and three other West Haven residents stealing from the city coffers dollars that were meant to bridge Corona-related expenses, both for businesses, residents, organizations and the city government.

So, now she is running to unseat Democrat James Maroney and represent the residents of the 14th Senatorial District, which encompasses Milford, Orange, and parts of Woodbridge.

“It’s the craziest thing I’ve ever done,” she says. But with her upbeat attitude, it is easy for her to reach out and talk to people in this neck of the woods. She mingled at the Woodbridge Like Me Day, and wrote enthusiastically in a Facebook post that “Woodbridge Like Me Day” was “a celebration of culture, acceptance, inclusion and reflection of the diversity of this beautiful community.” To which an Orange resident responded, “Awe-



Kim-Marie Mullin

some day! There is a huge difference between celebrating and accepting all people vs equity and indoctrination.”

Calling West Haven “the epicenter of corruption,” Mullin pledges that if elected, she would make sure that changes would be made and better oversight provided.

On her campaign website, kimmariemullin.com, in a brief video she paints a rosy picture of The American Dream, “The American Dream should include affordable, clean, safe neighborhoods,” she says. “I support our police, I support affordability and livability. We should have accountable and transparent government and thriving schools...Sometimes you have to make changes to make things better.”

Mullins is the owner of Hudson and Sound , a real estate brokerage. She serves as the director for the Mid-Fairfield County Board of Realtors. She teaches real estate licensing courses. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Iona University, graduating magna cum laude.

sequence, many parents have been unable to return to work. Investing in early childhood education is therefore “an investment in both Connecticut’s short term and long-term workforce.”

Workforce Development: Last session Sen. Maroney worked with Senator Fonfara on a pilot program to create an Income Share Agreement to help increase the number of CDL licensed drivers in the state. They developed a pilot program to include other areas of workforce shortage that are critical to the state’s economy.

Cost of Higher Education: Maroney

is looking for ways to reduce costs for college. He will look at some of the drivers of the cost of education, such as energy costs, and also look at other creative methods of reducing college tuition.

James Maroney graduated from Jonathan Law High School then attended Yale University. In 1999, he founded First Choice College Placement, a college placement service. Maroney has served as president and founding member of the Milford Education Foundation and also served on the Milford Board of Education.



ELECTION 2022

“Cowan” From Page 1

he said — as the state was struggling with its Covid response. He championed in-person learning and was a critic of the requirement for children to mask up. He felt that these were health decisions which should be left up to parents. He was not re-elected.

Connecticut needs a “Parents Bill of Rights,” so he states on his website. He wants to ensure “they are front and center when it comes to decisions about their children’s education, healthcare, and needs. He said his passion for parental choice started with the elimination of the religious exemption for immunizations. The legislature now requires all children to be immunized before they enter school. Cowan opposed that. Deeply religious, he felt that the act was an overreach of the government.

In fact, government overreach is the most pressing issue facing the constituents of the 114th District, he wrote in a candidate statement. “I intend to work with the executive branch to establish a Parent’s Bill of Rights and with the House of Representatives to support the Families First Act.”

He has been speaking up repeatedly at the Amity Board of Education meetings, joining a group of parents who criticized the district for exposing children to books with content of a sexual nature. He spoke out against the district’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) plans. These programs ultimately do nothing to lift people out of poverty, he said. Instead, “Com-

mitted monogamous parents raising their children together cover two of the three major steps by which children and families are lifted out of poverty, followed by graduating high school and at least one parent always working a full-time job.”

Like most Republican candidates, he blames the Democrats for watering down the Criminal justice system. “It’s clear their policies have failed. Crime is rising, and that is undeniable; we all feel less safe.”

He stands for local control in all areas of municipal governance, and ensuring local property taxpayers have the loudest, most influential voice on issues that affect the very fabric of their community. If elected, he would demand an audit of how billions of federal pandemic aid have been spent, and hold government bureaucrats accountable for all budgetary and policy decisions.

As far as inflation is concerned, he said that “residents deserve robust tax relief that would include reducing middle class income tax rates.”

According to his bio, Cowan grew up in upstate New York and joined the Navy at age 17. He was trained by the Navy as a mechanic and turned those skills into a career in the heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning industry. He later earned a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of New Haven and, after working for a Fortune 500 company, he started his own small engineering business earlier this year.

He is a member of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in New Haven.

“Weladner” From Page 1

in the towns she represents, as well as legislative successes. For a rookie, a remarkable record.

On her website, www.welanderforct.com, she lists the following projects supported by state funds:

For Woodbridge: \$300,000 for Senior Center renovations; \$2 million for the Old Firehouse renovation into a Community Center, a Woodbridge delegation effort led by Sen. Jose Cabrera;

For Orange: \$200,000 for the first-ever, fully accessible public playground at Fred Wolfe Park; \$100,000 for Orange Senior Center operations; \$10,000 to repair the historic clock in the Orange Fire Station;

For Derby: \$1.3 million to replace aging emergency generators at Griffin Hospital, a bi-partisan Derby delegation effort led by Rep. Klarides-Ditria; \$300,000 for infrastructure upgrades at TEAM headquarters and program expansions.

Welander also led state efforts to team up with the federal delegation and procure \$24 million for building and safety upgrades to the Derby/Shelton train station. The funds are split between the state and federal departments of Transportation. For the Valley, and Derby in particular, this project is expected to spark the long-awaited economic renewal.

Welander said the train station is to be developed into a multi-modal transportation center, with a bus transfer station, electric vehicle charging stations and more. There is also money for safety upgrades to the popular

Greenway trail along the Housatonic river bank.

The Derby station is on the rail line from Bridgeport to Waterbury. At the same time the city has approved an apartment complex with market-rate housing units in the vicinity. “Derby has a ton of potential,” Welander said.

Children’s Mental Health: When asked about the accomplishment that is most important to her, she pointed at the new programs focusing on children’s mental health. The state has created a task force to identify where mental health services are lacking and set aside \$22 million for school-based health centers. The goal is to get kids and families the help they need before they reach the crisis point, she said. “That’s a huge win for a first term,” she said.

The legislature also passed an Act to Improve the Availability and Provision of Mental Health, Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services to children, which had 116 sponsors from both sides of the aisle. It set money aside to help parents pay for mental health treatment, as well as ways to attract more providers to the field. “It was a huge project,” she said. The locally based clinics are not mandates, she said. Rather, the districts that experience a need for mental health services can opt in.

All in all, the state is in a pretty good position to face the future, she said. “It is in a much better place than a lot of other states.” People are moving here, people are starting businesses, they enjoy a high quality of life. “Connecticut is a pretty good place to live.”

YOUR VOTE COUNTS. VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8.

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

PARTY	1 Governor and Lieutenant Governor Vote for One	2 United States Senator Vote for One	3 Representative in Congress Vote for One
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz	2A Richard Blumenthal	3A Rosa L. DeLauro
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B Bob Stefanowski and Laura Devlin	2B Leora R. Levy	3B Lesley DeNardis
GRIEBEL FRANK FOR CT PARTY	1C Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz	2C	3C
INDEPENDENT PARTY	1D Robert Hotelling and Stewart "Chip" Beckett	2D	3D Amy F. Chai
WORKING FAMILIES PARTY	1E Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz	2E Richard Blumenthal	3E
LIBERTARIAN PARTY	1F	2F	3F
GREEN PARTY	1G	2G	3G Justin Paglino
WRITE-IN VOTES	1H	2H	3H

Senatorial District 14

4 State Senator Vote for One
4A James Maroney
4B Kim-Marie Mullin
4C
4D James Maroney
4E
4F
4G
4H

Senatorial District 17

4 State Senator Vote for One
4A Jorge Cabrera
4B Kathy Hoyt
4C
4D Jorge Cabrera
4E Jorge Cabrera
4F
4G
4H

Woodbridge, Connecticut

5 State Representative Vote for One	6 Secretary of the State Vote for One	7 Treasurer Vote for One	8 Comptroller Vote for One	9 Attorney General Vote for One	10 Judge of Probate Vote for One	11 Registrar of Voters Vote for One
5A Mary Welander	6A Stephanie Thomas	7A Erick Russell	8A Sean Scanlon	9A William Tong	10A Clifford P. Hoyle	11A Pennell Hamilton
5B Daniel Cowan	6B Dominic Rapini	7B Harry Arora	8B Mary Fay	9B Jessica Kordas	10B Clifford P. Hoyle	11B Anna D. Dickerson
5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C
5D Mary Welander	6D Cynthia R. Jennings	7D Jennifer Baldwin	8D Sean Scanlon	9D A.P. Pascarella	10D	11D
5E Mary Welander	6E Stephanie Thomas	7E Erick Russell	8E Sean Scanlon	9E William Tong	10E	11E
5F	6F	7F JoAnna Laicell	8F	9F	10F	11F
5G	6G	7G	8G	9G Ken Krayske	10G	11G
5H	6H	7H	8H	9H	10H	11H

