

Woodbridge Town News



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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2020



George Logan



Jorge Cabrera

Two Visions For CT Clash At Debate

LOGAN AND CABRERA FACE OFF IN HOT CONTEST

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Two years after a very close election in 2018, from which Republican State Sen. George Logan eventually emerged as the winner, he and his Democratic challenger, George (Jorge) Cabrera, are engaged in a rematch for votes in the 17th District. “This has been a year like no other and it has been a campaign like no other,” Sen. Logan said during his opening statement at an October 15 debate, sponsored by the Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the League of Women Voters of Hamden/North Haven and broadcast live on Facebook. “The Pandemic has changed all our lives in extraordinary ways.”

With a slim lead in a traditionally Democratic district, Logan spoke fast and with determination, using every one of the 90 seconds to develop a vi-

sion for Connecticut that would make it attractive to businesses and people in equal measure, all while trying to distinguish himself from his opponent. He talked about affordable access to resources, ranging from health care to education and jobs, as well as topics typically embraced by Democrats, such as the preservation of natural resources, even embracing diversity and equity as fundamental values.

Cabrera meanwhile, a union organizer, put the emphasis on the people, saying everyone he met with during the campaign was struggling in some fashion. “People are working really, really hard and they are not making it,” he said.

If elected, his focus would be on health care, jobs and worker’s protections during the pandemic, including

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Mary Welander



Dan DeBarba

Candidates In 114th Vow Advocacy For Local Communities

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Residents of the 114th House district this fall have a choice to fill the seat long held by Republican Themis Klarides, who is stepping aside after 20 years in the House, rising through the ranks to the position of minority leader. Vying to replace her are Republican Dan DeBarba, a healthcare executive, and Democrat Mary Welander, both Orange residents. The district encompasses Orange, Woodbridge, and Derby.

“I want to make sure our community has an advocate on the state level,” Welander said in a phone conversation. “I want to work in partnership with the state, so that our town will get the funding we need.”

For DeBarba, the ultimate goal is to make sure the state is attractive enough for people to want to stay because they see job- and business opportunities, especially for young families like his children’s. “Regard-

less of how we got here we can’t come back [from the pandemic] in a bubble,” he said, adding that the state needs to be competitive in order to thrive. “We need to make sure the economy is growing,” he said. Like most Republican candidates, he advocates for lower taxes, less wasteful spending and less burdensome regulations, although the latter does not include environmental regulation, which he supports.

For instance, he proposes to reinstate tax credits for research and development; he supports tax credits for manufacturers who offer apprenticeships. Growth should be the overriding goal. “The state needs to set a target growth,” he said, and “then we need to determine what changes would have to be made to reach that target.” For example, given the pandemic, the state should consider deferring implementation of the minimum wage raises,

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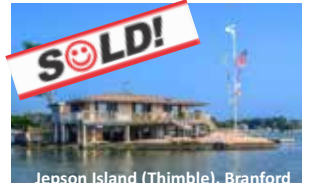
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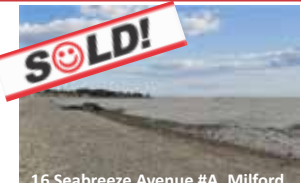
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Couple Wants To Make Country Club A Novel Golf Destination

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A chemical engineer in Hartford County, Timothy Vale, and his website designer wife, Patti, introduced a novel idea for the Country Club of Woodbridge to the Board of Selectmen last month. Their idea is to revive the golf course, but with a virtual component, allowing players to play partially on the physical course with its real challenges, and partially in a virtual reality.

Nexus Golf, as the enterprise would be called, would lease about 50 acres from the town’s Country Club property to accommodate a nine-hole course, which can be played as a full-size 18-hole course thanks to the addition of simulator stations. The existing club house would be eliminated, they said, but the plan is to build a modern clubhouse with glass and steel, overlooking the greenway.

The simulators would allow people not only to play a round a lot faster than on a traditional 18-hole course, but would also provide feedback about each shot they take. The virtual games would be partially played in sheds.

“It’s a solution the whole town can get behind,” Vale said, adding that it will attract younger players as well as those who want to improve their tech-

nique. The proposal would still allow the town to develop the rest of the 153-acre property any way it likes, including a park with hiking trails, if it chooses.

The town would be getting regular income from the lease, Vale said, adding that according to his research, a fair market lease price would come in at just under \$7,000 per month or \$83,888 per year. The new golf course would rejuvenate the property, which at this point is minimally maintained by the town’s park crew, but many residents complain about the property being overgrown and neglected.


The proposed course would not compete with the neighboring Tradition Country Club at Oak Lane, he said, since it’s not designed to be a professional golf course. Their proposal is for a family-friendly activity, complete with food trucks, and maybe as a small-scale musical entertainment venue and night golfing.

Introducing a fresh new concept is the only way to bring golf back to the property, Patti Vale said, adding that it would offer jobs for Woodbridge residents, “moms in particular.” “It’s a very new, patented idea,” Tim Vale added. They have no experience running

See “Country Club” On Page 3

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Paid for by Re-elect Senator Logan, Ronald Swatt, Treasurer. Approved by George Logan.



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“Country Club” From Page 2

a golf course, but they have an idea and enough entrepreneurial spirit to give it a shot.

A standard in the golf industry is that you need to record 24,000 rounds in order to turn a profit, and when it was still in operation, the Country Club of Woodbridge attracted as many as 30,000 rounds. But even if they do not immediately reach those numbers, they would be able to sustain the business with as little as 22,000 rounds, he said, “because our expenses are so much lower.” Given that this is a 9-hole course, they would be using less chemicals, less water and generally less maintenance.

Development would be in two phases, starting in January 2021; with phase 2 starting in the fall of 2021. Phase 1, as he outlined in his presentation, starts with a 13-acre lease for a 3-hole practice loop, four indoor simulators in a shed; and four outdoor simulators with netting; also an amphitheater with stadium seating; a snack shack and bar area; restrooms.

Renewing the sprinkler system and renovating the maintenance building are also part of this first phase. Construction of the buildings would start in January 2021, and construction of the course next spring, mostly along

the ridge parallel to Woodmont Road. Phase 2 would start in August 2021 with construction of the 9-hole golf course and two additional indoor simulators in a shed; and in October of next year, construction of a new clubhouse with wine tasting room and bar. The golf course would stretch out to the east and southern boundary of the property, including the pond, the sledding hill and hiking trails, should the town decide to install them.

The capital investment they are planning to make is \$1.2 million for Phase 1, which they would pay out of pocket, Vale said. As for Phase 2, they envision a capital investment of \$2.4 million, for which they are looking for investors,” and some have shown interest,” he said.

An all-virtual indoor golf club called Nexus Golf opened in New York City. But unlike that exclusive, members-only club, the Woodbridge facility would be open to anyone curious enough to try it out. “This is the best property for what we want to be doing,” Tim Vale said. “We know this is the future of golf and we are going to take golf into the future.”

Details have yet to be negotiated. Town Counsel Gerald Weiner said if the lease is for more than a year, it is treated as a sale and subject to a special town meeting.

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From the First Selectman

BY BETH HELLER



Veteran’s Day Ceremony

Due to COVID-19, we are NOT gathering for our annual Veteran’s Day ceremony this year. This somber ceremony, organized by local veteran Dr. Barry Josephs, is an important reminder of the sacrifice’s veterans have made for our country. Veteran’s Day is an important day when we pause to honor the men and women who have served in our armed forces.

To paraphrase former President Ronald Reagan, some people live an entire lifetime, and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world, but our veterans do not have that problem. They HAVE made a difference. On behalf of the Town, I extend our deepest thanks and gratitude to all our veterans and their families.

Town Hall Appointments

We opened Town buildings for in-person appointments beginning on Monday, October 26, 2020. Our doors will remain locked, and folks will be allowed in only by appointment. For several months during the pandemic, Town staff did a wonderful job of being creative and providing all needed services to our residents. Now, as we enter the colder months, it is important that we give people the opportunity to come in from the cold and meet face-to-face if and when absolutely necessary. I believe that most residents have been satisfied with meeting staff at the door, or picking up and dropping off paperwork, but there are certainly instances where something may be more complicated and not easily handled in a very quick interaction.

Masks and social distancing remain mandatory, and we have added hand sanitizing stations at the main entries to our buildings.

The Town Library will re-open for browsing during limited hours beginning on Thursday, November 5, 2020 on Tuesdays 11-3, Thursdays 4-7 and Fridays 1-4.

There are no plans to resume in-person meetings or allow outside groups to use Town buildings at this time. We are keeping a watchful eye on the coronavirus numbers. They have been rising statewide and locally as well. We have had 8 new cases reported over the past month. None of these cases were from nursing homes or extended care facilities – all were from private residences. We remain in constant contact with the Quinnipiac Valley Health District, and will advise the public if the need for operational changes becomes necessary.

Please continue to social distance, wash your hands and wear a mask! If

you are out in our Town, and you see someone not wearing a mask please ask them politely to put a mask on. If you feel uncomfortable asking, please call the police non-emergency number: 203-387-2511 for further assistance. WE ALL MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE.

Cell Tower Update

In mid-July the Town was notified of a proposed private transaction between residents at 118 Newton Road and Cellco Partnership DBA Verizon Wireless, of their intent to construct a new cell tower at 118 Newton Road in Woodbridge to “fill existing wireless service gaps.”

Under Connecticut State Statutes, cell towers are specifically exempt from local Zoning Ordinances and are solely under the jurisdiction of the State Siting Council. The Town Plan and Zoning Commission and the Board of Selectmen have no authority to approve or disapprove the cell tower.

The Town of Woodbridge NEVER asked for, proposed, or had anything to do with, erecting this tower in our Town.

I believe that this cell tower does NOT belong in a residential neighborhood, and we are constantly working to seek an alternate location that provides the needed service, but does not impact any residential neighborhood in our Town.

At our Regular Meeting on October 14, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously against the construction of the proposed cell tower at this location. We also voted unanimously to speak with an attorney familiar with cases such as this, to advise the Board as how to prevent the construction of the tower in a residential area in Town. On October 22, 2020, the Board voted unanimously to hire Attorney Ira Bloom to assist the Town and the Board in this matter. I will continue to keep residents updated on this very important matter.

Halloween

In normal times, Halloween is a wonderful and fun-filled event for everyone. Please follow the CDC Guidelines regarding this holiday to stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19. I personally would recommend against door to door trick or treating, as it is hard to maintain safe social distancing, does not minimize contact with non-household members, and sharing candy and/or food is obviously quite risky. The Town has

MASSARO

COMMUNITY FARM

News & Notes From Massaro Community Farm

We are pleased that so many people have taken advantage of the outdoor events and activities we’ve offered during the month of October. Even though you will see less of us over the next few months, we’ll continue to hold activities as long as it is feasible. Farm products, both from our own fields and from nearby farms, will continue to be for sale through our online store (as long as there is demand) while we plan for another robust season in 2021. Event registration is on Eventbrite.com unless otherwise stated.

Youth Explorers Program: New Session Added

Registration is open for the second session of our popular outdoor Explorers program, Sundays from 11:30am-1:30pm. The current series began October 18 and will run through December 6 and you may pay pro rata for the number of weeks your child can attend. Geared for children ages 6-11. Participants will identify animal tracks on the trail, build a survival shelter, enjoy safe time by the fire, learn about native plant use, observe the change in seasons, and understand how our lives impact the planet’s health. Class size is limited to eight (8) participants to enable social distancing.

Fall Adult Workshop: Medicinal Oils and Herbs with Mary Claire Whelan

There are only a few spots left for this medicinal herb class on Saturday, November 14 from 2:00-4:00pm. Herbal oils and salves are a wonderful and easy way to integrate plant-based health and wellness into your life. Join Massaro farmer Mary Claire Whelan as she describes some of the medicinal herbs growing around the farm. Together, you’ll create your very own topical preparations. Great for beginning herbalists and those looking to start integrating plant-based wellness practices into their lives. Everyone will return home with 1 jar of medicinal oil and 1 tin of homemade salve. Dress for outdoor seasonal weather and please wear a mask. \$30/pp.

Registration Opens For Our 2021 Seasonal Vegetable Subscription

We know that next spring seems a long way off. But for those of you wanting to enjoy a weekly share of

organic vegetables from our farm, subscribing now supports the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) model. When you sign up now, you provide us with the cash we need to purchase equipment and supplies, allowing Farmer Steve to plan more efficiently for the growing season. This past year, we experienced a 20% growth in CSA customers and even had to turn some folks away. You can secure your 2021 CSA subscription now with a deposit of as little as \$100; flexible payment plans are available. In the meantime, you can enjoy a selection of winter crops through our online store. Pricing for 10-or 20-week CSA shares and descriptions of what’s in a share can be found on our website: MassaroFarm.org/join-our-CSA.

