

Woodbridge Town News



Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020



The Amity Stage is set for their streaming production of "It's a Wonderful Life"

COVID Or Not, It Really Is 'A Wonderful Life'

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

After missing its spring production when the pandemic closed schools earlier this year, the Amity Theater Department is ready to bring to a screen near you a heart-warming and life-embracing adaptation of the story at the heart of the Frank Capra film "It's a Wonderful Life." The production will be streamed by Broadway on Demand Thursday, December 17 to Sunday, December 20, with the link available on the Amity Creative Theater webpage, www.amitytheaterdepartment.com and also on its Facebook and Twitter pages.

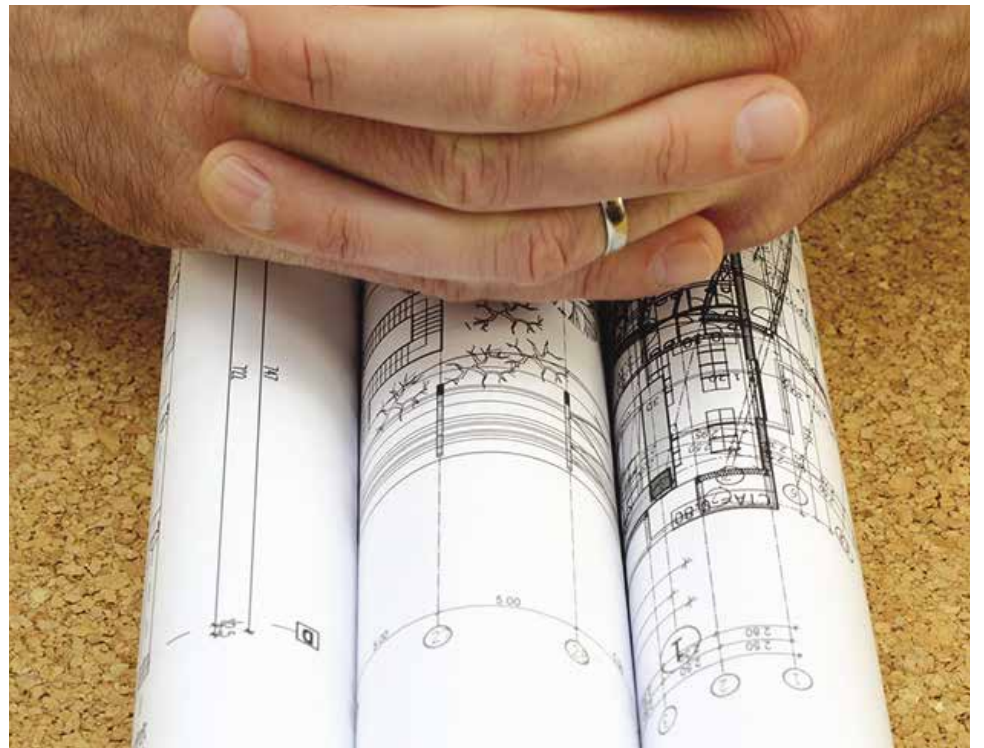
The audience — no matter how near or far — will be able to access the show at home, at the time of their conven-

ience. The charge will be \$10 plus a streaming fee.

This play by Westport playwright Joe Landry turns the popular story into a live radio play, set in the 1940s, with live sound effects, voice actors, orchestra and singers. It is the story of George Bailey (portrayed by Ryan Kennedy), a small-town banker whose life of service to those around him is being seriously tested by some setbacks. He comes to the conclusion that his life is useless and might as well end, when his guardian angel (Nick Matalote) appears to show him what the world would have been like without him.

The cast includes Ryan Kennedy as George Bailey; Grace Blanchard as his

See "A Wonderful Life" On Page 7



Group Challenges Woodbridge Zoning Regulations

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A group of housing experts on a mission to alleviate the lack of affordable housing in Connecticut are challenging the town's zoning regulations as being exclusionary and, ultimately, racist in nature. Armed with the research performed by a group of Yale Law School students, the Open Communities Alliance (OCA) is taking a two-pronged approach: It is asking the Town Plan and Zoning Commission (TPZ) to adopt an amendment to its Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) to allow multi-family housing with an affordable component throughout the town; and to update its regulations accordingly; and at the same time the Alliance submitted an application to build a four-unit

house at 2 Orchard Road, also with an affordable component.

In a hearing on November 30 that lasted over two hours, the commission heard the applicants lay out their appeal; followed by commentary from some 12 or so residents, some supportive, some adamantly opposed. The hearing took place via Webex, and was broadcast on the town's Government Access Channel and on YouTube. Some 67 or so residents followed the presentation on Webex.

The hearing was continued to January 4, 2021.

Combined with another ten emails that were received by Town Hall, and which are posted on the TPZ webpage, the response from residents was over-

See "Zoning" On Page 17



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Woodbridge Town News

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Sidney Hubelbank Celebrates His 100th Birthday!

Mr. Sidney Hubelbank, currently residing at The Linden at Woodbridge, turned 100 years old November 26, 2020! Mr. Hubelbank was honored with two proclamations, one from Beth Heller, First Selectman for the Town of Woodbridge, and one from

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal. Mr. Hubelbank served in the Army Air Corp during WWII, stationed both in North America and Canada. Mr. Hubelbank and his wife, Marian, have been married for 75 years and have one child, Mark.



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AT WOODBRIDGE



As of this writing, the coronavirus numbers in our Town and State continue to grow. As a result of how widespread the pandemic is in Woodbridge, I am asking all residents to PLEASE wear a mask at all times, especially on Town property, including our walking trails and the playgrounds (unless you have a medical exemption or are under age 2). I remain very concerned that as we head into the colder months and the holiday season, our positive cases will continue to rise.

Please remember that under Governor Lamont's Phase 2.1, gatherings at private residences are limited to 10 people, whether indoors or outside. Woodbridge is in "red alert," as is most of the state. No matter where you go when you are out and about, treat everyone you have contact with as if they are infected. Again, as I have stressed and pleaded with everyone for many months, you must do your part to show that you care and respect each other by continuing to do three simple things: **wear a mask, wash your hands frequently, and maintain your distance.** Our best defense against this virus is to act responsibly! We have endured so much, and I know we will remain strong, together, and committed to do all we can to fight back against this horrific disease. Thank you for your continued help.

As I write this article, we are working with the State of Connecticut to hold an additional "pop-up" testing event. The first event we held was quickly overwhelmed by the number of people who wanted to be tested. I am hopeful that the clinic will bring more staff to the next event to meet the demand. These test centers are run by the State, not the Town of Woodbridge. There are no appointments and the events are open to all (not just members of the Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge community). That creates the long lines and wait times. Please check the Town's website (woodbridgect.org) and Facebook

From the First Selectman BY BETH HELLER



page (facebook.com/WoodbridgeCT) where we will announce details once we have them.

If you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms, call your doctor for an appointment to get tested. With an appointment, you may eliminate the long wait times. You may also visit www.211ct.org/covidtesting, enter your zip code or town, and press the yellow search icon to find additional testing locations. Griffin Hospital in Derby has expanded their hours to offer weekend testing times. If you call 203-437-6815 to make an appointment and use the word "community" you will not need a doctor's note for a test appointment.

As you do your holiday shopping this season, please remember to "shop, dine and try" Woodbridge. Supporting our local businesses is always important, but even more so during the pandemic. To learn more about local businesses, visit the Town's website, click on "business" and check out the business directory. It is so important to do all we can to keep our businesses healthy and thriving.

The Economic Development Commission will be mailing surveys to local businesses to ask for feedback on what it is like running a business in Town and suggestions for improvement. Additionally, they are also hosting an online-only survey for residents about what kinds of businesses people would like to see in Woodbridge. Visit the Town's website and click on "Business" to participate in the survey. This is very important, so please take the time to share your input!

Despite the pandemic, our Town will be seeing some wonderful changes in the business district. Our Town Plan & Zoning Commission is currently considering an application from

New England Brewing Company – an incredibly popular award-winning brewery – to move from its current location on Amity Road to the empty parcel at the southern corner of Litchfield Turnpike and Bradley Road. They had been courted by New Haven and other towns. Over the course of many months I met several times with the owner and developer, and I am so pleased that they have agreed to stay and invest in Woodbridge. There is a separate proposal to build active adult (over 55) housing units at the northern corner of Litchfield and Bradley, across from the Brewery's planned new home. Additionally, an upscale wine store may open at 245 Amity Road. All of these projects are welcome additions and may help draw more customers to our existing businesses.

On November 30, the Woodbridge Town Plan and Zoning Commission held a Special Meeting to consider an application which proposes substantial changes to the Town's Zoning Regulations. The application is to amend the Regulations and the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development to permit multi-family housing in most of the Town's residential districts, with affordable units. You may view the application, other documents, and video of the Public Hearing on the Town Plan & Zoning Commission page on the Town website (woodbridgect.org) in the "Government" section.

This application to amend Woodbridge's Zoning Regulations is pending before the Town Plan and Zoning Commission, and I am confident that the members of the Commission will conduct a thorough, thoughtful, and fair process before making a decision, consistent with the law.

The Public Hearing has been con-

tinued to January 4 and you may submit comments virtually or by email to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission at ksullivan@woodbridgect.org prior to January 4. You may also watch on local access cable Channel 79, on Youtube or via Webex – the link will be included in the meeting agenda on our Town website.

We continue to work against the proposal to construct a cell tower in a residential neighborhood here in Town. This is a private transaction between a Town resident and Verizon/Cellco. Recently, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to hire an attorney to advise the Town in its opposition to location of the tower in a residential neighborhood. We also plan to hire a consultant engineer as well, should it become necessary, to guide us through the technical aspects and verify Verizon's data. The final decision regarding placement of the tower rests with the State Citing Council. The Board is not opposed to a new cell tower located in Woodbridge but believe it should NOT be in a residential neighborhood. We continue to explore alternative locations to find an appropriate and suitable site to provide reliable cell service in this area without impacting our neighborhoods.

This year has certainly been challenging. Recently, the federal government's top infectious diseases expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said that the "Coronavirus could worsen in winter and remain a major threat through 2021." We must be prepared for some hard days ahead, but hopefully through best practices and the eventual distribution of vaccines, we will gradually transition out of this terrible time. Please do all you can to keep yourselves and each other safe so we can all be together again.

