

Woodbridge Town News



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CIRCULATION 5300

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2012



Governor Dannel Malloy poses with Amity High School students during his visit at the school.

Governor Highlights Schools Switch to Natural Gas

By Bettina Thiel - Woodbridge Town News Correspondent

Governor Dannel Malloy and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Daniel Esty visited Amity High School November 19 to highlight the school's recent conversion from oil to gas for heating. "This demonstrates exactly what we're talking about" in terms of promoting cheaper and cleaner energy, Malloy said, as he was addressing town leaders as well as area legislators and students in the school's library. Malloy said he expects oil prices to go through the roof when the world economy picks up steam, and "to compete, we have to access lower-cost energy".

Natural gas "is a very important part of that story," Commissioner Esty

("Malloy" continued on page 11)



Woodbridge Boy Scouts Visit Sikorsky Aircraft

Boy Scouts from Woodbridge Troop 63 joined more than 500 Boy and Girl Scouts, and their leaders, from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York and pitched their tents for a weekend-long campout on the Sikorsky Aircraft grounds in Stratford. From October 5 - 7, the Scouts learned about aerospace, electricity, emergency preparedness, energy and other Merit Badge subjects. Sikorsky subject matter experts from a cross-section of different company departments shared their knowledge with the Scouts. Many of these Sikorsky employees are former Scouts and continue to volunteer for other scouting activities throughout the year. The Scouts also toured the production facility, including the avionics labs and final assembly

("Sikorsky" continued on page 12)

Honor Roll

Amity Regional Middle School - Berthany Campus

First Marking Period

Honor Roll - Page 16

Happy Holidays & a Joyous New Year!



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Students at Gan Hayed Early Childhood Center, Woodbridge, learned that Thanksgiving means being 'thankful' for what you have, and is also a time of 'giving'. The children were offered the choice of baking for a classroom feast, or sharing with others. The unanimous decision was to bake for all the people that have dinner at the Soup Kitchen. Two, three and four year olds baked Pumpkin pie, corn bread and loaves of Pumpkin bread for the Downtown Soup Kitchen, 311 Temple Street, New Haven. The children also wanted to 'make the dining hall look pretty for the holiday, so they collected their Fall paintings and delivered those as well.

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Olympian Margaux Farrell (left) and her former second grade teacher, Teresa Nakouzi.

“Margaux” Returns Home to Display Bronze Olympic Medal

By Laura Fantarella - Woodbridge Town News Correspondent

Beecher Road school first and second graders were inspired to “dream big and keep reading” by an Olympic medalist who once walked the same halls they do. The students were wide-eyed throughout the presentation by Olympic medalist Margaux Farrell who visited her alma mater recently to display her bronze medal and motivate students to pursue their dreams. Farrell earned her medal at the recent London Olympics in the swim relay race where she represented France.

Farrell’s visit was facilitated by her former second grade teacher, Teresa Nakouzi who is now a reading teacher at the school. “I had the same teachers you have,” Farrell told the group. “I went to the extended day program just like you, I danced on the stage and I swam in this pool.” The blonde blue-eyed swimmer with a quick easy smile told the group that as a child she enjoyed swimming, playing basketball and dancing and it wasn’t until ninth grade that she decided to devote most of her time to swimming. She urged the students to “try everything” to one day discover their own gifts and to remember that reading, writing and “brainpower” are among the most important activities. “Let your dream be as big as you want it to be. Let your imagination go wild! I live by the words ‘Dream Big.’ Nothing is too crazy, nothing is too big.” she said. Of course, once you have a dream in mind, the next step is practice, practice, practice. “I did not always win every race, I did not always do well in practice but you have to stick with it, keep practicing, and you will get better,” Farrell said.

Farrell displayed the goggles, swim cap and practice swim suit she wore at the Olympics and described the closing ceremony filled with singing, dancing, fireworks and confetti. “I was lucky enough to go to the Olympics but then I got a cherry on top – I got a medal!! I never expected that. I was in shock; I don’t think I said anything for about a half hour,” she said. There were many exciting moments, but for Farrell, one of the highlights of the event was seeing the pop group, “The Spice Girls”. “When I was at Beecher, my friends and I would always pretend we were the Spice Girls, we even made up an extra spice because there were five of us!” she said.

