

Woodbridge Town News



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MAY ELECTIONS A THING OF THE PAST

Selectmen Decide Not to Challenge State on Streamlining Process

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Republican opposition notwithstanding, the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen voted down the motion by Selectman David Lober to keep municipal elections on the first Monday in May. The vote, 2:4, was taken at a special meeting of the board on October 27.

Lober made the motion after he learned that the state legislature was trying to streamline elections by striking the May option from the language, unless the town's legislative body votes to keep it in May.

With this vote, the board voted not to insist on the first Monday in May date. The next municipal election will therefore take place on the first Tuesday in November 2023, instead of the first Monday in May. Officials elected in May of 2021 will be in office five months beyond their two-year term.

Republican Town Committee Chairman Chuck Pyne urged residents in a newspaper article (Woodbridge Town News, Other Side of the Aisle, October 1) to object to the state efforts at streamlining election processes. Only four communities still observe the May elections, namely Bethany, Woodbridge, Avon and Union.

Pyne suggested that May elections would generate better coverage in regional media, while in November the town would have to compete with everyone else for editorial attention. He said there is absolutely no financial gain for the town. And, tongue in cheek, he added "would you rather stand outside in May or in November."

The initiative to switch the remaining towns from a May to the general November schedule came from the State Committee on Government Administration and Elections, but it allows municipalities to continue with

May elections, if "the legislative body of such municipality...so determined by a two-thirds vote."

When Pyne called in at the special selectmen's meeting, he argued that the more Hartford legislates, "the more they want every town to look like every other town." But while Woodbridge officials follow the state leadership, "there is a strong

bipartisan movement in Bethany to keep elections in May," he said. "They like the unique character of that."

Former Democratic Registrar of Voters Jeanette Glicksman in a letter to the Board of Selectmen expressed full support for the change to November elections. "This change is long overdue and much needed," she wrote. She said that the May elections contribute to low voter turnout. Glicksman also pointed out that the scheduling prevents the local registrars from conducting the annual canvass. "The few May election towns must skip the canvass – as voters cannot be removed prior to an election," she wrote. Instead, they canvass in even years.

Selectman Sheila McCreven also expects a better voter turnout for the November elections. She said in her experience, many people are not aware that municipal elections are at a different time and a different day – Monday instead of the November Tuesday. "It's good for democracy," she said.

Bethany First Selectwoman Paula

Cofrancesco, when reached by the Woodbridge Town News, said she was going to add the issue to the December Board of Selectmen meeting

agenda for discussion. However, given that Bethany does not have a charter, the issue has to go to Town Meeting for a vote – which may be as late as the Annual Town Meeting in the spring, unless there are other

reasons to call a special Town Meeting. She said town officials she has talked to so far would prefer to keep the May election because it aligns with the fiscal year, which starts on July 1, along with the terms of the elected folks.

Woodbridge Selectman David Vogel did not agree that the data suggests stronger voter participation in November, calling it "anecdotal evidence." "There is no real data that suggests that voting would be stronger at one particular time or another," he said.

Pyne agreed. What drives participation is a contested election at the top of the ticket, he said. Bethany, in fact, at its last May election had a voter turnout of 47%, similar to Orange this November. By comparison, the Woodbridge turnout this year was 37.6% - with First Selectman Beth Heller running unopposed.

Selectman Paul Kuriakose voted with his fellow Democrats not to insist on the May schedule. "Doing it in November is much more convenient," he said. "It just makes sense."



Public Invited to Housing Forum

On Monday, December 6, 2021, the public is invited to an in-person informational session on the Town's current housing planning process to build a shared understanding of how homes, that meet the needs of current and future residents, can create an even more vibrant Woodbridge. Hosted by Woodbridge's Housing Opportunity

Study Committee, the discussion will be led by David Fink, an expert housing policy consultant who will provide background on the planning process, share best practices, and engage residents in shaping the Town's future.

The meeting will be held in the Jewish Community Center auditorium (360 Amity Road) at 7 pm.

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Patients, co-workers and volunteers at The Willows care facility recently celebrated outgoing recreation director Terry Duda (center). The Recreation Room will be known as the Terry Duda Recreation Room going forward.

The Willows Celebrates Outgoing Recreation Director

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The cheering must have been heard throughout the building when Terry Duda walked into the Recreation Room at The Willows on November 5. Duda, the long-time recreation director at the residential care facility, was celebrated to mark her upcoming retirement after some 32 years. “I was shocked,” she said in a phone conversation after the event, “shocked beyond belief.”

The room, where she had entertained and engaged a generation of long-term patients, will be named the Terry Duda Recreation Room going forward. “You deserve this in so many

ways,” said Peter Mongillo, administrator. “The heart and soul you put into your job had an effect on every soul who walked in these doors.”

The retirement planned for March of 2022 marks somewhat of a milestone in the history of the facility, which opened in the late 1980s. “She is the last of the original crew,” said one of her co-workers. The room was filled with current and former caregivers who worked with her, also administrators, patients and volunteers. When Duda walked in, unsuspecting of the celebration that was about to

See “Willows” On Page 20

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From the Democratic Town Committee

BY LAURENCE GROTHEER



As Thanksgiving Looms It's a Worthwhile Exercise to Compile and Share a Gratitude List.

To start, I'm grateful to the publisher, editor, and staff at the Woodbridge Town News for including in their paper this column and other opinion, news, and announcements, to help keep Woodbridge readers informed. Knowledgeable residents are essential in this high-functioning town - and at all levels of government, for that matter. There are all-too-many recent examples of how uninformed and misinformed residents all-too-literally jeopardize our future well-being.

I'm also grateful for the dedicated hard work and ongoing commitment of town officials and staff, and for the literally scores of volunteer residents who perpetuate the programs and services upon which we all rely. The composite result of so much community service is, again, the high-functioning town we proudly call home.

More broadly, since last Thanksgiving, I'm grateful for great progress underway to combat the coronavirus and quash incidents of COVID-19. In Woodbridge, in Connecticut, and in most states vaccination rates are high, and where that's true, cases of virus-related illness have been minimized. Thank goodness new national leadership this year took the pandemic seriously and worked to mitigate its tragic consequences.

Some 220 million Americans have been vaccinated by now, thousands of booster shots are administered daily, and the vaccine was recently approved to protect children. All this suggests continuing progress against future infections, because according to the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC), unvaccinated people are more likely than vaccinated people to test positive for COVID-19 and far more likely to die from it. In fact, according to the Texas health department, the state's unvaccinated residents - in all age groups - were 45 times more likely to be infected with the virus and 40

times more likely to die from COVID-19 than fully vaccinated residents.

I'm thankful President Biden and his team initiated this wholesale turnaround with respect for science, a robust vaccination rollout, and the American Rescue Plan. I'm grateful the Biden administration used the resulting optimism as a springboard to create 5.6 million jobs - 531,000 in October alone - to sustain economic recovery from last year's pandemic shutdown.

Just two weeks ago, passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act by Congress gave Americans more to be thankful about because roads, bridges, airports, and transit systems will soon be improved, broadband internet service expanded, potable water systems upgraded, and green energy sources developed. This nationwide infrastructure overhaul - with revenue built into the bill to pay for it all - will generate additional jobs, economic growth, and future investment for which we can all be grateful.

Here in Connecticut, infrastructure funding will underwrite replacement or repairs to the estimated 2,100 miles and 48 highway bridges in poor condition and it will help upgrade and maintain commuter rail infrastructure, too. There will also be expansion of charging stations for electric vehicles, extended internet access, water system upgrades and watershed protection for which Connecticut residents can be grateful.

Also, on the list of things for which I'm thankful is quiet assurance that other Biden administration goals - lower prescription drug costs, Medicare coverage for dental, vision, and hearing care, and paid family leave - are favored by most Americans, according to polls.

This Thanksgiving, I'm particularly grateful for those who share these ideals and an innate generosity of spirit to make them a priority.

Other Side of the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE
WRTC CHAIRMAN



Thank you, Dorothy J. Martino

We're going to take a break from the usual content of local political and government issues covered in this column to reflect on the life of a very special lifelong Woodbridge resident, Dorothy J. Martino, who sadly passed away on October 30. If there was ever a time where people over politics was more than just a campaign catch phrase, it's now. That said, I ask the readers' indulgence to take time to read the following paragraphs. At the end, I trust you'll have a better sense of a life well-lived for the benefit of our town.

You'd be hard pressed to find anyone with a memory of Woodbridge without Dorothy. Her 88 years were spent as a resident of "the flats" of Woodbridge. She never considered the term offensive, as it was simply descriptive of the topography of her part of town. And did she see Woodbridge change in those 88 years! In many quiet but impactful ways, she had a hand in the town we know today. To give you a sense of her longevity, she attended elementary school before there was a Beecher Road School, and Hillhouse High School in New Haven because there was no Amity Regional High School in those days.