Recent Grant Awards

The farm is the recipient of two grant awards that will further improve our infrastructure. First, we were awarded a grant from National Resource Conservation Service (a division of USDA) for work to be completed over the next 24 months. This award covers installation of a new drainage swale in our largest field on the North side of the farm, for the planting of native perennials on the slope adjacent to our recent parking addition, for an improved gravel driveway behind the produce wash station and for another high tunnel. The second award is from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and would support the purchase of a new solar-powered chicken coop to house up to 300 chickens, along with egg washing and storage facilities. We plan to add a chicken operation to the farm in 2021 to permanently make fresh eggs a part of our offerings. Each of these grants would require matching funds.

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.

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See “First Selectman” On Page 17

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Woodbridge Town News

Below are the remaining 2020 issue dates & deadlines of the Woodbridge Town News.

Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

Upcoming Issue Date

Issue Deadline

November 20 | Thanksgiving Issue..... November 13

December 11 | Holiday Issue December 4

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



Woodbridge 6th Grader to Join Kid Reporters

On September 28th Scholastic Kids Press announced that Luke Lamour, a 6th grader from Woodbridge, CT will join this award-winning team of Kid Reporters, ages 10–14, who report “news for kids, by kids.”

During the 2020–2021 program year, Luke will interview newsmakers from his community and share the perspectives of his peers on the 2020 U.S. presidential election and other issues that matter most to young people today. Kid Reporter stories are published on the Scholastic Kids Press website, and featured in select issues

of Scholastic Classroom Magazines, which reach more than 25 million students nationwide.

Over the past two decades, Kid Reporters have made headlines covering major national and world events and interviewing influential figures, including conservationist Jane Goodall, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, award-winning author Jason Reynolds, and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, in addition to United States presidents Barack Obama and Donald J. Trump.



Achievements
SUNY Delhi
Delhi, NY - Jacob Noble of Orange (MESA HIGH SCHOOL) is one of more than 950 students who began their college careers at SUNY Delhi in August 2020. Noble is pursuing a degree in Nursing.

Enrollments
Eastern Connecticut State University
Willimantic, CT - More than 1,150 first-time and transfer students enrolled at Eastern Connecticut State University for the fall 2020 semester. Among the new Eastern students is Solangelina Williams of Woodbridge, a full-time freshman who is majoring in Social Work.

Graduations
Hofstra University
Hempstead, NY - About 2,000 Hofstra University students earned their

undergraduate, graduate, or law degrees this spring and summer. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual commencement ceremonies were held on August 23, 2020. The following Woodbridge residents were among the graduates: Victoria Staniewicz earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing and Kayla Wuestefeld earned a Bachelor of Arts in Film Studies & Production.

Stonehill College
Easton, MA - Julia Healey, of Woodbridge, graduated with the Class of 2020 during a virtual Commencement Ceremony this summer at Stonehill College. Initially scheduled for Sunday, May 17 with a traditional in-person format but knocked off course by COVID-19, Stonehill's 69th Commencement finally took place on Saturday, August 8 making history as the College's first virtual Commencement and the first ever held in August.

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From Across the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE
WRTC CHAIRMAN



Can A Person Get A Little Info?

Two hot issues have appeared on the Woodbridge scene of late, yet information from Town Hall has been meager, at best. We are a small town and when events occur that cause our residents to mobilize or otherwise ask a LOT of questions, our local leaders, I respectfully submit, have an obligation to keep us informed. Instead, we have been left in the dark.

The first topic is the proposed cell tower to be erected on private property on Soundview Drive. Verizon approached the property owner due to the desirable elevated location and the amount of open space available on the property. The Town was notified of this proposal in mid-July. It was weeks before the neighbors became aware of it. That's not good communication. Whether one believes the tower should go there or not is not the issue here. The problem is that the current administration sat on the information and did not inform the neighbors let alone the town as a whole. In fact, concerned neighbors sent a mailer at their own expense to every address in town with more information than has been provided to residents to date. That's certainly not the transparency our local leadership has promised over and over.

The second topic with even a potentially broader impact on Woodbridge is the submission of a zoning variance for the 1.5-acre, single-family property at 2 Orchard Road. The potential buyer of the property is asking for a variance to erect a 4-family unit on the parcel. But this is no ordinary application. It is a 145-page document that not only sets the stage to attempt to nullify our single-family 1.5 or 2-acre zoning system town-wide, but also uses terms including "exclusionary," "illegally limiting multi-family opportunities," "segregation" and "discriminatory." The things being said about our town are terrible! While our First Selectman may be limited in what can be said in public about a pending application, it is certainly within her rights, and indeed her obligation, to defend the town and explain the basis for the zoning we have today. So, let us look, briefly, at the actual history of our zoning laws.

Our current zoning laws were first adopted in 1932. Stated in the first par-

agraph: "For the purpose of promoting the health, safety and general welfare of the community; for the purpose of lessening congestion in the streets; for the purpose of securing safety from fire, panic and other dangers; for the purpose of preserving the overcrowding of land and avoiding undue concentration of population; for the purpose of facilitating adequate provision of transportation, water, sewage, schools, parks and other public requirements; for the purpose of conserving the value of the buildings and encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout the town."

To be sure, there have been changes since 1932, but the foundational ideas have served our community well. They are not discriminatory in nature, far from it. They are practical and stated clearly. In most of Woodbridge the house lots lack access to public water or public sewage treatment. Consequently, larger lots are needed to accommodate the health and safety demands of septic systems and private wells. Conversely, in lower Woodbridge, where lots are smaller, public water and sewer are generally available. Our First Selectman can provide further detail on the zoning requirements to accommodate private wells and septic systems. The point is every Woodbridge resident should be informed on this issue and be able to defend our Town from the baseless accusations made in the application. I have spoken to the First Selectman twice on this issue thus far and she told me this application came as a complete surprise to her the day of the press conference held by the applicant's attorneys at our Town Hall. But from that day forward there should have been a stream of information about this issue available to all residents. While I am sure none of us consider ourselves segregationists, we do need facts to nullify the damage to the Town's reputation such accusations bring.

Going forward, we request as much transparency as is humanly possible (without harming the Town's position to defend itself legally when required) on issues that may impact our Town's finances, schools, taxes and general quality of life.

From The Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee

BY LAURENCE GROTHEER

I saw an editorial cartoon recently that for me, perfectly captured the plight of this nation at this year's political crossroads. The drawing had opposing, side-by-side panels: on the left Democrats were together to support Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. One of the signs read, "Us!"

The right-side panel showed Republicans supporting Trump. The sign in that crowd read, "Me!"

Local Republican candidates Logan, DeBarba, Streicker, and Southworth have yet to explain how fealty to their running mate, Donald Trump – and today's "me first" Republican party – reflects the best interests of Woodbridge and its residents.

Consider their qualifications. In 2016 George Logan emerged from the executive suite of a utility company to consistently tow the Republican line in Hartford, with unilateral support for restrictive public policy. Both Dan DeBarba and Margaret Streicker still spend their professional energies in New York, with no public service record in Connecticut whatsoever. Mike Southworth has had to publicly apologize for a years-long trail of repugnant, misogynist social media posts.

How can voters realistically expect these candidates to represent the pressing needs of Woodbridge families?

The Democratic slate features Jorge Cabrera, who spends every day helping hardworking Connecticut families, Mary Welander, who serves Orange residents on its Board of Education and in two other leadership positions, U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro, who has worked effectively, and with distinction, on behalf of this district for decades, and Senator James Maroney, previously a state Representative, who works professionally helping students prepare for college.

Beyond their failure to bridge this qualifications gap, the Republican candidates remain unwilling to condemn the excesses of their running mate, Donald Trump. Their silence makes them complicit; they must therefore be held accountable.

Some Democrats think the worst feature of these Trump years has been converting the Oval Office into an ATM, through which Trump and his family reap huge financial rewards. Others think the worst thing is Trump's blatant, almost boastful immorality: his admitted assaults on women, his incessant lying, and his ongoing failure – still, after all these

months – to protect Americans from the worst pandemic in 100 years.

In some circles people are outraged by Trump's determination to concentrate wealth among the already wealthy with contemptable tax cuts for billionaires and jaw-dropping, coronavirus relief giveaways to corporations.

None of this seems to bother Logan, DeBarba, Streicker, nor Southworth, however. They remain eager to sell this current Republican brand with no questions asked. I, therefore, question their suitability to serve.

I believe some of the worst of all Trump's crimes are committed against the very nature of this nation. I condemn Trump's utter contempt for the government he leads, the people it serves, and laws of the land. I'm ashamed of how he devalues the United States on the world stage, mocking allies and dealing amicably with dictators. I cringe at how Trump makes hate fashionable, literally dividing Americans by race, religion, economic standing, immigration status, gender, political affiliation, sexual orientation, and language spoken – contradicting the very name of this nation.

I believe Democrats will reverse these destructive trends undermining American society. I believe Democratic candidates Cabrera, Welander, DeLauro, and Maroney will help restore civility, trust, reason, and predictability to this state and to this nation.

Perhaps U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes (CT-5) put it best last week, the day after her virtual campaign event was hacked and terrorized by racists and their hateful invective. "I am tired, completely and utterly tired. No, actually I'm exhausted," Rep. Hayes wrote. "It does not mean that I am broken, or that I will give up. It does not mean that I do not love my country or recognize that one person does not speak for the majority." And then Rep. Hayes quoted Edmund Burke, "the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil, is for good people to do nothing."

This week, Woodbridge voters can act decisively to restore logic, reason, stability, and decency to this state and this nation, and put to rest the bombast of these past four years. A vote for the entire Democratic slate is a vote for "us" – to improve conditions for all.

Laurence Grotheer is the current chairman of the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee. His experience includes more than 20 years in state and municipal government working professionally, in appointed positions, and in elected office.

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“The vote is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have.” — JOHN LEWIS

EVOTE

Dan ★ DeBarba

ENDORSED REPUBLICAN AND INDEPENDENT PARTY CANDIDATE

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd

Leadership • Compassion • Results

Experience and Leadership

- More than three decades of Healthcare Leadership and Financial Management
- Former President of Norwalk and Danbury Hospitals
- Certified Public Accountant and Small Business Owner
- Former Medic, Connecticut Army National Guard



Dan and his loving Family

With your support, I'll bring three decades of healthcare leadership, balancing multi-million dollar budgets and bringing people together to meet serious challenges and solve real problems.

Dan DeBarba

We Can and Will Do Better

- **State Budget** - Address Connecticut's very real budget crisis in an open, honest and serious manner.
- **Economy** - Rebuild our state economy by supporting pro-business policies and investment.
- **Education** - Defend local control of the Woodbridge, Orange and Derby school systems.
- **Healthcare** - Protect Connecticut by creating a long term statewide plan to combat future health crises.

Endorsed by Themis Klarides

ELECTION 2020

DeBarba Outlines Challenges of Next Legislative Session

Three or potentially four (if the ACA is struck down) colliding challenges will make the next legislative session an extraordinarily difficult one. They are as follows:

1. the weakness of Connecticut's pre-COVID structural finances – we have overtaxed, overspent and overborrowed, leaving our state in a very difficult position;
2. the horrible impact that COVID-19 has had upon our state's economy leading to significant unemployment and business closure and interruption;
3. the severe lack of Connecticut's competitiveness with other states – the stark reality is that Connecticut's attempt to recover economically will not be in a vacuum – we will need to compete with other states and Connecticut performed terribly in the post Great Recession recovery (2009 to 2019); and
4. the health care challenges that our state will face if the Affordable Care Act is struck down and a replacement plan isn't passed that reasonably preserves Medicaid eligibility levels, pre-existing conditions protection, up to age 26 health insurance protection, and functioning health exchanges and marketplaces.

In order to seriously face these challenges, the Connecticut legislature will need to be aggressive and bold. It must not do what it has done for the four decades under one party control – mainly presiding over Connecticut's economic deterioration. Our state senators and representatives must do the following:

1. Understand that this a battle with other states that can be won or lost;

2. Refrain from tax increases as they make our state less competitive and drive out job creators;
3. Make sweeping reforms and eliminate regulations that hamper business growth and much needed investment in our cities and towns;
4. Aggressively reduce spending in all non-essential areas without regard to special interests;
5. Collaborate with the state's workforce and its representation to identify and eliminate waste and reduce costs;
6. Expand the use of nonprofit organizations to deliver state services, implementing broad based technology solutions, cutting duplicative state functions, eliminating overtime and ending the running up of pension calculations;
7. Stop passing the buck to local municipalities further burdening the residents of Connecticut who are already paying too much in property taxes;
8. Select an agreed upon economic growth target and take all the necessary steps to achieve this target; and
9. Form a bipartisan health taskforce to deal with the uninsured patient population that Connecticut's hospitals and physicians will likely encounter if the Affordable Care Act is struck down without an appropriate replacement.

We must all remember that these are unprecedented times and they require unprecedented action to achieve success and prosperity. The status quo will not work and many of those residents who can leave Connecticut will do so if we don't change our ways. It is not too late if we make the right choices.