When Farrell invited the children to ask questions, one student asked if the bronze medal cost a lot of money. “I don’t know,” Farrell replied, “it was a present.” “Do you have time to jump off the diving board?” another asked. “Of course,” Farrell said. “I always have time to jump off a diving board.”

The visit was particularly exciting for Nakouzi who remembers Farrell as a very bright, focused and highly energetic second grader who loved school and solving problems. “I’m so excited to have Margaux here. It feels like everything has come full circle. I feel like I fulfilled my Olympic dream too!” Nakouzi said.



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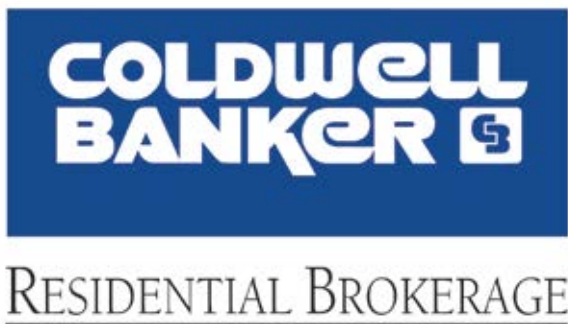
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Woodbridge Town News

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

Upcoming Issue Deadline	Upcoming Issue Dates
January 11th.....	January 18th
February 1st	February 8th
February 22nd.....	March 1st

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

FROM OUR READERS

Designated Drivers Save Lives

During the holiday season, it can be difficult to find the perfect gift for everyone on your list. However, there is one gift that any adult would love to receive this year: a designated driver. Help your friends and family members enjoy the great times this holiday season by getting them home safe and sound. You also can encourage them to join you – and the Nation of Responsible Drinkers – in pledging to drink responsibly and use a designated driver at NationOfResponsibleDrinkers.com.

Fortunately, thanks to the help of designated drivers and increased law enforcement, the nation has made significant progress in preventing drunk driving. According to the latest government data, drunk-driving fatalities fell to their lowest level since alcohol record-keeping began in 1982 (a 52 percent decline from 1982 to 2010).*

While that's great news, there's always more work to be done. That's why Dichello Distributors and Budweiser have partnered to promote "designated drivers". All of us at Dichello Distributors wish our friends and neighbors a safe and happy holiday. Together, we can help keep our roads safe.

*Tony Lota
Alcohol Awareness Coordinator - Dichello Distributors, Inc.*

**Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.*

Human Services Thanks Volunteers

During Hurricane Sandy, the Town of Woodbridge opened its Emergency Shelter to Woodbridge residents on October 29th through November 5th. On behalf of the staff of the Human Services Department, we sincerely thank the volunteers who assisted us at the shelter with charging cell phones and medical equipment for residents, distributing snap lights, water or providing information on showers to residents. In addition, we thank the wonderful residents and Massaro Farm for donating water, snacks and toiletries to those at the shelter.

Special thanks to the Woodbridge Fire Department and Juniors for setting up the shelter, providing water, evening meals to residents and coverage at the shelter. We highly valued their support and partnership in assisting Woodbridge residents. Also, thank you to the Woodbridge Police Department for providing welfare checks and being there for support.

Lastly, I want to remind Woodbridge residents about the CT Alert system. If you have a traditional phone from AT&T, your phone number (published and non-published) is already registered. If you wish to receive notifications on your cell phone, e-mail, fax, pager, PDA or via text messaging, you can register at www.ctalert.gov. If you don't have a computer, please use one of the computers at the library or Senior Center. If you need assistance registering, please contact Human Services at 203 389-3429.

Sincerely,

*Mary Ellen LaRocca
Director of Human Services*

More "From Our Readers" on Page 12

Woodbridge Town News

WTN Letters Policy

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

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

We reserve the right to reject any letter.

WOODBRIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Woodbridge Students Join Peer Leadership Program

A scavenger hunt on Hamden Hall Country Day School's campus recently wasn't just an afternoon of fun and adventure for the six groups of participating freshmen. Instead, it was an exercise in group-building and social bonding – and yes, fun! – led by 12 seniors who are the school's 2012-2013 Peer Leaders.

Hamden Hall's Princeton Peer Leadership Program was established nearly a quarter of a century ago to offer freshmen a year-long high school orientation and social mentoring opportunity administered by their peers – 12 specially selected seniors known as Peer Leaders. The program acts as a springboard for the seniors, offering them real-world approaches and problem-solving mechanisms that launch their roles as future community and global leaders. "This is the most well-developed program of its kind in the country and we are coming up on our 25th year," said Peer Leadership Advisor John Greenawalt. "We have a highly academic version of the Princeton Peer Leadership Program where each quarter in our five-day-a-week class, seniors work through a major leadership skill unit and are assigned a paper or project related to leadership."