Dorothy's love of Woodbridge manifested itself in service. As her father before her, she served on the Woodbridge Board of Education for 14 years and was part of the leadership team that saw our student population grow far beyond her imaginings. Dorothy was constantly mindful of the students' and teachers' wellbeing, as Dorothy was a teacher herself - more on that later. She also served 5 terms (10 years) on the Board of Selectmen, again, witnessing and contributing to the leadership of our steadily growing town. Always respectful in what at times is a contentious political environment, Dorothy worked with all sides for the betterment of her town.

Dorothy's civic involvement was truly unparalleled. Aside from the Boards of Education and Selectmen, she served on the Woodbridge Elderly Housing Committee and Library Committee to which she donated the funds for the Antoinette and Francis P. Martino (her parents) Reading Room for young adults. She also served on our Charter Revision Commission, Library Capital Committee and the Town Hall Renovation Committee. The lives she touched and the results of her work and generosity are all over town - and beyond. Her dedication and effort in

Woodbridge Rotary Club are still felt to this day. Little wonder she was recognized as one of our town's Living Treasures just three short years ago.

Politically, Dorothy was an active Republican, serving as a member of the Republican Town Committee since 1962. Far beyond being a party standard bearer when running for office, she helped on countless fundraisers, voter outreach and civic service programs sponsored by the Party. She was the "Grand Dame" of the Party, offering her experience and knowledge of the people of Woodbridge as a member of our Nominating Committee which has provided us with many dedicated volunteers on elected and appointed boards and commissions. Our current serving Selectmen Lober and Vogel became our nominees under Dorothy's watch.

Dorothy's dedication extended beyond public service. She was a member of the Our Lady of the Assumption Church (OLOA) Choir for 80 years - you read that correctly. Joining as a child of 8, she may very well hold the Catholic record for longest serving choir member - if anyone is keeping score. And her 20 years on the Parish Council, a few as President, saw her steady hand guide OLOA to be one of the most successful, flourishing parishes in the archdiocese. And our former party Chairman remembers Miss Martino as his second grade Sunday School teacher.

Beyond the Woodbridge Town limits, Dorothy's commitment to education can be seen in her 40 plus years as a teacher in the New Haven Public School system culminating in the Edgewood School in New Haven renaming its library The Dorothy J. Martino Library. Her dedication to SCSU (formerly New Haven Teachers College) was lifelong as well. She has remained an active member of the SCSU Alumni Committee and created the Dorothy J. Martino Scholarship. For over two decades, the scholarship has benefited students from Bethany, Orange, or Woodbridge who are pursuing a career in education.

As we enjoy our Thanksgiving this year, please take a quiet, thoughtful moment to give thanks for Dorothy J. Martino's life well-lived for the benefit of our town and the positive and enduring impact she had on so many people around us. She has humbly set a very high standard for those who look to serve our town today and in the future.

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APT Zooms In On Woodbridge Seniors' Lower Back Pain

In an unusual therapy setting, Amity Physical Therapy clinical therapist Kyle Brandy MSPT, conducted a recent "zoom" session with members of the Woodbridge Senior Center. Some 30 minutes later, many senior citizens on computers, along with viewers on a local Public Access Channel, were able to benefit from Brandy's complementary lecture on lower back pain.

A fifteen year experienced clinician, Brandy offered his digital audience practical advice on the prevention of lower back strains that can often extend down the leg causing sciatic nerve pain as well.

In a season where many seniors engage in leaf raking and other yard work, the zoom session could not have come at a better time. Brandy plans

on continuing his digital lecture series in January when his subject will be shoulder pain involving the rotator cuff, often a common problem in older citizenry.

For more information, people of

all ages may call Kyle Brandy at 203-389-4953 or visit amitypt.com. Amity Physical Therapy's office is located at One Bradley Road, Woodbridge. The practice has three other offices, Hamden, Branford, and Milford.

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Woodbridge Town News

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

Upcoming Issue Date	Issue Deadline
December 17 Holiday Issue	December 10
January 14 New Year's Issue.....	January 7
February 11 Valentine's Day Issue.....	February 4

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

FROM OUR READERS

The Arbor Haven Development – A Big Step in the Right Direction

The April 2018 Board of Selectmen Country Club of Woodbridge (CCOW) land use survey showed that Woodbridge residents have very diverse views of what we want to see done in our town, both generally and with respect to the CCOW – we don't agree on much as a majority. However, the survey was able to identify two things that a majority of residents generally like about Woodbridge (our rural small town feel and the education system) and two things they don't like (our tax rate and the appearance of our business district). The Arbor Haven project has the potential to build on those positives and reduce the negatives, with some added bonuses. I encourage everyone to look at the proposal on the town website. Information about the type of housing, placement, revenue/cost, and open space/town amenities are in the proposal. The Covid-19 crisis has (for now) transformed the real estate market for towns like Woodbridge. We have an opportunity to take advantage of that and significantly improve the long-term financial health of our community. In addition to the benefits discussed below, the project makes meaningful progress for Woodbridge toward more affordable housing options for both seniors and families.

Preserve our rural small-town feel. The Arbor Haven plan places larger lot single family houses on the perimeter of the development, so any current Woodbridge single family property will have only new single-family homes as their immediate neighbors. The co-joined and affordable housing is placed on the inside of the development. 50 of the 150 acres comes back to the town as open spaces, with new pool, clubhouse and walking trails. One of the reasons I moved to Woodbridge in 2009 is for the incredible tracts of

preserved land that is available for walking and hiking. On a practical level however, our scarce resource is money, not walking trails. I encourage all town residents to look at the Woodbridge Land Trust and the Woodbridge Park Association websites and explore the hundreds of acres of walking and hiking trails in our town, including the 200-acre Elderslie Preserve, or the 100-acre Alice Newton Street Memorial Park in central Woodbridge.

Support the education system. The Arbor Haven proposal estimates both new tax revenue and school expenses related to the project. The revenue side is straightforward and based on the proposed property values/selling prices and our mill rate – simple math which is easy to validate and appears to be in line with our existing property taxes for similarly valued properties. More difficult and subjective is the expense related to schools. The proposal has a per new student incremental cost and they multiplied that by a triple the national average of school age children per household to come to what they call a very conservative (high) estimate of the additional cost to the town. I would hope that we would validate those numbers, and if they hold up, agree that this project would be significantly positive to net annual revenue for the town. Its proposal shows a net annual gain to the town of \$1.3M.

Lower our Tax Rate. As discussed in the November 2021 town newsletter, we have about \$3.5M of remaining debt from the purchase of the CCOW. The proposed payment to the town for 2/3 of the CCOW land is \$9M. We could completely eliminate the \$3.5M liability and eliminate the debt service cost from our annual budget. That is in addition to the projected yearly net revenue increase of \$1.3M shown above. Without finding a way to increase our

See "Letters" On Page 22

Woodbridge Town News

WTN LETTERS POLICY

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

Woodbridge’s COVID-19 positivity rate is low enough that we are now allowing boards and commissions to meet in person if they so choose. I know that some boards and commissions will continue to meet virtually either because of convenience or comfort levels. Others feel strongly that they prefer to meet in person. As a reminder, the legislature passed a bill last session that allows us to hold meetings virtually through April 2022.

Woodbridge’s COVID-19 positivity rate has been in the “yellow” category or better for four weeks in a row. The State Department of Public Health maintains a color-coded map updated weekly showing each town’s color. Gray is best; red is the worst. When or if we are in the red again for three weeks in a row, I will require all meetings to once again be held virtually. I am hopeful that does NOT happen.

Based on guidance from our health department, we continue to require face masks in all Town buildings.

At the Board of Selectmen’s November meeting we discussed an “unsafe order” that I received from Building Inspector Andy Rizzo regarding the former Country Club of Woodbridge clubhouse. Our Building Maintenance Foreman was concerned about vandals getting into the building, so he invited Mr. Rizzo to tour the building and talk about how to make it safer. That tour led to an unsafe order requiring that the Town either remove the building or make it safe. By the time the Board met, Building Maintenance had already worked to secure the building, and this likely will be an ongoing ef-

From the First Selectman BY BETH HELLER



fort and expense. I want to be clear that the building is not in danger of collapsing – the danger is an unsafe situation caused by vandals breaking the doors and windows to repeatedly enter the building and cause damage.

The Board also agreed to institute a bulk trash fee, starting February 1. The Board has been discussing the statewide looming trash crisis and how to respond. In the next decade or so there will be a significant reduction in trash disposal capacity which will drive up costs for municipalities and their residents.

The Town’s Transfer Station has a scale which we use to charge haulers bringing in residential trash. Starting February 1, the scale will also be used for residents and contractors bringing in “bulk” trash such as furniture and construction demolition. That fee will be \$0.10 per pound. Currently the Town charges \$20/cubic yard – in fiscal year 2021 we collected \$4,511 in bulk trash fees, but paid out \$69,490 to haul and dispose of bulk trash. The new fee will help close that gap.

In addition, the Town will no longer offer free bulk trash pickup five months a year. Starting in February there will be a fee of \$50 per appointment. That fee will partially cover the Town’s cost to run this program.

In response to the looming trash crisis the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is

strongly encouraging towns to institute a program with several different names. You may see it referred to as Pay As You Throw (PAYT) Unit Based Pricing, or Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART).