Logan Endorsed by the Police Officers Association of CT

On October 12, 2020, the Police Officers Association of Connecticut ("POACT") endorsed State Senator George Logan in his bid for reelection of the state's 17th Senatorial District.

Sargent Kris J. Engstrand, a member of POACT's advisory board, wrote, "Our endorsement is based upon your support on the public safety issues that affect the citizens of Connecticut, and on your commitment to fair working conditions for the men and women in blue who put their lives on the line each day to protect and serve

our communities."

POACT was founded to "...bring all police officers together, regardless of union affiliation, to be a strong and unified voice in public policy and legislation."

"POACT is the third police organization to endorse my candidacy. I can't tell you how much it means to me that our public safety officers know and appreciate my work at the Capitol. I can assure them and the public that I know and appreciate their work, as well," said, Senator Logan.

CT State Police Union Endorses DeBarba for State Rep.

The Connecticut State Police Union has endorsed Dan DeBarba for State Representative of the 114th district. In its endorsement letter, the State Police Union credited both DeBarba's "support for public safety" and his "support of the safety of our police officers" as the most significant factors driving their decision to back his campaign.

Not many candidates running for office have received an endorsement from the Connecticut State Police Union. Upon receiving the endorsement, DeBarba said, "I am honored to be one of the few candidates for State Representative to receive the endorsement

of the Connecticut State Police Union. We must never forget to support those who risk their lives each and every day to keep us safe and secure. Thank you to the State Police for placing their trust in me just as my family and I place our trust in them."

DeBarba is a longtime resident of Orange and has three children who have all graduated from Amity High School. DeBarba is the former president of Norwalk and Danbury Hospitals and is currently the Chief Financial Officer of a large health system in New York. Additionally, he and his wife, Lynn, own a small business in the area.

Logan Endorsed for Re-Election by Derby Police Union

On October 5, 2020, the Derby Police Union publicly endorsed Senator Logan in his bid for reelection as State Senator for the 17th District. By letter to Senator Logan, PTL Frank DeAngelo, the union's President, wrote, "Our membership believes that you have demonstrated through your words and actions a comprehensive understanding of the challenges facing police officers in their everyday duties, as well as the new challenges introduced in the

wake of the flawed police accountability bill." The letter recognized the great need for legislators like Senator Logan who support the police and the safety they provide to our communities. Senator Logan commented, "The police are an important institution necessary for our safety and our liberty. They need our support to do the job that we ask them to do. I'm pleased the Derby Police Union knows I support them and will continue to support them."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

VOTE AMERICA
EVERY VOTE COUNTS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FROM OUR READERS

ELECTION 2020

Welander Has Remained Silent on School Regionalization

In Connecticut right now, one very serious challenge our communities face is the threat of forced school regionalization. Hartford politicians have used events of the last few months including the pandemic of COVID 19 to advocate for schools to be regionalized based on their probate court district lines. This poses a significant threat to the Amity School System and our other fine local schools as it would dissolve our great school district that has already regionalized. The intent of this proposal is clear, the goal is to wrest control from communities, towns, and school boards that are tied to parents and students, and instead grant sweeping power to paternalistic bureaucrats in Hartford to make decisions for them.

Democrat, Mary Welander, has remained silent on this issue, as she also has on other vital issues concerning public education in the state of Connecticut, including the utilization of resource officers in our public schools. Welander’s silence raises concerns on how responsive she would be to her constituents were she to be elected. The residents of these towns who are concerned about maintaining their influence over the education their children receive deserve to know how Welander stands on such an important issue. Welander’s seeming inability to take a solid stance on issues expands beyond education and she has been unable to clarify to Connecticut voters if she would support the radical policy of defunding the police either.

Sixty percent of businesses have closed in Connecticut due to the recent pandemic; this has greatly impacted small businesses, their owners, and employees. Despite the importance of this toward our local economy and the numerous local residents whose livelihood depends upon these businesses reopening, Mary Welander has offered no opinions on these matters.

Welander’s opponent, Dan DeBarba, has been candid on his feelings about the issues. He supports continuing the use of school resource officers and while he understands there are advantages to school districts collaborating, he supports educational decisions to be made locally, by communities most impacted, not by distant authorities in Hartford with minimal ties to the community as a whole. Dan DeBarba supports public safety by opposing the defunding of the police and believes that smarter solutions exist to build a more just and equitable Connecticut. DeBarba is a small business owner and carries the endorsement of the NFIB, who are confident that he will be friendly to our small businesses and help them through these trying times.

If Welander wants to earn the support of her prospective constituents she must be more open on such issues. As of now, we know where DeBarba stands, while Welander obfuscates her positions to the voters and appears to stand for very little, and would likely be yet another rubber stamp for power elites in Hartford at the expense of our local community.

Deb Brutsche

Klarides Endorses DeBarba

After 22 years of service as a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives, you may know that I’ve decided not to run for reelection in 2020. While I will greatly miss representing the great people of Woodbridge, Orange and Derby, I am very excited to support Dan DeBarba as your next State Representative. A longtime resident of Orange and lifetime resident of our state, Dan is well-acquainted with the struggles facing middle class families in Connecticut. If elected, I know he will put petty politics aside and do what is right for the residents of our district and the entire state of Connecticut.

Connecticut’s economic difficulties were apparent prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and have been exasperated by the pandemic shutdown. More than ever, Connecticut needs lawmakers with the financial experience to make sound economic decisions and the leadership experience to find balance between state competitiveness and an appropriate safety net. Dan’s record of accomplishments as a certified public accountant and health care executive make him eminently qualified to help Connecticut at this time of crisis.

In many ways, Dan’s humble beginnings shaped him into the industrious man he is today. He joined the Connecticut Army National Guard and worked as a medic to serve his country and to afford the cost of attending UCONN. He took a year off before college to save money and worked two jobs throughout his college years. While at UCONN, Dan met his wife Lynn, a nursing student from Orange at the time. Like so many, they both worked hard to pay the rent, save for a house, pay the mortgage and raise three children.

Before he served as Chief Financial Officer of a New York multi-hospital organization, Dan was the President of both Norwalk Hospital and Danbury Hospital. These qualifications give him a unique perspective on the challenges faced by healthcare professionals and their families. With these qualifications, Dan’s readiness to serve Connecticut is plain to see.

Dan was resilient as a young man in the face of financial hardship. He collected a decade’s worth of financial experience as a certified public

accountant and achieved much success as a healthcare executive advocating for patients, physicians and frontline staff. Dan is committed to public service and wants to bring these experiences to bear upon Connecticut’s problems at this critical time in our state’s history. It is for these reasons that I am proud to endorse Dan DeBarba for State Representative in the 114th District, and I urge my supporters to join me in voting for Dan on November 3rd.

State Representative Themis Klarides

Vote to Protect Local Zoning Rules

A few weeks ago, I was reading “The Biden Plan For Investing In Our Communities Through Housing.” Their idea is to “Eliminate local and state housing regulations that perpetuate discrimination.” Yes. Discrimination is a terrible, unjust and illegal practice. It continues, “Exclusionary zoning has for decades been strategically used to keep people of color and low-income families out of certain communities.” Wait, what? What is exclusionary zoning? Isn’t zoning race-neutral by law?

I thought zoning regulations broadly concern rules of land use. How, what, and where structures may or may not be built. Areas deemed Residential. Commercial. Industrial. Conformity to standards that have naturally evolved over time to best suit unique, local community needs through thoughtful service of representative Commissions. Now, on the other hand, what zoning regulations do not do, and cannot do, is ordain who lives where, and who owns what. That would amount to unlawful discrimination.

An outside coalition has presented us with a 145pp. application to amend our town-wide residential zoning regulations to allow low-income, multi-family rental units. Their petition to TPZ is signed by Open Communities Alliance and a representative of Yale Law School. They’ve purchased 2 Orchard Road, a single-family home in our Residence District A Zone, and intend to spend quite a bit converting the home into 4 apartments. If their application is successful, they look forward to repeating this model all over town. Easy, then only a simple permit will be needed! Goodbye, single family zoning!

The problem of lack of low-income housing is a symptom of the larger problem of low incomes. The solution is not artificially social-engineering Woodbridge by skin color. That would be a discriminatory process that not only insultingly assumes inability for self-achievement, as well as a false, disempowering need for dependency, but also does nothing to create proven conditions for success. Prior to the Pandemic, unemployment was at an

all-time low and low incomes were rising. Through effective Republican leadership, the economy was booming in a way that was growing opportunity for every American.

Simply moving to a different zip code does not confer success. Promoting and rewarding individual excellence does. Our residents are not successful because of our zip code, rather home ownership is a by-product of sustained well-directed effort that anyone can model and foster in others. That opportunity has no geographical or personal restrictions.

I refuse to apologize for our zoning. Our town reflects our unique culture over centuries, and welcomes all ethnicities and faiths. Our population is diverse in background and occupation.

Politically, the Republicans have repealed the destructive AFFH rule, which took away decision-making from local communities and enabled federal overreach into zoning. The Biden Administration will undo that action, and promises legislation that withholds block grants for things like road improvement if our zoning isn’t “compliant.” They will invest in eliminating “sprawl.” What’s that, exactly? Us, again? If Woodbridge is “sprawl,” I like our sprawl.

Vote Republican.

Randi Fiorello

Mary Welander for House – Derby, Orange, Woodbridge

Mary Welander is running for State Representative for the 114th District which serves Derby, Orange and Woodbridge. Mary brings a commitment to improving the quality of life to all citizens and small businesses of these communities. As a member of the Orange Board of Education and Sandy Hook Promise, her commitment to quality education and a safe school environment is unprecedented. Her experience is even more critical during this time of Covid-19 when parents, school administrators and teachers are striving to balance education and safety in uncharted waters.

Mary is married and the mother of three children. All her children attend school in Orange. She is the daughter of an educator and small business owner; and the sister of three combat veterans. Mary understands the importance of public service firsthand. Her sole goal is to service the people and businesses of Derby, Orange and Woodbridge. She will not be blinded by political ambition which have left the 114th district without proper representation in the past.

Mary’s goals are to rebuild the economy of our three towns beyond the pre-pandemic level safely; protect our residents and workers in our nurs-

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“Elecction Letters” From Page 9

ing homes/assisted living centers; ensure everyone has access to quality and affordable health care; work to lower prescription drug costs; protect our environment; and provide the support needed by our Healthcare and Public Safety Professionals.

Mary has received many endorsements due to her proven track record and work ethic for the community. Some of these endorsements include: Senator Chris Murphy; the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of CT; Working Families; and Moms Demand Action, just to name a few.

I am a former elected official of Orange and community service volunteer that strongly endorses Mary and I hope you will support her on November 3rd.
Joseph Marulli

Mary Welander Has My Vote

Dan DeBarba has not earned the opportunity to represent the 114th District. On the DeBarba For State Representative Facebook Page, he says, “I hope to earn your vote.” He would

be wise to consider the following feedback I provide here and reach out to ALL potential constituents to learn as much as he can about the important issues in our communities before he expects to earn our vote.

For starters, Dan DeBarba and his campaign should refrain from mansplaining and belittling Mary Welander’s community and personal contributions to our Town, District and State. He should also stop utilizing the divisive rhetoric that is all too commonplace in politics today. He should consider how tired most of us are with the Republican Party continuously “buying” seats on important Boards, Commissions, Local, State and Federal Governments. We are sick of the bullying, the fear tactics and the inability to listen to what the people need and want in our District.

It’s important to ask the question that while he may be successful in his profession, how does that correlate to success in representing the needs of our district? Furthermore, what does he even know about our town and district? If he knew our town well, he would understand the hypocrisy of his own Republican Party’s efforts to elim-

inate the Beecher Road School SRO that he is advocating to keep. What has he done for our communities? Mary has worked tirelessly as a volunteer in the schools as PTA President and on the Board of Education and School Reopening Committees. On the State and Federal level, she has worked with Sandy Hook Promise as an Ambassador advocating for school safety. Mary Welander is a wonderful example of the type of Public Servant we desperately need more of in our Local, State and Federal Governments.

As the PTO President at Beecher Road School one would think Dan DeBarba would want to have a conversation with me as someone who knows what our community’s concerns are. He states on his website that he will support reductions in spending to balance the budget. Interestingly, this is very much in line with our Republican Board of Finance Chair, Matthew Giglietti, who has been reducing Beecher Road School’s budget for the last few years. In 2020-2021 we got a 0% increase which did not cover the increase in salaries and benefits or contractual obligations. This reduction has put us in an unfavorable position to be able to

afford the number of teachers needed to properly execute both in-person and remote learning programs during this pandemic. These reductions have also been an attempt to force us to eliminate our SRO for the last 4 years. How can you say that you support the SRO in our school when you support this party and these cuts?