Greenawalt credited the program with being the answer to the proverbial question, "When will I ever use this in real life?" "We teach real-world, social-emotional skills and approaches that set our seniors up for future leadership positions," he said.

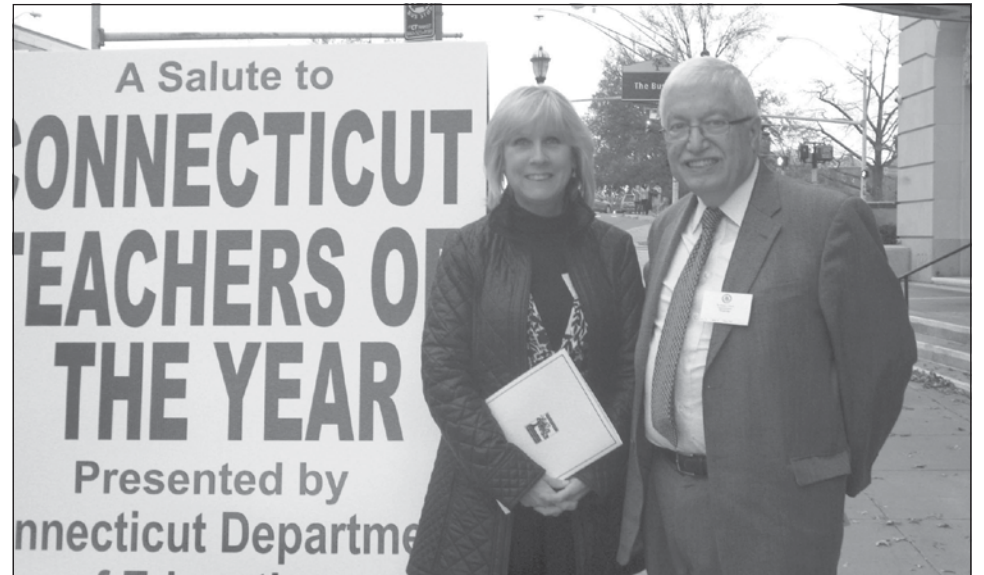
Peer Leader Dimitri Skuret of Woodbridge said that besides establishing a bond among the students, the program is also paving the way for his life after Hamden Hall. "Being a Peer Leader sets us ahead of others as we ascend to our college careers," said Skuret. "Then, as we head into the real world, we will appreciate our leadership qualities we have attained through this program."

Each year, 12 seniors are chosen through a highly selective process to begin their journey as freshman mentors. Leadership potential, an interest in personal growth, an ability to get along well with others and an overall diverse representation of the school community factor into the selection process. "This year, Peer Leadership is by far my favorite course," said Peer Leader Alessandro Chiodo of Woodbridge. "It is not the typical classroom environment and the group of Peer Leaders has become very close."

Peer Leaders begin their new roles in August, with a three-day leadership training retreat, followed by a mid-year 24-hour refresher retreat. In between, Peer Leaders attend intensive daily training classes and preside over weekly freshmen discussion groups. The seniors partner with one another and discuss topics such as friendship, social and academic pressures and other peer-related issues with their freshman advisees. "What makes this course so unique is the understanding that developing positive leadership traits isn't something that can be done in a vacuum," said Peer Leadership Advisor Chase duPont, a 2002 Hamden Hall alumnus and Peer Leader himself during his senior year. "Our Peer Leaders meet with the freshman class every week for an hour as well as daily with their three faculty advisors."

Besides Chiodo and Skuret, this year's Peer Leaders are Lauren Collins of Branford, Jamie DeNicola of Hamden, Sydney Dinkeloo of Hamden, Sydney Doolittle of Milford, Avery Giorgio of Madison, Paige Greger-Moser of Hamden, Nicholas Linta of Branford, Daniel Reynolds of Wallingford, Joseph Sapiente of Seymour and Alexandra Walz of East Haven.