State Election

5 State Representative Vote for One	6 Secretary of the State Vote for One	7 Treasurer Vote for One	8 Comptroller Vote for One	9 Attorney General Vote for One	10 Judge of Probate Vote for One	11 Registrar of Voters Vote for One
5A Mary Welander	6A Stephanie Thomas	7A Erick Russell	8A Sean Scanlon	9A William Tong	10A Clifford P. Hoyle	11A Pennell Hamilton
5B Daniel Cowan	6B Dominic Rapini	7B Harry Arora	8B Mary Fay	9B Jessica Kordas	10B Clifford P. Hoyle	11B Anna D. Dickerson
5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C
5D Mary Welander	6D Cynthia R. Jennings	7D Jennifer Baldwin	8D Sean Scanlon	9D A.P. Pascarella	10D	11D
5E Mary Welander	6E Stephanie Thomas	7E Erick Russell	8E Sean Scanlon	9E William Tong	10E	11E
5F	6F	7F JoAnna Laicell	8F	9F	10F	11F
5G	6G	7G	8G	9G Ken Krayske	10G	11G
5H	6H	7H	8H	9H	10H	11H

November 8, 2022

5 State Representative Vote for One	6 Secretary of the State Vote for One	7 Treasurer Vote for One	8 Comptroller Vote for One	9 Attorney General Vote for One	10 Judge of Probate Vote for One	11 Registrar of Voters Vote for One
5A Mary Welander	6A Stephanie Thomas	7A Erick Russell	8A Sean Scanlon	9A William Tong	10A Clifford P. Hoyle	11A Pennell Hamilton
5B Daniel Cowan	6B Dominic Rapini	7B Harry Arora	8B Mary Fay	9B Jessica Kordas	10B Clifford P. Hoyle	11B Anna D. Dickerson
5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C
5D Mary Welander	6D Cynthia R. Jennings	7D Jennifer Baldwin	8D Sean Scanlon	9D A.P. Pascarella	10D	11D
5E Mary Welander	6E Stephanie Thomas	7E Erick Russell	8E Sean Scanlon	9E William Tong	10E	11E
5F	6F	7F JoAnna Laicell	8F	9F	10F	11F
5G	6G	7G	8G	9G Ken Krayske	10G	11G
5H	6H	7H	8H	9H	10H	11H

Congressional District 3
Assembly District 114

11 Registrar of Voters Vote for One
11A Pennell Hamilton
11B Anna D. Dickerson
11C
11D
11E
11F
11G
11H

VOTE ON THE QUESTION(S)

YES

NO

1. Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to provide for early voting?

14

17

ELECTION 2022

FROM OUR READERS

Mary Welander will Continue to Advocate for all of our Children

Like many of you, our families chose to live in Woodbridge, in large part, because of the great schools and education here. As parents, we want to make sure our kids are getting a well-rounded education in safe schools, with excellent teachers and staff. This is why on November 8th we are voting to re-elect Mary Welander as our State Representative. Mary has served on the Orange Board of Education, as the Connecticut Ambassador for Sandy Hook Promise, and on the Education Committee in the state legislature. Mary also served on the Orange School District Reopening Committee. As parents who were actively involved in that committee in Woodbridge, we are well aware of the dedication, hard work and thoughtfulness involved in keeping schools open for all our kids. Mary has successfully advocated for policies that support students, teachers and staff, such as the Children’s Mental Health bill passed this year. Mary Welander has proven that she is a leading advocate and representative for students and education professionals. We need someone like Mary to continue to advocate for all our children.

Please join us in supporting Mary Welander on November 8th.
Ke Xu
Mohini Ranganathan
Patricia Alonso
Tahera Parvez

Vote for Mary!

As a resident of Woodbridge, small business owner and a Republican (currently without a party...), I am proud to support Mary Welander in her re-election as our state representative. In only her first term as our representative, Mary’s support for COVID relief funding from the Department of Economic

and Community Development (DECD) directly impacted not only our ability to maintain our staff of 60 through the pandemic, but those of countless other businesses across the state.

As we look at the upcoming election for state representative, it is deeply concerning to see ‘my party’, traditionally fiscal conservatives and proponents of a strong business climate, focused on challenging fundamental freedoms of residents of our state and our country. For example, the platform for the Republican candidate: <https://22dac114.com/platform/> highlights under his ‘Parents Matter’ agenda: “Committed monogamous parents raising their children together cover two of the three major steps by which children and families are lifted out of poverty, followed by graduating high school and at least one parent always working a full-time job. If parents end up in the situation where they cannot reside in the same home, children need both of their biological parents to be active participants in their lives more than anything else. Mothers and fathers provide distinct and complementary resources to children.”

Dictating the ideals of ‘good parenting’ and attacking the abilities of single parents, same sex parents, adopting parents and the abilities of one gender to “properly” raise children were never the principles of ‘my’ Republican party. They do not represent me. They do not represent Woodbridge. I can only hope my fellow residents agree.

In my opinion it is time for the Republicans and Democrats to work together to make strides to strengthen Connecticut both economically and socially. Woodbridge, along with Orange, Derby and Hamden can lead the way to a better state. Mary has demonstrated through her efforts a willingness to move us all forward.

Scott L. Prud’homme

“Hoyt/Cabrera” From Page 1

30% since 2020. Motor vehicle thefts have increased by over 40%. Robberies have increased in our state while declining nationwide. People in our community feel our state officials are not addressing this issue.”

Her crime figures, however, do not mesh with those put out by many Democrats, who say that crime actually decreased. The report they base their statements on is attached to Sen. Cabrera’s press release on this issue, and provides the answer: Overall crime rates have dropped significantly from ten years ago, but in 2021 several crime categories experienced a bump up. The “Crime in Connecticut” report, issued by state police, shows that indeed, the crime index from 2019 to 2020 went up from 1,628 to 1,768, then leveled off at 1,717 in 2021; it is still considerably lower than the 2,447 recorded in 2012.

Even so, both candidates share the feeling that “Everyone deserves to feel safe in their home, neighborhood and community.”

Senator Cabrera points out that he was among many legislators who, in recent years, have voted in support of bills strengthening juvenile crime laws and cracking down on car thefts as well as catalytic converters in efforts to reduce crime rates in Connecticut.

At a time when state coffers are flush with federal infrastructure monies, Cabrera has managed to procure state funding for several projects in his district:

- › The Community Investment Fund awarded \$750,000 to Hamden for drainage improvements in the Newhall neighborhood;
- › Bethany, Woodbridge and Beacon Falls are also recipients of Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grants. Woodbridge will receive \$500,000 in state funding for the renovation of the Center Gym. This will be matched by \$106,687 from the town. Bethany will receive \$404,696 for road improvements;
- › The state Bond Commission was expected to approve \$4.3 million for replacement of a 100-year-old fire house in Hamden and \$1.3 million in repairs and quality of life improvements to the Keefe Community Center;
- › Cabrera, along with other Valley legislators, applauded the inclu-

sion of \$200,000 from the Bond Commission for upgrades to TEAM, Inc.’s headquarters in Derby.

Candidate Bios

Kathy Hoyt grew up in Hamden. She graduated from Hamden High School and Central Connecticut State University, with an Undergraduate Degree in Elementary Education, and a Masters in Educational Leadership. Kathy went on to become a teacher, and eventually, an administrator.

For the past 18 years she has been a real estate agent in New Haven County. Kathy is active on many boards in the local area. She is an active member of the Hamden Chamber of Commerce, serving on both the executive Board, and the Governmental Affairs Committee. Kathy believes that small business needs to be supported, and encouraged for growth in our state. Kathy also serves on the Board of Directors for the House of Heroes, a non-profit organization that supports and assists veterans.

As a union organizer and workers’ rights advocate **Jorge Cabrera** has been fighting for working families in the district and across the country for more than 25 years. His father came from Puerto Rico in the 1960s to look for a better life. Cabrera became the

first in his family to attend college. During his time at Quinnipiac University, he met his future wife, Rebecca. In 1998 he graduated, earning a degree in Political Science with high honors.

After two years as a legislative aide to then-Speaker of the House Moira Lyons, Cabrera spent nearly a decade as a researcher,

wage enforcement specialist, and organizer for the Carpenter’s Union. His work focused on ensuring prevailing wage laws were followed by employers and protecting members from wage theft.

Cabrera eventually moved to the 1.3-million-member United Food and Commercial Workers International and worked as an international representative. In 2008, Cabrera joined President Obama’s campaign to organize in battleground states. Today, Cabrera serves as a business representative and Director of Organizing for UFCW Local 919 in Farmington.

Cabrera and Rebecca, a public-school principal, live in Hamden with their twin fifteen-year-old sons, Cabrera and Gabe, both of whom attend Hamden public schools.



Kathy Hoyt



Jorge Cabrera

Woodbridge Selectman Endorses Hoyt for Senate

Woodbridge Selectman, Dave Vogel, has endorsed Republican candidate, Kathy Hoyt, for State Senate in the 17th district. Vogel praised Hoyt’s background in real estate and as a small business owner as a major reason for his endorsement. “During such tough times for small business owners, we need someone like Kathy who, as a business owner, has firsthand experience with the struggles of owning a business in Connecticut and I am confident she will fight to make our state more business-friendly.” Vogel continued, “It is my pleasure to en-

dorse Kathy and I hope you will join me in voting for her in November.