As always, my door remains virtually open to you. If you need to reach me, please call 203-389-3401 or email me at bheller@woodbridgect.org. Happy 2021! Hoping its better!!

How Small Businesses Can Support And Help Each Other Grow

Small businesses play a vital role in economies across the globe. The Small Business Administration says small businesses — which are defined as firms that have fewer than 500 employees — comprise 99.9 percent of all businesses in the United States. Small businesses may be defined differently elsewhere in the world (in the European Union, small businesses are defined as firms with 50 or fewer employees), but they are no less valuable to their economies.

Because of the key role small businesses play, including employing millions of people throughout the world, it is essential that small businesses thrive and prosper. There is much the public can do to help small businesses be successful, but there also are steps

small business owners can take to assist one another.

Pass along opportunities. As a business owner, if you come across a resource or an opportunity that may not be the ideal fit for your own company, consider sharing the information with another small business owner or recommending another firm that might make for a more suitable partner.

Promote one another. Make sure there is a prominent and visible collection of business cards or promotional materials available in your facility. For example, if you are a local real estate agent, you can promote and recommend mortgage brokers, home inspectors, interior designers, and moving companies. If you own a store, enable other busi-

nesses to advertise their own stores and services.

Organize networking and meeting opportunities. Networking and meeting with others in the industry is a great way to share ideas to see what may be working for others and what is not. Networking meetings also provide great opportunities to work on potential collaborations.

Consider sharing resources. Certain businesses may benefit from sharing facilities, equipment or even supplies and other resources as cost-saving measures. This also may open up opportunities to collaborate.

Use one another's services. One of the simplest ways to help another small business is to be their customer. This is

the ultimate show of support and can help validate your recommendation.

Explore co-branding or co-marketing. Some businesses support each other by working together. Finding ways to work together can be effective, especially in similar industries. For example, pet store owners can work exclusively with a nearby dog trainer, and both can market their services together.

Start a social media group. A small business with social media savvy can be the administrator/moderator of a local group that encourages other businesses in the area to frequently post and advertise their businesses.

Small businesses can work together to support one another so these vital cogs in the economy can flourish.

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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
January 15 New Year's Issue	January 8
February 12 Valentine's Day Issue.....	February 5
March 12 St. Patrick's Day Issue.....	March 5

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

FROM OUR READERS

The Holidays Will Be Brighter

Thanks to the generosity and support from the community, the holidays are brighter for Woodbridge seniors and families. The staff of the Human Services Department sincerely thanks the Woodbridge Police Union, Coachman Square of Woodbridge, Bailey Moore Schaefer, Glazer and Proto LLC, and The Linden for sponsoring the drive-thru Thanksgiving Luncheon at The Woodbridge Center. More than 100 Woodbridge residents were able to enjoy a lovely Thanksgiving lunch prepared by Lasse's Restaurant.

We are grateful to the Woodbridge Rotary Club and the partners and employees of Bailey, Moore, Glazer, Schaefer & Proto, LLP for providing Thanksgiving pies and gift cards to Woodbridge families in need, and to the Woodbridge Rotary Club for sponsoring the drive-thru December holiday lunch for the seniors at The Woodbridge Center. Without these sponsors we could not offer such lovely programs!

The staff of Woodbridge Human Services is grateful for the assistance by local businesses, organizations, families and individuals as the community came together to provide for our neighbors in need. We sincerely thank 10 Selden (formerly the Amity Teen Center), Amity Alternative School, Beecher Road School Social Action Committee, Beecher Road School PTO, Beecher Road School Student Council, Beecher Road School's kindergarten, first and second grade classes, the Chowder Pot Restaurant, Coldwell Banker of Woodbridge, the Leo Club, Woodbridge Town Library employees, Woodbridge Friends of the Library, Woodbridge Recreation Commission and Department, Woodbridge Child Center, the employees of Woodbridge Town Hall, Girl Scout Troop 60164, One of a Kind Foundation, Barry and Hyla Vine, the partners and employees

of Bailey, Moore, Glazer, Schaefer & Proto, LLP, for their generous contributions of holiday food baskets and gift cards. We thank the Children's House of Montessori for hats, mittens and scarves, and Progressions Salon for sponsoring a sock drive. Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 63, along with Boy Scout Troop 907, for their bountiful donation of non-perishable foods for the holiday food baskets and the emergency food closet. Special thanks to Gabi Durso and her family for their effort with the Good Night Sleep Tight PJ program providing new pajamas for each child in the Holiday basket program.

Several dedicated members of the Woodbridge Fire Department will deliver toys to children in need in Woodbridge. They will brighten the holidays for several families with a visit from Santa. These committed volunteers from the Fire Department generously donate their time each year to bring cheer and joy to these children and their families. For all they do, we are grateful.

In addition, we would like to thank the residents who donated the many holiday baskets and gift cards, monetary donations to the Food & Fuel Fund, and those who helped throughout the year with sorting and stocking of our emergency food closet, and making masks for the community- we are most thankful. In a difficult year, our dedicated regular donors and several new donor participants helped make the response an overwhelming success! This broad spectrum of community-minded residents has come together to make these worthwhile programs a reality for our Woodbridge neighbors.

On behalf of the staff and members of the Human Services Commission, we wish everyone happy holidays and a very happy and joyous New Year.

Sincerely,
Jeanette Glicksman,
Director of Human Services

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.

From Across the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE
WRTC CHAIRMAN



Sit Up, Take Notice
and Speak Out

Input by the residents of any town is the best way to live by the motto “if the people lead, our leaders will follow.” People can and should be aware of important issues, formulate informed opinions and share those opinions in a firm and respectful way with civic leaders. This is especially true now as our town has been brought under a warped magnifying glass by outsiders looking to rip up our well-thought-out zoning laws.

On November 30, 2020 the Town Plan and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on the application of 2 Orchard Rd, LLC and Open Communities Trust, LLC to allow multi-family housing in all residential areas of Woodbridge, and to convert an existing single-family home into a multi-family structure. While a variety of current social forces (COVID limitations, holidays, etc.) seem to have dampened resident participation in the hearing, several of our fellow residents have bravely jumped into this fray to speak up and point out the many flaws in the proposals. They are to be commended, and their lucid points are echoed here.

On the subject of the proposal to construct a 4-family building, complete with a 9-car parking lot on what is now a single family lot at 2 Orchard Road (at the corner of Newton Road), many great observations were made and questions asked. How does a well that currently provides potable water for one family provide sufficient water for four families? Those with well water and residential water treatment systems are cognizant of the need to monitor water usage so that the well does not run dry, especially during periods of drought. With four families sharing one well, who takes on that task? And what impact does that much water draw have on neighbors’ wells? Furthermore, how can we be sure the design and size of the proposed septic system will not pose a threat to groundwater and well water at the site and adjacent properties? What are the traffic safety/congestion issues of going from 1-2 cars utilizing a driveway to as many as 9 cars parking at the site? Moreover, shouldn’t the applicants reveal their financial interest in the project? Is it a coincidence that a rental unit in Woodbridge commands

a higher rental rate than similar units in other nearby towns? All good questions and observations.

The broader effort of the application is to wipe out the town’s single family, 1.5-acre residential zoning to make room for multi-family units throughout Woodbridge. Here’s where our fellow residents really zero in on the damage this would cause. More people mean more traffic congestion. Residents of lower Woodbridge and anyone trying to get on the Merritt on weekday mornings will respond with a big “no thank you” (we’re a polite group). More families mean more students. It was noted that the slight increase in tax revenue from a multi-family home vs. a single-family home does not come close to offsetting the cost of increasing our student population. Higher residential density is a path to a larger police force and expanded fire department. All together these changes add up to even higher taxes.

Maybe the most glaring issue is the race card played by the applicants. They present a town whose percentage of “black and brown” people is lower than neighboring New Haven/CT at large, and claim these numbers show the town is exclusionary. Yet in the application our Asian population is blatantly ignored. Why? Maybe because the inclusion of our Asian residents blows the “statistical analysis” of our racial mix out of the water. The fact is that 15% of us are Asian. This was pointed out by multiple Woodbridge neighbors who are Asian. And the further irony is that two members of the applicants’ team are Asian themselves. (You can’t make this up.) The outrage residents expressed about the applicants’ characterization of Woodbridge as a town of segregationists was consistent – it is incorrect, wildly off-base and offensive.

There are other long-standing, important issues facing us including the future of the golf course, the disposition of the old fire house and our never-ending mill rate increases. Newer challenges include the possible location for a new cell tower and needed repairs to the roof of Beecher Road School. But today, this threat to our zoning overshadows all. We would be wise, as a town, to sit up, take notice and speak out.

From the Democratic
Town Committee

BY LAURENCE GROTHEER



There is no denying the debilitating, deflating effects of this extraordinary year: as 2020 draws to a close it might be instructive to look back on the cumulative impact of a global pandemic and resulting, wholesale economic upheaval, and respective efforts to mitigate that impact.

A year ago, the tumult of 2020 was both unforeseeable and unimaginable. The sheer scale of illness, suffering, death, and uncertainty brought on by an out-of-control coronavirus wreaked havoc on the health and financial fortunes of individuals, businesses both large and small, and in some cases, entire economic sectors.

One of this year’s most vexing challenges was to try and balance this conundrum: the best way to quash spread of the virus was to discourage human-to-human transmission, but the resulting separation and confinement spelled across-the-board socioeconomic chaos.

In small shops, factories, and restaurants and in large grocery and retail chains, from childcare centers and public schools to colleges and universities, and across the transportation spectrum throughout the entire travel and hospitality industries, 2020 was a year to forget.

In each scenario, a common thread emerged in the form of relief programs and services made available through government. Federal, state, and local officials were once again called upon to become a unifying clearinghouse for information, assistance, and reassurance.

Again, it might be instructive to review how this vital, emergency relief role played out at different levels of government.

From Washington, the federal government had the most potential to coordinate and implement a standardized response with supplies, resources, and financial assistance for people, businesses, and industries most severely affected by the pandemic. Instead, there was a complete unwillingness to accept that responsibility. In fact, there was – and remains – a complete unwillingness to even acknowledge the dire threat posed by a disease for which no vaccine or antidote was available – a disease that has for months kept the United States atop the ‘most adversely affected nations’ list.