PAYT means that households are charged for the amount of waste they throw away. This provides incentives for residents to decrease the waste they generate and increase the amount they reuse and recycle. The State is offering grants to institute these programs and Woodbridge submitted an expression of interest to participate in a pilot. We should know soon if we are invited to apply.

While we are always looking for ways to reduce our expenses, we really need to focus on growing the grand list. Without new commercial buildings, more homes or both, our grand list will stay stagnant. That is why I think the Arbor Haven proposed development for the former Country Club of Woodbridge is an important project: It will increase our grand last by adding housing, including state-mandated affordable housing and much-desired senior housing. Of course, that’s in addition to the \$9 million purchase price.

As we move into budget season next month, it’s important to remember that education takes up approximately two-thirds of our annual operating budget. As the school district’s

budgets continue to increase without a corresponding increase in the Town’s grand list, the Town will be forced to cut services, cut education and/or raise taxes. None of these are palatable options and I anticipate this will be a season of hard decisions.

YOU have a voice in the budget process. Boards and commissions are beginning to discuss their budgets now. Capital budget presentations and discussions will begin with joint meetings of the Boards of Selectmen and Finance on December 2nd and 7th, followed by operating budget presentations and discussions in late January and February. EVERYONE is encouraged to attend these meetings to understand the process and share your thoughts with board and commission members or department heads.

This year I extend wishes to you all, for a Thanksgiving full of love, happiness, and good health. May we all be thankful for what we have, for the family we love, the friends we cherish, and for the blessings that will come. This Thanksgiving season, I am thankful for all of you, as we worked together to keep our community safe during this dreadful pandemic. Let us all now pause, and continue to be kind to one another, especially during this upcoming holiday season. I remain grateful for the many opportunities we will have to continue to make Woodbridge such a wonderful and welcoming town.

As always, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions or comments. You can reach me at bheller@woodbridgetown.org or at 203-389-3401.

HUMAN SERVICES



Left: Two COVID booster vaccine clinics were held in November at the Center Building Gymnasium in partnership with the Quinnipiack Valley Health District. Referrals to area locations for access to COVID vaccines and booster shots as well as COVID testing is available through the Human Services Department. Right: Many thanks to Woodbridge Boy Scout Troops 63 and 907 for their collection of non-perishable food for donation on October 30 to the Woodbridge Food Pantry. Each year volunteer coordinators facilitate this generous contribution from many residents in town. Human Services is grateful to the volunteers, the scouts, and the households who donate for making this a successful annual program. The collection brought in over 3000 pounds of non-perishable food items for local families in need. The food pantry can be accessed year-round by qualifying residents and families.

BY JEANETTE GLICKSMAN
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES

The Resident Assistance Fund (RAF)

To better assist Woodbridge residents in need, the Human Services

Department has updated the Food and Fuel Fund with a new policy and a new name. New guidelines were developed to improve the description of the fund’s use. The fund may be used for categories such as food and fuel, but also may assist residents in need with mis-

cellaneous services that are necessary but are not typically funded by outside agencies. The RAF, funded entirely by local donations, is not an entitlement; it is an emergency program only. As always, the Department is grateful for local support of this fund and the im-

portant work it accomplishes.

Many thanks to the Woodbridge Recreation Department for its generous donation to the RAF following the 39th Annual Woodbridge Road Race

See “Human Services” On Page 7

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



Last year, over 900 “We Care Kits” for the homeless were made by local students.

Call 203-389-3429 or email npfund@woodbridgect.org for information or to sign up for programs.

Paint Party for Amity Middle School–Bethany–December 10

Youth Services will host an after-school paint party on Friday, December 10, 2021 (Snow date is 12/17) for middle school students who will enjoy having a snack and painting a beautiful winter scene. Contact Youth Services to sign up to create your masterpiece with step-by-step instruction from artist Samantha Woodruff. All supplies and snacks will be provided for a cost of \$20 per student. Class runs 2:30 – 4:30 pm in the Amity Middle School–Bethany West Cafeteria. Take home your canvas to enjoy or share as a holiday gift. Parent permission form and pre-payment required. Call for information. Space is limited and masks will be required.

Job Bank

Woodbridge teens who want paid outdoor work should contact Youth Services to schedule an interview. The Job Bank is a referral service for residents who offer odd jobs to members. Snow shovelers will be needed soon.

Residents should contact Youth Services to hire a teen or plan now for snow shoveling as needed.

Toys 4 Kids

This program supports Woodbridge and Bethany families and surrounding towns to provide holiday toys to those in need through TEAM, Inc. Due to COVID restrictions, online giving is encouraged. Financial support is desperately needed to purchase toys for children and gift cards for those 8 – 12. To donate, please visit TEAM’s website at <https://teaminc.org/toys-4-kids-2021/>. Collection boxes for new, boxed toys for ages 0 - 7 will be available in the town library and in Youth Services until November 30. Gift cards

are appreciated for youths 8 – 12 years of age. To apply for toys, see TEAM’s website for online application and requirements.

Do You Have A Teen Who Vapes?

Yale’s Vaping Cessation program can help high school students to quit the habit. It offers a virtual program which provides financial rewards for progress in the effort to end the use of harmful substances in the vape oils. Teens also receive a note pad to use for checking in with Yale. To join the program and receive the support needed, please call Youth Services for more information. Students are encouraged to call for assistance.

“We Care” Kits to Aid Homeless/Community Service Project

Youth Services invites teens to help the homeless this holiday season by making kits of essentials to donate to our local shelters. Your kit should be a minimum of a gallon size, zip lock bag or drawstring size bag. We suggest decorating your bag or inserting a card letting someone know you care. Some ideas to include in your kit are toiletries (travel size), feminine hygiene products, hats, gloves, socks, underwear, tissues, wipes, hand sanitizers, masks, band-aids, water, mints, \$5 gift cards, granola or protein bars, fruit cups (spoon), flashlight, peanut butter crackers, lip balm, etc.

Drop off time to Youth Services is Thursday, December 9th, between the hours of 12:30 - 2:30 pm or by appointment. Call for directions. We approve community service hours for completed kits. Bring your community service form for approval (if needed). Should you have any questions, please call Youth Services at 203-389-3464. Larger items of new blankets, towels, sheets, pillow cases, and cleaning supplies are also needed if parents wish to assist.

Recreation News



The Woodbridge Recreation Commission voted to donate \$4,000 from the Road Race to the Residence Assistance Fund, formerly known as the Food and Fuel program pictured above from the Road Race that was held on October 2nd is First Selectman Beth Heller, Recreation Director John Adamovich, and Recreation Chairman Andrea Weinstein. We thank all those that turned out for this wonderful event and generous sponsors and Main Sponsor Coldwell Banker.

Summer Concert Performers—Musical acts interested in performing for the 2022 concert series, please contact the Recreation Department Office in December and January. New acts interested please send a website link to the

Woodbridge Recreation Department at recreation@woodbridgect.org. Acts who previously applied can just send an email to reactivate your application. If anyone would like to recommend an act for the summer concert series, please contact the Recreation Dept. at 203-389-3446, or email us at recreation@woodbridgect.org.

Registration for winter programs has begun. Check our website for a complete listing. Visit our office 8 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday or register online at woodbridgect.org.

Adult programs include Tai Chi Yoga, and Badminton with ongoing registration. New Adult Table Tennis (Ping Pong) program coming soon on Wednesday evenings.

“Human Services” From Page 6

and Fun Run.

Thanksgiving Holiday Distribution

Thank you to Human Services’ community partners Bailey, Moore, Schaefer, Glazer and Proto, LLC and the Woodbridge Rotary Club for their efforts to support and assist with the distribution of pies and gift cards ahead of the Thanksgiving holidays. Thanks also to Peter Lerner for his coordination efforts. The Woodbridge Human Services Thanksgiving holiday distribution is an annual tradition that provides support to Woodbridge neighbors in need.

Holiday Basket Program

If you would like to donate to the Holiday Basket Program, please contact Human Services with donations of gift cards no later than December 1.

Medicare Open Enrollment

The Medicare program can be challenging to navigate. If you have questions or need information, please call

Human Services to speak with certified CHOICES counselor Judi Young. Open enrollment continues until December 7. CHOICES is Connecticut’s program for health insurance assistance, outreach, information and referral, counseling, and eligibility screening. Counselors provide Medicare recipients with non-biased, free health insurance counseling. Changes take effect on January 1, 2022.

Energy Assistance Program

Human Services will accept appointments for residents to apply for the 2021-2022 CT Energy Assistance Program administered by TEAM, INC. Income eligibility requirements must be met. For information, or to schedule an appointment, call Judi Young at 203-389-3429.

Emergency Preparedness

In the event of a weather emergency or power outage, elderly residents and those with disabilities are encouraged to register for the Emergency Call List by calling the Human Services Department.

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Charitable Giving and Estate Planning Documents

Most people may initially think of a beneficiary as a person (or people), such as a family member or a friend, who will receive assets from a Will or Trust. While it is very common to utilize your estate planning documents to pass assets and make gifts to your family members and friends, it may also be important to you to include a charitable gift to a non-profit organization or charity.