The Princeton Peer Leadership Program is one of several Signature Programs that enhance the educational experience at Hamden Hall, a PreSchool through Grade 12 coeducational college preparatory school that enrolls students from more than 35 communities throughout the state. Other Signature Programs include the Science, Innovation & Design Program, Mystic Seaport Partnership and Haskins Reading Program.



Dempsey Honored as "Teacher of the Year" in Hartford

Jeanne Dempsey, kindergarten teacher from the Woodbridge School District, was among the 2012 Connecticut Teachers of the Year honored in Hartford recently at a ceremony held in The Bushnell. The event was attended by hundreds of supporters, families and students. Connecticut Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor and State Board of Education President Allan B. Taylor delivered remarks about the importance of quality teachers and their role in shaping the future of the state, nation and the world. Each of the 80 local Teachers of the Year was called to the stage to receive a special citation and have their photo taken.

The National Teacher of the Year (NTOY) Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching. In Connecticut, the program named its first Teacher of the Year in 1981 under then Commissioner of Education Mark Shedd.

Every year organizations in each state choose a worthy teacher to represent the state. The National Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by Target, is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers in partnership with the ING Foundation, the University of Phoenix and People to People Ambassador Programs.

STUDENT NEWS

Lauralton Hall Announces Its First Quarter Honor Rolls

Principal Ann Pratson of The Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Lauralton Hall has announced the Honor Roll for the First Quarter of the 2012 – 2013 school year. High Honors students have achieved an average of at least 92 in all academic courses; Honors students have an average of at least 86 in all academic courses.

Woodbridge Residents receiving High Honors:

- Grade 11: Ellen Tein
- Grade 9: Madeline Tein

Woodbridge Residents receiving Honors:

- Grade 9: Meghan Hill
-

Sacred Heart Academy Honor Roll

Sacred Heart Academy Principal Sr. Maureen Flynn, ASCJ has announced the Honor Roll for the First marking period of the 2012 – 13 academic year. The following students from Woodbridge and Bethany have been named to the Honor Roll:

Students receiving High Honors: Lucy Andersen - Woodbridge, Sienna DeMaio - Bethany, and Brittney Guerra - Bethany.

Students receiving Honors: Ava Amendola - Bethany.

Academic honors are awarded at the end of each quarter to students attaining an average of 3.5 or better. Those students achieving a grade point average of 3.8 or greater are awarded high honors.



Sacred Heart Academy

CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS



Annual Woodbridge Rotary Club Thanksgiving Baskets

Members of Woodbridge Rotary Club and friends recently met at Amity Stop & Shop to pick up and deliver Thanksgiving food baskets to families in need in Bethany and Woodbridge. Pictured (L-R): Anna Dickerson, Rotarian President, Donald Priest, Mary Ellen LaRocca, Nancy Pfund, Noah Shernow, and Peter Lerner. Missing from the photo is Steven Katz of Katz's Deli who donated Stop & Shop gift certificates for turkeys. Also missing, are Louise Ford, Buddy DeGennaro and Tom Shernow.

Amity Teen Center

The Amity Teen Center is getting ready for our "2013 People's United Bank 2013 Chilly Chili Run", a 5K Road Race followed by a hot chili brunch, on Tuesday, January 1st in Orange. This year we are honored to have five 90+ year old runners registered to participate in the 3.1 mile race. They include Betty Hutchinson, 91, from Concord New Hampshire, Don Osbourne, 91, from Branford Connecticut, Bill Tribou, 92, from Granby Connecticut, Bill Benson, 93, from Valley Stream Long Island and George "Doc" Whitney, 94, from Brattleboro Vermont. Two years ago the Chilly Chili Run set a United States record by having three 90+ year old runners participating in a 5K race. This year we will have five!

The race begins at 10:30 a.m. at the High Plains Community Center. Registration for runners is \$20.00 before December 17 and \$25.00 after that date and on the day of the race. Registration for the Fitness Walk is \$10.00 before December 17 and \$12.00 after that and on the day of the race. Applications are available in the Orange Park and Recreation office or you may register online until midnight on December 26 at www.hitekracing.com. We will also have early packet pickup and late registration on Monday, December 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the front lobby of the High Plains Community Center. Come out to support the Amity Teen Center and see more of history being made right here in Orange!

For more information, please call Race Director Joe Riccio at 203 481-7453 or Race Coordinator Jane Opper at 203 795-9351 or email us at chillychilirun@hotmail.com.