It’s no coincidence the federal government, with a Republican administration, has a ‘hands off’ approach to a genuine crisis and ignores gov-

ernment’s ability – and responsibility, I believe – to lead a humanitarian, helpful response. Instead, absent any empathy or federal mobilization effort whatsoever, it has fallen to state and local governments all year to serve people in that capacity.

In Connecticut, Governor Lamont’s administration has been responsive, accountable, and communicative throughout 2020. A dramatic statewide shutdown in March and April was softened in May and June as the affliction curve flattened. As a result, for many months thereafter Connecticut’s positivity rate remained below one percent, and hospitalized COVID-19 patients numbered fewer than 100.

This month, even as Connecticut’s pandemic numbers spiral upward, they remain less ominous than those in most other states. Connecticut’s more effective response again reflects a partisan ideology about the role – and opportunity – for government to provide short-term relief in dire circumstances, medium-range stimulus to provide stability, and longer-term planning to instill confidence.

Similarly, in Woodbridge, where neighbors work together to keep a small town operating efficiently, and where partisanship usually takes a back seat, it is fortuitous to have a trained Registered Nurse serving as chief elected official during a public health crisis.

First Selectman Beth Heller regularly provides updates from Town Hall, and consistently reinforces common sense, medically recommended, and proven pandemic protocols to include mask-wearing, personal hygiene, and adequate distancing.

It is a huge relief to know the nation is in the final throes of a federal administration that ignored the plight of millions afflicted physically, financially, and literally at their peril by the pandemic.

With the dawn of 2021 the prospect for pandemic recovery burns brightly, particularly in Woodbridge, where three levels of government will be aligned with empathetic, responsive leadership and a commitment to bring government resources to bear to the benefit of all those it serves.

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

“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth,
for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside
the fire: it is time for home.” — EDITH SITWELL

The Various Advantages To Shopping Locally

Residents of a given town or city are often encouraged to support local businesses by looking to these firms to fill their needs. Small businesses are not just integral parts of communities, employing millions across the country, they also are operations that fund the very communities they service.

Efforts to promote shopping local appear to be working. According to the Commonwealth Financial Group, over the last several years there has been a shift in consumer purchasing behavior marked by a preference among consumers to support locally owned shops and stores over big-box retailers and even online shopping.

The following are some key reasons why shopping locally not only benefits small business owners, but also the communities they call home and the customers they serve.

More money stays in the community: According to the American Independent Business Alliance, for every \$100 spent at a local business, \$68 remains in the community. Conversely, only 43 percent of every \$100 spent at a chain retailer stays in the community.

Job creation: The Business Alliance for Local Living Economies says local businesses create the majority of eco-

nomic growth. They employ millions of Americans by creating roughly two-thirds of private sector jobs. Local business owners also tend to hire people who represent the demographics of the communities where the business is located, which may include historically underserved populations.

Diversity of products: Local stores tend to diversify their products and services to meet the needs of the local communities, whereas chain stores often stock their shelves based on national demands.

Personalized service: A small business owner may be more inclined to go to great lengths to make customers happy because the long-term success of the business depends on customers becoming repeat customers.

Personal connection: Knowing the people behind a business facilitates a connection not easily achieved with other companies. Customers may celebrate when a favorite business succeeds and look to spread the word about that business because they feel like they played a positive role in its success.

Shopping locally has gained momentum and is fueled by the many advantages to supporting local businesses.

Small Business By The Numbers

Small businesses are the lifeblood of local economies and serve various important functions, including employing hundreds of millions of people across the globe. A rundown of small business statistics can show just how vital these companies are to the economy.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce says that, between 2009 and 2016, roughly 400,000 new small businesses were opened each year.

According to the Small Business Administration, since the COVID-19 outbreak was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization in March 2020, small businesses employment dropped by more than 17 percent.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics notes that about two-thirds of businesses survive two years, half of all businesses will survive five years and one-third will survive 10 years.

According to Wagepoint, 99.8 percent of all Canadian businesses are small- to medium-sized firms with fewer than 500 employees.

Twenty percent of small businesses will go under within a year of opening, advises the Chamber of Commerce. Almost half of businesses that did not survive into a second year indicated that a lack of funds resulted in the

closure of their companies.

According to FDIC data obtained by the Small Business Administration, in 2017 small banks devoted larger shares of their assets to small business loans, while large banks issued a higher total volume of small business loans.

The Business Development Bank of Canada says 41 percent of Canada's gross domestic product is a byproduct of small and medium-sized businesses.

Various small business experts state that people between the ages of 25 and 44 have the greatest tendency to form new businesses.

According to the National Association of Small Business' 2015 Economic Report, the majority of small businesses surveyed were S-corporations (42 percent) followed by LLCs (23 percent). S-corporations are attractive because they're not double-taxed, meaning the business owner does not pay taxes on the earnings of the business itself.

Even though the restaurant business is billed as the most difficult industry to break into, the Chamber of Commerce says only 17 percent of restaurants actually close within a year of opening. In reality, the construction, warehouse and transportation industries are much more challenging, with a 75 percent failure rate in the first year



Achievements Eastern Connecticut State University

Willimantic, CT - Fourteen student athletes competed in the inaugural season of the men's golf team at Eastern Connecticut State University this fall 2020 semester. Among the student athletes is junior John Ahern of Woodbridge, who majors in Physical Education.

After a 38-year hiatus, men's golf returned to Eastern this 2020-21 ac-

ademic year, making it the university's 17th Little East Conference (LEC) championship-eligible sport. A season highlight was the team's October victory of the 2020 Little East Conference Virtual Men's Golf Invitational, in which all five participating teams played at their respective home courses. Eastern's top four golfers finished a combined six-over-par, yielding a nine-stroke win over runner-up University of Southern Maine. The team is led by head coach Chris Wojick '11.

Hamden, North Haven and Amity Adult High School Registration

Hamden Adult Education is proud to offer a FREE program to provide local adult residents of Hamden, North Haven, Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge the opportunity to complete their high school education. This program is offered through Hamden's evening adult high school and is similar

to regular secondary school, requiring class attendance and passing grades. It is uniquely adapted to recognize and give credit for adult experiences. Classes are small, allowing for differentiated instruction. Call the Adult Education office at 203-407-2028 to schedule an appointment.

Attention Teachers!

We want to know what's going on in your classroom!
Let us know about any fun activities or holiday projects.

You can also send us your pictures.
(Parental consent required)

Orange Town News
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"A Wonderful Life" From Page 1

wife, Mary Bailey; Nick Matalote as Clarence, the guardian angel; Michael Perron as Mr. Potter, Mr. Gower and others; Nolan Young as his brother Harry, Uncle Billy and others; Jacob Ebert as young Peter Bailey and others; Bridget Browe as Josephe; Audrey Jurzyk as Violet Bick and others; Macie Cox as Mrs. Bailey and others; McKenna Maxwell as Ruth, Zuzu and others and Harry Rosenay as Bert and the Foley artist.

"We started in October rehearsing once a week in person and three days a week via Zoom," said theater director Robert Kennedy. "The last few weeks has been 100% on-line rehearsal, which is hard with the lag in internet speeds. But we are making it work."

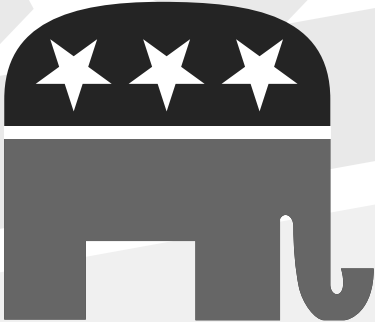
The group performed this past week without an audience on the high school stage designed to keep actors at least six feet apart. Actors were wearing custom-made "It's a Wonderful Life" face masks. Holleran Media from Norwalk took care of the video production. They have been filming Amity shows for the past six years.

Fitting costumes while keeping socially distanced was a bit of a challenge. It started with family members taking performers' measurements; then the costumers chose outfits and left the costumes at a designated area in front of the school. The kids took them home and tried them on, and sent the costumes back for alterations. "It hasn't been easy, but the kids have been excited to have any kind of theater experience at all," Kennedy said.

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The **Woodbridge Republican Town Committee** is seeking residents who may be interested in **running for local office in May 2021**. There will be many positions on that ballot and the winners will make important decisions that impact our community.



HERE ARE THE POSITIONS UP FOR ELECTION:

**First Selectman; Board of Selectmen;
Woodbridge Board of Education; Amity
Board of Education; Zoning Board of Appeals;
and Board of Assessment Appeals.**

If you are interested in learning more about running for any of these important offices and being endorsed by the Woodbridge Republican Town Committee, please contact Amey Marrella at 203/752-8658 or Lynn Piascyk at 203/387-3545.

Offering candidates who can deliver good, local government is our priority and we welcome potential candidates from all political parties.

Woodbridge Town News

WOODBRIIDGE RESIDENTS!

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TOWN DEPARTMENTS

Town of Woodbridge Meetings for the Month of December 2020



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

12/14 Library Commission	6:30 PM	Library
Zoning Board of Appeals	CANCELLED	
12/16 Inland Wetlands Agency	7:30 PM	Town Hall
12/17 Board of Finance	6:00 PM	Town Hall
Conservation Commission	7:30 PM	Town Hall
12/21 Fire Commission	6:00 PM	Fire House
CUPOP	CANCELLED	

How Helping Others Helps You

Personal growth is at the heart of many New Year's resolutions. Few paths to positive personal growth are more noble than resolving to help others through increased acts of generosity and kindness.

According to Psychology Today, doing good for others, no matter how big or small the deed, feels good but also provides reciprocal benefits. The link between volunteering and lower rates of depression has been well-documented, and there is neural evidence from MRI studies suggesting a link between being generous and signs of happiness in the brain.

The following are several ways to improve oneself by being more mindful of others.

Be aware of social issues. Read your local newspaper to stay up-to-date on the pulse of your community as well as the world. Educate yourself about current issues that are affecting people from all walks of life. Understanding the needs or plights of others may boost your willingness to get involved with nonprofit organizations. It also may make you more empathetic and compassionate toward other people.

Volunteer at a charity. Find a charitable group with which you can volunteer your time. This is a great way to support a cause you believe in and makes it possible for you to collaborate with others who are like-minded, potentially helping you make new friends.

Learn a new language. North America is a melting pot that's home to people from many different parts of the world. Learning a new language may facilitate interactions with fellow community members who might not speak English as a first language.