What types of property can you leave to a charity?

- Financial assets, including cash, stocks, investments, and bonds
- Real estate
- Personal property, such as your vehicle(s), jewelry, household furnishings, collections, or artwork

What information about the charity should be included?

To be certain your gift is received by the intended charity/organization, it is helpful for your executor or trustee to have quick access to the following information pertaining to your desired charity/organization:

- The correct legal name and entity information of the charity.
- The contact information, including the address of the main headquarters, for the charity.
- An Employer Identification Number (EIN) for the charity/entity. This is a unique number assigned to the charity by the IRS.
- If the charity operates numerous departments/divisions, specify the exact department/division to receive your gift. Note that each department/division may have its own EIN that would help specify where the gift should be directed.
- Sometimes, a charity/organization has specific language that they'd like to have included in the Will or Trust. If possible, when drafting the Will or Trust check with the charity/organization to obtain this information in advance.

Things change over time so it is recommended to review the charity/organization information on an annual basis to be certain that the charity/organization is still in existence.

If you are interested in learning more about how to make a charitable bequest in your estate planning documents please contact the office. We would be glad to meet with you for a no-hassle, no-charge initial consultation, no matter how long it lasts.



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Accident Leads to Firearm Arrest

Woodbridge police on Wednesday, November 10, arrested a 19-year-old Waterbury man, after he crashed his car at the intersection of Amity Road (Route 63) and Seymour Road (Route 67), and subsequently attempted to flee on foot.

According to the report, police responded to the intersection at about 7:30 p.m. due to a report of a motor vehicle accident. After speaking with the driver, officers observed what they believed to be a firearm concealed in his hooded sweatshirt pocket. When the officer attempted to secure the firearm, the driver, later identified as Jordan Driffin, of Waterbury, struggled with officers and attempted to flee on foot.

After a short foot chase, Driffin was

taken into custody and the firearm was secured. It was a loaded 9mm semi-automatic handgun with a high-capacity magazine and an obliterated serial number.

Driffin's vehicle was found to contain marijuana packaged for sale and other drug paraphernalia.

Driffin was charged with criminal possession of a firearm, illegal weapon in a motor vehicle, illegal alteration of a firearm's identification; illegal possession of a high-capacity magazine; interfering with an officer; and possession of marijuana with intent to sell. Bond was \$100,000 and Driffin was held at Woodbridge Police Headquarters until November 12, when he was transported to New Haven Superior Court for arraignment.

Woodbridge Town News

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AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



Left: Hamden Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center’s Michelle Riley, far right, greets attendees at the Halloween Health Fair on October 28 at the Woodbridge Center. Right: Beginner Bridge members enjoy lessons in bridge from instructor, Wendy Frieden.

BY KRISTY MORIARTY

Are you over 55 years old? Contact The Woodbridge Center

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

Facebook

Follow us on Facebook (The Woodbridge Center, Woodbridge CT) for current updates and local information.

Email blasts

Please be sure you are on our email blast list to receive Woodbridge Center updates.

The month of November is full of opportunities to show appreciation. November 4 was the start of Diwali, a festival of lights that celebrates the triumph of light over dark and good over evil. On November 11 we honored all who have served the country on Veterans Day. November 25, Thanksgiving, provides a celebration of gratitude. And finishing the month on November 28, Chanukah begins. Chanukah is also a festival of lights which celebrates the miracle of a lasting light and rededication of the second temple in Jerusalem. Whatever you celebrate, there is a sense of gratitude that circulates throughout the month. We, at the Center, have an abundance to be grateful for: the generosity and support shown throughout the pandemic, the S.T.E.A.P. grant and CT State Commission Bond’s generous funding to start a renovation that will allow a broader reach of the Center’s mission, the many local sponsors who enable us to significantly expand upon what we can provide for our clients, but mostly we are grateful for all of you who utilize the Center, and constantly display so much gratitude.

New Activities and Events
Tech Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:45-4:00 pm

Need some help navigating your

computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone? Not sure where to start? Want to know more about what features you aren’t using? Call 203-389-3430 to sign-up for 1:1 sessions in The Center’s computer lab with patient, knowledgeable, Amity High School students. No fee.

Snowman Craft Workshop

December 7, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, in The Center café

Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center once again provides everything you need, including all supplies and instruction, to create a fun craft - this time adorable snowmen. Pre-register soon for this fun class. Space is limited. No fee.

Holiday Drive-thru Luncheon

December 16, 12-1 pm

The Rotary Club is generously sponsoring this festive and enjoyable drive-thru. A delicious meal from Lasse’s Catering of stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes, and fresh vegetables will be provided along with mini pastries for dessert. Please RSVP by December 9. Space is limited.

Coming in January

Start 2022 focusing on your health with these new programs!

Balance/Flexibility Class

Wednesdays beginning January 12, 9-10 am in the Center Building gym

Led by Michele Tenney, this class welcomes all fitness levels to improve necessary balance and flexibility through a combination of exercises, core work, and stretching. Please bring a yoga mat and yoga strap. (Yoga straps are available from instructor for \$10.) The 8-week session fee is \$40.

How To Strengthen Your Shoulders and Avoid a Rotator Cuff Injury

January 14 from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm on Zoom

Just in time for snow shoveling and spring training, Kyle Branday, MSPT,

of Amity Physical Therapy, will discuss movement mechanics of the shoulder, common injuries, and what can be done to prevent shoulder dysfunction, pain, and avoid the dreaded rotator cuff repair. No fee.

Evidence-Based Lifestyle Change Program

January 18 from 1-2 pm, in the Center Building, Room 16

The first class will be an informational session to explore and discuss the Evidence-Based Lifestyle Program in detail and answer questions. This program, a \$1,200 annual value, will be provided AT NO COST to everyone 60+ years of age as it is sponsored by Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging (WCAAA) and non-profit Monitor My Health (MMH) in an effort to promote good health. The program includes 22 coach-led weekly sessions on healthy eating, physical activity, weight loss, stress management, diabetes prevention, and more. You will also participate in aerobic exercise sessions, individual sessions with a Registered Dietician, and learn new recipes and skills on how to create healthy, balanced meals that can help prevent or manage various health conditions. The program will meet on Wednesdays, beginning the following Wednesday, January 25 from 1-2 pm, in the Center Building, Room 16.

Ongoing Activities at The Center
Hobbies/Social

Bridge: Wednesdays, 1-4 pm in The Center café.

Computer lab is open Monday-Friday, 10 am - 2 pm. Computers are available for two-hour use per day/person. Two-person limit in computer lab. Printing is available (first 5 pages free). Preregistration is required.

Craft Group: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 am - 12 pm, in The Center café. Bring your current knitting or crocheting project to work on while enjoying a lovely time socializing.

Mahjongg: Mondays and Fridays,

10 am - 12 pm, in Human Services, second floor.

Pinocle: Mondays and Thursdays, 1:30-4 pm, in the Center Building, Room 16. Beginners are welcome!

Exercise Classes - Not sure if it’s a good fit? Try a complimentary class first. Aerobics Class with Laura Richling: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 am, in the Center Building gym. Come enjoy a complete aerobic, cardio and strength training workout to a variety of music. Bring your own 1- or 2-pound hand weights, if you have them, to use during the class. There is a \$3 fee paid at the beginning of each class.

Pickleball: Monday through Friday, 12:30-3:30 pm, in the Center Building gym as well as 7 days/week on the outdoor courts. New players please call to register. All levels are welcome. Call for more information.

Targeted Strength Training with Michele Tenney: Mondays, 9-10 am, in the Center Building gym. This exercise class uses exercise bands to focus on strengthening specific muscle groups to help increase balance, stability, and flexibility. Bands are available for purchase through the instructor. The class fee is \$40 for an 8-week session and will be prorated as needed.

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

Virtual Programs

AAA Defensive Driving Course: Tuesdays, 10 am - 2 pm, virtually. This free class for members and non-members, taken from the comfort of your own home, may qualify you for an auto insurance discount upon completion. Register at: www.AAA.COM/DEFENSIVEDRIVING.

See “Woodbridge Center” On Page 16



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2022 CSA Registration Now Open

Thank you to the more than 300 families who subscribed to our vegetable and egg CSA programs in 2021! In addition to many returning customers, we welcomed approximately 100 new customers to our subscription program, offering the flexibility of a 10-week share and the addition of organic free-range eggs.

Registration for the 2022 CSA season is now open. At a time when many food prices are on the rise, we are pleased to offer next year's subscription at the same rate as this past year: \$375 for a 10-week flexible share and \$695 for a 20-week share. We are implementing a tiered pricing structure for subscriptions in order to make the CSA accessible at various price points. Fruit and egg shares are available again as add-ons, and you can choose to pick

up at the farm, or at District in New Haven. At the farm, you can take advantage of u-pick crops like cherry tomatoes, peas, green beans, flowers and herbs, when available. The farm now accepts EBT cards as payment for fruit, vegetables, eggs and our jarred products. Purchase your subscription online using our new third-party platform, GrownBy, or call the farm office at (203) 736-8618 to arrange to swipe your EBT card during normal business hours.