Dan DeBarba would have a better understanding of the needs of Woodbridge and the concerns of Beecher Road School families if he responded to my attempts to contact. Over the last 3 years that I have known Mary Welander I have ALWAYS received a response to each email, text, post and phone call I have made. We don’t agree on everything, but we have wonderful discussions which allows us to dig beneath the surface of the many complex issues we face to come up with real, positive and lasting change to our communities. I encourage him to contact me anytime to have a constructive and respectful conversation about how he could help in our District to one day potentially earn my vote... but on November 3rd Mary Welander has my vote and I hope you will join me in voting for Mary. Mary is deeply engaged in Woodbridge issues and ready to fight for us on Day 1 at the State Capitol.

Joi Prud’homme

Southworth Will Fight for Woodbridge

As a Woodbridge resident and lifelong educator, I am proud to endorse Mike Southworth for the 14th State Senate District. Mike has shown unprecedented passion and commitment towards fighting for working families. As someone who has worked four jobs, he understands all too well the issues of affordability that impact all corners of our towns and cities. As a first responder he has seen the economic and deeply personal way the pandemic has affected our most vulnerable. Mike’s unique perspective has prepared him to hold our leaders accountable as well as how best to fight for us in Hartford. It is why I know that he will be a vote for policies that make it easier to live in Connecticut, by cutting taxes for working families, strengthening our schools, and helping small businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. He also wants to bring people together and enact bipartisan reform that creates positive change, rather than division.

In times where we are tested, we need leaders that bring everyone to the table. This is why he has been endorsed by Woodbridge selectman Joe Dey, the National Federation of Independent Business and three local police unions. As our State Senator, Mike Southworth will fight for Woodbridge and fight for our district.

Lynn A. Piasczyk

State of Connecticut Official Ballot		Woodbridge Connecticut	State Election	November 3, 2020	Congressional District 3 Assembly District 114	
OFFICE → PARTY ↓	1 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS FOR VOTE FOR ONE	2 REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS VOTE FOR ONE	3 STATE SENATOR VOTE FOR ONE <small>Senatorial District 17 Voting District 1</small>	3 STATE SENATOR VOTE FOR ONE <small>Senatorial District 14 Voting District 2</small>	4 STATE REPRESENTATIVE VOTE FOR ONE	5 REGISTRAR OF VOTERS VOTE FOR ONE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A BIDEN AND HARRIS	2A ROSA L. DELAURO	3A JORGE CABRERA	3A JAMES MARONEY	4A MARY WELANDER	5A PENNEL HAMILTON
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B TRUMP AND PENCE	2B MARGARET STREICKER	3B GEORGE LOGAN	3B MICHAEL SOUTHWORTH	4B DAN DEBARBA	5B ANNA D.DICKERSON
INDEPENDENT PARTY	1C	2C MARGARET STREICKER	3C GEORGE LOGAN	3C JAMES MARONEY	4C DAN DEBARBA	5C
WORKING FAMILIES PARTY	1D	2D ROSA L. DELAURO	3D JORGE CABRERA	3D JAMES MARONEY	4D MARY WELANDER	5D
LIBERTARIAN PARTY	1E JORGENSEN AND COHEN	2E	3E	3E	4E	5E
GREEN PARTY	1F HAWKINS AND WALKER	2F JUSTIN C. PAGLINO	3F	3F	4F	5F
WRITE-IN VOTES	1G	2G	3G	3G	4G	5G

ELECTION 2020

“17th District” From Page 1

PPE. "We must do more to adequately fund the Connecticut College Scholarship program so more deserving students can afford to go to college," he said. "Efforts to make community college affordable for more students should be expanded. No student should graduate from college with massive student loan debt," he said.

As for healthcare, the state will have to do more as the Affordable Care Act is being cut at the federal level. Cabrerá said he supported the Connecticut Public Health Option, a bill that would have allowed small businesses and individuals to buy into the state employee health benefit plan. The bill had been met with heavy opposition by the insurance industry.

The candidates were asked whether they would support efforts to expand early voting in the state. They both embraced the concept, but Logan took a more cautious approach, saying mail-in voting should be explored and developed and then put to referendum. When challenged by Cabrera who said the senator's voting record does not reflect that support, Logan said the legislature needs to make sure that fraud is not a potential issue – “right now there are all kinds of problems,” with people receiving the wrong ballots, he said.

Cabrera disagreed. “By and large it is safe and effective,” he said, registering his support. “We make voting too hard in Connecticut.”

Asked about the Black Lives Matter movement, Cabrera said he plans to be a champion for many of the issues that were brought up in recent months. “We have not been investing enough... to help families,” he said, referring to funding schools, mental health ser-

vices and job training programs. And he pushed the incumbent again on his voting record, saying Logan voted no to two important pieces of legislation, namely the paid family medical leave law and raising minimum wage.

Logan defended his record, saying he opposed the family medical leave act not because it was a bad idea, but because it resulted in a .05% payroll tax. "I support the option to buy into it," he clarified, adding that the only people who don't have to pay into it are union workers. "No surprise my opponent supports that law," he said.

One of the questions submitted to them was the lack of affordable housing – a hot topic in Woodbridge, after a group of New Haven attorneys came out to challenge the local zoning laws.

Senator Logan was quick to respond, saying the best way to help people is through a vibrant economy, so they can save and build equity and be able to live where they want to. The answer to this problem is not by forcing communities to accept development they don't want, he said.

Properties in Woodbridge don't have public water, they're on wells, he explained. They have no sewers; they have septic systems. "Forcing something on communities that are not set up for it, perhaps because of their geography – it's important we consider all that."

Cabrera spoke of the American dream and how we have to address redlining as a systematic issue. “The data on this is crystal clear,” he said. “It begins with providing on-ramps for the middle class, good paying jobs.”

Those ramps to the middle class, he said at a later point in the debate, consist of access to good schools and training programs; also, to make the cost of doing business more affordable.

“We need to make access to manufacturing jobs, trade jobs more affordable.”

Another question presented to the candidates was in regards to quasi-judicial entities such as PURA (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority) and the Connecticut Siting Council, and whether they should be more accountable to the people of the state, a notion that both candidates supported.

“The Siting Council should have more of community vote,” Cabrera said, “to reflect the will of the people.”

Similarly, Logan spoke of a project to install a solar facility on Gaylord Mountain Road, for which 15 acres of trees would have to be razed. He said he heard from many folks on that issue. "It doesn't have the support of the community," he said, adding he will continue to follow it and see if there is a compromise that can be made. "Let's see if there is a more suitable location," he said.

Cabrera, who lives in the area, was very clear that this is not a good fit.

"We're talking about quality of life," he said. "This is one project that I think is a really bad idea."

As for the governor's Council on Climate Change, referred to as GC3, which seeks to achieve a low-carbon future for the state by 2030, Cabrera embraced the concept that clean water and clean air are a right of every citizen. He expressed appreciation for open space and said that the effort will create green jobs.

“This is an issue that we can tackle,” he said, calling out the federal government for “dereliction of duty.” “Here we have an opportunity to be a leader,” he said.

Logan meanwhile took a more cautious approach, saying he looks forward to seeing the recommendations from the Governor's Council, but that

he wanted to make sure it will help, not hurt our state. ‘it is important to remember that climate change and our economy are not mutually exclusive,’ he said.

The 17th District encompasses Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, and parts of Hamden, Naugatuck, and Woodbridge.

Senator Logan lives in Ansonia with his wife, Lisa, a registered nurse working for the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and their two children. He is a director at Aquarion Water Company and serves on the Griffin Hospital board of directors. On occasion he can be seen as front-man for the Jimi Hendrix tribute band Electric Lady Band.

His candidacy is cross-endorsed by the Independent Party. He is seeking his third term.

George Cabrera and his wife Rebecca, a public school principal, live in Hamden with their twin teenage boys, who attend Hamden public schools.

He lists among his endorsements the Sierra Club, the Working Families Party, Planned Parenthood, UFCW Local 371 and Local 919, AFSCME Council 4 and SEIU CT state Council. In 2008, he joined President Obama's campaign to organize in battleground states like Ohio and North Carolina.

When asked about two priorities he would set for himself as a senator, Cabrera mentioned healthcare and economic development in the Valley. "I would work my heart out to make those things happen," he said.

Logan meanwhile pointed out that Cabrera would be part of the status quo in Hartford. “We need to go in a different direction,” he said with emphasis, adding that we need more financially conservative-leaning legislators in Hartford to turn the state around.



ELECTION 2020

“Sate Rep” From Page 1

he suggested, even though he is not principally opposed to increase wages.

Having grown up in Wolcott, DeBarba served as a medic in the Connecticut Army National Guard. He served as president of Norwalk and Danbury hospitals before taking the position of chief financial officer of Catholic Health Services of Long Island. He was recently appointed to the Orange Visiting Nurse Association Board of Directors.

Mary Welander serves on the Orange Board of Education and is also PTA co-president of Racebrook School. As a member of the local Board of Education she participated in the recent school reopening committee, which met almost weekly this summer to ensure students and teachers could return safely to school.

Education is high on her list of priorities, especially education funding. The way the state reimburses communities for special education costs needs to be re-evaluated, she said. Special education costs are difficult to predict for school districts and notoriously difficult to budget for. “We want to make sure we can take care of all our students,” she said.

Health care will be a big issue in Hartford going forward, she said, given that the long-term health impact from COVID is hard to predict. The House was working on allowing prescription drugs to be ordered from Canada, which would lower drug costs overall. Another area that needs to be looked at is how nursing homes and assisted living centers are regulated and overseen, to avoid a scenario similar to last spring, when COVID hit them unexpectedly.

As for taxes, she pledged to advocate for her constituents. Since she lost her job as strategic planning and marketing expert for an architectural firm last spring, due to COVID, she has come to learn what it means to be a one-income family.

She is dismayed by claims made by some that she does not support School Resource Officers or local law enforcement. “Those claims are totally unfounded,” she said. As a Board of Education member, she has voted in support of SROs and also supported the police budget – all while advocating for violence prevention programs, she said.

She testified in Washington on school safety before Congress. She was one of two Connecticut ambassadors for the Sandy Hook Promise, an organization that works on violence prevention programs in the wake of the Sandy Hook disaster. “We try to address problems before a weapon even enters the scene,” she said.

If elected, she would work to make sure that small businesses get the sup-

port they need, she said. She also feels that funding for Personal Protective Equipment needs to be re-evaluated.

Another issue close to her heart is the treatment of veterans after they leave the service. “We need to make sure vets get the support they need, such as through re-entry training. “They have such amazing skills,” she said. Three of her brothers are combat veterans, with one being deployed.

She wants to make sure that the communities she represents would have an advocate on the state level. She also mentioned the protection of open space as an important issue to champion in Hartford.

Two years ago Welander ran for the same position, and came within 1,000 votes or so of the incumbent, the closest anyone ever came to beating Themis Klarides.

Endorsements: Welander is being cross-endorsed by the Working Families Party. She also received endorsements by the Connecticut Education Association, CSEA SEIU Local 2001, the AFL CIO Connecticut., Moms Demand Action, The American Federation of Teachers, Connecticut; SEIU Connecticut State Council; by Planned Parenthood CT; CT Against Gun Violence, and the National Association of Social Workers, Connecticut Chapter; and by the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association.

Dan DeBarba meanwhile is cross-endorsed by the Independent Party. In addition to Themis Klarides, he is endorsed by the Mayor of Derby, Rich Dziekan; Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli, the Amity Republican Club, the National Federation of Independent Business; Connecticut Police Union and the Derby Police Union.

His position as CFO allows him to work remotely to a large extent, which will give him the flexibility to take on the extra duties in Hartford, he said. Until recently, his life was dedicated mostly to work and family, but he would like to diversify, and his outreach into the political realm is part of that diversifying. His wife Lynn and he have started a growing franchise business, Tropical Smoothie Café, an enterprise that makes him a small business owner in addition to a healthcare CFO.

Mary Welander grew up in South Deerfield, Mass. She made a career as a theatrical electrician, which is how she met her husband, Matt Welander, at The Juilliard School. She was Master Electrician of the Drama Theater and he was Head Carpenter of the main stage. Matt went on to become faculty technical director for the Yale School of Drama in 2013. He also works as a consultant in theater design, and experienced first-hand the effect of the pandemic on the arts community. “It is heartbreaking what the pandemic does to them” she said.



Mike Southworth



James Maroney

Maroney Touts His Voting Record

SOUTHWORTH SAYS MARONEY HAS “TURNED HIS BACK ON LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS”

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT.

With a substantial voting record to point to, state Senator James Maroney, D-14, is seeking a second term representing the 14th Senate District in Hartford. The district consists of Milford and Orange and parts of West Haven and southern Woodbridge.

One issue that his opponent, Republican Mike Southworth, has been calling him out for is his support for the Police Accountability Act. “Senator James Maroney turned his back on our local police officers,” reads one mailer Southworth sent out recently.

But Maroney disputes that notion. “Everyone agrees on 85% of the provisions of that bill,” he said. People for the most part support the funding included in the act, including \$4 million for body cameras for many police departments, including West Haven, Southworth’s hometown. Providing more training in de-escalation and bias is generally accepted, as is the ban of chokeholds, Maroney said.