Kathy Hoyt is a life-long Hamden resident. She attended local public schools and graduated from Hamden High School. From there, she attended Central Connecticut State University, graduating with a Undergraduate Degree in Elementary Education, and a Masters in Educational Leadership. Kathy went on to become a teacher. Teaching young learners for many years she then moved into a role of

See “Hoyt Endorsement” On Page 18

TOWN DEPARTMENTS

Recreation News



The 40th annual Woodbridge Road Race was held on Saturday, October 8, 2022. Overall Winner was Dean Bhatt at a time of 18:19. Laura Pierce was the overall female winner at 18:48. The top three male residents to finish were: Joseph Sugarmann 19:05, Rob Rosasco 19:51, John Onofrey 20:29. The top three Woodbridge Resident female winners were: Laura Pierce 18:48, Emily Criscuolo 21:52, and Ana Ruszkowski 23:22.

The Fun Run top three boys were: William Gambrell 8:31, Vihaan Muzumdar 10:46, and Bowen Skwara

12:01. The top three girls were: Carissa Parker 7:01, Lucy Moore 7:36, and Trixie Moore 8:08.

Registration for winter programs will begin on November 7. Check our new registration website for a complete listing, <https://secure.rec1.com/CT/woodbridge-ct/catalog> or register in person at our new office location in the lower level of Town Hall, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Limited spots remain in the youth winter basketball leagues. Call the Rec. Dept. Office for details.

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SERVING CT'S FINEST LOCAL ICE CREAMS
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EST. 2022

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- DOG FRIENDLY

Welcome to **Micro Creamery of Connecticut**! Here at Micro Creamery, we are driven by our passion for community and highlighting some of CT's super premium, hand-crafted Ice Cream for our customers. Creating a family friendly dog inclusive environment and a place where people can make memories that will last forever. Our theme is inspired by the ever-popular microbrewery concept. We have **6 different local creameries** with **over 70 Ice Creams from all over Connecticut**. Currently our vendors are:

Big Dipper Ice Cream (Prospect, CT) • Praline's Ice Cream (Wallingford, CT)
Buck's Ice Cream (Milford, CT) • Salem Valley Farms Ice Cream (Salem, CT)
Arethusa Farm (Bantam, CT) • Cold Fusion Gelato (Westport, CT)

JOIN US FOR HAPPY HOUR MON-THUR FROM 12-4 TO RECEIVE **10% DISCOUNT** OFF YOUR ENTIRE ORDER

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Enough is Enough!

Democrat policies have

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and

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Help stop the insanity
Vote for AMERICA

Vote REPUBLICAN on November 8th

Paid for by SAR Group

AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



Left: Deb Urso from Hamden Health provides an entertaining Taste of VT program in October, complete with a virtual tour and tasty treats
Right: Dr. Willa Horowitz owner of Acuity Hearing gives a very informative presentation on Hearing Loss with lunch sponsored by Coachman Square

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

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

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

Funding Awards: The Woodbridge Center would like to sincerely thank the following Agencies for their tireless efforts to provide funding and services to The Woodbridge Center to support the older adults in our community:

- The Agency on Aging of South Central CT for the following grant awards:
- The musical entertainment at the Annual Town Picnic and The Solo Violinist Concert performance in September;
- The labor portion of Wi-Fi installation in the upstairs Human Services corridor;
- The labor portion of the installation of the projector and screen in The Center;
- The CT Healthy Living Collective for funding for Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance Session;
- Monitor My Health for providing the Evidence Based Life-style Change Program, funded through Agency on Aging of South Central CT;
- Griffin Hospital and Agency on Aging of South Central CT for providing the 6-week Diabetes Management Class.

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

Sponsored lunches for Woodbridge residents over 60 years of age Thanksgiving Drive-thru Feast:

We are thankful to our generous sponsors: Coachman Square at Woodbridge, The Linden at Woodbridge, The Willows, and the Woodbridge Police Union for the opportunity to offer this delicious, traditional Thanksgiving feast! Enjoy turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, freshly roasted vegetables, roll, and pumpkin pie from Lasse’s Catering. Pick-up is 12-1 pm on November 17 in front of The Woodbridge Center. Please call to RSVP by November 10 - space is limited.

Upcoming Events/Programs

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

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

Diabetes Management Class: This 6-week program provides the tools you need to better manage your diabetes or prediabetes whether newly diagnosed or have had diabetes for years. Spouses or support people are welcome to attend. Brought to you by Griffin Hospital and Agency on Aging of South Central CT. Mondays from 6-8 pm in the library’s meeting room beginning November 14. Call to RSVP.

Mason Jar Fall Luminary Craft: Come enjoy this fun crafting activity

with Deb Urso of Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center! All the supplies will be provided to make a beautiful autumnal mason jar luminary that can be illuminated with a candle. No charge. Program will meet in the Library Meeting Room, November 10, from 11 am - 12 pm. Please call to register.

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

NEW, Free Session – Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance (TJQ:MBB): TJQ:MBB is a highly sought after, research-based, fall prevention exercise program which uses slow, purposeful movements to improve strength, mobility, balance, and daily function to prevent falls. It is designed for adults over 60 years of age. Classes are taught by specially trained local instructor, Bill Banick, in a supportive environment. This program can accommodate individuals who need some assistance with walking, such as with a cane. No prior experience with Tai Ji is needed. The 24-week (48 class) program is offered for no charge in partnership with the CT Healthy Living Collective and funded by the State Unit on Aging. This program begins January 9, 2023, and will meet Mondays and Fridays, from 11 am - 12 pm in the Center Building gymnasium. Call 203-389-3430 to register. Space is limited!

Save the Dates

- **December 2** Lunch & Learn: Cardiovascular Disease;
- **December 8** Gnome Wine Topper Craft;
- **December 16** Christmas in London.

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

Hybrid Aerobics Class with Laura Richling: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 am in the Center Building gym and on Zoom. Enjoy a complete aerobic, cardio, and strength training work-out to a variety of music. Bring your own 1-or 2-pound hand weights, if you have

them, to use during the class. There is a \$3 fee payable at the start of class or invoiced monthly for Zoom participants. Please call for the link.

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

Zumba Gold with Amanda Aranzullo: Friday, 9-9:45 am, in the Center Building gym. Who says exercise can’t be fun? This fun “dance party” focuses on all elements of cardiovascular health, muscular conditioning, flexibility, and balance. No prior Zumba experience required. The fee is \$30 for a 6-week session and will be prorated as needed.

Hobbies/Social

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

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

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

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

Services offered

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

See “Woodbridge Center” On Page 19

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

HUMAN SERVICES



Sergeant Brian Pedalino of the Woodbridge Police Department stands with Ellen McDonald of Woodbridge Human Services following the Police department's recent food drive to benefit the Woodbridge Food Pantry. The Boy Scouts, Troops 63, 907, and 410, will hold their annual Scouting for Food program on October 29. Everyone is encouraged to participate; please have your donations bagged or boxed by your mailbox by 8:30 am.



Woodbridge resident Maryann Flores receives the bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster dose recently at the Human Services' clinic provided by the Quinnipiac Valley Health District

Veterans Day Commemorative Ceremony
Residents are invited to attend the Town's Veterans Day event honoring all Veterans on Friday, November 11 at 11 am in the Center Gymnasium. Dr. Barry Josephs will serve as master of ceremonies. Masks are required for this event.

Safety Programs
The Woodbridge Police Department, in conjunction with the Human Services Department, will launch two new safety programs: the Alzheimer's/Dementia Safety Alert Program and the Autism Safety Alert Program. These two programs are designed for families of individuals with dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or those with autism spectrum disorder. This program

will help create a data base to be used by the Police Department in cases of missing persons and interactions with police, etc. Family members and caregivers can register loved ones and provide information to a data base which could be accessed by officers when needed in an emergency. Call for more information.

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

See "Human Services" On Page 19

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



Home Alone class empowers young people.

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

Home Alone Class Rescheduled
This two-day class for ages 9-12 will be held Thursdays, Nov. 3 & 10 from 4:00-5:15 pm in the Woodbridge Town Library Meeting Room. Students learn about answering the door and phone, emergencies, calling 911, and healthy snacks. House rules and internet safety topics are discussed. Each child receives an information packet to share with parents. Snacks and are water provided. Advance payment of \$15 payable to Woodbridge Youth Services and permission form will reserve your spot. Call to sign up early as space is limited. Sibling discount applies.

Halloween Spooktacular
Seventh and eighth grade Woodbridge and Bethany residents and all Amity Middle School-Bethany students are welcome. Grab a costume and join this awesome event on Friday, October 28 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the AMSB gym at 190 Luke Hill Road in Bethany. Fee of \$7 covers games, DJ, "Axe Throw" inflatable, costume contest, pizza, and raffle. Get your team of five together for the Mummy Wrap. Woodbridge Youth Services and the Town of Bethany sponsor this event.

Volunteers Needed: Volunteers and donations of raffle prizes and toilet paper for the Mummy Wrap are needed. Contact 203-389-3429 for more information. Community Service hours approved for high school upper classmen who volunteer.

Fall Paint Party
All Amity Middle School-Bethany students are invited to register for the Youth Services Paint Party in the

West Cafeteria on Friday, November 18th from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Artist Samantha Woodruff guides you through painting a beautiful fall scene. Fee of \$20 covers instruction, materials, and snack. No artistic ability needed. Call soon. Advance payment and permission form required. Sibling discount applies.

Woodbridge Job Bank Seeks Teens Who Want Work
The Job Bank in Woodbridge offers occasional jobs to teen residents (ages 13 – 18) who would like to work in Woodbridge to earn money. Youth Services provides an opportunity to learn about the interview process, safety on the job, and how to negotiate pay. Do yard work, babysitting, weeding, dog walking, raking, etc. Call for an interview at 203-389-3464 or e-mail npfund@woodbridgect.org. Masks and social distancing may be required.