Year to date, Massaro Farm has donated in excess of 6,000 pounds of organic produce and 300 dozen eggs to area hunger relief. In 2021, we established a new relationship with FISH of Greater New Haven so that farm produce would reach homebound individuals who can't get to local food

See "Massaro Farm" On Page 23

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EDUCATION



2020-2021 CAS Scholar Leader Award Winners

Dr. Jason Tracy (Principal) and the AMSB community wishes congratulations to eighth grade students Kirby Perler (above) and Sophia Messina (missing from picture) who were selected by Amity Middle School Bethany to receive the 2020-2021 “Scholar-Leaders Award” sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS). This award program is designed to recognize two students from each middle level school in Connecticut, who have distinguished herself/himself in scholarship and leadership in school and community.

Team Black nominates Kirby Perler for the CAS Scholar-Leader Award. Kirby is an outstanding academic student. His work and ethic are exemplary and he is a true leader in the classroom. Kirby demonstrates strong critical thinking skills in his academic work. He is a mature participant in his classes. He is a natural leader; students seek him out as a peer tutor and follow his lead in small group discussions. Kirby is also a committed athlete and spends his free time playing hockey and improving his game. He has traveled to Italy, Canada, and across the United States playing hockey. Next year, Kirby is looking forward to playing on the Mid Fairfield Hockey team. Kirby is

also a musician. He plays guitar and saxophone and participates in our school band. Kirby enjoys traveling and taking care of his three cats. Kirby is awesome.

The AMSB Gold Team nominates Sophia Messina as our CAS award winner. Sophia is a hard-working student who consistently puts forth her best effort in everything she does. Despite being a remote learner for the majority of the year, Sophia has been an active participant and is consistently engaged in all her classes. She received straight A's during her tenure at AMSB; her consistent work ethic and desire to learn have ensured that she truly understands and retains all material at a deeper level. Outside of school, Sophia has been a competitive swimmer with the Woodbridge Aquatic Club since fifth grade. Her commitment to her sport is evident as she has swim practices of up to 2 hours per day, 6 days per week. Furthermore, Sophia has taken on an active role in her household. With two frontline, healthcare professionals for parents, Sophia stepped up to assist her younger siblings with remote learning being both a student and “at home teacher” this year. Sophia is a wonderful young lady who embodies our Be AMITY motto.



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Sweitzer Speaks at Joint Garden Club Meeting

The Garden Club of Orange was hosted by the Garden Club of Woodbridge at its in-person, October 5 meeting.

Commercial flower designer, Tucker Sweitzer, was the guest speaker. At the age of 5, Tucker was introduced to the world of plants and flowers by his parents. His passion developed into his business as a commercial flower designer, who today creates, designs and cultivates gardens.

Tucker’s presentation, “Revealing the Design Process: Inspiration and Improvisation,” gave the audience a course in floral arranging using materials foraged from the woods, beach, trails, roads and gardens. Seed pods from the canna lily plant, wood, forest mushrooms and other natural items were brought in by members. Tucker combined these natural elements with deep red dahlias, vibrant roses, velvety cockscomb, and multi-colored flowers to make five arrangements. He anchored his biggest arrangement with magnolia leaves, kale bouquets, and American chestnut branches.

The dazzling arrangements were raffled off to a very appreciative audience.

LOCAL BUSINESS



JO Esthetics Opens in Woodbridge

Jennifer O’Hare has just opened JO Esthetics in Woodbridge. O’Hare has been an esthetician for 15 years and always worked for other people. During the pandemic she realized she wanted to work for herself and found a space that fit just right in Woodbridge.

“I’ve always liked Woodbridge,” she says. “I worked in Woodbridge a long time ago for a now-closed spa business. The community is strong, and businesses help other businesses. I like that about the town.”

First Selectman Heller attended a ribbon cutting at the business in early November and welcomed the new business to town.

In addition to running her own business O’Hare also teaches esthetics at Oxford Academy. “I am really passionate about teaching esthetics and helping people to know more about their skin. People don’t take good enough care of their skin, so I want them to know it’s important and how to take care of it,” she said.

At JO Esthetics customers can get waxing, customizable facials, pedicures, lash lifts and body sculpting. For facials O’Hare can help address issues like pigmentation, dry skin or acne. “Anybody can get a facial and it helps with cell turnover and keeps the Ph levels balanced.”

The lash lifts, she says, are gentle and are “like a perm for eyelashes.” Body sculpting is non-invasive fat and cellulite removal. She uses a frozen lotion that creates thermogenesis which speeds up the metabolism. O’Hare is certified in the process following many trainings. “You still have to diet and exercise and take care of yourself, but this is an additional tool,” she adds.

JO Esthetics is located at 19b Hazel Terrace. For more information or an appointment, call (203) 927-6030.

Woodbridge Town News

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ARTS & LEISURE



Front Row: (Left to Right) Joseph Gallagher, Judy Primavera, sponsor, Grace Millard, Daniel Del Prete ; Back Row: (Left to Right) Keith Smolinski, Musical Director, Fred Hulley, sponsor, Patrick Laffin (Square Foot Theatre Company), Thomas Francese, student.

The Spartan Players Announce Fall Musical Production

With a generous grant from their headlining sponsor, The Jamie A. Hulley Arts Foundation (jamiehulleyarts-fund.org), The Spartan Players (Bethany campus) are pleased to announce their production of Moana Jr., Friday, November 12, 6:30 PM and Saturday, November 13, at 6:30 PM. The Spartan Players look forward to bringing this energetic story to life on the Amity

Bethany stage! The Squarefoot Theatre Company's Patrick Laffin has teamed up with Amity staff members Keith Smolinski, Robert Fragione, and Marissa Nall to bring this amazing show to the stage! Advanced tickets are available through amsb.ptboard.com and will be on sale at the door for all performances.

Ansonia Nature & Recreation Center

10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT 06401
203-736-1053 • ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org

Winter Wreath Workshop

Saturday, December 4th at 10 a.m.

Celebrate winter and the festive season as you create a wreath from fresh locally grown greens, then decorate your masterpiece with natural trimmings. Enjoy some warm mulled cider and a cookie too! Wreath frames and wire will be provided. Please bring your own hand clippers. MATERIALS FEE \$15. To register please email ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org. Only 4 spots left!

Ongoing Programs

Creature Features

Saturdays, 12 noon

Come to meet our furry, scaly, and feathery animal ambassadors. You'll have the chance to touch and hold them in this FREE family program for all ages. Please wear your mask while in-

side the building. Donations are always appreciated.

Sunday Guided Hikes

Sundays, 1 pm

Join a Nature Center guide on Sunday afternoons for fun, exercise, and learning about our trails!

NEW - Monday Morning Hikes

Monday - 9 am

Hike the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center trails for a positive start to your week. Come and learn about the history and ecology of the land while Ranger Dan, our Assistant Director, leads this weekly hike on our beautiful nature preserve. We will begin promptly at 9:00 am. Dress for the weather and conditions. FREE.

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

PEACE OF MIND



"When my wife passed away I remained in our house but within six months I realized that taking care of the property was becoming too much. I had always been active and mowed the lawn and did general upkeep but started to fall frequently. My three children felt it was time for a better solution and helped me find Maplewood. What I enjoy about living here is that I have much more time to devote to my hobbies. I'm not one to sit around. I've taught myself to play the pan flute and the ocarina. I love singing to myself in my apartment and now I'm learning how to knit. I still love to golf and go out on the putting green here or play with my son and his wife who live nearby. My advice to other men in a similar situation, as we go through life we have to adjust especially if you can no longer take care of your house. I know I made the right decision moving here and so do my children."

—Dana, Resident

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events



Eric Woodward

Interfaith Discussion

Eric Woodward, BEKI's rabbi, will lead "A Rabbi's Reflections on Christmas and Hanukkah," a conversation for interfaith families on Sunday, December 12 at 11 am. Raised in an interfaith and mixed-race family in Los Angeles, Rabbi Woodward explains, "I know what it's like to feel on the margins." While his mother is an Ashkenazic Jew, his father was raised Catholic by his mother, who immigrated from Oaxaca, Mexico. Bring questions or ideas about how to navigate the winter holidays. This will be a safe space for discussing the joys and difficulties of interfaith family life.

Book and Gift Fair

BEKI's lobby will become a pre-Hanukkah shopping fair on Sunday, November 21 from 10 am to 12:30 pm. A wide array of books for adults and children will be available as well as jewelry, toys, games, ritual items, and novelty items from the gift shop.



Mark Oppenheimer

Mark Oppenheimer

On Sunday, November 21 at 11 am, Mark Oppenheimer will speak about his latest book, *Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood*. Rather than focusing on the shooting itself, his book instead explores the struggles and triumphs of the Squirrel Hill neighborhood. Oppenheimer is the author of five books, the director of the Yale Journalism Initiative, and a host of the podcast *Unorthodox*. Autographed copies of books by BEKI authors like Oppenheimer will be available for purchase that day.