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Principal Dr. Charles Britton, Woodbridge First Selectman Ed Sheehy, Governor Dannel Malloy and DEEP Commissioner Daniel Esty pose for a picture.

(“Malloy” continued from page 1)

added. He said the focus of his department was on energy and the environment, but also the economy. “What we’re doing here is promoting a cheaper, cleaner and more reliable source of energy.” Esty congratulated the town, which envisioned and implemented the conversion in less than a year.

Southern Connecticut Gas extended its gas line from the Jewish Community Center to the center of Woodbridge this summer. The high school was the first public building to complete the conversion. In addition to the main school building, the cafeteria kitchen, the culinary class kitchen, the field house and the garage are now heated with natural gas. “It’s important to stop and celebrate success,” Esty said.

In addition to First Selectman Ed Sheehy, Finance Director Tony Genovese and Administrative Officer Joe Hellauer, who were all instrumental in bringing the project forward, the governor also congratulated Father Gene Giannelli of Assumption Church and Andrew Esposito and Matthew Matt Giglietti, financial officers of the church, who bought into the project early on and converted the church building as well as the rectory. In reference to the expected savings, the governor addressed Gianelli, “Father, you can add another mass.”

The conversion cost the Amity School system \$110,000 said Amity Facilities Manager Jim Saisa, and the costs are expected to be offset by savings within a year. In addition to town officials, state legislators Sen. Joe Crisco, Reps. Paul Davis and Vickie Nardello attended the event, as did Sen. Gayle Slossberg.

Instead of taking a tour of the school’s boiler room, the governor had a question-and-answer period with Amity students. Students in the Advance Placement Environmental Science class and the Science Research Program as well as journalism students and those representing student government were present in the library. The visit started at just about the time students were let out.

First Selectman Ed Sheehy credited retired physician Dr. Bill Silberberg with bringing up the idea to bring the pipeline up to the center. June to August, when the high school was ready to open with the new gas heat, Sheehy said 31 residents who live along the new line took advantage of the opportunity, and 50 more are eligible.

The town’s finance director said the next buildings to be converted are the library, the police department and the Town Hall, all of which are scheduled to happen before the end of the year. The old firehouse and the future Public Works facility will be done in the future. The Beecher Building Committee is looking into its options for the town’s elementary school. Options, Malloy said, is what this is all about.

At one point Connecticut was heated by wood, he told a student during the question-and-answer period. Then came coal and eventually, oil. “Systems change,” he said, adding that new ventures will create new jobs. “Business models need to change over time.”

The following are remarks by First Selectman Edward Maum Sheehy regarding the Amity Regional High School’s expansion of Natural Gas Lines.

I welcome Governor Malloy and Commissioner Esty to Woodbridge.

I want to publically thank Governor Malloy for the \$500,000 STEAP Grant Woodbridge recently received to renovate our police station and the \$300,000 Small Cities Grant for home rehabilitation.

Today, we focus on natural gas expansion to Woodbridge. This concept began as a suggestion by Dr. Bill Silberberg, a Woodbridge resident, retired pediatrician and former member of the Amity Board of Education to extend the natural gas service from the Jewish Community Center on Amity Road to the Center of Woodbridge to provide the Town with cheaper, cleaner, and more efficient source of energy.

Bill met with me and we then met with Val Ferro of the Southern Connecticut Gas Company and other town representatives and Southern Connecticut Gas agreed to extend the gas line. Construction began in June and was completed in August at no cost to any Town residents or entities. Services extended to the meter on the building. All work inside the building is the responsibility of the owner.

As a result, natural gas is now flowing here at Amity High School and will in the next few months be energizing our Town Center, the Town Hall, Library, Police Station, Firehouse, Center Building, Beecher Road School and our new Public Works facility which will begin construction in the spring. As a further result, the Town will realize substantial savings in energy costs.

In addition, 31 resident customers along the gas line have agreed to switch to natural gas. There are 50 others who are eligible. Also our Lady of Assumption Church (Father Gianelli, Matt Giglietti and Andy Esposito are here) Congregation B’nai Jacob and the Congregational Church will be converting to natural gas.

I would like to thank Joe Hellauer, the Town’s Administrative Officer for serving as the project coordinator for this gas line extension.

I would also like to mention to our friends from the Southern Connecticut Gas that I have received numerous requests from Woodbridge residents to further extend the gas line. I would request and encourage Southern Connecticut Gas to extend the gas line and hope that we can discuss this in the near future.