Help someone you know. It's commendable to want to assist a charity or a global cause, but what about people close to you who may need a boost? Whether you're lugging boxes to help a friend move or babysitting a niece or nephew so their parents can enjoy a much-needed night out, when you help someone, those good deeds will return to you in time.

When making resolutions, people should consider goals that involve helping others. While this assistance can benefit the people who are on the receiving end of the care and attention, those who are giving of themselves also reap considerable rewards.

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



Amity student Annika Lyngdal on right presents her “We Care” bags to Woodbridge Youth Services Director Nancy Pfund. All donations will be provided to local homeless shelters.

“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. Please feel free to decorate your bag letting someone know you are thinking of them, and you care. Some ideas to include in your kits; toiletries (travel size), feminine hygiene products, hats, gloves, socks, tissues, wipes, hand sanitizers, masks, band-aids, water, mints, \$5 GC, granola or protein bar, fruit cup (spoon), flashlight, peanut butter crackers, etc.

Please contact Youth Services for an appointment to drop off your donations. We will be giving one hour of community service for every kit made. Please make sure you bring your completed community service form for approval (if needed). Should you have any questions, please call Youth Services at 203-389-3449 or email us at youthone@woodbridgect.org.

Woodbridge Job Bank Seeks Teens Who Want Work

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

Due to COVID-19, most jobs are currently outdoors with masks and social distancing as required. Teens can do yard work, dog walking, shoveling, etc. Responsible teens who wish to join the Job Bank should call for an interview at 203-389-3464 or e-mail npfund@woodbridgect.org.

Need Snow Shoveling or Yard Work? Woodbridge Job Bank Can Help

Woodbridge Job Bank teens will work for Woodbridge residents who wish to hire someone to assist for odd jobs like yard cleanup, weeding, moving boxes, and snow shoveling. Call 203-389-3464 for more information.

TEAM Toys 4 Kids Program Deadline Today

Parents who meet income guidelines are eligible to apply for holiday toys for children 12 years of age or younger. Due to Covid-19, applications for the Toys 4 Kids Program will only be processed online. Income guidelines and applications are available at <https://teaminc.org/toys-4-kids-2020/>. Application deadline is Friday, December 11.

Community support is needed. Donors may use the above link to make purchases and view suggestions. If you have a new toy to donate, please contact Youth Services at 203-389-3464 to set a time to drop off your donation before December 9. Your generosity is much appreciated.

WOODBIDGE CENTER

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

Statewide Senior Center Virtual Holiday Bash on December 18 from 1 to 2:30 pm featuring VIP greetings from around the state, seasonal music, ballroom dancing performances, and holiday vignettes celebrating diverse cultures and traditions. Please use this link to register: <https://cthealthyliving.org/events/statewide-senior-center-holiday-bash/> or contact the Woodbridge Center and we will help you register.

Drive-Thru Holidays Party: Come on Ground Hog Day, February 2 from 12-1 pm, to celebrate a ‘Super Mask-car-ade New Year Party with Love’. This drive-thru event celebrates the super bowl, Mardi Gras, Chinese New Year, and Valentine’s Day. RSVP for this special winter pick-me-up including soup and chocolate by 1/15. This free event is open to all Woodbridge residents 60+.

Zoom Exercise: Sign up for a weekly Targeted Strength Training zoom class. This 8-week class began December 7, on Mondays, 9 - 10 am. The fee of \$35.00 may be mailed or dropped off to The Woodbridge Center. Each week you’ll be provided with an email link for access to the next class. You can join this class in progress as detailed instructions are provided. Call to register.

Exercise with Laurie continues to run on GATV channel 79 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10 am. Enjoy a great workout from the comfort of your home!

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

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

Safe Driver classes: An online version of this AARP class is available with a 25% discount through March. Go to www.aarpdriversafety.org and use promo code DRIVINGSKILLS to receive a discount on the rate.

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

Human Services: Call 203-389-

3429 for information. The Human Services Department social worker, Judi Young, is available to those in need of assistance due to isolation and other issues associated with long-term quarantine and social distancing.

Thanks to the many Woodbridge businesses, families, individuals and organizations who donated to the Holiday Basket program, the Woodbridge Food & Fuel Fund, and The Woodbridge Center. This coalition of community came together to create holiday cheer for so many of our Woodbridge neighbors.

Fuel: Woodbridge residents may call for an appointment to apply for **CT Energy Assistance** program administered by TEAM Inc. Income eligibility requirements must be met. Call social worker Judi Young at 203-389-3429. Residents may also apply for the Toys for Kids program.

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

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

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

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

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

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Adult Ballet Classes now forming! Offering beginner through advanced levels Drop in pricing available Call Now to reserve your spot!

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Special Events

(POP UP) 'Virtual' HANUKKAH HAPPINESS CLASS

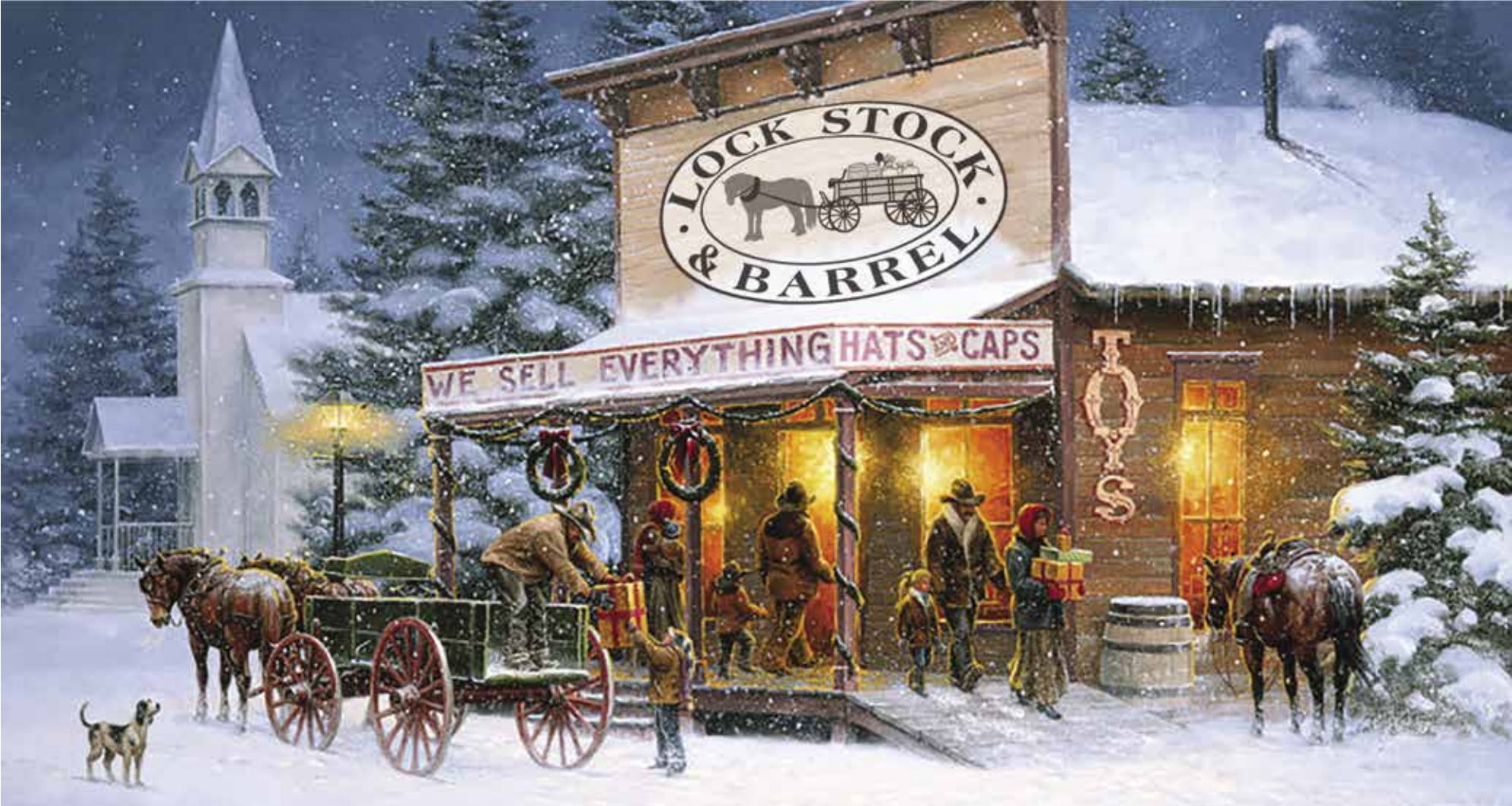
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that

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"I know I made the right decision moving here and so do my children."

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203-795-3117
[MaplewoodAtOrange.com](https://www.MaplewoodAtOrange.com)

"When my wife passed away in November 2018 I remained in our house but within about 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 Clark, Resident

ARTS & LEISURE

Some Views of Woodbridge Along the River

[Photos by Amanda Sparrow]



MusicalFolk

Musical Folk Invites You To “Winter Wonderland”

Semester Of Online Music Classes For Young Children This Winter

Musical Folk, offering Music Together® classes, for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers in Greater New Haven, will present an online version of the popular Music Together® classes for kids up to age five through virtual platforms this Winter.

The Music Together® Online courses will feature Musical Folk teachers leading live online classes, through Zoom and Facebook Live, encouraging children and the grownups who love them to sing, dance, and use everyday objects to make music.

Though our Music Together® Online classes are designed for children age 5 and under, every member of the family is encouraged to join in, making an ideal at-home activity for the entire household. In addition, families with older children can sign up for the Rhythm Kids Online program, aimed at children from 4 to 8 years of age.

In addition to online classes, we have planned some fabulous outdoor, physically distanced events for the whole family:

Winter Classes Begin On Saturday, December 5, 2020

Tuition for the Music Together® Online class includes 11 weeks of unlimited Zoom and Facebook live events, as well as access to a private Facebook group. Also, several outdoor, physically distanced, family events will be held this semester. Each family receives a colorful songbook and CD to explore the music of the semester at home. To register, go to the www.musicalfolk.com.

Use Code WINTERFUN to receive \$25 Off registration for Winter 2020 semester, for new families!

The 11-week Winter semester of Music Together® begins December 5, 2020; enrollment is ongoing. For information and class schedules, visit us online at www.MusicalFolk.com. Outdoor events are weather permitting and will be moved to Facebook or Zoom if we cannot be outdoors.