Menorah Lighting

The community is invited to the menorah lighting in the BEKI lobby every evening (except Shabbat) at 5:30 pm, starting Sunday, November 28.

Children's Party

BEKI will celebrate Hanukkah with PJ Library on Wednesday, De-

cember 1, the 4th Night of Hanukkah. The program starts with a Hanukkah story read-aloud at 4 pm at Mitchell Library, then comes across the street to BEKI at 5:15 pm for crafts, menorah lighting, and a singalong, ending at 6:15 pm. Every child will receive a Hanukkah goody bag. RSVP to office@beki.org.

Hanukkah Singalong

On the 7th Night, BEKI is holding a Hanukkah singalong. Festivities start at 7 pm on Saturday, December 4 with havdalah and menorah lighting, followed by Hanukkah songs around the courtyard campfire. Song sheets will include both old favorites and new tunes. In case of rain, the event will move inside.

Party for Youth

Jewish teens and tweens are invited to BEKI on Sunday, December 5 at 4 pm for a joint party of the Kadima and USY youth groups. They will be frying latkes, holding a dreidel tournament, making cards for people who need their days brightened, and more. RSVP to BEKI's Youth and Family Programming Director Annie Norman-Schiff at anormanschiff@beki.org.

Clothing Drive

During the week of Hanukkah, donate clean, gently worn men's winter coats, sweatshirts, sweaters, scarves, winter hats, mittens, and gloves to support DESK, Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, in New Haven. Collection boxes will be in the BEKI lobby.

Violin Concert

Violinist Ilana Zaks will perform



Ilana Zaks

at 7:30 pm Saturday, December 11 in the BEKI library. Now in her second year in the master's program at the Yale School of Music, she has been described as a "fearless, refreshing and commanding" performer. Her program will include Paganini Caprice #4, Bloch Nigun from *Three Pictures of Hasidic Life*, Tartini Devil's Trill Sonata, and the Paul Ben Haim Sonata.

Bluegrass Music

The Bluegrass Characters Revue will present "A Tribute to Phil Zimmerman and Stacy Phillips" at BEKI on Thursday, December 23 at 7:30 pm. Also performing is Kol Kahol, a group of young musicians drawing inspiration from bluegrass musicians like Stacy Phillips, as well as contemporary Jewish bands such as the Klezmatics, the Moshav Band, and Nefesh Mountain.

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

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"Woodbrige Center" From Page 9

Services offered

Transportation for medical appointments is available for those 60+ or with disabilities, Monday-Friday from 9 am – 4:00 pm with limited exceptions. Transportation for grocery shopping and pharmacy pick-up is also available. Call to arrange car or wheelchair accessible van transportation. Vehicles are cleaned between each use. Masks are required.

Meals: Seniors may reserve healthy, well balanced, flash frozen meals complete with a protein, starch, vegetables, and fresh fruit for \$5/meal. Order by noon on Monday for delivery to your home on Tuesday. Choose from a wide variety of options including chicken parmesan, crabmeat stuffed sole, turkey pot pie, Shepherd's pie, vegetable lasagna, and

fresh Cobb salad with grilled chicken breast. Meals include a roll and dessert. There is a minimum order of two meals.

Frozen soups are available for \$1 per 10 oz. container. Varieties include: Italian wedding, beef orzo, Matzo ball, sweet potato bisque, and many more. Call 203-389-3430 to place your order.

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

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

Job Bank: Residents may call Nancy Pfund, Youth Services, at 203-389-3429, to request a student worker. Schedule helpers now for fall clean-up, snow shoveling, and more.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Orange Congregational Church Upcoming Events

Orange Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, invites you to join us at 205 Meeting House Lane in Orange for worship, or on YouTube at Orange Congregational Church, UCC for our livestreamed services. Our regular in-person Sunday worship is at 10:00 a.m. in our Sanctuary. Due to COVID precautions, indoor seating is limited to 100 people, so please contact the church office (occhurch@snet.net or 203-795-9749) to register prior to worship and confirm your attendance. Masks are also required.

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, which means we welcome all people into the full life and leadership of the church regardless of race, class, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or family type. We have fun activities for kids and teens and welcome them with love into our community, too. We are currently offering virtual church school, in-person youth group, in-person before worship Bible study, a Zoom evening Praying the Bible group, a virtual book club, an "Art of Scripture" Zoom group, an in-person anti-racism ministry group, an in-person grief support group, and a monthly meditation group by Zoom.



Orange Congregational Church

An Advent Workshop will take place in-person at stations around the church on November 21st from 2-4 p.m. All kids, youth, families, adults, and friends are invited to an afternoon to connect with others while creating Advent wreaths to Prepare & Renew for the Advent Season. Our choirs are preparing for special music during Advent worship and we are currently planning in-person Christmas Eve worship on December 24th – details and times will be posted on our church website. Anyone interested in joining our choirs or other groups can email occhurch@snet.net or visit orangecongregationalchurch.org for more information. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

JOIN US IN-PERSON

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jewishnewhaven.org/events

Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin

Sunday, December 12 | 7 PM • Vine Family Auditorium
JCC of Greater New Haven
Beckerman Lender Community Building
360 Amity Road, Woodbridge

As part of the Beckerman Jewish Cultural Arts Series and in co-sponsorship with First Calvary Baptist Church, New Haven, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven presents Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin.

Menachem Begin was imprisoned by the Soviets, orphaned by the Holocaust, elected Prime Minister of Israel, crowned peacemaker by the Nobel Prize Committee and ultimately disgraced by the Lebanon War. Explore Begin's life and legacy in this captivating new documentary from writer and director Jonathan Gruber. Don't

miss the opportunity to view rarely seen archival materials and revealing interviews.

Join us for an in-person screening of UPHEAVAL on Sunday, December 12. Talkback panelists include film producers Rob Schwartz and Rachel Greenberg, Rev. Dr. Boise Kimber, local clergy, public dignitaries and moderator professor Doron Ben-Atar. Music will be provided by the First Calvary Baptist Ensemble.

MUST SHOW VACCINATION CARD TO ATTEND IN PERSON

Woodbridge Town News

ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

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

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

www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com

Sunday Mass: 5:00pm

Contact us: 203-795-5076

ourladyofsorrowst@yahoo.com

Facebook: @OurLadyOfSorrowsTraditional

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HEALTH & FITNESS

DeLauro is 2021 Children's HealthWatch Champion

Children's HealthWatch, headquartered at Boston Medical Center, has named U.S. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro its 2021 Children's HealthWatch Champion. The annual award is given to "a champion who advocates for evidence-based policies that help children thrive." Congresswoman DeLauro, who represents Connecticut's 3rd congressional district, was presented the award at the organization's 4th annual Fall Celebration which took place virtually on October 25.

Children's HealthWatch Executive Director Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba states that Congresswoman DeLauro embodies the spirit of the award, "...in her conviction that all children deserve to be healthy and thrive, regardless of who they are or where they come from. This basic but ever true premise underscores everything Congresswoman DeLauro does on behalf of countless children and families. We are so thankful for her resolve to champion policies that lift and support the potential of families who have so much to give to their communities and the nation at large."

The Congresswoman has long championed legislation that benefit children and families economically and promote racial equity, including through policies like the Child Tax Credit (CTC). Following an 18-year mission to reduce child poverty by expanding the CTC led by Congresswoman DeLauro, Congress made a forward step this past spring with passage of The American Rescue Plan Act which temporarily extended the credit. This year's event, "Equity Can't Wait: Transforming Child Health Today For A Prosperous Tomorrow", will showcase how sound economic policies like the CTC improve child and family health, help lift families out of poverty and hunger, and support equity.

"We share Congresswoman DeLauro's dedication to fight for America's families," says Ettinger de Cuba. In addition to leading work on the CTC, she believes that we must also raise the nation's minimum wage, give all employees access to paid sick days, allow employees to take paid family and

medical leave, and ensure equal pay for equal work. Every day, she fights for legislation that would give all working families an opportunity to succeed."

Past recipients of this award include U.S. Congressman James McGovern (D-MA 2nd District), Diane Yentel, Executive Director of the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, and U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (D-MA 7th District).

For more information about the event, visit <https://childrenshealthwatch.org/fall-celebration/>.

For 23 years, Children's HealthWatch, headquartered at Boston Medical Center, has been on the forefront of timely, actionable research connecting economic hardships and public policies to the health and development of young children and families. Its staff is consulted by Congressional offices on issues of family and child public policy, and their research has been cited on the floors of Congress and state legislatures, in national media and countless research publications and has spurred policy improvements that promote health and economic equity.

Boston Medical Center (BMC) is a private, not-for-profit, 514-bed, academic medical center that is the primary teaching affiliate of Boston University School of Medicine. It is the largest and busiest provider of trauma and emergency services in New England. BMC offers specialized care for complex health problems and is a leading research institution, receiving more than \$166 million in sponsored research funding in fiscal year 2019. It is the 13th largest funding recipient in the U.S. from the National Institutes of Health among independent hospitals. In 1997, BMC founded Boston Medical Center Health Plan, Inc., now one of the top ranked Medicaid MCOs in the country, as a non-profit managed care organization. Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine are partners in Boston HealthNet - 12 community health centers focused on providing exceptional health care to residents of Boston. For more information, please visit <http://www.bmc.org>.