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

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

BOWDAAC-Let's Talk Prevention
BOWDAAC (Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge Drug/Alcohol Action

See "Youth Services" On Page 19

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Town of Woodbridge Meetings for the Month of November 2022



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

11/2	Center Building Renovation Committee Special Meeting.....	10:30 AM	
	Housing Committee.....	7:00 PM	Town Hall
11/7	Town Plan & Zoning Commission.....	6:30 PM	Town Hall
	Emergency Medical Services	7:00 PM	Center Building
	Human Services Commission	7:00 PM	
11/9	Board of Selectmen	5:00 PM	Town Hall
11/10	BRS Capital Projects	8:30 AM	
	Community Council.....	9:30 AM	Town Hall
	Economic Development Commission.....	6:00 PM	Town Hall
11/14	Library Commission	6:00 PM	Library
	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:30 PM	Town Hall
11/15	2030 Task Force	6:00 PM	Town Hall
11/16	Community & Cultural Ctr. Bldg. Cmte.....	4:00 PM	Town Hall
	Diversity & Inclusion Committee.....	6:30 PM	Library
	Inland Wetlands Agency.....	7:30 PM	Town Hall
11/17	Center Building Renovation Cmte.....	10:00 AM	Town Hall
	Investment Committee.....	5:30 PM	
	Board of Finance.....	6:00 PM	Town Hall
	Conservation Commission.....	7:30 PM	Town Hall
11/21	Fire Commission	6:00 PM	
	Police Commission.....	6:15 PM	Police Dept
11/28	CUPOP.....	5:30 PM	Town Hall
11/30	Gov't Access TV Commission	7:30 PM	Town Hall

“Hoyt Endorsement” From Page 14

administrator, for over 10 years. Leaving the educational world to raise her young family, she became a volunteer throughout the community. For the past 18 years she has been a Real Estate Agent in New Haven County. Kathy is active on many boards in the local area. She is an active member of the Hamden Chamber of Commerce, serving on both the executive Board, and the Governmental Affairs Committee. Kathy believes that small business needs to be supported, and encouraged for growth in our state.

Kathy also serves on the Board of

Directors for the House of Heroes, a non-profit organization that supports and assists our veterans in CT. Kathy believes that veterans throughout our state should be honored for the service and sacrifice they have given to our country. Kathy often hears many voices in the community sharing their concerns of fear, fear of not being able to afford to keep their homes, their struggles in making ends meet, concerns with government spending, taxation, and rising crime rates. This has given Kathy the desire to run for office. To help make a difference and make changes at the state level. To be a firm voice for common sense leadership.

Distracted Driving Enforcement

From October 15, 2022 to October 31, 2022, the Woodbridge Police Department will be taking part in a state-wide initiative to combat distracted driving. Members of our Department will be concentrating enforcement efforts on distracted driving in an attempt to increase awareness and continue to protect the motoring public.

Over the past decade, distracted driving has become one of the leading causes of vehicle crashes on our nation’s roads. At any given moment across America, approximately 660,000 drivers are using or manipulating electronic devices while driving, a number that has held steady for more than a decade. In Connecticut in 2021, there were nearly 5,400 crashes attributed to distracted driving. Connecticut law prohibits the use of any hand-held mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle. Drivers who are 16 or 17 years of age are prohibited from using a cell phone or mobile device at any time, even with a hands-free accessory.

Violating Connecticut’s distract-ed-driving laws can be costly. Ticket-

ed drivers are fined \$200 for the first offense, \$375 for the second offense, and \$625 for the third and subsequent offenses.

The Woodbridge Police Department suggests the following safety tips:

If you are expecting a text message or need to send one, pull over and park your car in a safe location. Once you are safely off the road and parked, it is safe to text;

Ask your passenger to be your “designated texter.” Allow them access to your phone to respond to calls or messages;

Do not engage in social media scrolling or messaging while driving;

Cell phone use is habit-forming. Struggling to not text and drive? Activate your phone’s “Do Not Disturb” feature, or put your phone in the trunk, glove box, or back seat of your vehicle until you arrive at your destination.

The Woodbridge Police Department, along with the State of Connecticut’s Department of Transportation, urge you to put your phone down when you get behind the wheel. For more information, visit [nhtsa.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov).

Woodbridge Regional Animal Control Says Be “Bear Aware”

Black Bears in CT usually den from late November until mid-March. As winter approaches they become increasingly active in finding food sources to sustain them through the winter months. In Woodbridge as well as many CT communities black bear sightings have increased. Here is a brief guide to becoming “Bear Aware” and keeping safe while we share our Towns and planet with other creatures.

At Home Bear Basics:

Never feed or approach bears, intentionally or accidentally!

Secure Food, Garbage and Recycling! Food and food odors attract bears and can do so from quite a distance. Ammonia in your secured trash container may help.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active and awake from late March through late November!

Never leave pet food outdoors! If you must feed your pet outdoors, feed in single servings and pick up any leftover food or bowls after feeding. Store pet food where bears cannot see or smell it.

Clean and store your grills! Make

sure that all fat, grease and food particles are removed and grill is stored in a garage or shed.

Avoid placing meat scraps or sweet foods, such as fruit and fruit peels in compost piles.

If you have a bear in your yard, do not approach it! Go inside. If the bear persistently approaches before you can retreat into your house or garage, go on the offensive...shout, wave your arms and throw sticks or rocks.

Bears + Dogs = Trouble! Letting dogs chase or bark at bears is asking for trouble; don’t force a bear to defend itself.

Carry Bear Spray and know how to use it! Bear spray is the easiest and most effective way to deter a bear that keeps approaching and appears to be threatening.

Alert your neighbors to bear activity and share information on how to avoid bear conflicts! Bears have adapted to living near people; now it is up to us to adapt to living near bears.

Additional information can be found on the CT DEEP website and also at [BearWise.org](https://www.bearwise.org).

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

“Woodbridge Center” From Page 16

Computer Lab: Multiple computers and laptops are located in room 11 of the Human Services hallway, is open Monday - Friday, 10 am - 2 pm. Two-person limit in the computer lab. Printing is available (first 5 pages free). Preregistration is required.

Transportation: Those over the age of 60, 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. Vehicles are cleaned between each use. Masks are required.

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

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

Friendly Visitor Program: Call

Judi Young, Senior Social Worker, at 203-389-3429, to arrange for a friendly visitor.

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

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

Interested in participating in a paid research study? The Yale Brain Imaging Program (YBIP) is a research lab that explores the neurobiological basis of depression and how it changes across folks ages 35 through 70. Tak-

ing part in this research will improve the understanding of addiction and mood disorders so that they can be treated more effectively in the future. To participate, YBIP will contact you for a short confidential phone interview and an in-person visit for psychological and medical screening (which includes blood work and a urine drug test). If you meet criteria for any of the studies, you will be asked to return for one or more MRI scans and one or more PET scans. You will also be asked to perform some tests on a computer to assess cognitive functions such as memory and decision-making. Participants receive payment in the form of cash after completing the study. To learn, please call 203-737-6484 or email ybip@yale.edu. HICs 2000025671 & 2000027842.

“Human Services” From Page 17

Kindly check expiration dates prior to donating.

Energy Assistance Program

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

Adopt-A-Family and Resident Assistance Fund

If you missed the deadline to sign up to adopt-a-family, but still would like to contribute, please call Human Services to make a donation of gift cards. The program provides food baskets for the December holidays to Woodbridge families in need. Distribution of the baskets will take place in early December. Year-round donations to the Resident Assistance Fund (RAF) are welcome at any time.

Needed! Medical Loan Closet

Transport chairs and regular wheelchairs in good working order are needed for the Medical Loan Closet. Please contact Human Services to donate.

Prescription Drug Take Back Day

The Woodbridge Police Department will again participate in the Federal

Drug Enforcement Administration’s 22nd annual National Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 29 from 11 am to 1 pm. Residents are invited to visit the lobby at the Woodbridge Police Department to drop off both over the counter medications and pharmaceutical controlled medications. No liquids or syringes will be accepted. Take Back Day reflects a commitment to residents’ safety and health, encouraging the public to remove unneeded medications from their homes as a measure of preventing medication misuse. It is important to dispose of medications properly to keep pharmaceuticals out of the ground water.

Hearing Aid Access

Hearing aids are now in stores for thousands of dollars less than they previously cost. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), adults with mild-to-moderate hearing loss can now buy hearing aids at local stores or online without a prescription, exam, or audiologist fitting. The FDA estimates this could lower the average costs by as much as \$3,000 per pair. According to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (a member of the U.S. Institutes of Health), untreated hearing loss can lead to cognitive decline, isolation, and dementia, but only a fraction of the 28.8 million Americans who could benefit from hearing aids use them. For more severe hearing loss, a consultation with a professional is needed. For more information visit FDA.gov.



Spooktacular includes Mummy Wrap

“Youth Services” From Page 17

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

Community Sharing

Woodbridge Human Services collects food for families in need. Please be generous when local scouts collect

in your neighborhood on October 29th. Their efforts and your donations will benefit Woodbridge families in need. Look for their flyer and bag on your mailbox soon.