Music Together® is an international music program which has aimed to instill a love of rhythm and movement into kids since it began in 1987. Musical Folk has brought the curriculum of courses to area children for over ten years.

Music Together® classes are based on the recognition that all children are musical. All children can learn to sing in tune, keep a beat, and participate with confidence in the music of our culture. Research shows that children exposed to music making at a very young age can achieve music competence earlier than those who have not had a rich musical environment. Increasing vocabulary and early language skills, building confidence and creativity, and giving children the foundation needed when it comes time to begin formal music lessons are results of this program. The participation and musical role model of the parent or caregiver makes this program so special, and successful, building an emotional bond and a love of music that lasts a lifetime.



THE WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS ONLINE
Online Version of the Woodbridge Town News
www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com

“There’s something about a holiday that isn’t all about how much money you spend.” — HILARIE BURTON

ARTS & LEISURE



Massaro Community Farm Looks Back on 2020

Farming in a Pandemic Year

Adaptation, flexibility, creativity, resilience. These qualities are essential on a farm. The events of 2020 demanded we tap into them in order to deliver on our mission in a moment when our community farm was needed more than ever.

When the pandemic hit in March, we responded immediately. We established safety protocols and created an online store with weekly contactless pickup outside of our barn. We partnered with local farmers and food producers who had lost sales outlets during the shutdown, connecting them with our community, and reinforcing the local supply chain. Families appreciated these offerings and farm businesses were able to stay afloat. It was an incredible community response to a crisis.

Our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program also saw a surge of interest. Participation went up 20% from 2019, with over 300 families subscribing this year. Foregoing participation in farmers markets allowed us to meet that increased demand and provide donations to hunger relief organizations, which was more important than ever.

Community Engagement

Even with Covid-19 protocols in place, 2020 was a year of fostering relationships at the farm. So far this year we have donated over 8,300 pounds of organic produce to local hunger relief; donations will continue through the end of the year. We also concluded a grant-funded nutrition education program (begun in 2019) with St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank in Derby.

In March, public health rules required us to adjust farm programming to reach audiences differently. Adult and youth education continued remotely where applicable. And even though we couldn't host groups, many individuals gave their time to maintain 13 community gardens throughout the Valley and to help care for our farm animals. Special thanks to Chapel Haven and Amity High School for providing consistent volunteers.

Funds from The Werth Family Foundation allowed us to hire seven local high school students to support the farm staff during peak summer months. These students performed essential work, assisting staff with daily harvesting, planting and weeding.

Sustainability Improvements

With a goal of moving toward carbon neutrality, we expanded our solar energy production this year. A new installation of solar panels on the farmhouse and barn increased the existing 5,000kWh photovoltaic array to a capacity of 23,000kWh. This installation was made possible through the generosity of CGM Resources, LLC, a Hamden-based business working to increase the use of solar power across Connecticut. The expansion exceeds the farm's current power need and paves the way for more battery-powered tools and equipment.

The farm purchased a custom-made worm composting bin from Wiggle-Worm, a local supplier of worms. This 3' x 6' bin has the capacity to handle 250 gallons of compostable material at a time. Paid for through a gift by the Greater New Haven Green Fund, the bin is located adjacent to the Learning



6th Grader Uses Talent To Help Students Across The Ocean

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Damlanur Akden, a sixth grader at Beecher Road School, loves to paint - and she has created quite an impressive portfolio of her artwork. Encouraged by her parents, she has started displaying some of her paintings at the ice cream store her father owns, Billy's Carousel Ice Cream in Westville.

"It brings a smile to people's faces," said her mother, Illnur Akden. She said Damlanur has started selling some of the artwork for a few dollars each. Instead of spending it on herself, the 11-year-old artist has been saving the money to support her family's efforts

supporting children in remote villages in Turkey, the country they originally came from.

Illnur Akden has been sending books and stationery to schools in those villages. She also arranged for delivery of 100 coats, hats and scarves for the children. The teacher video-taped the children's reaction when they opened the packages. "I was crying when I saw those videos," she said.

In the meantime, her daughter's artwork is spreading joy this side of the Atlantic. It is this sense of service that she is trying to teach her children, Illnur said.

Garden. We hope this is the beginning of larger scale composting in the near future.

Lastly, the farm received a grant from the National Resources Conservation Service for a number of projects to be completed over the next few years. Projects include installing a swale in the large field on the north side of the farm. This funding also provides for clearing invasive species and adding more native tree and shrub plantings.

Programming

This fall, we brought back the Explorers program and several outdoor community events. We thank the Valley Community Foundation for funding new technology allowing us to stay connected with our audiences remotely. We all look forward to resuming our regular schedule of events on the farm as soon as possible.

A farm season is always filled with challenges, and though a pandemic was unique, Massaro was ready. We retained our core staff, expanded hours for seasonal staff and hired additional hands during the peak summer season. Ultimately 2020 proved to be among the most productive years in our history. Our work continues now, ensuring that we can provide for the community over the winter months, again in 2021, and beyond.

Massaro Community Farm is a non-profit, certified-organic farm on the border of Woodbridge and Ansonia, CT. It is committed to supporting the legacy of farming, feeding neighbors in need, and engaging community through events and hands-on education for all ages. More information can be found by calling the farm office at (203) 736-8618 or visiting the farm's website at www.MassaroFarm.org.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Jewish Genealogical Society of CT Presents Jewishgen Webinar

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut presents Avraham Groll, Executive Director of Jewishgen, via webinar on Sunday, December 20, 2020, at 1:30 pm. Avraham will present a brief overview of how to navigate core content of Jewishgen, features and databases, along with helpful research hints designed to maximize the benefits of the vast resources. Avraham will then discuss some of the recent upgrades at Jewishgen, such as new collections, along with plans for the future.

Avraham Groll is passionate about connecting people with their Jewish

roots and helping them experience what means to be part of the Jewish people. He holds an MBA from Montclair State University, an MA in Judaic Studies from Touro College, a BS in Business Administration from Ramapo College, and a certificate in Executive Leadership from Columbia University. In addition, Avraham spent two years studying at Yeshiva Ohr Yerushalayim in Israel and is a frequent lecturer on a variety of Jewish genealogical and historical topics.

To register for this webinar, visit
[https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/
register/3621016554588221966](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3621016554588221966).



*Civic Beautification
Work Done For Year*

The Civic Beautification team from the Garden Club of Woodbridge has finished for the year. The team worked to keep Woodbridge beautiful throughout the pandemic.

The photo above, left to right, are Marie Dube, Cindy Marien, Muffy German, Barbara Baldwin, Mary Klockhoff, Nancy LaBianca, and Pat Croasmun

(chairman). The team is shown working at the Woodbridge Town Library, one of the municipal gardens maintained by the garden club. This is just one of the civic activities provided by the club to the town.

New members are welcome. Please contact Judy Mamber at jsmam@aol.com for information.

Liberty Bank, Rotary Clubs Raise Over \$1 Million

WILL HELP FILL THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

Liberty Bank's 60 branch offices and 48 local Rotary Clubs have once again joined forces in an effort to ensure that everyone in Liberty's service area will be able to enjoy a bountiful Thanksgiving feast. Now in its 17th year, the Liberty Bank/Rotary Thanksgiving Dinner Drive raised a record-breaking \$1,074,010—enough to ensure there's enough food on pantry shelves for the holiday and beyond.

The Woodbridge Rotary Club raised \$2,923.96 in partnership with Liberty Bank's Amity branch and received matching funds of \$730.99 for a total of \$3,654.95. The funds were used to provide 30 Stop & Shop gift cards and pumpkin pies to 39 local families in need on November 23. They also supported more than 100 lunches, picked up by seniors at the Town Senior Center.

Each year since 2004, Liberty Bank and its Rotary partners have raised money in the weeks before Thanksgiving. For every dollar donated, Liberty's charitable foundation adds 25 cents. Funds are deposited into each Rotary Club's account at Liberty, and are donated by each club to a nonprofit or municipal agency providing Thanksgiving food to local residents. All funds are donated within the communities where they are raised.

Since the drive began in 2004, it has raised over \$4 million, including the Liberty Bank Foundation match.

“Liberty Bank’s proud and unwavering mission is to improve the lives of our customers, teammates and communities for generations to come,” said David W. Glidden, President & CEO of Liberty Bank. “So, when it comes to serving our communities, it takes strong and lasting partnerships with service-minded organizations like our local Rotary Clubs to ensure the pressing needs of area residents are addressed, especially when it comes to food security during this time of the year. A big thank you goes out to our local Rotarians for joining us in making this successfully happen for 17 consecutive years.”

“Once again, our Rotary partners have demonstrated their determination not to let any obstacle prevent them meeting the needs in their communities,” said Sue Murphy, executive director of the Liberty Bank Foundation, which coordinates the drive. “In spite of the pandemic and the economic shutdown, they blew right past our \$800,000 goal. In some towns, the

money raised will stock food pantries throughout the winter months.”

The following Rotary Clubs participated in the 2020 Liberty Bank/Rotary Club Thanksgiving Drive: Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Branford, Bristol, Cheshire, Chester, Clinton, Colchester, Deep River, Derby/Shelton, East Hampton, East Hartford, East Haven,* Essex, Groton, Hamden, Kensington/Berlin, Ledyard, Madison, Meriden, Middletown, Montville, Mystic, Naugatuck, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Newington, Niantic, North Branford, North Haven, Norwich, Old Saybrook, Plainville, Seymour/Oxford, Simsbury/Granby, South Central CT, Southington, the Stoningtons, Tisbury, Wallingford, Waterbury, Waterford, West Hartford, Wethersfield/Rocky Hill, Willimantic, and Woodbridge*. The East Haddam Community Lions Club also participated.

Rotary is a global network of more than 1.2 million volunteer leaders who dedicate their time and talent to tackle the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Clubs are nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds. Their work impacts families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world.

Since its inception in 1997, the Liberty Bank Foundation has awarded over \$14 million in grants to nonprofit organizations within Liberty Bank's market area. The foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for people of low or moderate income by investing in three areas: education to promote economic success for children and families; affordable housing and ending homelessness; and nonprofit capacity building. Along with its grantmaking, the foundation strives to foster the convening and collaboration of nonprofits, funders, business, and government to address community issues.