The act makes it a crime for officers not to intervene if they see someone commit a crime. What police departments objected to was changes to qualified immunity that protects police from lawsuits. Critics maintain that the act opens the door to frivolous lawsuits and exposes the municipalities to unnecessary legal expenses.

In a phone conversation with this reporter, Maroney explained his support for the bill, saying the law sets a high bar by requiring courts to prove “willful,” “wanton” and “malicious” acts on the part of the officer before they can be sued. If found guilty, they need to refund the municipalities.

Opportunity Zones:

Yale educated, Maroney is a small business owner who runs a college

consulting business in Milford. Even though this year’s legislative session was cut short by the pandemic, Maroney authored and co-authored a number of bills during his first term, in an effort to broaden educational opportunities; and to help generate investor interest for the recently named “Opportunity Zones” in under-performing areas.

Opportunity zones were created as part of the recent federal tax reform act, he explained. Investors can realize significant capital gains tax relief by investing in these projects, he said. The opportunity zones are designated by the Internal Revenue Service, based on considerations such as income level and unemployment. There are 72 of them in Connecticut, including two in West Haven. Maroney supported that concept by creating a website and a point person for Opportunity Zones in Connecticut, providing potential investors easy access to information; he also arranged a seminar a year ago, which was attended by some 400 investors.

“We were one of the first states to do this,” he said in a phone conversation. The act he authored passed the Senate with unanimous support.

As a co-chair of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, he authored a bill establishing the Military to Machinist Program, which helps veterans gain the skills they need out of The Workplace in Bridgeport, which assists them in making the transition to civilian jobs. At the same time it helps the manufacturing industry with access to a highly trained work force, he said.

As co-chair of the Aging Committee, he helped create an elder abuse registry; also an act that requires healthcare professionals treating adults to have proper training to recognize the

See “14th District” On Page 17



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TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

4 on 4 Basketball, Youth Programs, Pool Open Weekends

Join the Winter Leagues and Programs offered by the Recreation Department! Leagues - Space is limited to 24 in the two co-ed basketball leagues: 4 on 4 Classic Basketball League for Grades 4-6, Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm; 4 on 4 Junior High Basketball League for Grades 7-9, Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm. A girls' basketball league is being offered in conjunction with the JCC for Grades 2-6. Games are played Sundays at the JCC with practice Friday evenings at the Beecher gym.

Youth Saturday Programs - Basketball and gymnastics will be offered Saturdays. Basketball: Grades K-3, 12-1

pm; Grades 4-8, 1:30-3 pm. Gymnastics: Grades PreK-1, 8:30-9:15 am; Grades 2-6, 10-11 am. Space is limited to 16.

COVID-19 regulations will be followed. Temperature will be taken—anyone over 99.9° will not be allowed to participate and will need medical clearance according to CDC guidelines in order to return.

The Town Pool is open weekends for adult swim to Woodbridge residents or members only. Reservations are required. Call the Recreation Dept. at 203-389-3446 during office hours to make a reservation. Drop ins are not accepted.

Town of Woodbridge Meetings for the Month of November 2020



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

11/2	Emergency Medical Services	7:00 PM	Public Works Bldg.
	Human Services Commission	7:00 PM	Center Bldg Darling
	Town Plan & Zoning Commission.....	7:30 PM	Town Hall
11/9	Library Commission	6:30 PM	Library
	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:30 PM	Town Hall
11/10	Board of Selectmen.....	5:00 PM	Town Hall
	Police Commission	6:15 PM	Police Department
11/12	Economic Development Commission....	7:00 PM	Town Hall
11/16	Fire Commission	6:00 PM	Fire House
11/18	Inland Wetlands Agency.....	7:30 PM	Town Hall
11/19	Investment Committee.....	5:30 PM	Town Hall
	Board of Finance.....	6:00 PM	Town Hall
	Conservation Commission.....	7:30 PM	Town Hall
11/24	Gov't Access TV Commission	7:30 PM	Town Hall

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



Woodbridge Police Officer Vinny Lynch instructed students with Youth Services Director Nancy Pfund at the Home Alone Class hosted by Woodbridge Youth Services

Outdoor Home Alone Class

Woodbridge Youth Services recently held a 2-session outdoor Home Alone class for children ages 9 to 12. Topics included answering the door or phone, internet caution, fire safety, calling 911, and nutritious snacking.

Woodbridge Job Bank Seeks Teens Who Want Work

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

Due to COVID-19, most jobs are currently outdoors with masks and social distancing as required. Teens can do yard work, dog walking, etc. Responsible teens who wish to join the Job Bank should call for an interview at 203-389-3429 or e-mail npfund@woodbridgect.org.

Need Yard Cleanup and Leaf Raking? Woodbridge Job Bank Can Help

Woodbridge Job Bank teens will work for Woodbridge residents who wish to hire someone to assist for odd jobs like yard cleanup, raking, planting bulbs, weeding, and moving boxes. Call 203-389-3429 for more information.

Job Posting

Senior Center Director - Full-Time

Director will administer multi-service programs designed to promote intellectual, social and physical well-being of those 60 years of age and older. Qualifications include two years of experience in the field of Human Services, with excellence in communication, administration and planning. Degree in Social Work,

Social Services, Gerontology, Counseling, Psychology or related field. Send resume by 4:00 pm on Friday, November 13, 2020 to: humanservices@woodbridgect.org, Woodbridge Human Services, 11 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525.

The Town of Woodbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

“Once you have an innovation culture, even those who are not scientists or engineers - poets, actors, journalists - they, as communities, embrace the meaning of what it is to be scientifically literate. They embrace the concept of an innovation culture. They vote in ways that promote it. They don’t fight science and they don’t fight technology.” — NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON

AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER

Halloween Drive-Thru Trick Or Treating!

In collaboration with the Library on Friday, October 30 from 11:30 am - 1 pm all ages may drive by The Center and the Library to get treats! Costumes are encouraged; masks are required; treats available for first 100 cars.

The Craft group will move indoors to the café beginning Thursday, November 5 from 9:30-11:30 am. Exterior building doors will remain locked. Please RSVP for this group to gain access. Masks must be worn at all times; physical distance will be maintained and a health screening will be provided. Space is limited.

Art Class with Graham Dale will also move indoors beginning January 6 and will meet Wednesdays from 10 am-12 pm for 10 weeks. Fee for this class is \$60.00. Space is limited, masks will be required as well as physical distance and health screenings.

The Thanksgiving drive-thru luncheon will be held November 12 from 12-1 pm. Those 60+ may RSVP by November 5 to get a delicious, traditional holiday meal by Lasse's Caterers. Many thanks to Coachman Square, the Woodbridge Police Union, The Linden and Bailey, Moore, Schaefer, Glazer, and Proto, LLC for their generous sponsorship of this event. Please wear

your mask when picking up your meal.

The Holiday Luncheon will be held on December 8 from 12-1 pm. Woodbridge residents 60+ may RSVP for this drive-thru event by December 2. This annual event is generously sponsored by the Rotary Club and catered by Lasse's Caterers. Space is limited. Please wear your mask when picking up your meal.

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

Meals: Seniors may reserve frozen meals (\$5/meal) by noon on Monday for delivery to your home on Tuesday. Minimum order of two lunches please.

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

Human Services: Call 203-389-3429 for information. The Human Services Department social worker, Judi Young, is available to those in need of assistance due to isolation and

other issues associated with long-term quarantine and social distancing.

Holiday Baskets, Toys & Fuel: Woodbridge residents may call for an appointment to apply for CT Energy Assistance program administered by TEAM Inc. Income eligibility requirements must be met. Call social worker Judi Young at 203-389-3429. Residents may also apply for the Toys for Kids program and Holiday Basket program. Sponsors are needed to participate in the Adopt-A-Family program to provide holiday food baskets to families in need for the December holidays. To adopt a family, contact the Human Services Dept. at 203-389-3429.

Food Pantry: Woodbridge Human Services is available to assist seniors and families in need with non-perishable food items from the food pantry as well as gift cards to Stop & Shop for perishable items. To view items currently in need you can download a new app for your iPhone. Ethan Lavi, of Woodbridge, recently completed an Eagle Scout project by developing Pantry Angels, an app designed to provide updated needs for local pantries. Once you download the app, select Woodbridge Town Food Pantry to view the updated list.

Donations: Monetary donations

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

Masks: Woodbridge residents may call to arrange pick-up or delivery of a cloth mask. Volunteers making masks are invited to contact Woodbridge Human Services to donate.

Emergency Call List: Prepare for storms by stocking up on water, canned goods and batteries. Residents can call the Human Services Department to be added to the Emergency Call List. For those who are elderly, have a health issue, are disabled or know someone who falls into these categories, please sign up for the Human Services' Emergency Call List. During emergencies, the department calls listed residents to ensure they are safe and to offer help as needed. To be added to the list, please call 203-389-3429.

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

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CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Juniorettes To Hold Food Drive

In cooperation with Orange Community Services, Orange Community Juniorettes will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Orange Food Pantry.

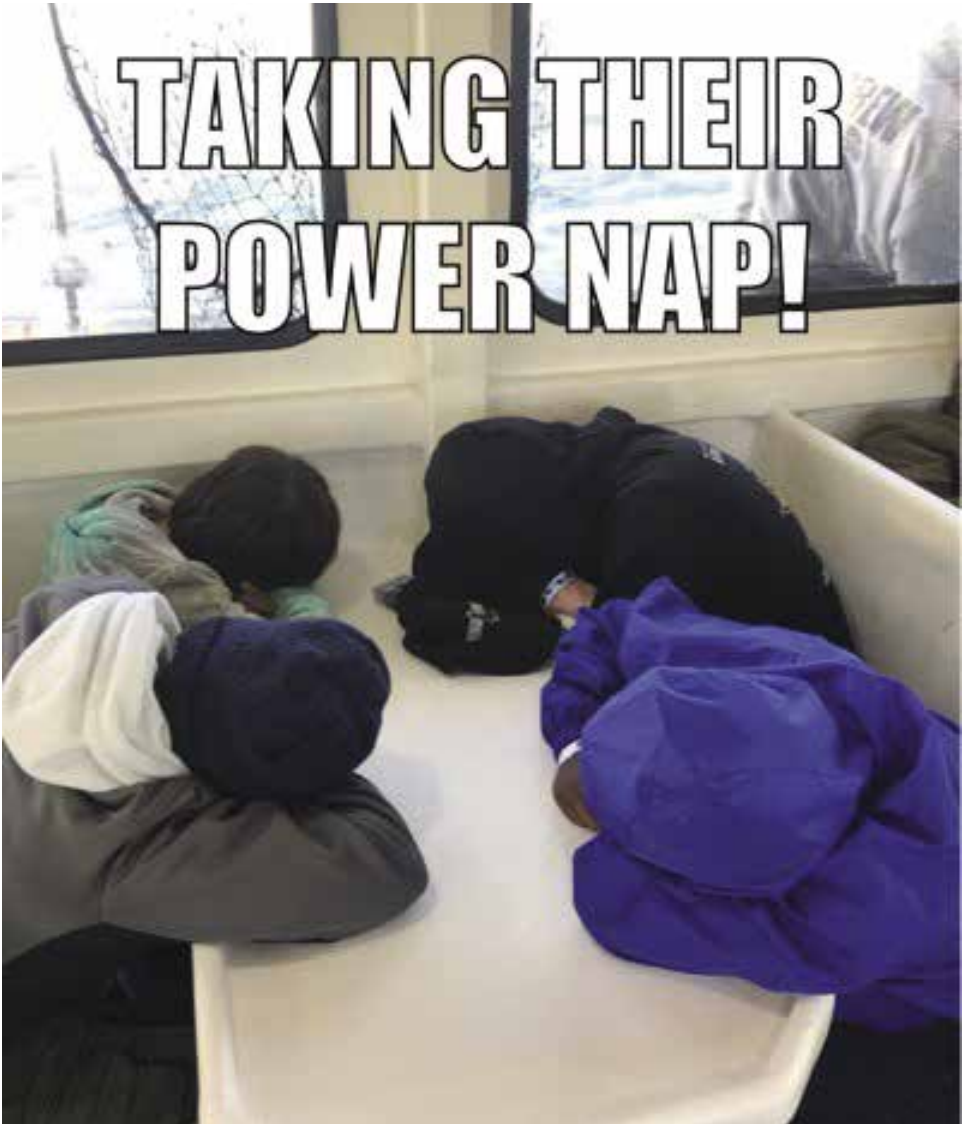
Please send your child to school with a few food items to donate to our food drive. Donation bins can be found at Peck Place School and High Plains Community Center. Bins will be there for the next couple of months to help stock the Orange Food Pantry for the holidays.

We live in a predominantly affluent area; however, it is important to explain to our kids how some families have limited resources, and that this

is an easy way we can all give back to our community.

Every little bit helps. They are specifically in need of peanut butter, canned tuna, canned chicken, canned vegetables, etc. (Beans are in good supply currently).