Families in Need

Resident families in need should contact Human Services to apply for food, holiday baskets, fuel assistance, and holiday toys. Call 203-389-3429 for more information.

Mental Health First Aid Trainings Available

BRIDGES of Milford is providing Mental Health First Aid Trainings for Youth and Adults. To register see website: <https://bit.ly/trainings-MHFA>

DID YOU KNOW?

Common Estate Planning Myths We’re Here to Help You Stop Believing!

As Estate Planning attorneys, we understand how important it is to properly plan for both the future and the here and now. While most of the general population would tend to agree with this statement, they often lack the professional support necessary to ensure that proper planning is present. In other words, you know you should do it, but you don’t know where to begin or what “what if’s” need to be covered!

We’re hoping to shed light on some common myths and misconceptions people have that often prevents them from taking that first step towards creating their Estate Plan.

“Estate Planning is only for people who are very wealthy.”

Estate Planning is more than estate tax avoidance and protection. While that can be a large part of an individual’s plan in some situations, it’s far from the sole purpose. Anyone who has assets, both liquid and tangible, needs an Estate Plan. It determines the manner in which one’s assets would be managed and distributed if they were to become incapacitated or pass away. And it ensures that the right person is provided the authority to carry out your wishes. Sometimes just the exercise of providing clarity is extremely helpful to your family during what can be a very hard time in their lives.

Bottom line: you don’t have to be rich to want to exercise your voice and create protections and conveniences for your loved ones!

“Estate Planning is for older individuals. I’m too young.”

We should probably just blame the media on this one for focusing on older generations when it comes to Estate Plans. But contrary to popular belief, younger generations need an Estate Plan just as much as older generations. For example, when you have minor children, the stakes are even higher to engage an attorney to help you smoothen the path in the event life throws your family a terrible curveball. Too often we see stories about younger people passing away, and the sad truth is, they probably didn’t have a plan put in place because they didn’t think they needed one. Even more, they may not have known what an Estate Plan is. Anyone who has assets and wants the people they love to be protected and cared for, needs an Estate Plan. This is true whether someone is in their 20’s, 50’s or 80’s.

“Estate Planning is only about my assets after I’ve passed away.”

Estate planning is often viewed as a strategy for controlling a person’s assets once they’ve passed away. This isn’t wrong by any means, but Estate Planning is so much more than just your future – it’s the here and now. We often ask our clients who they would want to be in control if they were to become ill or incapacitated presently. Who would they want to make decisions regarding their health? Who would they want to be in control of their finances? These questions aren’t easy, and the answers may not always come to you right away. But, if a person creates a plan where the people they trust are placed in these significant roles, and will have access to an Estate Planning attorney as questions or concerns arise, they will gain peace of mind knowing that they, and their family, will be cared for even when they are no longer able to manage their own affairs.

“Once I have an Estate Plan, I’m set for life.”

So, when an individual has an Estate Plan, that means they don’t have to think about it again, right? Here’s the truth—everyone’s personal circumstances change. This can include the relationships they have with people, their family, or their personal assets; not to mention changes relating to state laws or planning techniques. This means that anyone who has an Estate Plan in place should frequently review their plan to make sure everything is still in accordance with their wishes and intent. If it isn’t, or if they’re unsure, it’s probably a good time for them to reach out to their attorney to review their current plan and consider potential changes.

“I’ll get around to it...eventually.”

There are those famous last words again.

Let’s be honest, people procrastinate on things they don’t want to think about or don’t want to do. But in a world where you never know what can happen, wouldn’t you want to control what can be? By no means are we saying that creating a plan won’t take a little bit of time, pose some difficult questions or require you to make some hard choices. But when everything is said and done, you’ll have a plan in place that allows you to know everything is taken care of. To the attorneys and staff of Legacy Law Partners, PLLC, peace of mind is invaluable. »

Legacy Law Partners, LLC is the author of this article. This article has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal advice or to create an attorney-client relationship. Readers should not act upon the information contained in this article without seeking advice from an attorney regarding the specific facts and circumstances of your case.



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DEATH NOTICES

Liv R. Holland

Liv R. Holland, 83, of Orange, beloved wife of the late Daniel J. Holland, passed away peacefully on September 30, 2022 after a long illness. Born on December 23, 1938 in Flekkefjord, Norway, she was the daughter of the late Leon and Tøri (Skjeggstad) Rødland.

Liv arrived in Orange as an au pair in her early 20s and met the love of her life, Daniel at a neighborhood party while she was here on a visa from Norway. She only meant to stay in the US for a year but ended up staying for a lifetime. She was involved with the Church of the Good Shepherd and enjoyed being part of the ladies’ auxiliary for many years. She made many close friends there, many of which she kept in close contact for most of her life. She worked at the Orange Public Library for 20 years. Liv made multiple trips back to her beloved homeland of Norway to visit her two sisters Arna and Solveig and her many family members. She loved to cook for family and friends and pass on traditional family recipes. Throughout her life Liv was an accomplishment knitter who made many beautiful afghans for everyone in the family, multiple needlepoint art projects and many other crafts.

Liv’s family was most important to her and she was a great mom. The unconditional love she gave and the values she taught will forever live in the hearts of her family and she will be deeply missed.

Liv was predeceased by her loving husband, Daniel of 61 years. Survivors include three loving children, Dan R. Holland and wife Roberta of Woodbridge, Lisa Holland and fiancé Mark Coppolella of West Haven, and Eric Holland and fiancée Kris DePalma of West Haven; brother-in-law David Holland and wife Susan of Winter Park, FL; 3 cherished grandchildren, Michael Holland of Manchester, Alexander Holland of Woodbridge and Steven Holland and wife Zoe and great granddaughter, Olivia of Auburn, ME.

Funeral arrangements were in the capable hands of the Cody-White Funeral Home, 107 Broad Street, Milford, CT. There was a small service at Church of the Good Shepherd at 680 Racebrook Road in Orange on October 8th. Burial

was private. Memorial contributions may be made to St Jude’s hospital or the Alzheimer’s Association. To leave online condolences, please visit www.codywhitefuneralservice.com.

Rosemary C. Courtney

Rosemary C. Courtney, of Orange, passed away peacefully on Monday, September 26, 2022. Born on July 11, 1933 in New London, CT she was the daughter of the late Thomas and Mary (Garagliano) DiMaggio.

She graduated from the University of Connecticut with a BS in Nursing in 1956. Following graduation, she moved to New York City where she worked as a pediatric nurse. Rosemary returned to Connecticut where she met her beloved husband, John A. Courtney. She continued her career for many years at Yale New Haven Hospital in nursing and planning. She was a member of the American Nurses’ Association, the Connecticut Nurses’ Association, the UConn Alumni Association and the Dante Alighieri Society of New London.

Rosemary resided in Orange for over 50 years where she was active in Holy Infant Church. She enjoyed travel, going to the beach, gardening, playing bridge, golf and, most of all, time with family and friends.

She is survived by her four children, Susan Vitale (Joseph) of Arlington, MA, Jacqueline Moll (Gary) of Skillman, NJ, John T. Courtney (Maria) of Woodbridge, CT and Carolyn Norton (Kevin) of Harwinton, CT; and 8 grandchildren, Christina Moll Lagarto (Matthew), Jennifer Moll, Camille and Kate Vitale, Cameron and Colby Norton, and Kaitlyn and John E. Courtney.

She was predeceased by her husband, John A. Courtney, sister, Gellistrina DiMaggio and brother, John T. DiMaggio.

Funeral arrangements were in the capable hands of the Cody-White Funeral Home, 107 Broad Street, Milford, CT. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated October 14th at Holy Infant Church, Racebrook Road, Orange. Interment followed in St. Lawrence Cemetery, West Haven. Memorial donations may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation. To leave online condolences, please visit www.codywhitefuneralservice.com.

DEATH NOTICES

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

ARTS & LEISURE

2023 Seasonal Subscriptions, Fall Workshops and Brick Campaign for Massaro Community Farm

2023 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Despite cooler temps and shorter days, Massaro Community farm crew continues to harvest produce into mid-December. However, we're pleased to report all the fall CSA subscriptions, including eggs, are sold!

Sales are now open to secure your vegetable and egg subscription for the coming 2023 season. Keep in mind that committing to a seasonal vegetable or egg subscription at the farm helps us plan for the coming season. When we know how many seasonal subscribers to anticipate we can create a crop plan, order equipment and hire staff accordingly. The farm allows subscribers to self-select the rate that works best for your family, which can be paid incrementally or all at once, thanks to the **GrownBy** app. We also offer the option of a 10-week or 20-week subscription. Visit the farm's website at www.MassaroFarm.org for a description of what produce is generally offered and when the 2023 season will begin.

Adult Workshops. Seasonal youth programming is winding down. However, we do have two adult workshops in November. Registration for both events can be found on www.Eventbrite.com.

Natural Wreath Making/Decorating will take place on Sunday, November 6 at 1:00pm. We'll use the grape and bittersweet vines found around the farm for a wreath base. Then we'll walk the farm and gather natural materials to decorate them. Feel free to bring your own materials from home as well if you'd like to put them to use for decorating. Rain or shine. Dress for cool weather. \$18/pp or \$24/duo (parent & child).

Sip & Sign will take place on Thursday, November 17 beginning at



6:30pm in the barn. You choose the wooden sign of your choice to paint and decorate to keep or give as a gift. Workshop will take place in the barn.