Established in 1825, Liberty Bank is Connecticut's oldest bank, with over \$6 billion in assets and 60 banking offices throughout the central, eastern, and shoreline areas of the state. As a full-service financial institution, Liberty offers consumer and commercial banking, home mortgages, insurance, and investment services. Named as a "Top Workplace" by the Hartford Courant for nine consecutive years, Liberty maintains a longstanding commitment to superior personal service and unparalleled community involvement.

*Rotary Clubs new to the drive this year.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Eagle Scout Lavi Creates App, Pantry Angels, for Food Pantries



Photos Contributed by Eydan Lavi

BY BEN MARTIN AND ETHAN LAVI

In October, Troop 41 Eagle Scout Ethan Lavi completed Pantry Angels, an app that allows local food pantries to request items. The app automatically finds locations of boxes closest to the donor, while including specific COVID-19 instructions for each location. The goal of his project is to get as many people as possible to download the free iPhone app and donate to the pantries. Both the Woodbridge Town Food Pantry and Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven have signed up, specifying locations for people to leave their donations. The Woodbridge Town Food Pantry commented that they are “grateful to be included in this worthy project.” They were “receptive to input and the enhancements make the app user friendly and efficient.” Currently, the Woodbridge Town Food Pantry asks that donations are left on the bench at the center entrance of 4 Meetinghouse Lane, for a no-contact drop off. The Jewish Family Service pantry has a donation box inside the Amity Plaza Stop & Shop for shopper’s

convenience.

Ethan could not have finished Pantry Angels without the help of the scouts of Troop 41. They banded together and used their creative talents to design an aesthetically pleasing app that serves an important purpose. Through their involvement, they learned programming skills. Troop 41 scout Eydan Lavi stated that “being involved in Ethan’s Eagle Scout project was fulfilling. I was able to learn more about app development while knowing this project is contributing to my community.”

The next portion of the project was constructing a stand for the drop-off bin currently residing in the Amity Plaza Stop & Shop. Stephen Pedenski, one of the scouts involved, reported that the “project will help so many people for a long time and I am happy I was a part of it.”

If anyone or any food pantries would like information about the project, they can email foodpantryangels@gmail.com.



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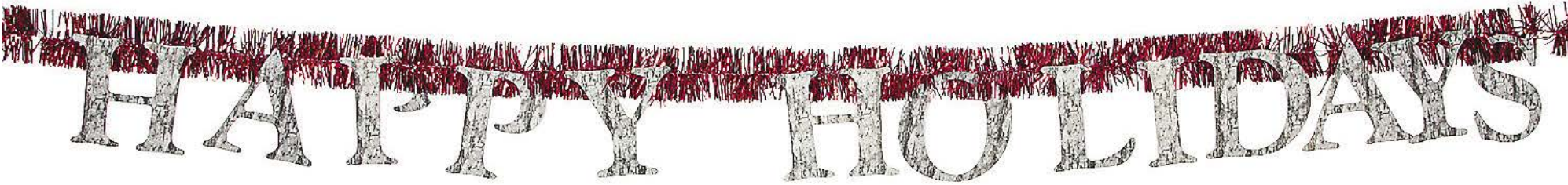
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HEALTH & FITNESS

Just Hurt My Back – Do I Call My Physical Therapist, Orthopedist, Or Chiropractor?



By MICHAEL DOW, MSPT

Unfortunately, spinal problems are so common, it's almost inevitable. It's an age long issue that affects all ages, genders, ethnicities, and across all geography and socioeconomical regions. Fact: 70% of people over 35 years old will experience some episode of low back pain (LBP) during their lifespan. Most spinal discs deteriorate over time. Fact: Gravity wins. Radiographically, degeneration starts as early 30s and well into 60s. When discs get degenerated, they become less gelatinous and more fibrous. More importantly, they get stiff. Much like links in a chain, each segment moves a little on the adjacent ones. When one or more vertebrae do not move well, it puts pressure on the next one in the chain – altering mechanics and leading to soft tissue injury and disc herniations. Not all disc herniations need surgery, but almost all of them need to move better. Studies indicate that for the most long-term success, the most effective form of treatment for low back over time

is a combination of manual therapy AND exercise. So, who do you call first? It depends on several things, but one is determining which stage of inflammation you are in. Early management (Day 1-3) of acute low back pain should focus on treating the inflammation: ice, rest, NSAIDs medication. By Day 3 through 14 – its best to start moving correctly to promote healing and proper neuro motor planning. Simply waiting just teaches your body to move incorrectly, and can often lead to compensatory patterns that are harder and more labor intensive to fix. By week 3 through 6, most soft tissue problems are healed well providing they were correctly treated. It is never too late to address movement dysfunction, but if you go by tissue healing – the sooner it is addressed the better results. Direct access to providers allows patients to get expediate services for quicker management. Physical Therapists, orthopedists and chiropractors all share this ability. However, one difference of who you can see comes down to how soon you can see them. Wait time to see some specialists can be 2 weeks or longer. Making an orthopedist appointment for a few weeks out does not mean you can't get a few sessions of PT in first while you wait, treating pain and inflammation, and promoting movement. In fact, tissue response to treatment may in fact help dictate what your orthopedist may offer next, if anything. Not every episode of LBP needs an MRI despite how much pain you are experiencing. Only 5% of all the LBP episodes end up needing sur-

gery ultimately. However, if there is a serious issue, the combination of tissue response to treatment and potential imaging can be an extremely helpful in weaning out who needs surgery or not. Whom you call first also depends on which tissue layer your problem is located. What is my problem: joint, muscle length, strength and motor control, or combination of all three in varying amounts? Imagine a pie chart that represents your "portfolio" of pain. How much of your pain is caused by each category: joint, muscle, strength? Depending on the category spread, the treatment is very different. Each discipline has a different emphasis – Physical Therapy focuses on fixing movement dysfunction and preventing impairments: emphasizing joint mobilization, muscle stretching/manual therapy, pain relief modalities and strength exercises. Chiropractors utilize a centrist approach with spinal manipulation mostly, and similar modalities for pain. Orthopedists primary focus is surgical techniques, imaging, mediations and injections. All of us have our "tools" to help alleviate pain and fix spinal problems. Each tool has a job, they shouldn't be underused or overused. These tools should be given within the best timing and sequence, and be the right tool for the right problem. Muscle spasm or strengthening problem does not improve with an MRI or spinal manipulation. Strengthening does not improve joint mobility or substitute for necessary surgery if needed. Injections do not substitute for spinal segments to move or muscles to get

less tight. You see the point. Frankly there should be a network to work together – where you get the proper thorough and expediate physical examination to help determine severity and "portfolio", and the disciplines communicate accordingly. Over the last 15 years in New Haven county, I have developed this for our patients at Amity Physical Therapy. It helps to not only see patients early, addressing their problems effectively and efficiently – but also allows me to send patients to other specialists to reduce wait times, ultimately leading to better treatment. Ultimately the patient is like a captain on a team – and providers are the players on bench. You get to choose which players get in and when they get involved. Having designated professionals on your "team" ultimately helps for speedier access and better overall management of your care.

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Michael Dow MSPT and CEO/ Clinical Director, founded Amity Physical Therapy fifteen years ago and now maintains three Greater New Haven offices: Woodbridge, Hamden and Branford. He received his master's degree from Sacred Heart University, and has been an invited guest speaker at the Life Fitness First Annual Forum hosted by the Titleist Performance Institute (TPI) in Oceanside, California. He is also recognized by the U.S. Dep't of Health and Human Services for his work with the national Multiple Sclerosis Society. Michael works with patients of all ages, pediatrics to geriatrics as well as local high school and college athletes. He can be reached at 203-389-4593 or visit amitypt.com.

3 Customer Service Practices That Can Make Consumers Happy

In 2009, a handful of protest songs posted to YouTube created quite a stir. After their guitars were mishandled and damaged while traveling on United Airlines, the Canadian folk duo Sons of Maxwell attempted to negotiate with the airline in an effort to be reimbursed for the damage. Those negotiations ultimately proved fruitless, so the rockers took to YouTube, posting a series of comical songs and videos. While the songs became viral and drew many a laugh, the people at United Airlines, and their shareholders, were not laughing. The bad publicity sparked by the videos caused United stock to plummet, costing shareholders as much as \$180 million. Incidents like that highlight the importance of exceptional customer service, especially in regard to small businesses.

Industry giants like United Airlines can no doubt afford some bad publicity, but small, locally owned businesses operate on much thinner margins. In recognition of the effects bad customer experiences can have on their businesses, business owners can emphasize the following three strategies to keep customers happy. **1. Encourage customer input.** Business owners may not have their boots on the ground every day, so encouraging customer input may be the only way for business owners to get a handle on what it's like to be their customer. That input can be used as a springboard to making positive changes that make customers happy, and it also can be used to help business owners recognize which staff members

are going above and beyond to make sure customers have positive experiences. **2. Respond to reviews.** A 2018 survey from Review Trackers found that 63 percent of reviewers never received a response to their reviews. Engaging with customers is vital for small businesses. Consumers appreciate it when business owners respond to their reviews. Customers who leave negative reviews are more likely to put such experiences behind them if business owners reach out and seek their input while assuring that they'll work to provide better experiences in the future. Responding to customers who share positive experiences takes little or no time at all and it's a thoughtful gesture to thank customers who take the time to leave positive reviews.

3. Get personal with customers. A personal experience drives many consumers to support local businesses. Taking time to be cordial with customers also is a great way to learn about their needs and wants so you can better serve them, potentially turning them into highly valuable repeat customers. Repeat business is vital to the survival of small businesses. In fact, a 2018 survey from InMoment found that 77 percent of consumers acknowledge having had relationships with specific brands for 10 years or more. Getting personal can lay the foundation for customer-business relationships that can last for years to come. Customer service is vital for small businesses, which can employ various practices to keep customers happy and coming back.

“Zoning” From Page 1

whelmingly defensive.

“Woodbridge has been built over many years,” said Chuck Pyne during the hearing. “People worked hard to afford to live here. Injecting a tenor of race is gross.”

Dan Cowan, a member of the Woodbridge Board of Education, pointed out that the comparisons with neighboring towns such as Hamden, West Haven and New Haven are not valid, since none are in the same DRG (District Reference Group), used in public education to make comparisons between districts of similar socioeconomic make-up. “This has nothing to do with race,” he said. “This is just a foot in the door...to make more changes to our town.” And, adding a more politically colorful comment, he encouraged the commissioners to “tell the group of elitists to leave us alone.” But that is not likely to happen.