Orange Community Juniorettes is a parent-run, civic group under the Orange Community Woman's group which teaches the importance of giving back to our communities, fosters leadership skills, and offers enrichment programs to girls (5th-8th grade) in Orange. Want to find out more or get involved? Email: orangecommunityjuniorettes@gmail.com



Troop 907 Deer Lake Campout and Fishing

Troop 907 from Woodbridge camped at the Connecticut Yankee Council's Deer Lake Scout Reservation Camp, located in Killingworth, CT the weekend of October 3-4. They thoroughly enjoyed this beautiful camp and went salt water fishing on the Blackhawk out of Niantic. Social distancing, mask wearing and state of CT and Scout rules and practices were adhered to. Scouts and scouters even spotted a submarine in the water not far from the fishing boat.

They were very successful fishing, catching 47 porgies and 16 striped bass. Since photos tell a story, you can see what a great event this was for the scouts, who were all very tired after a fun weekend. The last photo shows a well-deserved fresh fish dinner.

Other events for the troop in October included a haunted hayride trop, scouting for food, and instructions on building a remote-controlled plane.

There will be a Camp Whiting Workday November 8th from 8 am to noon. The troop will be participating in this to help maintain Woodbridge's own scout camp, located across the street from the Darling House. Work includes splitting firewood and general cleanup. Toward the end of November on the 20th - 22nd, the troop will hold a campout and Thanksgiving Family Cookout also at Camp Whiting.

Optimized Vision & Eye Care Opening Announcement

What do we offer?

Eye exams, glasses prescription, contact lens fitting, primary medical and emergency eye care.

Where are we?

20 Division Street, Derby, CT 06418. (Yes, we are inside the Derby BJ's, but you don't have to be a member to be seen.)

What insurances do we accept?

We accept most major insurances for eye exams, including Medicaid, Medicare, Anthem BCBS, United Health Care, Oxford Health, Cigna, Connecticut, Harvard Pilgrim, Humana, Davis vision and Spectera.

What do you do to ensure safety during the COVID-19 era?


BJ's works hard to maintain great hygiene inside the club. We don't see patient with current covid-19 diagnosis or contact history. In addition, patients and doctor are both required to wear masks. Direct patient contact surfaces are cleaned between each eye exam. The exam and pretest rooms are sterilized twice a day (during lunch time break and at the end of the day) with UV-C light, which efficiently kills viruses and other pathogens.

How about glasses and contact lenses?

We provide prescriptions for glasses and/or contact lenses after your eye exam. You decide where to buy. We recommend BJ's Optical, which is located next to us. You can get high quality glasses and contact lenses with optimal prices without any limitations of choices from insurances.

Who's the Doctor?

Dr. Guo, OD, PhD, graduated from the esteemed New England College of Optometry with Doctor's degree in Optometry, had more than 15,000 patient encounters, provides primary medical and vision eye care.



For appointment:

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Message: (203) 503-8832

Email: ovecatbj@gmail.com

After receiving your email or message, we will contact you within one business day.

Since we are newly opened, we have plenty of exam slots available. Call today to make an appointment!

“14th District” From Page 12

signs of Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia.

Maroney is cross-endorsed by both the Working Families Party and the Independent Party. His three legislative priorities, if elected on Nov. 3, would be workforce development; access to childcare and suicide prevention education, he said.

His opponent, Mike Southworth, a Republican, is a professional firefighter in West Haven where he recently served as president of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1198. He also is an active member and former leader of Elks Lodge 1537 in

West Haven and helps coach a Milford Babe Ruth Fall Softball Team.

Having seen the effects of the pandemic first hand, and the strain it has put on the supply chain and healthcare systems, Southworth pledged to “work with healthcare experts to develop a long-term response plan for future outbreaks.” He also pledged to put people over politics and parties.

Southworth wants the state to leave public education in the hands of local school boards to determine their own plans. “Every community is different and a general plan from Hartford could hinder education or put some of our kids at undue risks,” he wrote on his website.

“First Selectman” From Page 4

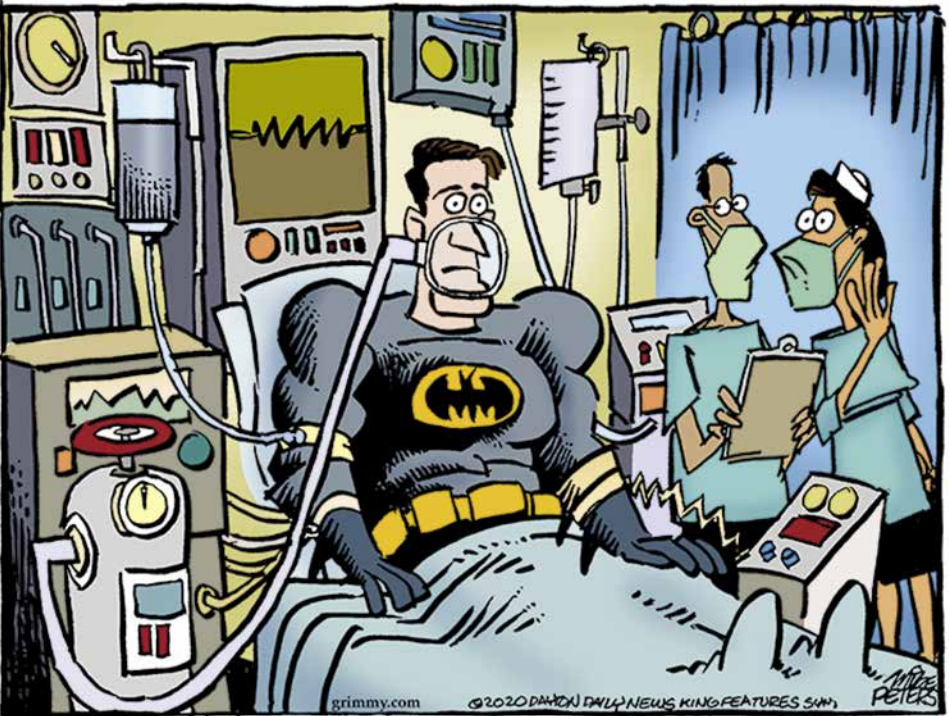
several safe alternatives, and details can be found on the Town website, woodbridge.org.

Federal Election

As a general reminder, the Presidential Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. I must again extend a special thank you to our Town Clerks and Registrars of Voters for all the many months of work they have put into providing us all with the opportunity to vote, either by absentee or in person. I would encourage every-

one to do so. The Official Ballot Box is located in front of the Woodbridge Town Hall for use, either to submit an absentee ballot application, or a completed ballot. If you have any questions regarding the process, please reach out to either the Town Clerks at 203-389-3422 or the Registrars of Voters at 203-389-3408/3409.

PLEASE...Let’s ALL do our part to Stay Safe Woodbridge! As always, my door remains virtually open to you. If you need to reach me please call 203-389-3401 or email me at bheller@woodbridge.org.



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WOODBRIDGE LIBRARY

Woodbridge Town Library To Re-Open November 5

*PATRONS WELCOME TO BROWSE MATERIALS
IN PERSON WITH EXPRESS SERVICE*

The Woodbridge Town Library will open its doors to the public with Express Service beginning Thursday, November 5. Our Express Service is available:

- › Tuesdays: 11 am to 3 pm;
- › Thursdays: 4 pm to 7 pm;
- › Fridays: 1 pm to 4 pm.

The Library will offer the following during Express Service: browsing for books, movies and music; limited reference, readers’ advisory, and technology assistance; limited computer use by appointment starting November 10; and access to printing, fax, photocopying, and scanning.

The staff at the Woodbridge Town Library is excited to take this next step in safely offering increased services to the Woodbridge community. All new requirements and procedures are in place in accordance with guidelines from the Town of Woodbridge, the Quinnipiac Valley Health District, and the State of Connecticut.

“I know that one of the things our patrons have missed the most over the past several months is browsing our collection in person,” says Library Director Eric Werthmann. “That’s why I’m thrilled to be able to welcome people back into the Library, even if it’s only in a limited way. These new hours are intended only for short, purposeful visits, but I’m hopeful that we’re getting close to being able to safely restore all our services.”

Computer use by appointment only starts Tuesday, November 10, during Express Service hours. There are three computers for use; appointments are 45 minutes each and start at the top of each hour. To book a 45-minute computer reservation, please call or email the Reference Desk at 203-389-3434 or wbrstaff@lioninc.org. Up to two people in a family unit are welcome to sit together at a computer station. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

A limited number of people will be allowed inside the building; visitors may need to wait to enter. Please keep visits to 30 minutes, come only if you are feeling well, and everyone over the age of 2 MUST wear a mask while in the library. When you arrive in the library’s lobby, you will be greeted by a staff member who will ask you about recent Covid-19 exposure and provide

you with hand sanitizer. Browsing will be limited to the first floor and the Children’s Department; the study room, the Woodbridge Room and the Friends’ Bookstore are restricted at this time.

While inside the building social distancing measures must be respected. These include one person per book aisle, keeping at least six feet apart when waiting in line, and standing behind Plexiglas barriers when talking with library staff. Chairs will not be available, except when using a computer. You can pay for copying, printing or faxing with cash or check ONLY; please make every attempt to bring exact change.

If you have additional accessibility needs, please let the library know when scheduling an appointment for computers or prior to your Express Service visit.

Currently, the library offers Park & Pickup, a curbside service for borrowing books and other materials. Holds can be placed through the online catalog (<https://wd.catalog.lionlibraries.org/>), by calling the library at 203-389-3433 or emailing askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org. When your order is ready, you will receive an email or phone call alerting you that your items have been checked out to your library account and are available for pickup during our Park & Pickup hours. Both the book and audiovisual drop to the left of the front doors remain open for returns.

Park & Pickup will continue, but the pickup tables will be moved into the Friends’ Meeting Room. Please use the doors on the right side of the library to enter and leave. Passage from the meeting room to the library and vice versa will not be permitted. Remember to wait until you hear from the Library before coming to pick up your order. Your online account may not always be accurate!

Park & Pickup hours are Monday & Thursday, 11 am to 7 pm, and Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday, 11 am to 4 pm. Phones and emails are answered by staff Monday - Friday, 10 am to 5 pm. You may place holds, ask questions, find out information, and more even when the Library is not open for Express Service. We look forward to welcoming you back into the building.



WOODBRIDGE
TOWN LIBRARY

News and Upcoming Events November 2020

Staff is here to help even when we are not open for Express Service!

Have a question about digital resources? Need help with research? Looking for your next great read? Phones and emails are answered Monday to Friday, 10 am to 5 pm.

Department phones and emails:

Adult Services/Reference: 203-389-3434 wbrstaff@lioninc.org

Children’s Department: 203-389-3439 childrensprogramslioninc.org

Circulation/General info: 203-389-3433 askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org

Long Overdue Items

Please return outstanding items as soon as possible, even if they are BILLED on your library account. No replacement costs will be charged, but the items need to come back. The book drop is open 24/7; items will be quarantined for 96 hours, in accordance with new guidelines. No fines will be charged for late items. Fines or bills on your account will be waived— simply call us to remove charges.

Are you on our email list?

Sign up to get alerts about our events, new offerings, and any updates about reopening. Go to our website: woodbridgetownlibrary.org and scroll to the very bottom. Enter your email address and you’ll start receiving our emails! We typically only send one email per week.

From The Children’s Department

The Children’s Department is delighted to provide materials for homework assignments and pleasure reading/listening via Park & Pickup or during Express Service. Place holds via your online account, or contact us if you need suggestions or ideas.

Outside Storytime, near the picnic area next to the Library, will continue until temperatures are too cold: Mondays for ages 4+; Wednesdays: 18 mos. - 3 years. Both start at 10:30 am; siblings welcome!

November Outdoor Craft: Birch Bark Ball & Triangle – Join us outside at the picnic tables to create your own version of this traditional Penobscot (Maine) game. Suitable for ages 5 and up. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Please choose ONE session, both start at 3 pm: Tuesday, November 10 or Tuesday, November 17.

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LOCAL BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Best Lawyers Recognizes Kindseth at Zeisler & Zeisler, P.C.

Woodbridge resident Stephen M. Kindseth has received two honors from Best Lawyers®. Atty. Kindseth received the honor of 2021's "Lawyer of the Year" in the Stamford Metro Areas from Best Lawyers in the practice area of Litigation-Bankruptcy. In addition, he earned recognition in the 2021 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America® in the practice areas of Litigation-Bankruptcy. Atty. Kindseth is a partner at Zeisler & Zeisler, P.C. in Bridgeport, CT.

Atty. Kindseth is one of five lawyers from Zeisler & Zeisler to receive recognition in the 2021 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America® in the practice areas of Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law and Litigation-Bankruptcy. They are Matthew K. Beatman, James Ber- man, Eric Henzy, and Jed Horwitt.

Best Lawyers is the oldest and most respected peer review publication in the legal profession. Recognition in Best Lawyers is widely regarded by both clients and legal professionals as a significant honor, conferred on a lawyer by his or her peers.