Rain or shine. Dress for cool weather. \$40-\$52 (depending on the project you choose). Wine and snacks will be served!

Building Community: Massaro is pleased to partner with Emmett O'Brien Technical School carpentry department for the construction of a post-and-beam pavilion on the farm. The 24' x 32' pavilion will provide valuable shade/sun protection for staff, additional restrooms, and be a gathering space for the many educational programs taking place at the farm. Foundation work was donated by Hanes Group of Seymour.

We are half-way to our fund-raising goal for this campaign but need your help to complete the project this fall. If we can complete the pavilion this fall, we can install a gift of an additional solar array on the pavilion roof, expanding our sustainability efforts with even more solar power on the farm. Your purchase of a brick commemorates you or a loved one and becomes the foundation for the pavilion, etching your place in Massaro history. Bricks come in two sizes and can be purchased through the farm's website or using the following link. <https://brickmarkersusa.com/donors/massaro.html>. 4" x 8" - \$100; 8" x 8" - \$250.

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

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Apartments For Rent

Woodbridge:

Thank you! We're accepting names for our waiting list. Applicants must be 62 or older or disabled. One Bdrm-\$1,195/mo; Two Bdrm-\$1,295/mo incl utilities. On-site laundry, patios with garden area, off-street parking, handicapped accessible. CHFA Financed. EHO. Gibson Assoc., Inc. 175 East Mitchell Ave, Cheshire, CT 06410. Ph: 203-272-3781. TDD 1-800-545-1833 Ext 165

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

Elm City Kallah

On Saturday, October 29, Dr. Rachel Korazim will speak at BEKI as part of the weekend Kallah. Her topic is the Mizrahi voice in Israeli literature. Through such poets as Balfour Hakak, Shimon Adaf, and Roni Somek, she will explore the long journey of Jews from Moslem countries from early marginalization to empowerment.

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

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

Family Havdalah

BEKI, Ezra Academy, and PJ Library are sponsoring a Havdalah gathering Saturday, November 12 at 7 pm at Ezra Academy, 75 Rimmon Road in Woodbridge. Along with the Havdalah blessings, the program will include singing and a children’s story. Although the program is suited to children, everyone is welcome. In case of rain, the event will move inside.

Book Talk on Jefferson

On Saturday, November 19 Robert Forbes will discuss his new book, an annotated edition of Thomas Jefferson’s Notes on the State of Virginia, which is called the most important book written in America before 1800. In the first edition to be based on both the 1785 first edition and the original manuscript, Prof. Forbes uncovers Jefferson’s extensive revisions, situating the work in the context of transatlantic debates over slavery and shedding new light on Jefferson’s shocking disparagement of African Americans. Details at beki.org.

Children’s Programs

On November 4, and every First Friday of the month, BEKI’s Kabbalat Shabbat service is kid-friendly, though not specifically a children’s service.

Children’s Havura, K-2 Kehila, and Junior Congregation, all led by parent volunteers, meet in person each Satur-



Congregation Beth El - Keser Israel

day morning.

Kosher Pareve Pies

The youth group is baking their annual Kosher Pareve apple as well as pumpkin pies. Proceeds benefit the group’s tzedakah projects. Anyone interested in purchasing Thanksgiving pies needs to order by Friday, November 4. Email office@beki.org for details.

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 4th year, BEKI is bulk ordering fair trade chocolate Hanukkah candy coins, for both BEKI parties and home consumption. Other congregations are welcome to join this effort. For more information, email office@beki.org or call 203.389.2108 x 114.

In Person and Online

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

Healing Service

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

Current Exhibition

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

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

Congregation B’nai Jacob Events

Weekly Services & Classes

Daily Minyan Services

- › Monday – Friday: 7:45am
- › Sunday – Thursday: 6:00pm (on ZOOM only)
- › Sunday: 9:00am
- › National Holidays: Times vary

Weekly Shabbat Services

- › **Friday:** Shabbat Schmooze: 6:00pm; Services: 6:30pm
- › **Saturday:** Bread & Torah: 9:00am; Services: 10:00am

Meet in the B’nai Jacob Library (or join us on Zoom) to explore the weekly Torah portion and the way in which its story relates to our own. Be prepared for a lively discussion over bagels and coffee. No experience necessary. Taught by Rabbi Rona Shapiro.

Rabbi Shapiro’s NEW Monday Night Class “God is Here: Reimagining the Divine”

My teacher, Sheila Pelz Weinberg, says that Toba Spitzer, the author of, “God is Here: Reimagining the Divine,” is the next Mordecai Kaplan. In ten readable chapters, Toba explores how we use metaphors in language generally and in speaking about God in particular, and she explores eight metaphors the Bible frequently uses to talk about God and how those metaphors might be useful for us. If you would like to get clearer about what we might mean when we say, “God,” and cut through some of the ideas about God that are often unhelpful, this is a great class for you. Please get a copy of the book and read the introduction and the first chapter before the first class. All are welcome; no previous experience is necessary.

Class Schedule: October 31, November 7, 14, 28, December 5, 12. Class will meet in person and on Zoom.

Guest Speakers Debra Sachs, M.A.

Sunday, November 6, 10 am

Hearing Loss: Listening and Communication Tools and Tips

Do you have a hearing loss or do you know someone who does? Are you ever frustrated in your efforts to relay or



Congregation B’nai Jacob

receive a spoken message in an acoustically challenging environment? 10.6% of Americans have hearing loss. No doubt there are members of CBJ who struggle with it. CBJ member Debra Sachs, an award-winning teacher of students with hearing loss, will lead an interactive program to learn about hearing loss and provide the opportunity to listen as if you have one. We will consider the impact of hearing loss on individuals, particularly aging adults, and identify listening strategies and spoken language techniques to maximize communication.

Dr. Becca Levy

(Professor of Epidemiology, Yale School of Public Health and Professor of Psychology, Yale University)

CBJ member and pioneering researcher on the psychology of aging, Dr. Becca Levy, draws on her ground-breaking research to show how age beliefs can be improved on an individual and societal level so they can benefit aspects of the aging process, including the way genes operate and the extension of life expectancy by an average of 7.5 years. All ages of our community are invited for an interactive discussion of this work as Dr Levy challenges us to reconsider our own beliefs about aging and our experiences with structural ageism. CBJ member Kinneret Chiel, who participated in a cultural redefinition group that is profiled in the book, will join us to add her valuable perspective.

This book will make a wonderful Hannukah gift. Thanks to Dr Levy’s generosity, we will have some copies available in the office that will support the synagogue and offer you a

See “B’nai Jacob” On Page 23

ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

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Tell them you saw their ad in the Woodbridge Town News.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

The First Church of Christ Welcomes You to Worship Service

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!

Upcoming Events

New Hope AFG, Woodbridge will be celebrating their 34th anniversary on Tuesday, November 1 at 7 p.m. in the First Church of Christ Parish House. A light dinner will be enjoyed followed by Alateen, AA and Al-Anon speakers.

Classical Concert on a Fall Afternoon

On Saturday, November 19th, at 4:00 p.m., the Woodbridge First Church of Christ will be hosting a concert in its sanctuary, 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, featuring Music Director Nenad Ivočić on piano and Filip Tomić on cello.

Nenad and Filip will be performing well known works by Schubert and Beethoven. Both musicians are Serbian and have won competitions throughout Central Europe and Russia. The Woodbridge First Church is very proud of our music director, who now shines in New York. Having received his Master of Musical Arts (MMA) at Yale, Nenad is a student of renowned pianist Julian Martin at the Julliard School of Music and a private student of world-famous pianist Emanuel Ax. Nenad has begun a Doctorate of Music at the City University of New York (CUNY).

Filip has performed in almost every major city in Europe, having won international competitions and studied under many cello virtuosos. We are honored to have him join Nenad on the First Church stage.

A reception will be held afterwards in the parish house to meet these musicians. For more information, call the church office, 203-389-2119. A free will offering will be taken.

Children’s Sing and Say “Thanks”

How can we sing and say thanks in the season of Thanksgiving? Join us for a family-focused event of songs, words, and games for children of all ages! Sunday, November 20 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

***Songs by Michele Urban** (Singer, songwriter, performer and Early Childhood Music Specialist)

***Practicing appreciations at home by Susan Murtha** (Interim Senior Minister, FCCW)

***Games for children of all ages by Forest Vandeflor** (Project Leader for Children’s Ministries)

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

The First Church of Christ, Woodbridge, will host this year’s annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Monday, November 21, at 7:00 p.m. It is a wonderful tradition that welcomes the greater community, and everyone is encouraged to attend. There will be a reception immediately following the service in the church parish hall. Join us in starting Thanksgiving week in

the spirit of gratefulness.

FCCW Trimming Bee and Tree Lighting

Saturday December 3, from 2-6 p.m. Help us Deck the Halls! If you would like to donate greens, please contact Jesse Hubbard: jwinhubb@gmail.com. No Hemlock please! Greens Needed: yew, spruce, juniper (red cedar), holly, pine, and fir. There will be a potluck dinner immediately following the trimming bee in the Parish Hall. Once the wreaths have been made, we will gather outside for a few Christmas Carols as we light the tree on the green.

Sanctuary Décor Restoration

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

Weekly Bible Study

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

Zoom Option

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

*If you would like assistance gaining access to Sunday Services, please call us by Friday morning, at 203-389-



The First Church of Christ

2119, or email us at office@uccw.org.