Erin Boggs, OCA executive director, said her group’s mission is to combat residential segregation with the goal of providing housing access and choice for all people. “We are here today to open Woodbridge,” she said in her introduction, “in order to end a long period of exclusionary housing practices.” She maintained that the town’s housing plans and regulations restrict the construction of multi-family and affordable housing, and as a consequence have kept out non-white residents. Even when faced with opportunities to change their ways, for example when negotiating the latest Plan of Development in 2014, the town doubled down on its opposition. “Woodbridge’s housing laws clearly violate the state’s constitution, various state statutes and the federal Fair Housing Act,” Boggs said.

A group of students, many from the Yale Law School, presented the results of their research of the town’s zoning history to make the case for their claim of exclusionary practices.

Sean Yang pointed out that multi-family housing, though mentioned in the zoning regs, is not assigned to any area. Similarly, a designated Affordable Housing District in the Woodbridge Village District has more restrictive regulations in terms of setbacks than for single-family houses. It has never been used, even though it has been on the books for years. Woodbridge Land Use Analyst Kris Sullivan said in a phone interview that the setbacks were designed for a large parcel of 8-10 acres.

During the hearing, student intern Karen Anderson looked at the history of zoning in town, showing how the requirement for larger lot sizes dating back to the 1930s has led to what a 1976 report called “snob zoning.” Even today, only 1.12% of housing stock in Woodbridge meets the state affordability standards, she said.

Student intern Hannah Abelow pointed out that state statutes require towns to encourage multi-family housing, including housing for low- and moderate-income families. “Towns are not licensed to act as islands onto themselves,” she said.

2 Orchard Road: Architect Jack Kemper presented the project he designed for 2 Orchard Road. The 1.5-acre lot, with a septic system designed for eight bedrooms, would fit four units onto the property, with vinyl siding that would make it look like “a regular suburban house,” he said. Although it would comply with all setback and height regulations, the parking for nine vehicles would be located in the front of the building.

Erin Boggs said OCA chose that property because it was reasonably priced and is a nice piece of property. If approved, the existing home will be taken down. The funding for the Alliance comes from a number of government and private sources, she said, including the Bar Association, the Graustein Memorial Fund, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as individuals. The developer she is working with is Richard Freedman, a builder of trailer homes, including those in Bethany and Oxford.

As for what housing should be considered “affordable,” Boggs said across the country it is defined as constituting housing expenditures of 30% of the median income in a particular area. However, there are other ways to look at it as well. Subsidized housing, for instance, kicks in when people are spending half of their income on housing. In Connecticut, a developer gets ‘a leg up’ in court, when towns have less than 10% of housing deemed affordable. To get the go-ahead under state regulations, 30% of a proposed development must be affordable, with 15% priced for households at 80% of the median income; and 15% priced for households at 60% of the median income.

As for Woodbridge, with its wells and septic systems, she said that should not preclude multi-family housing. “All we ask is that the same rules that apply to single family housing apply to multi-family housing,” she said. At the same time the lack of infrastructure is often cited as an excuse not to allow construction of affordable housing. “Should the town be doing more on its infrastructure? Absolutely,” she said. Similarly, the lack of a bus line to many areas of

town is not necessarily a stumbling block. About 75% of moderate-income families own a car, she said. Instead of using the lack of public transportation as an excuse for towns not to allow multi-family housing, they should let the need for a better transportation system be their guide, she said.

Sustainability and open space are common arguments brought up by residents when higher density development is being discussed. Don Poland, a planning consultant for Stafford Springs, who addressed the commission as part of the applicant’s team, said that sustainability is a catch phrase, which can become a euphemism for exclusion. “Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present population without compromising the needs of the future,” he said. What it often covers, though, is low-density suburban sprawl, large lot sizes, and a car culture, all of which keeps poorer populations out.

He also pointed out studies done by the MIT Center for Research, which found that contrary to popular belief, affordable housing does not impact property values for surrounding areas.

Among local residents who expressed support for the push for more affordable housing and diversity in Woodbridge was local resident Alana Rosenberg. “I do believe it is our obligation to create more affordable housing,” she said. She said it would be beneficial for her children to grow up in a more diverse school environment. Similarly, Jessica Bell and David Greisen wrote in their email that “diversity strengthens communities. It does not destroy them.” They encouraged the town to work with the applicants to reform exclusionary practices rather than spending resources fighting against change.

How Local Businesses Can Boost Their Online Presence

An employee dedicated to maintaining a positive online presence can be an asset to small businesses.

A thriving online presence is important for businesses big and small. While it once was customary to look up a company in a business directory or the Yellow Pages, in the digital era most people look to the internet to find recommendations, reviews and information about businesses. In fact, a strong online reputation can be a company’s biggest asset, while a nonexistent presence can be its most significant liability.

BrightLocal, a marketing firm that connects with local businesses, says 90 percent of consumers used the internet to find a local business in the last year, with 33 percent looking every day. In addition, the average consumer reads 10 reviews before trusting a business. Forbes reports that nearly half of adults in the United States

have entered a company’s name into an online search engine before doing business with them.

Locally owned businesses should devote a large share of their operations to establishing and maintaining a positive online presence. Here are some ways to go about it.

Design a professional website. This should be any company’s first step toward establishing a web presence. Site builders enable business owners to create a website with ease at a relatively low cost. However, for those looking for an extra edge or a customized site, a web designer/coder is a worthwhile investment.

Commit to social media. Check out what your competitors are doing on social media and then try to mimic some of their actions. Social media requires a strategy, so don’t jump right in. Establish goals and think about how they can complement your business model,

lead to brand awareness, customer generation, and more. Social media is fickle and since it is an open-ended platform, customers can communicate with you directly. That can be tricky when navigating both positive and negative feedback. Develop a customer service policy so everyone who is in position to respond to customer input is aware of the best way to do so.

Optimize how web visitors find your business. Business owners should know about search engine optimization, or SEO. According to eTraffic Web Marketing, SEO is the science of directing customers to a company’s website through search engines like Google. Keywords are the building blocks of SEO. These words and phrases are those someone would use when searching that will lead them to your website. Using these keywords in the copy on your website will help customers find your site through searches that much more readily.

Create high-quality, authoritative content. Use your website and social media accounts to consistently bring new, innovative and informative content to the public. You also can increase your presence in the local community, providing expert advice on topics pertaining to your business and agreeing to be interviewed by local newspapers and bloggers to get your name out there.

Put someone in charge of online customer review feedback. American Express suggests keeping on top of customer reviews from various sources (Facebook, Yelp, Google, etc.) and being in constant communication with customers to compete with larger businesses. This can help reduce negative feedback online and boost positive reviews.

Local businesses can increase their online presence to boost their chances of reaching core and new customers.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Holy Infant Christmas Schedule

Our Christmas Mass Schedule is as follows:

- › Vigil Masses: 1:00 pm in the church;
- › 4:00 pm in the church and school gym;
- › 6:00 pm in the church and school gym.
- › Christmas Day: 7:30 am in the church;
- › 9:30 am in the church;
- › 11:30 am in the church.

There is a limit to 100 persons at each mass. Doors will open 30 minutes before mass for temperatures to be taken. Once we have reached our capacity, doors will be closed and mass will begin. Enter through the Portico Area located by the back-parking lot. You may exit any door at the end of mass. The 1:00 vigil mass will be taped and placed on our website for those who wish to remain at home and view our Christmas Mass. See www.holyinfantorangect.com to obtain this mass and our Sunday masses as well. After each service the church/school will be sanitized for the next service.



Holy Infant Church

The 2021 Boxes of Envelopes are located in the Portico Area on tables for your pick up. If you have been using WE SHARE (on-line giving), they are not there.

This year we cannot hold our Annual Giving Tree as we have done in the past. Rather, if you purchase a \$25 Gift Card at a store you would have purchased a gift for a child, place it in an envelope marked "Gift Card" and return it to our church basket. They will be distributed to those needy children for Christmas. Thank you for your cooperation for this drive this year.

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Tales of mysteries and legends of colonial times will greet you as you read about Connecticut's haunted history. Once called the Nutmeg state, Connecticut's mysterious legends come to life even though the main players are dead. If the Connecticut book isn't enough to scare you, be sure to read the ghostly Tales of New England. So, dive into these chapter books but be sure to leave a light on...

The Orange Historical Society will have these books for sale at \$12.99 each in the near future at its antique shop in the Academy Building, 605 Orange Center Road; hours: Saturdays, 10am-3pm. For information, call 203-795-3106, visit our website: www.orangehistory.org or email us at orangehistorical@yahoo.com.



Congregation Beth El - Keser Israel Events

Children's Services

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

Indoor Services

- › Fridays 6:00 pm inside the main sanctuary

Outdoor Services

(weather permitting)

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

** also available via Zoom, like other daily services

BEKI Hanuka Events

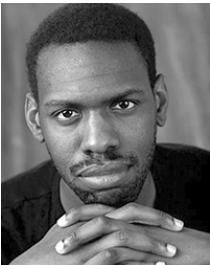
BEKI will host a family Zoom celebration on the Third Night of Hanuka, which is Saturday, December 12, with havdala, candle lighting, singing, and a story.

An Eighth Night Hanuka party on Thursday, December 17 will feature a livestream performance by singer/songwriter Neshama Carlebach. She



Neshama Carlebach

has released ten albums and sold over one million records, showcasing her unique blend of various genres, including classic Hebrew folk songs, contemporary pop music, jazz and gospel. To request the link for these events, email office@beki.org.



Anthony Russell



Levi Brackman

Wednesday Schmoozes

On December 23, it's a film schmooze: watching the short film "Commandment 613" and discussing it with the film maker and its subject, Rabbi Kevin Hale, who restores Torah scrolls saved during the Holocaust.

On December 30, Anthony Russell will return to BEKI, adding his voice to BEKI's ongoing exploration of issues of racial justice. He will demonstrate—through song and discussion—convergences of Ashkenazi and African American music. A classically trained operatic bass, he now specializes in Yiddish and liturgical music.

On January 6, Rabbi Levi Brackman will speak on Judaism as a Health and Wellness Religion, demonstrating how traditional Jewish practice dovetails with many practices that modern science has shown to improve wellness.

On January 13, BEKI's racial justice film series continues with a discussion of "Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North." When filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history, she and nine cousins retrace the Triangle Trade.