Physical Therapy: Your First Stop When Pain Starts

Many people are still not aware of this, but you can come to physical therapy FIRST!! No, you don't need to see your doctor first. No, you don't need to go to the orthopedist first. No,



Kyle Brandy

you don't need to wait to have your pain treated.

Research has shown us time and again that if you address acute injuries within the first 24-72 hours, the amount of time to fully recover is cut to a fraction if you wait on treatment. My time as a civilian intern at the United States Air Force Academy taught me a lot about this methodology. How, you ask? Because this is the exact system they implement in the treatment of our injured soldiers.

The reason is simple: Address the injuries quickly, efficiently, and effectively and you cut healthcare costs tremendously and get people back to work ASAP. At USAFA we had 1 main orthopedist on staff and a team of PTs. Not every cadet treated needed to see the ortho. Probably 10% required a consultation. Not every patient needed imaging (which in their system could be ordered by PTs) nor required medications (which could also be ordered by PTs in their system) to begin feeling better. Looking at movement allows a group of high skilled practitioners the ability to evaluate a patient first and determine if they need a battery of imaging, medications, and/or additional consultation.

We as PTs are uniquely qualified to assess movement. A diagnostic image is a snap shot in time, but doesn't tell you how your body is moving. People have arthritis, spinal disc degeneration, and mild fraying of tendons and ligaments which are part of normal wear and tear and also a typical part of the aging process. So, is it really necessary to take an image of every painful, stiff, or dysfunctional part of our body? Not unless specific limitations of your movement, strength, or symptomatic behavior point us directly to that. Then why do we run right to an X-ray before looking at ANYTHING else? Before assessing movement. Before assessing strength. Before putting a finger on the dysfunctional area to determine if that could even be where the pain is coming from in the first place.

I pride myself in being the first stop for patients in our community for their orthopedical and neurological based

pain. The ability to assess movement and effect change on day one is imperative. To immobilize and do nothing with a simple sprain or strain is to risk increasing your functional limitations and impairments and often times put you behind the 8-ball in your rehab process.

The top 2 examples I constantly give are following a jammed finger and after an ankle sprain. When you jam your finger it swells, becomes painful to move, and is limited with grip strength. That is normal. It is our body's way of saying "I'm hurt...take it easy". What your body isn't telling you is to stop moving all together! Rather, as we move the jammed and swollen finger, within a reasonable range of motion and pain level, the better your motion becomes and the less swollen and painful it is.

When your son or daughter comes home from practice with an acute ankle sprain and it is swollen up like a basketball, what is the best solution? Should you go to the time tested R.I.C.E. (Rest, Ice, Compression, and Elevation)? Of course, that's a good place to start. But you had better throw an "M" on the end of that for MOVEMENT. That doesn't mean go running or get back to power lifting day 1, but work some ankle pumps, trace the A, B, Cs with your ankle. Just like your jammed finger, get it moving a little and you will be amazed at how much better you start feeling and how much quicker you get back moving if you don't immobilize your body.

So, what's the take away here? Choose PT FIRST! There is no reason to wait 3 weeks to get seen, go through a battery of tests that may be completely unnecessary, spend 2 more weeks in an immobilizer, all to land in PT (where you should've started first), but with significantly greater mobility loss and weakened muscles. All this from NOT moving. Want to get out of pain quicker without losing motion or strength in the process?! Come see your local Physical Therapist first.

Kyle Brandy has been in practice for 15 years and a graduate of Quinnipiac University treating patients of all ages and ability levels. Taking special interest in movement dysfunction, Kyle prides himself on diagnosis of both acute and chronic issues. With training in dry needling, Selective Functional Movement Assessment, as well as Mulligan and McKenzie Techniques, Kyle is able to address your specific needs. He can be reached in the Woodbridge office at (203) 389-4593.

WOODBIDGE LIBRARY



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

Library Announcements

We have extended our hours, including Saturdays!

We've enjoyed welcoming you back and hope to see more of you soon. Our new schedule is: Monday, 1-7 pm; Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 am-5 pm; Thursday, 10 am-7 pm; Saturday 10 am-5 pm. The Library will be closed Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The Library WILL be open Saturday, November 27 from 10 am to 5 pm.

A note from the Circulation Department about items on the hold shelf:

Please be advised that the Woodbridge Town Library and LION consortium policy is to keep requested items on the hold shelf for 7 days. These shelves are cleared daily for items that have been on the shelf longer than 7 days. If you have multiple items on hold and they have not all arrived at the library, items on the hold shelf longer than 7 days will be cleared regardless if you are waiting for other items to arrive at the library. We advise that you pick up your holds as soon as possible when you are notified, instead of waiting for all of your holds to arrive. Please call the Circulation Department at 203-389-3433 with any questions. Thank you.

Library Information

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

- What's available:
- › In-person browsing: come see all of the new books, audiobooks, and DVDs!;
 - › Computers: one hour per user; no appointment needed;



WOODBIDGE TOWN LIBRARY

- › Printing, copying, faxing, and scanning;
- › Periodicals: recent newspapers, plus catch up on the past year's magazines!;
- › Reference help: including getting started/troubleshooting our digital library services (hoopla, Kanopy, Libby).

At this time, the Woodbridge Room is closed, however staff can retrieve items shelved there (magazines, poetry, plays, etc.). The study room is available for one-hour reservations; please call the reference desk to book your time. Seating throughout the Library is extremely limited and no puzzles or children's toys are in use.

Not ready to come inside? Call or email to place holds, ask questions, find out information, and more. Due to current staffing levels, you may need to leave a message if calling. Please leave a message, we WILL call you back!

Department phones and emails

Adult Services/Reference: 203-389-3434; reference@woodbridgetownlibrary.org;

Children's Department: 203-389-3439; childrens@woodbridgetownlibrary.org;

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

Not sure who you need? Email ask-us@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Socialize with us!

Facebook: @woodbridge.town.library;

Instagram: @woodbridgetownlibrary;

TikTok: @woodbridge_town_library.

Library Events

Gingerbread House Decorating is back! Thursday, December 16,

choose your session: 4 pm or 6 pm. No charge this year! Call the Reference Desk, 203-389-3434 or email reference@woodbridgetownlibrary.org to see if there are any spots available.

Art Exhibits are returning to the Library's Meeting Room in 2022! We will be featuring a different artist every month; stop by and check out these talented artists. Interested in having your artwork displayed? Fill out the form here: <https://woodbridge.lioninc.org/events/art-exhibits/>. Contact Kira Edic at kedic@woodbridgetownlibrary.org for more information.

From Adult Services

Adult Winter Reading is going to be chill this year! Read books and complete challenges to earn tickets between January 10 and February 28, which can then be exchanged for prizes. For more information, call or email the Reference Desk.

Tech help is available to Woodbridge residents, including troubleshooting smartphones, tablets, and laptops; setting up an email account; learning to attach documents to emails; and more. Appointments are required. To book a half hour session with a librarian, please call or email the Reference Desk. (We can always answer quick tech questions on a walk-in basis, but to have one-on-one dedicated help, appointments must be made.)

From The Children's Department

Storytime continues for children from 18 months to age 3 on Wednesdays, INSIDE on the second floor in the Children's Department. Registration is not required, begins promptly at 10:30.

We will be bringing back our **Baby Rhyme Time** for newborns to 18

months on Tuesdays at 10:30, beginning December 7th.

Thursday Craft Time will continue through the winter from 4 to 4:30pm in the Children's Department. Suitable for ages 3+, online registration is required.

Poetry Craft begins the week of Thanksgiving, and space is filling fast! Pick up a bag with a poem written by an Indigenous American, and make a craft inspired by the poem using the materials in the bag. The bags will be available once every 3 weeks and can be picked up in the Children's Department. Online registration required, please include name and age of each child.

Stay tuned for the return of our **Saturday Storycraft** program for ages 3 to 5, for special Saturday afternoon programs for early to mid-elementary age children, and for take home crafts throughout the winter. Always check our website for updates!

News From the Friends of The Library

Fall cleaning? Think of the Friends! The Friends of the Library will be accepting donations through the month of November. Drop off your gently loved, no longer wanted books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles at the library during our open hours, now through November 30. Please, nothing in bad condition, stained, moldy, etc.

The Friends is ramping up for the holidays! Hanukkah is coming up fast-November 28-and other winter celebrations follow quickly. Think of us for some of your gifting-we'll be making book pairing suggestions for you to help you get started! The Friends Bookstore Alley is open anytime the library is. We can't wait to see you!

You can also lend support by shopping on Amazon via Amazon Smile, and selecting Friends of the Woodbridge Library as your designated charity. The Friends also accept donations via PayPal.