Office Hours

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

Join the FCCW Choir!

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

Pre-school space is available

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

For More Information

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

Bethany First Church Christmas Bazaar

Join us at 511 Amity Road in Bethany for our annual Christmas Bazaar, December 3, 2022, 10AM-3PM! Get your Christmas shopping done early. Various local vendors and artisans, delicious breakfast and lunch served during the event, amazing treats that

make wonderful gifts, and raffles! We have word that Santa will be here! Bring your camera or phone and take a photo with Santa and our beautiful backdrop! Free parking and free entry! Bring the whole family for a day of fun to kickstart the holiday season!

“B’nai Jacob” From Page 22

discounted price. Please also feel free to buy online or support your local bookstore.

Elisa Bernick

Sunday, December 11, 10 am on Zoom

Departure Stories: Betty Crocker Made Matzoh Balls (and other lies)

Join Award winning Writer and Journalist, Elisa Bernick, on Zoom, for a discussion of her newest book, *Departure Stories*. The book ponders the ways marginalized individuals find themselves defined, and who and what we hold accountable for the worst and best parts of ourselves. Written with wit and dynamism, the book explores the long-term effects of intergenerational trauma using the two definitions of departure — leaving and deviating from the norm — to explore the author’s experience of growing up

“different” (i.e., Jewish) in the White Christian suburb of New Hope, Minnesota, during the 1960s and early 1970s. The question at the heart of this book is how the invisible baggage of place and memory, Minnesota’s uniquely antisemitic history, and the cultural shifts sweeping the country during this tumultuous period contributed to her family’s eventual implosion.

*Unless otherwise noted, all services, classes and events are in person at B’nai Jacob, located at 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge. All services are also live-streamed and some are on ZOOM. Call the B’nai Jacob office for digital access and more information 203-389-2111 or email of-
fice@bnaijacob.org.*

For more information about any of these events, or becoming a member of B’nai Jacob, Call 203-389-2111, Email: office@bnaijacob.org, Visit our website, bnaijacob.org.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

WOODBRIDGE LIBRARY

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

LIBRARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Change your internet bookmarks for our website!

Our old URL of woodbridge.lioninc.org no longer will bring you to our website. Please use woodbridgetownlibrary.org instead.

Saturday hours have returned

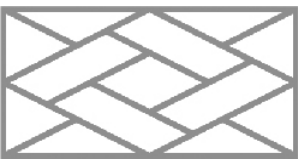
Visit us Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm and Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. We will be closed on Friday, November 11 for Veterans Day, and on Thursday & Friday, November 24 & 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be open on the Saturdays of the holiday weekends: November 12 and 26!

New Online Card Registration Available

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

Do we have your email address??

Sign up for our email newsletters to receive notifications about events, new offerings, and library hours/closings. We typically only send one email a week. Join our mailing list by visiting our website and entering your email



WOODBRIDGE TOWN LIBRARY

address in the form provided. That's it! (You can also give us your email address while in the building.)

Notary Services

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

LIBRARY INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

Department phones and emails

- › Adult Services/Reference: 203-389-3434; reference@woodbridgetownlibrary.org
- › Children's Department: 203-389-3439; childrens@woodbridgetownlibrary.org

- woodbridgetownlibrary.org
- › Circulation/General info: 203-389-3433; circulation@woodbridgetownlibrary.org
 - › Not sure who you need? Email askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org

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- › TikTok: [@woodbridgetownlibrary](https://www.tiktok.com/@woodbridgetownlibrary)

LIBRARY NEWS

Library Skywatch

Every Monday & Tuesday, conditions permitting (dark & clear), a reference staff member will assist the public in identifying and viewing celestial objects with our new Zhumell 1114mm refracting telescope. Join us on the Library lawn, from where we can see the Moon and the larger and closer planets. Telescope viewing starts 1/2 hour after sundown. Reservation not needed; walk-ins welcome. Contact Bill at warmstrong@woodbridgetownlibrary.org with questions.

The Library is now FINE FREE!

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

Museum Passes Available

We have museum passes to area attractions, everything from The Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport to the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford, providing you with free or discounted admission. Reserve your passes online then print out at home (when

allowed) or pick up at the library. We can also print them here for you. Visit <https://woodbridge.lioninc.org/museum-passes/> for more info. Please note that every attraction has its own policies for pass usage and availability may be limited.

FROM ADULT SERVICES

Live Well Diabetes

Self-Management Workshop Mondays, November 14, 21, & 28 at 6 pm

Learn to take control and manage your diabetes! This is a continuation of a 6-week workshop presented by Griffin Health. Register online or by calling 203-389-3434.

Indoor Film Screenings

Thursdays at 7 PM

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

November 3: Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World

November 10: Top Gun: Maverick

November 17: N. Scott Momaday: Words from a Bear

November 24: Library closed, no film screening. Happy Thanksgiving!

Woodbridge Writers Workshop

Tuesday, November 22
from 3 PM to 5 PM

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

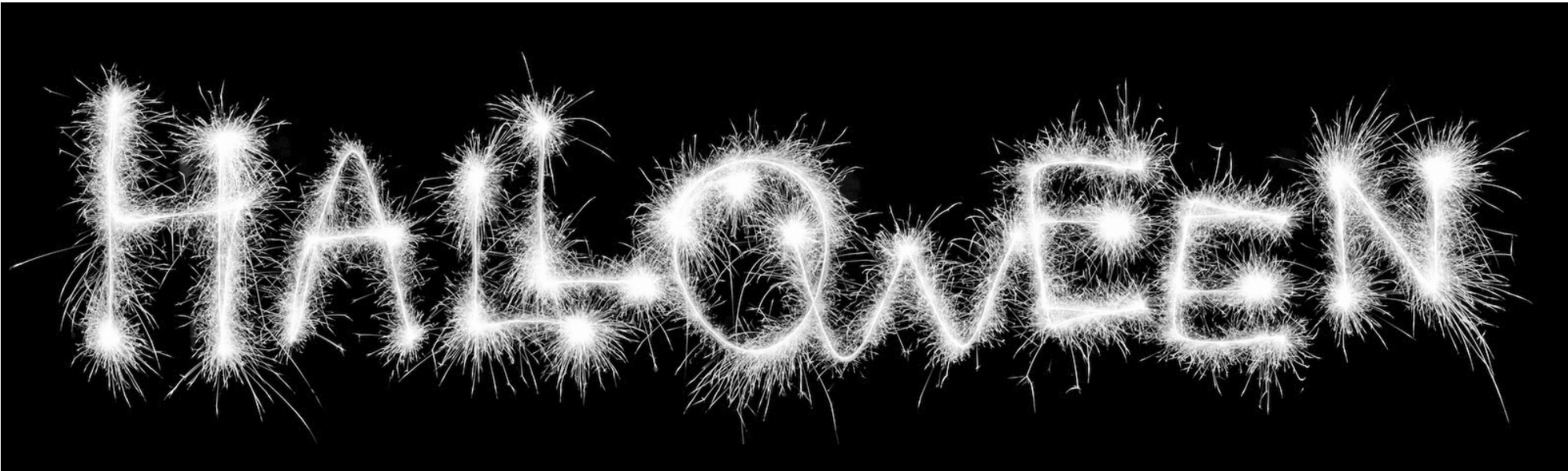
Woodbridge Scrabble Group

Wednesdays at 11 AM

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

FROM THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Please see the library's website for more information about upcoming programs and events: woodbridgetownlibrary.org



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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



The Ladies Guild of Our Lady of the Assumption, 81Center Rd, Woodbridge, is hosting A CHRISTMAS BAZAAR and CRAFT FAIR on Saturday November 12 from 9am-3pm. Over 30 Crafters, a fabulous Bake Sale, a White Elephant Sale, Children's Craft Activity, Meet Santa from 11-2pm, Generous Raffle Baskets, and Breakfast and Lunch is served by the Knights of Columbus. Christmas Trains will be running all day. The Children's Choir and Adult choir will perform.

Christ Episcopal Church
November Events

Christ Church Bethany Concert Series
Christ Church Bethany Social Hall, 526 Amity Rd - Bethany, CT

Nov. 5th [SAT] Doors 6:30 PM - Show 7:00 PM

The Moonrise Cartel combines heartfelt songwriting, melodies that stick and sweeping vocal harmonies for songs that sound like they have been loved for decades.

<https://www.brownpaperickets.com/event/5571458>

The Moonrise Cartel

The Moonrise Cartel
November 5th, 7 pm

Join Us & The Moonrise Cartel as Christ Church continues with our Concert Series. Doors Open at 6:30; Show starts at 7 pm. The Moonrise Cartel combines heartfelt songwriting, melodies that stick and sweeping vocal harmonies for songs that sound like they have been loved for decades.