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

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

ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

Send us your organizations events listings and items of interest.

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP



Our Building is Closed, but Our Community is Open!

Please join us on Livestream or Zoom!

To register for a Zoom event, please call the office at (203) 389-2111

Happening This Weekend

- Friday:** 6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat - on Zoom and live stream only
- Saturday:** 9:00 am Bread & Torah - on Zoom; 10:00 am Shabbat service - on Zoom and live stream only; 5:30 pm Havdalah Harmonics - Join us on Zoom for this new twice/monthly gathering.
- Sunday:** Sunday School classes on Zoom



Upcoming Classes & Events

Sunday-Thursdays, December 13-17

We will light our Hanukkah Menorahs TOGETHER each night on zoom at 5:30 with something special each night.

Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 11AM

"Stitched & Sewn: The Life Saving Art of Holocaust Survivor Trudie Strobel"

Woodbridge native, Jody Savin, will discuss her new biography of Holocaust survivor and tapestry artist Trudie Strobel. Savin will be joined by the artist herself and by Savin's daughter, Maya Savin Miller, the curator of the traveling exhibition of Trudie's work. Visual materials will be included. "Stitched & Sewn" has been called "a testament to ...the ability to endure the worst atrocities and then create meaning and indelible beauty." The book is available through the CBJ Judaica Shop for \$30. A ZOOM LINK WILL BE POSTED FOR THE EVENT.

Christmas Dinner at Columbus House

This year Congregation B'nai Jacob is partnering with BEKI, Westville



Congregation B'nai Jacob

Synagogue, and the Unitarian Society of New Haven to provide Christmas dinners for people staying at the Columbus House shelters. Because of COVID, we will contribute funds toward catered dinners, rather than cook dishes ourselves. This is a wonderful opportunity to make the holidays more healthy and festive for the homeless and hungry, and to collaborate with other houses of faith. See CBJ website for the link for online donations, or you may mail a check to the synagogue office. Thank you for your generosity!

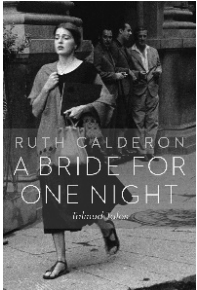
Rabbi Shapiro's Fall Class on Zoom

"A Bride for One Night"

Mondays, 7:30-9:00pm

On Zoom, last few classes: December 21, January 4, 11

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



DID YOU KNOW? Gifts To You and Your Family

Sometimes, a great gift isn't one that is wrapped in colorful paper. Instead, it may be the gift of peace of mind, a gift to continue a legacy or even a gift that is given long after you have passed away.

Have you ever thought of your estate planning documents as gifts?

- Wills and Trusts direct who receives assets after death, and name people you trust to make decisions. Having these documents in place gives your family the gift of avoiding extensive probate, having clear direction of your intentions after your death, and ideally, the gift of avoiding family conflicts.
- Health care instructions give your family the gift of knowing what your medical and end-of-life wishes are so that they don't have the burden of making difficult medical decisions.
- A Power of Attorney appoints someone to make financial decisions if you're alive but unable to do so yourself, and gives your family the gift of access to and management of your assets without involving the Probate Court.
- Sometimes, Trusts can be used as gifts that keep giving because they hold and protect assets to be given out at different stages, or ages, through someone's life. A Trust allows you to customize and personalize the messages you leave about how you'd like your family to enjoy anything they receive from you and how you'd like to be remembered.

If you have questions about how to create impactful estate planning "gifts" for your family, call us to schedule a free consultation.



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

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WOODBRIDGE 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.

The Woodbridge Town Library opened its doors to the public with Express Service on Thursday, November 5. We look forward to welcoming you back into the building.

Express Service Hours:

- ✓ Tuesdays: 11 am to 3 pm
- ✓ Thursdays: 4 pm to 7 pm
- ✓ Fridays: 1 pm to 4 pm

Express Service includes:

- ✓ Browsing for books, movies and music;
- ✓ Limited reference, readers’ advisory, and technology assistance;
- ✓ Limited computer use by appointment;
- ✓ Access to printing, faxing, photocopying, and scanning.

Computers and Other Technology

Computer use by appointment only is available during Express Service hours. There are three computers for use; appointments are 45 minutes each and start at the top of each hour.

To book a 45-minute computer reservation, please call or email the Reference Desk at 203-389-3434 or wbrstaff@lioninc.org. Up to two people in a family unit are welcome to sit together at a computer station. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. For more about our computers and technology, go to www.woodbridge.lioninc.org/computer-appointments-be



WOODBRIDGE TOWN LIBRARY

[gin-november10](#).

Library Safety Rules

We are happy to be open again and want to stay that way. Thank you for respecting the health and safety of the staff and other patrons by following these rules:

- ✓ Do not enter the building if you are feeling ill or have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last fourteen (14) days.
- ✓ The Library currently has a very limited capacity and visitors may need to wait to enter the building.
- ✓ The Library is only open for limited services: studying, reading, meeting, etc. are not allowed.
- ✓ Please limit your visit to 30 minutes or less.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer use is required upon entry.
- ✓ Masks must be worn over nose and mouth by every-one over 2 years of age and for the entire visit.
- ✓ Social distancing must be practiced, especially in the stacks. One person at a time per aisle.
- ✓ Children under the age of 12 must stay with their caregiver at all times.
- ✓ Our mezzanine is closed, including the study room, bookstore alley and the Woodbridge Room.
- ✓ Computer appointments must be made separately, with the Reference Desk.
- ✓ Magazines and newspapers will

- not be available.
- ✓ If you pick up or touch an item but do not plan to check it out, please place it in the designated area so it can be quarantined.

Park & Pickup Still Available

Park & Pickup will continue, but the pickup tables will be moved into the Friends’ Meeting Room. Please use the doors on the right side of the library to enter and leave. Passage from the meeting room to the library and vice versa will not be permitted. Remember to wait until you hear from the Library before coming to pick up your order. Your online account may not always be accurate! Park & Pickup hours are Monday & Thursday, 11 am to 7 pm, and Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday, 11 am to 4 pm.

Can’t Make It In? Remote Library Service Available

Phones and emails are answered by staff Monday – Friday, 10 am to 5 pm. Place holds, ask questions, find out information, and more even when the Library is not open for Express Service.

Department phones and emails:

- Adult Services/Reference:** 203-389-3434 wbrstaff@lioninc.org
- Children’s Department:** 203-389-3439 childrensprogramslioninc.org
- Circulation/General info:** 203-

389-3433 askus@woodbridgetown-library.org

Long Overdue Items:

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

Are you on our email list?

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

The Children’s Department

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

The Friends of the Library thank the Woodbridge Community for their donations in October. They will not be taking further book donations until possibly Spring 2021. You are welcome to make a monetary contribution to the Friends via PayPal. More information: www.woodbridge.lioninc.org/about/friends-of-the-library/.

BULLETIN BOARD

Please Note: If you have an event for the Bulletin Board, please send it along no matter how far in advance it is. We will include it in the appropriate issue(s) until the event has taken place.

Boy Scout Troop 63, meetings Monday nights 7:00pm-8:30pm, Our Lady of the Assumption “Mother” Church, 1700 Litchfield Turnpike (Route 63), Woodbridge. For more information, visit <http://www.troop963.org> or email Troop63CT@gmail.com.

Woodbridge Republican Town Committee Meetings, second Tuesday of each month, 7:30pm, Center

Cafeteria. Visitors welcome and we urge you to join us. For information, go to www.woodbridgegop.org.

Boy Scout Troop 907, Come find out why Troop 907 has been Making a Difference in the Life of Scouts since 1968. Meetings Thursday nights 7:00-8:30PM at the First Church of Christ in the Parish House (enter via back parking lot), 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge next to Town Hall. Boys aged 10 and older or who have completed 5th grade are invited to visit an upcoming meeting and join the adventure of scouting. For more information, visit our website Troop907.org

or use the website “contact us” link to communicate directly with troop leadership.

Woodbridge Rotary Club Meetings, 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month, New Members wanted! The Woodbridge Rotary Club has changed its meeting places. Please go to the website to see current meeting dates and event dates: <https://woodbridgerotary.org/> Contact the Club President Diane Millan or Secretary Karen Bellamy for any updates.


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2020 HOLIDAY SHIPPING DEADLINES				
Between the astronomical rise in online shopping and visitation restrictions, it's more important than ever to mail and ship early this year.				
	Coast to Coast	Cutting It Close	Where To Take It	Contact
U.S. Postal Service	Drop first-class letters and cards in your mailbox by Dec. 18; Dec. 15 for parcel post.	Priority (1-3 day) service by Dec. 19 Express Overnight by Dec. 23	Your local post office or arrange for carrier pickup. Use usps.com to order supplies, print postage and access a host of other services.	www.usps.com
UPS	Dec. 15 (for packages delivered by Thursday, Dec. 24).	Ship 2-Day Air by Dec. 22 or Next-Day Air as late as Dec. 23 for delivery by Dec. 24. .	UPS Stores nationwide. Go to ups.com or call 800-789-4623 to find a location or schedule pickup.	www.ups.com; 1-800-PICK-UPS
Fed Ex	Dec. 15 for all FedEx Ground packages.	Overnight by Dec. 23; 2-Day Air by Dec. 22 for delivery Dec. 25 ; big spenders can get same-day Christmas Day delivery in some areas.	Any FedEx Office location or FedEx authorized shipper.	www.fedex.com; 1-800-GO-FEDEX



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Coldwell Banker Branch Vice President Aileen DeFeo, stands with Human Services Director Jeanette Glicksman following the Woodbridge office's generous donation to the Holiday basket program.



Progressions Salon and Wig Boutique owner Stephanie Cabral, right, stands with staff member Jean DeMayo and donations from their annual sock drive. These donations are added to the holiday baskets for Woodbridge families in need.

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Gabi Reese Durso, 8, of Woodbridge, also known as Royal International Miss Role Model Princess 2020-2021, collected donations to purchase pajamas for families in need. This effort was called the Good Night Sleep Tight PJ Program. Gabi and her family donated to 18 families through the Woodbridge Human Services Holiday Basket program.



The Friends of the Woodbridge Library donated a new children's book to each child in the Human Services Holiday Basket program. The Friends ordered each book considering age and gender for each child. Many thanks to this dedicated group of community volunteers!



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