For over 50 years, Zeisler & Zeisler has provided representation that empowers clients to overcome obstacles and seize opportunities. The firm



Stephen Kindseth

offers a broad range of legal services to local, regional and national clients in the areas of insolvency, litigation, business law, commercial and real estate transactions, and personal injury. Zeisler & Zeisler's insolvency group has a national reputation in the areas of bankruptcy, corporate restructuring, creditors' rights and other insolvency matters, leveraging its vast experience, passion and creativity to resolve its clients' most daunting financial challenges. The firm's litigation team blends tenacious representation and practical counsel to win high-stakes disputes in a diverse range of legal matters. For more information go to zeislaw.com.

Woodbridge Business Recipient of Citizens Bank Grants

Citizens Bank announced that it has awarded 100 grants of \$15,000 each totaling \$1.5 million to minority-owned small businesses across its service areas as part of its previously announced \$10 million investment to help drive social equity and economic advancement in underserved communities across its footprint.

Through a short essay, applicants shared insight on how they would use the grant to both strengthen and sustain their business and help their community.

The program also includes an opportunity to partner with SCORE, the nation's largest network of volunteer, expert business mentors. For recipients who opt in, SCORE will match the business with a mentor to help build and sustain success.

"Citizens is highly committed to helping promote social equity and drive economic advancement in underserved communities and this is one of several ways we are bringing that commitment to life," said Jack Murphy, president of Citizens Business

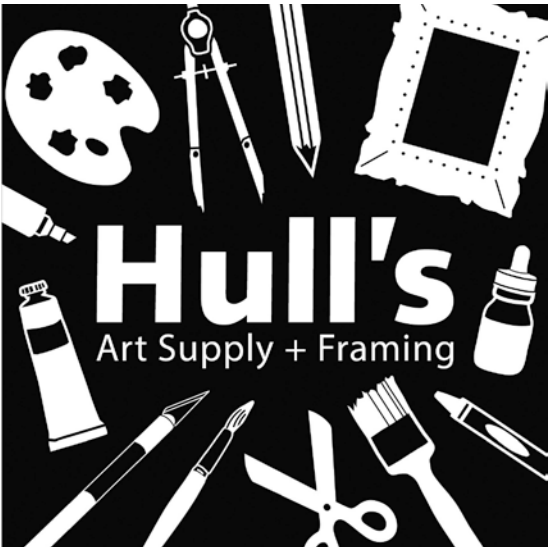
Banking. "The interest we witnessed from across our business footprint was overwhelming, and we are confident that our recipients will play a continuing vital role in strengthening the communities they serve."

Our Community Counseling LLC of Woodbridge was one of the recipients of the Citizens Bank Minority-Owned Small Business Grants.

Other elements of Citizens' social equity commitment include initiatives for financing small business and housing, as well as other development in minority communities through economic opportunity funds and investment in Low-Income Housing Tax Credit projects. Citizens is also committed to supporting underserved communities through ongoing technology, education and digital literacy initiatives. Additionally, Citizens will direct grants to nonprofit organizations, provide matches for colleague contributions to social equity organizations, and work in partnership with national organizations to fund digital literacy programs aimed at eliminating the digital divide.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

Beware of the Pitfalls of Fall and Winter

BY KYLE BRANDAY MSPT, CDN

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 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.

Winterize your body. For you anxious snowbirds, prepare yourself with proper exercise. Knees, hamstrings, calves, back, shoulders, biceps and triceps all come into play on the slopes. Many of the exercises used in preparation for yard work, apply to winter sports. Trunk rotation stretches, hamstring stretches, light weight workouts with dumbbells for biceps, triceps and deltoids are important in preventing serious injury. Squats with light barbells for your quads, hamstrings, and glutes strengthen these important stress absorbing muscles. The spine



Kyle Branday

and lower back also takes a heavy shock, absorbing a beating during both skiing and snowboarding. Prepare yourself with warm up knee to chest exercises, trunk rotations and quad and hamstrings stretches.

The physical torque on the hips is another skier's stress moment. Whether you're maneuvering moguls or into competitive downhill events, hips can take a beating in twists and turns. One of the most overlooked muscle groups which plays a dramatic role in performance is your hip rotators. The same potential injuries pertain to snowboarders who perform more like gymnasts than skiers. Torso twists, hip movement, high impact landing all combine to test even a professional's performance. So, warm up on the carpet, floor, or exercise pad before you take on the powder. Proper exercise techniques, either at home or with a professional physical therapist or trainer, can keep you fit and in action throughout the winter.

Kyle Branday, MSPT, CDN is a licensed physical therapist and partner at Amity Physical Therapy, founded sixteen years ago by Michael Dow MSPT CEO/Director with offices in Woodbridge, Hamden and Branford. 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.

Physical Fitness, Healing And Safety In The Age Of COVID

BY MICHAEL DOW, MSPT

While normal living seems to have come to a halt during the pandemic, physical fitness and the needs of the human body to remain healthy and strong move on. In fact, "Movement as Medicine" is a mantra for Amity Physical Therapy, the only local physical therapy practice that has embedded a Fitness unit into all three of its offices.

Founded sixteen years ago by Michael Dow, MSPT and CEO/Clinical Director, Amity Physical Therapy is renowned for its "Prehab/Rehab" program that has established the practice as a destination for patient therapy before and after orthopedic surgery. "It's possible," Dow said, "that in many cases surgery can be avoided with specific preventative methods. Our clinicians are skilled at restoring movement in joints, reducing or eliminating pain, and possibly avoiding or forestalling further orthopedic procedures.

"From pediatrics to geriatrics, we cover all the bases in human physical movement increasing performance, strengthening muscles, ligaments and joints, and returning patients to normal activity in record time," Dow continued, "Our Fitness Centers, now an integral part of our therapy programs, are staffed by licensed professional trainers who work side by side with physical therapists to apply a holistic approach to our practice. Health-Wellness-Fitness – it's all here including nutritional programs for the most comprehensive physical health service in the area."

Amity Physical Therapy is a classic example of the adherence to all Covid-19 safety practices outlined by the government. From the socially-distanced lobby to private therapy rooms and tables to fitness equipment – all are thoroughly sanitized after patient treatments and usage.

Masks and appropriate PPE gear

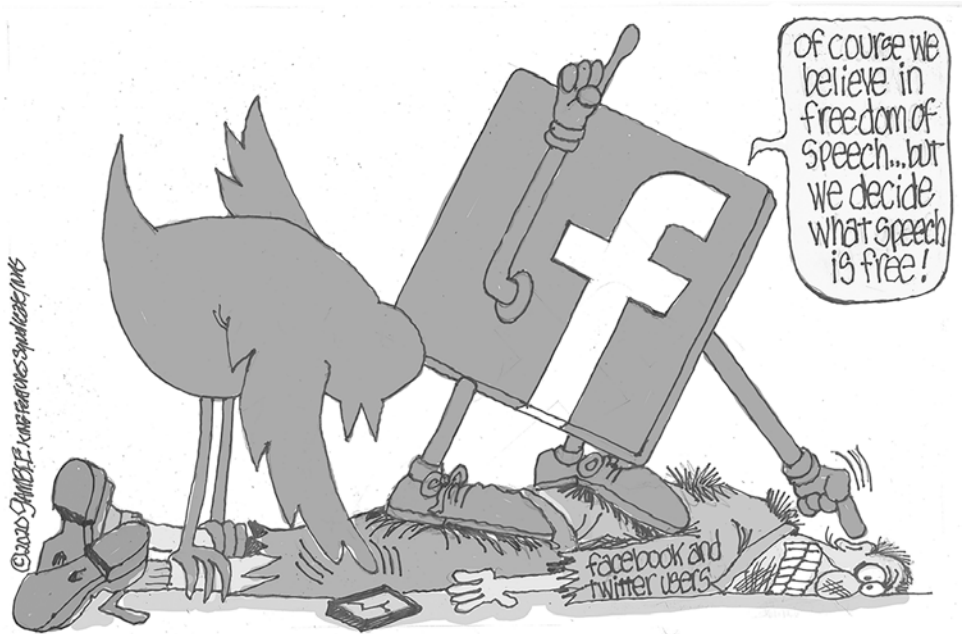


Michael Dow

are in force. For patients who prefer online or Telehealth sessions rather than in-person visits, these are offered as well. Dow concluded, "Again, we've covered all the bases in physical health responsibly, safely, and in many respects, uniquely."

"With the pandemic having limited our lives and the way we perform personal and professional tasks it also limits our physical activity impairing our health and weakening the body's physical structure. Correct fitness and therapy programs tailored to the individual, can significantly sustain and improve one's muscular-skeletal profile during a very restrictive time in our lives."

Michael Dow MSPT/CEO founded Amity Physical Therapy sixteen years ago and maintains offices in Woodbridge, Hamden and Branford. He received his degree from Sacred Heart University and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for his work with the national Multiple Sclerosis Society. He works with patients of all ages, as well as local high school and college athletes. Michael can be reached at 203-389-4593 or visit amitypt.com.



Woodbridge Town News

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

14th Annual Community-Wide Kristallnacht Commemoration

Congregation Or Shalom in Orange, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, will hold its 14th Annual Community-Wide Kristallnacht Commemoration on Sunday, November 15th at 9am. This year we will honor the conscience and heroism of Mr. Odd Nansen of Norway.

As Adolf Hitler’s noose was tightening around the neck of German Jewry, Odd Nansen, a Norwegian architect, threw himself into the work of providing a safe-haven for Jewish refugees and all who were fleeing Nazi persecution. To that end, he and his wife Kari created “Nansen-hjelpen” (“Nansen-Relief”), a humanitarian organization in Oslo as well as a shelter for refugee children.

On April 9, 1940, Norway was overrun by Nazi Germany. Tragically, by late 1942, most of Nansen’s refugees had been systematically murdered by the Nazi regime, along with many of Norway’s Jews. However, Nansen’s brave staff at the children’s shelter managed to rescue 14 children by secretly transporting them to Sweden. These children survived the Holocaust and subsequently found new homes all over the world. Some are believed to still be alive today.

Meanwhile, Odd Nansen joined the Norwegian resistance against the Nazis. He was arrested by the Gestapo in 1942 and deported to the Nazi concentration camp at Sachsenhausen, Germany. In Sachsenhausen, Nansen courageously maintained a secret diary on tissue-paper pages. The diary included vivid drawings of the horrific details of camp life as they happened, in real time. The diary and drawings were published after the war and provide an important first-hand



Congregation Or Shalom

account of the atrocities perpetrated at Sachsenhausen. After the war, Nansen published his diary in Norway, where it was and is still widely known. The diary was re-published and annotated in English in 2016 as “From Day to Day” by Timothy Boyce.

At Sachsenhausen, Nansen risked his life to save a ten-year-old Jewish boy named Tommy who had survived the infamous death march from Auschwitz. Today, Tommy is Professor Thomas Buerghenthal, a former judge on the International Court of Justice at the Hague and Professor Emeritus at George Washington University Law School in Washington, DC. Years later, Professor Buerghenthal would write, “Odd Nansen not only saved my life; he also enriched it with his philosophy of life.”

The entire community is invited to join this event, held virtually this year via Zoom. It will begin at 9am with the solemn lighting of a Yellow Holocaust Memorial Candle. Speakers include Timothy Boyce, Senator Richard Blumenthal and Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus, spiritual leader of Congregation Or Shalom. The Nansen family in Oslo will also participate.

Please contact jewishnewhaven.org/RSVP to register. Pre-registration is required.

Holy Infant Church Women’s Guild

This past summer, the Holy Infant Church Women’s Guild was very proud to present a \$1,000 scholarship to graduating senior Mattea Salati. The scholarship winner is chosen from the parish based on academic achievement, community and school participation, and church service. Mattei’s application clearly documented her outstanding efforts and achievements in all of these areas.

Starting the Guild’s new year in September, the annual membership tea was cancelled due to COVID 19. The Guild held a Bake-less Bake Sale at the end of the month.

For the October meeting, there was a talk on breast cancer awareness by Dr. Andrea Silver of Yale via remote access by Zoom. The Guild also participated in the Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends event.

The Guild’s fundraisers help with larger charitable works such as filling pocketbooks for underprivileged and homeless women in the New Haven area. Last year the Guild was fortunate to donate 70 filled pocketbooks, which were distributed at the Sunrise



Holy Infant Church

Café’s Christmas Breakfast. This year we will be very happy to gather about 40 pocketbooks which will be filled at our November meeting with warm hats, gloves, and hygiene products. Throughout the year our ladies bake goodies and collect socks, coats, underwear, and toiletries for a New Haven men’s shelter through the Midnight Run program. In November we will purchase and roast turkeys for the New Haven Community Soup Kitchen. Finally, as in past years, the Guild members are blessed to be able to purchase Christmas gifts for needy families. That brings us to December, the end of 2020 and with great hope for the beginning of a better new year.

Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

Indoor Services

- › Fridays 6:00 pm

Outdoor Services (weather permitting)

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

** also available via Zoom, like other daily services



Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

Children’s Services

Children’s Havura (up to age 5) and K-2 Kehila hold outdoor Shabbat services in the BEKI courtyard. For more information, consult Youth & Family Programming Director Annie Norman-Schiff, anormanschiff@beki.org.

Youth Group Event

BEKI’s USYers will pack Thanksgiving baskets for food insecure families on Sunday, November 22. For more information, contact Annie Norman-Schiff.

Wednesday Schmoozes

BEKI high school students will take on chess master Jim Eade, best known for his books “Chess for Dummies” and

“The Chess Player’s Bible,” in an hour of chess playing, commentary and learning on November 4.

BEKI’s film and discussion series about racial justice starts on November 11 with a discussion of the film “I Am Not Your Negro,” a 2016 award-winning documentary, narrated by Samuel L. Jackson, about James Baldwin’s observations on American race relations.

New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker will be the guest for a Town Hall discussion on November 18.

On December 2, Corey Stone, who was part of the executive team at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, will discuss issues of debt, debt

See “Beth-El Keser” On Page 26

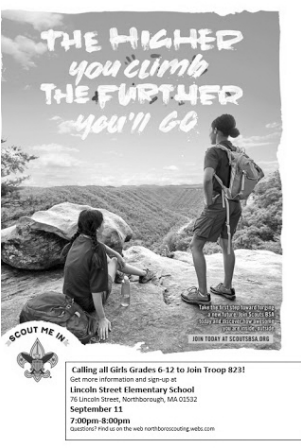
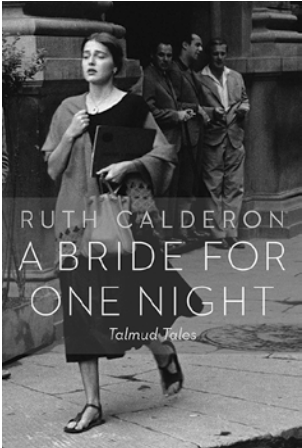
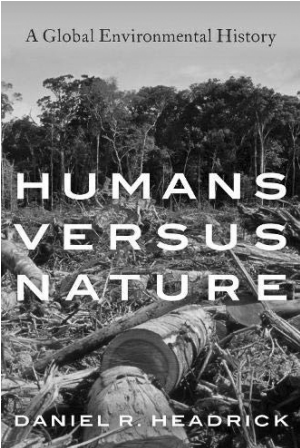
A First! Rejoicing With The Torah Outdoors!

On Sunday morning, October 11th Congregation Or Shalom in Orange held its Celebration of Simchat Torah – “Rejoicing with the Torah” – outdoors. Simchat Torah is the annual world-wide celebration of the completion of the reading of the Torah, the first of the bible’s books. “The reason for moving our celebration outdoors was to make this event possible for a larger number of participants, in this age of pandemic awareness,” commented Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus, adding, “Besides, the weather was spectacular!”



Pictured above are Rabbi Wainhaus, President Bob Spaulding and one of the families that attended the celebration.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP



Congregation B’Nai Jacob Events

Our Building is Closed, but Our Community is Open!

Please join us on Livestream or Zoom! To register for a Zoom event, please call the office at (203)389-2111.

Weekend Happenings

Friday

- › 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat - on Zoom only

Saturday

- › 9:00 am Bread & Torah
- › 10:00am Shabbat service - live in the tent weather permitting and on Zoom

Sunday

- › 9:00am Sunday School on Zoom

Upcoming Classes & Events

Rabbi Shapiro’s Fall Class
A Bride for One Night

Mondays, 7:30–9:00pm

On Zoom:

- › November 2, 9, 16, 30
- › December 7, 14, 21
- › January 4, 11

In her engaging book, “A Bride for the Night,” Ruth Calderon rewrote Talmudic tales as richly imagined short stories, affording the reader an entrance into the fascinating world of this core ancient text. We will read the stories in their original in the Talmud as well as reading Calderon’s retellings of them. We will embark on an imaginative journey into the world of the Talmud and get to know it in new and surprising ways. No background or Hebrew necessary. All are welcome. Zoom only — zoom link will be sent to participants upon registration. To register, email office@bnaijacob.org or call 203-389-2111.

Family Learning

The best Jewish education is family education, when a whole family engages in learning together. We are excited to do this once a month with all of you, as the situation allows.

Our First MONTHLY In-Person Family Workshop

On the Doorposts of Your House and Upon Your Gates

Sunday morning, November 8, 10:00am – 12:00pm

We will make beautiful mezuzot that you can proudly display at home and learn all about why we have mezuzot, what’s inside them, and why.

We will hold this program safely distanced, in our auditorium with a table for each family. Masks will be worn at all times and bathroom use will be one person at a time. If the weather permits, we will have snacks outdoors. If the guidelines change, we will modify the plan.

This program is part of the religious school, open for all children 12 and under with a parent and/or grandparent. Siblings welcome.

Newcomers welcome - please call the office for more information. (203) 389-2111

RSVP by November 1 so we can prepare supplies and the room as needed.

Adult Ed Speaker – on Zoom

Daniel Headrick, Ph.D.

Sunday, December , 10am

“Climate Change: A New Perspective”

This talk draws on Professor Headrick’s book, “Humans Versus Nature: A Global Environmental History.” Please call the office to register (203) 389-2111.

Attention Boys & Girls Ages 11–17!

Join the fun and adventure of Scouts BSA!

Do you enjoy the outdoors? Camping, hiking, rock climbing, canoeing, and roasting marshmallows around a campfire are just a few of the things that Scouts can do with their friends. For more information contact Jonathan Glassman at 203-701-8522.

DID YOU KNOW?

Is A Family Asset Protection Trust Right For You?

Are you married? Does one of you depend on the other for help with activities of daily living? Are you concerned that the surviving spouse may not be able to live independently if the “helper spouse” died first? If you answered “yes” to those questions, you may benefit from a Family Asset Protection Trust (“FAPT”).

What is a FAPT and how does a FAPT work?

- It is a testamentary trust that sets aside assets after your death for the benefit of the surviving spouse, rather than giving assets outright to your spouse.
- It shelters the assets in the FAPT to protect those assets should the surviving spouse apply for Medicaid (Title XIX). That is because the assets in the FAPT will not be considered owned by the surviving spouse or available to the surviving spouse when determining eligibility.
- Even though assets in the FAPT are not considered available to the surviving spouse, the Trustee(s) (typically a child or children) has the discretion to use assets in the FAPT to provide the surviving spouse with income and/or assets to pay for things the surviving spouse needs.
- Any assets that have been protected in the FAPT that are not used by the surviving spouse can pass down to children/grandchildren without needing to “pay back” for Medicaid benefits the surviving spouse received.

If you want to protect assets and be able to pass something down to children/grandchildren, but worry that the high cost of long term care may prevent you from doing that, a FAPT may be right for you. If you have questions about the FAPT we would be happy to speak with you during a no-charge initial consultation, no matter how long it lasts.



Steven P. Floman, Allison M. DePaola-Drozdz, and Nicole Camporeale of the law firm Floman DePaola, LLC are the authors of this article. This article has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal advice or to create an attorney client relationship. Readers should not act upon the information contained in this article without seeking advice from an attorney regarding the specific facts and circumstances of your case.

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Enjoy a Homespun Halloween Holiday

Halloween is a day many people, including adults and children, eagerly anticipate. Steeped in tradition, Halloween is a day that's always good for a scare and, of course, some candy.

Many Halloween traditions are rooted in customs from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. Samhain marked the end of the summer harvest and the beginning of the cold winter. Celts believed that the boundary between the world of the living and the dead was permeable on the night before the new year, when it was possible for ghosts to return and wreak havoc.

Halloween 2020 will likely feel a little different than it's been in years past, as a global pandemic has forced people to limit their interactions with those who live outside their homes. But even if trick-or-treating or other social gatherings are not possible, there are many ways to enjoy the Halloween festivities.

Build A Samhain Bonfire

Gather the supplies for a bonfire — albeit on a smaller scale. Light a fire in a fire pit or outdoor fireplace. While ancient Celts burned crops and other things as sacrifices to Celtic deities, your bonfire can be what you make of it. If you want some dramatic effect, the science resource ScienceStruck notes the addition of metal salts can change the color of flames in the fire. For example, iron fillings produce gold sparks and copper sulfate will make green flames. Wear costumes and make s'mores while around the Samhain fire.

Make A Witch's Brew

Images of witches stirring a bubbling cauldron are ubiquitous on Halloween. Families can create their own Halloween "spells" and mix up a batch of potion over a campfire or on the

stove. It can be a favorite soup or stew recipe, or cocktails and mocktails for the kids. Here's a recipe for "Witch's Brew," courtesy of the Food Network® and Sandra Lee.

Pour one 6-ounce package of lime gelatin into a large bowl. Slowly stir in 2 cups boiling water. Stir for at least 2 minutes until the gelatin is completely dissolved. Stir in 3 cups chilled pineapple juice. Let cool to room temperature.

Purchase a plastic cauldron from a party supply store and one block of dry ice. Break up the dry ice and place (using tongs or heavy-duty gloves) into the bottom of the cauldron. Pour a little water on top just to cover to get the ice to start "smoking." Place a punch bowl that fits inside the cauldron on top of the dry ice.

Pour the drink mixture in the punch bowl. Slowly add a two-liter bottle of chilled lemon lime soda or ginger ale. If desired, add two cups chilled vodka. Stir gently to mix. Enjoy.

Organize A Community Jack-O'-Lantern Carving Contest

Large turnips and potatoes were once reserved as canvases for Halloween jack-o'-lanterns, but pumpkins now are the gourd of choice. Ask neighbors if they would like to participate in the festivities and contribute toward supplies for a Halloween gift basket as a prize. Each household then carves a pumpkin and places it on their doorstep Halloween night. One person can serve as judge and choose the winner. Whoever is chosen gets the basket, which can be filled with treats and trinkets.

Everyone can enjoy some Halloween fun even if they have to stay closer to home this year.



Social Distancing and Halloween

Halloween is a unique day each year when people gather together for parties, parades and of course, trick-or-treating. October 31 is a day that most children eagerly await each year because it means an opportunity to don a costume and come home with bags full of sweet treats.

This year Halloween figures to look different than it has in years past. Homes may have carved pumpkins on the doorstep and paper ghosts blowing on tree branches. And horror movies will no doubt dominate streaming service top 10 lists. But thanks to the COVID-19 virus, certain Halloween traditions may not be possible.

Depending on regulations in your city or town, parties, trick-or-treating and school functions (if school is in session) may be canceled or significantly modified. Since COVID-19 is so easily spread, health officials have long touted the need for social distancing. And while masks in public have long since become the norm, Halloween masks may not be sufficient.

The coronavirus already has scared off some Halloween attractions. Universal Orlando, Disney World and Disneyland have canceled mainstream Halloween events for this year. Plus, a recent Harris poll on Halloween found that, of the 1,970 adults polled, nearly three out of four people have no plans to take their children trick-or-treating.

So what is the public to do in the

wake of the risks of going out for Halloween?

Maintain social distancing if trick-or-treating is allowed. This could mean staggering times to go on the search for candy and avoiding homes where trick-or-treaters have already lined up.

Consider small gatherings that enable youngsters to exchange candy with a limited group of friends or neighbors.

Head to the mall or nearby stores in costume and get candy from retailers where it may be easier to maintain distance.

Wear your mask or special face coverings when trick-or-treating. Consider building a costume around the masks so it fits with the Halloween theme.


Wash hands frequently or use hand sanitizer when water and soap is unavailable. Limit the number of houses you visit to reduce your risk of infection.

Ask family or friends to send digital treats, such as gift cards or certificates. Many restaurants may offer voucher programs for coupons for free ice creams at their locations, and while these may not be traditional Halloween goodies, ice cream is still sure to please youngsters.

Consider car parades instead of traditional trick-or-treating.

Despite the COVID-19 virus, Halloween enthusiasts can find ways to be safe and have fun this year.


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AGES: BOYS AND GIRLS GRADES 4-8 (SESSIONS 1 AND 2)
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For registration information, please contact John LaFrance:
475-201-6515
john@johnlafrance.com



“Beth-El Keser” From Page 22

forgiveness, bankruptcy and finances through the lens of Jewish texts.

From 8:00 to 9:00pm on Zoom, BEKI Schmoozes include a presentation and time for questions. To request the link, email office@beki.org.

A Family’s Account of Separation and Survival

Daphne Geismar, author of the new book “Invisible Years” about her Jewish family’s years of hiding in the Netherlands during WWII, will speak at the Zoom Schmooze 11 am, Sunday, December 6.

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



Jim Eade



Justin Elicker



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Students in the 3s class at OCNS enjoyed a fall leaves dance using streamers.



OCNS 5s Kindergarten Readiness class enjoyed an outdoor story time on a beautiful fall day.



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