Annual Pumpkin & Holly Bazaar
Nov 19th, 9 am - 2 pm

CHRIST CHURCH BETHANY

526 Amity Road
Bethany, CT 06524

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19TH
TIME: 9-2 PM

- Bakery
- Café
- Christmas Shop
- Basket & Gift Card Tree Raffle

PUMPKIN & HOLLY BAZAAR

Come join us at Christ Church for our Annual Pumpkin & Holly Bazaar *Bakery * Café * Christmas Shop * Basket & Gift Card Tree Raffle

Any questions, please contact Christ Episcopal Church Bethany and Woodbridge, 203-393-3399 or office@christchurchbethany.org. The church is located at 526 Amity Road, Bethany, CT

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

BSA Troop 63 is Giving Back to the Community

BSA Troop 63 is one of the oldest Boy Scout Troops in the Council, with a strong tradition and rich history in Scouting. You may know us as the Christmas Tree Sales troop. Our Troop was founded in 1963 to bring scouting to boys in the Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge communities. We now also have Scouts from Hamden, Westville, and the rest of New Haven. We do many outdoor activities each year and follow the BSA program of “fun with a purpose.”

The Scouts of Troop 63 have stayed active this year. We did a weekend of camping, kayaking and hiking at Mount Marcy and Lake Placid up in the Adirondacks. In October, we loaded our bikes onto Metro North for a 22-mile ride around Manhattan, from Harlem to Grand Central Station, with a scenic side-trip over the Brooklyn Bridge. We have done ski trips to Massachusetts and Vermont. Recently we had an amazing whitewater rafting adventure in Vermont. We also did rock climbing, cycling on the Farmington Canal Rail Trail, the Adventure Park Ropes Course, orienteering and many other adventures.

Troop 63 Scouts give back to the community through many service projects, including our annual Scouting for Food drive. We will deliver the flyers again in a few weeks and will be back a week later to pick up any donations. We are also responsible for maintaining the campground at Camp Whiting,

for use of Scout Troops in the area.

Scouts in our Troop have diverse interests and have completed many merit badges in the past year, including First Aid, Mammal Study, Automotive Repair, Swimming, Kayaking, Nuclear Science, Rifle Shooting, Archery, Family Life and many more.

Every year we attend Camp Sequassen, the Connecticut Yankee Council’s resident summer camp in New Hartford, CT. Scouts from all over New England come to the summer camp and stay for a week or more with their troop. While at camp you get to choose all sorts of fun merit badges! From Digital Technology to Leatherwork, there are many merit badges to choose from. The camp also has a nice waterfront with many water-related activities, including snorkeling, sailing, and stand-up paddleboarding. We even sleep overnight on a small island in the middle of the lake!

We have many exciting adventures on our calendar for the next year. First up is a weekend of camping and biking on Block Island in RI. We also plan a hiking trip to Mt. Greylock in the Berkshires, a winter freeze-out campout at our Camp Whiting, and a ski trip, to name just a few.

Any boys (grade 6 and up) interested in finding out more about Scouting with Troop 63 can contact us at Troop63CT@gmail.com. We generally meet on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m.



Boy Scout Troop 907 Update - November 2022

SUBMITTED BY RICH FORSELIUS
TROOP COMMITTEE CHAIR & CHARTERED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE

BSA Scout Troop 907, sponsored by the Woodbridge First Church of Christ, is a regional troop and continues with significant activity year-round. The troop offers fellowship in life and scouting. Scouting is an ongoing adventure that is youth-led and overseen by trained scout leaders. Troop 907, being an active outdoor unit, is planning adventures this fall and winter including canoeing on the Connecticut River.

Fall is the season of harvest, beauty and fellowship all over our great country. The season starts with Labor Day and ends with the Thanksgiving through Christmas year-end holiday season. In scouting this is no different, but fellowship in scouting includes connecting to community and supporting those less fortunate. Therefore, the fall has a heavy community service emphasis in Troop 907.

The fall season started in September with volunteering at the New Haven Labor Day Road Race. In October, the troop supported the Woodbridge Road Race & First Church, our charter organization’s pie-ala-mode sale.

Service is a cornerstone of scouting, and the best service is to your local community and residents that are in need one way or another. The troop spends a lot of fall weekends giving back to others. Not only does this build better local relations but a sense of pride and fellowship among our scouts.

Adult leaders and parents assisted with the Woodbridge Camp Whiting maintenance work party on October 16. This is an annual event focused on sprucing up the camp and preparing firewood for all campers throughout the winter.

Troop 907 assisted in late Octo-

ber with the Woodbridge Scouting for Food event. Flyers were circulated on October 23rd and food pickup occurred all around town October 29th in the morning. Food was appropriately packed into boxes at the Woodbridge Center for distribution to those in need the same day. Thanks to those who made donations!

On the evening of October 22, the troop camped with Pack 902 at Camp Whiting in Woodbridge. Running the Pack Bobcat ceremony is also a long-standing Troop 907 tradition. At this November 13 event, new scouts are initiated into the pack.

Scouts will be supporting the Christmas Bazaar at Our Lady of the Assumption Church on November 12. Scouts will be setting up for the crafters and breaking down tables and chairs in two shifts.

Troop 907 scouts enjoy cooking and on Saturday, November 19, scouts will be holding their Family Holiday Feast. This involves scouts cooking turkeys and the fixings outside at Camp Whiting and serving their families the feast.

Thursday, January 19, 2023, will be the Winter Scout Court of Honor in the First Church Parish House at which advancement and merit badges are awarded.

If you are aware of a prospective scout and if you are interested in learning more about how scouting builds pride and fellowship in youth, Troop 907 holds ongoing open houses at the Thursday 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. meetings at the First Church of Christ, rear Parish House entrance. Three of our scouts made the Eagle rank in 2022 and several potential scouts have come by recently. See the poster provided. It is always a good time for a new scout to join and learn skills not available elsewhere. You may contact us on our website www.troop907.org.

Meet BOWDAAC

Jessica Simone is the prevention council coordinator for BOWDAAC – Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge Drug/Alcohol Action Committee. Its mission is to involve and engage the local community to prevent alcohol and substance use among our young people. In addition, we strive to promote positive mental health and provide resources to the community and our youth.

Some of the issues that our youth face is not just happening at home or at school, but in all aspects/parts of their lives and BOWDAAC is hoping to expand our prevention committee by including businesses that work with kids and would love your input and work together in the reduction

of substance use and encouraging the promotion of positive mental health.

In addition, BOWDAAC is grant-funded and tasked with reducing the rate of vaping among our young people.

The BOWDAAC committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3pm and we try to have presenters about current topics. The last few presentations we have had were about the dangers of fentanyl, internet safety, and problem gambling.

Visit our website and Facebook page if you are interested at taking a look at what BOWDAAC has going on:

- › <https://www.bowdaac.org/>
- › <https://www.facebook.com/BOWDAAC>

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Troop 410 Completes 2nd Year of Scouting

As Woodbridge’s first and very own BSA girls Troop 410 successfully completes its second year of scouting, the scouts and their parents are celebrating and remembering the many things that have been achieved and experienced so far in this journey. Since its inception in the fall of 2020, the Troop has swelled in numbers and has inspired several young girls to dream of possibilities and opportunities they have only heard of from boys involved in scouting.

As these first girl scouts carry the centuries-old male only scouting legacy, they become resourceful and independent young women, who can be influential and moral leaders in the society. As part of service to the community, Troop 410 often organizes drives that donate food, books, clothes, and winter gear to those in need, because the Troop wishes to bring about a positive change to their surroundings. The girls of Troop 410 also undergo training in various first aid and emergency preparedness procedures from trained professionals. They learn hands on about how to treat injuries, perform CPR, the Heimlich maneuver, and use an AED, which enables them to be prepared to save lives when the need arises.

Apart from these activities, the girls have several troop outings to learn, connect, and most importantly, have fun. This year the girls have been to adventure parks for fun climbing activities, planetariums where they have learned about stars and planets, the Audubon Society for bird study, to name just a few. The Troop also often goes on camping and hiking trips, where the scouts have the opportunity to test the many survival strategies and skills they have learnt. A particular favorite camping event universally popular among our scouts is spending a full week at Camp Sequassen, which is an exclusive summer camp for scouting youth, located in the great outdoors under canopies of trees, and atop the rocky ground. Here the scouts have a lot of fun participating in games, training activities in the water and meeting other scouts from all over the state. We have an adventure packed calendar for the coming year, including biking, skiing, backpacking, tubing and so much more. We welcome girls Grades 6-12 interested in scouting to come to a meeting and see if it’s for you. Please contact Guldeniz Yucelen at guldeniz.yucelen@gmail.com or Enrene van Tonder at vantonder77@gmail.com if you would like to learn more.

Historical Society Announces Unveiling

The volunteers of the Amity and Woodbridge Historical Society are pleased to announce we will hold an unveiling of the Woodbridge Oak Chair on Friday, November 4th 2022 at the Woodbridge Town Library, 10 Newton Road, Woodbridge CT at 5:30 PM. A brief annual meeting will also be held. The Woodbridge Oak Chair,

a recent addition to the Amity and Woodbridge Historical Society’s collection is a significant example of an opulently carved piece of oak furniture in the neoclassical style. The Chair has direct ties to the Town of Woodbridge’s history and landscape. Please come and hear its story. Light refreshments will be served.

The Pollinator Pathway: “Bee” On It!

On Tuesday, November 1, 7pm, at the JCC Terrace Room, the Woodbridge Land Trust and the Garden Club of Woodbridge invite the public to get on Woodbridge’s Pollinator Pathway, the movement to save pollinators that is sweeping North America. The program is only 5 years old but already includes

over 300 cities and towns across the country! Come learn how your yard can become part of the network of pollinator-friendly habitat and food sources for bees, butterflies, beneficial insects, birds and other wildlife. Free and open to the public, <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>

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