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DEATH NOTICES

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



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DEATH NOTICES



Patricia M. Leoni

Patricia Morrow Leoni, 92 of Woodbridge, CT and Centerville, MA, passed away peacefully at her home on October 7, 2021. She was deeply devoted to her family and leaves behind her loving husband of 69 years, Ray D. Leoni, her children Susan M. Eident (Peter), Peter B. Leoni (Linda), and Christopher R. Leoni (Kim). Patricia was a doting grandmother to Jennifer Eident Finn (Rob), Kelly Eident, Drew Eident, Megan Leoni (Josh), Michael Leoni (Ashley), Griffin Leoni, Katherine Leoni

and Christopher Leoni. In 2018, she was graced by the birth of the first of three great-granddaughters. She was predeceased by her brother, James J. McGouldrick, and also leaves two nieces. Daughter of Joseph J. McGouldrick and Anne Elizabeth Morrow, Patricia was born in Fayetteville, NC on April 29, 1929 and spent her childhood in Pinehurst, NC, and Savannah, GA. She wrote a treasured booklet of stories, "Tell Me Again, Gramma," based on summer adventures with her brother at her grandmother's home on Lake Chautauqua, NY.

Patricia was a graduate of Larson College and pursued a career as a medical secretary before starting her family. She attended Christ Episcopal Church in Bethany, CT where she also taught Sunday School. She volunteered for Meals on Wheels. She loved gardening, boating and many racquet sports and taught grandchildren how to spin-serve a ping pong ball and ride a bike. She was cherished by her family and friends and will be dearly missed.

A private celebration of life is planned.



Patients, co-workers and volunteers at The Willows care facility recently celebrated outgoing recreation director Terry Duda (left) with a surprise party

"Willows" From Page 3

take place, they greeted her with a boisterous rendition of "She's a Jolly Good Fellow."

Milton Flaks, president of the Resident Council, thanked her for her years of service. "You made a difference in all our lives," he said. Among the celebrants was Woodbridge resident Garret Stack with his guitar, who presented a song written specifically for her. Stack had been a long-time volunteer at the facility, as he was looking after his mother.

This is not the first time that the center dedicated a part of its facility to a person who went above and beyond. Some 20 years ago the Walton Wing was named after Mary Walton, who had dedicated her life to the care of long-term patients – as a volunteer, no less. "Mary was one of my little angels," Duda recalled.

"Woodbridge has been a steady trove of the most generous, kind people," Duda said, when she talked about the many volunteers that have helped her offer enrichment programs. Among them are many young people

who write letters for the holidays or come in to bring music to the residents. The high school has a program through which teenage volunteers come in to help out. "Those are some of our best volunteers," she said.

Volunteers also come from churches and from the senior center, the Historical Society and other groups. The Volunteer Fire Department brings Santa and Mrs. Claus in December.

For Duda, the patients, the co-workers and the volunteers all constitute an extension of family. "I have more grandmas and moms than I can count," she said. They tuck in her shirt, fix the collar, and make her smile.

But Covid has worn her out a little. "I need a little rest," she said. Official retirement is not until March 2022, and even after that date, she plans to continue working per diem. But she is looking forward to developing more of her own hobbies, including biking and hiking with her husband, Mike, maybe taking a cooking class.

What she learns out in the world will make its way back to the Willows and its residents. "I'll be back," she promised.

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“Letters” From Page 5

grand list through commercial and/or residential development we stay on a path of increasing mill rates.

Improve the business district appearance. After eliminating the debt related to the CCOW, Woodbridge would have approximately \$5.5M in additional available funds. There are many projects on the town list, but I would hope we could spend some money to address the issue of improving the appearance and function of our business district. Improving and growing our business district would not only improve the appearance of the area, but further contribute to revenue growth without increased school expense, leading to a stronger financial future for our town.

Robert Sharrer

Beware of Slick Promises

In its public presentation on September 29th, potential County Club developer Arbor Haven promised that all new roads would be privately owned and maintained by a homeowners' association. However, past experience demonstrates that a homeowners' association can easily abandon its road responsibilities, cede ownership of the road to the town, and thereby pass

the burdensome cost of road maintenance, including snowplowing, onto the town's taxpayers. Since this has happened in Woodbridge before, it should be expected to happen again.

Arbor Haven also claimed that its new roads would be constructed of permeable material in order to minimize the stormwater runoff impacts of development. But there is a reason why roads and driveways are generally paved – permeable alternatives readily develop ruts and require frequent attention. Any new homeowner within an approved Country Club development is likely to want asphalt.

Woodbridge taxpayers should be wary of both promises, as well as any other gimmicks designed to make this development look good.

Amey Marrella

Do The Math: Arbor Haven Proposal Will Produce Large Financial Loss for The Town

Real estate developer Arbor Haven has proposed to purchase 100 acres of the former Country Club of Woodbridge property from the town to build a massive 145-unit housing development. Arbor Haven's sales pitch to the town rests on its claim that the town will realize a financial profit from the

yearly tax revenue generated by the new homes.

A cursory examination of the numbers reveals that Arbor Haven is presenting faulty math: it turns out that the Arbor Haven proposal will actually produce a LARGE NET LOSS for the town.

The first version of the proposal, presented to the selectmen in August, based its income calculations on inaccurate estimates of school cost. Arbor Haven projected that its development would add an additional 153 students to Woodbridge schools at a cost of \$12,000 per student per year. Of course, we all know that Woodbridge spends closer to \$20,000 per student per year (a figure confirmed by the town's finance director at the 9/8/21 selectmen's meeting).

When Arbor Haven was informed of the actual school expense, it came back with a revised proposal for the September 29th information session. The per-student annual cost was revised upward to a more realistic \$17,500, but oddly, the number of students had magically shrunk by half. Presto change-o! This maneuver would be insulting if it wasn't so comically transparent – how stupid does Arbor Haven think we are? The original student estimate combined

with the real cost per student yields a whopping annual expense to the town of \$2,677,500.

In addition to vastly undercounting the number of schoolchildren the development would produce, Arbor Haven neglected to account for the additional cost of adding adult residents to the town. The standard multiplier used to calculate these costs (used by the town's finance director to evaluate prior development proposals) is \$2,000 per resident per year. This covers costs like police, fire, library, roads, and general overhead. So, if this development adds about 300 new adult residents to the town, they will create \$600,000 per year in new expenses bringing the total expense of the development to \$3,277,500 per year. Since the projected tax revenue is \$2,733,000 the town ends up with more than a half-million-dollar deficit every year.

Residential growth creates profits for developers – it has never been, and will never be, financially beneficial to any town. Instead of chasing this fool's gold, the First Selectman should put her energies into growing our business sector, bringing in the type of taxpayers who actually create a net gain on the bottom line.

Cathy Wick

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“Massaro Farm” From Page 11

pantries. Produce donations will continue through the end of the year.

Farm Volunteers

The farm just wrapped up its official volunteer hours for the season. Every Wednesday and Saturday throughout the spring, summer and fall, garden crusaders came out regardless of heat, rain or cold and clipped weeds and vines off fences, moved rocks, planted, harvested, carted mulch and much more. We are incredibly grateful to volunteers for maintaining the Learning Garden, Valley community gardens and perimeter spaces on the farm. Special thanks to Chapel Haven CareerAbility, Amity Life Skills and Nonnewaug students for their efforts, and to Andy Danzig for managing volunteers this season. Animal care chores for the farm’s goats, chickens, rabbits and worm composting bin continue throughout the winter. Anyone interested in becoming an animal care volunteer should contact the farm office at (203) 736-8618 or send an email to education@massarofarm.org.

Program Participants

In addition to returning to in-person educational programming in 2021, we hosted numerous free family movie screenings and musical concerts on the lawn. Our summer camp expanded from half-day to full-day in July and August, offering free summer meals through a partnership with Ansonia Food Service Department.

Celebrate Spring, our annual plant sale and fairy house trail, returned this year, along with Dinner on the Farm, our annual farm-to-table fundraising dinner. This year, Dinner on the Farm raised over \$25,000 in support of the farm’s food donation efforts.

Hundreds of new families discovered the farm through these activities; many of them have become animal care volunteers and youth program participants. We express our sincere gratitude to all those who supported

the farm through their attendance, demonstrating the farm’s role as a vital member of the community.

Farm programming will take a little break over the holidays and return with School Vacation Days and Winter Rangers shortly after the New Year. Please visit our website and sign up to receive our bi-weekly newsletter for new offerings as they are listed.

Board Members

In spring of 2021, we bid adieu to long-time board member, Jon Gorham. Jon helped write the original USDA grant in 2009 that funded early infrastructure at the farm. He also served as chair of the farm’s development committee, and as board vice-president (2012-2019) and president (2019-2021). We welcomed back Sandra Stein, who served from 2018-2019 before serving as a Woodbridge selectwoman, and new members Willa Ridinger of Milford and Theresa Thomason of Shelton. Willa is an avid outdoor enthusiast and teacher and has led classes at the farm over the past several years. Theresa has been a member of our development committee since 2016, and performed in a benefit concert alongside Paul Winter, helping raise over \$30,000 for the farm. We owe a special debt of gratitude to all these individuals and their commitment to advancing the mission of the farm.

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

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