Finally, in response to the increased number of storms and weather events impacting power supply, Commissioner Esty has proposed among other strategies developing micro grids for critical facilities throughout the state. A micro grid is a self-contained underground power grid with an independent power source for a select group of properties.

Woodbridge was selected by UI as one of two towns in the UI coverage area because of its rural setting, compact town center and natural gas service for a possible location for a micro grid. Woodbridge is currently preparing a project feasibility application to the DEEP for a Micro Grid. Funding for the generation portion is yet to be determined.

We welcome Governor Malloy and Commissioner Esty and support their efforts to reduce energy costs and promote clean energy in our state.

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FROM OUR READERS

Candidates for Spring Election

The Nominating Committee of the Woodbridge Republican Town Committee is seeking candidates to run for political offices in Woodbridge. Woodbridge is one of the few Connecticut Towns that still hold local elections in May of odd numbered years. Our Republican candidates are chosen in January. Serving your community is an honor, rewarding and extremely important to the governance of our Town.

The elected offices in Woodbridge are: First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Beecher Board of Education, Amity Regional Board of Education, Zoning Board of Appeal, Alternate to ZBA, Board of Assessment Appeals.

If you are interested in serving or have questions, please contact Kathy Gartland or Dorothy Martino.



(“Sikorsky” continued from page 1)

lines, getting a bird’s-eye view of helicopter manufacturing.

“Some of these Scouts may one day choose careers in aerospace. We are proud to offer them a chance to visit our facility and spend three exciting days getting familiar with the inner workings of Sikorsky Aircraft,” said David Adler, President, Sikorsky Aerospace Services. “Scouting teaches valuable skills and encourages these young folks to become involved in their communities and to be responsive to the needs of others. We share these values at Sikorsky and welcome the opportunity to help mentor our young scouts,” said Adler, a former assistant scoutmaster and a Connecticut Yankee Council Executive Board member.

“One of the highlights of the event was the outstanding address by the Eagle Scout who attended the very first Camp Sikorsky and who today enjoys his career as an electrical engineer at Sikorsky. His story resonated with our Scouts and has stretched their minds about their own career potential in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math,” said Bill Purcell, President, Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce, and a committee member of Troop 63.

Boy Scout Troop 63, founded in 1963, is one of the oldest Troops in the Connecticut Yankee Council. Our objective is to bring scouting to boys in the Woodbridge, Bethany and surrounding communities. Known as the “outdoor troop” we are active all year. Our outings include all types of camping, hiking, backpacking, skiing, canoe trips, white water rafting as well as cultural events such as visits to historical parks and monuments and much more. We also plan and participate in community service projects each year.

Join the adventure. Join the fun and see what scouting is all about. Meetings are held at Our Lady of the Assumption “Mother” Church located at 1700 Litchfield Turnpike (Rte. 69) in Woodbridge on Monday nights from 7:00 – 8:30 and all boys ages 10 and up or who have completed the fifth grade along with their parents, are encourage to visit. For more information visit our web site at <http://www.troop63.org> or email Troop63CT@gmail.com.

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DPH: It's Not Too Late to Get Vaccinated

This holiday season, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) encourages state residents to give the gift of health and get vaccinated for the flu. "Getting vaccinated for the flu not only helps keep you healthy, but it also helps prevent the spread of the infection," said DPH Commissioner Dr. Jewel Mullen. "It's still not too late to get vaccinated. In Connecticut, the flu season typically peaks sometime between late December and early March, making now a great time to get vaccinated."

State health officials said that less than 48% of Connecticut residents 6 months of age and older were vaccinated last season. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages all people over the age of six months old to be vaccinated. Vaccines are especially encouraged for high-risk groups, including children from 6 months to 18 years of age, women who will be pregnant during the flu season, people at least 50 years old, anyone with certain chronic medical conditions and people who live in nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

This year, the influenza vaccine was added to the state's childhood vaccination program. The Connecticut Vaccination Program (CVP) provides required vaccines at no charge to healthcare providers to immunize all of Connecticut's children, helping to reduce costs and increase access to vaccination. In addition to the influenza vaccine, the CVP also announced the addition of the pneumococcal conjugate and hepatitis A vaccines to the program, covering fourteen of the sixteen vaccines currently recommended by the CDC. "The expansion of the state vaccine program will improve access to important immunizations, including influenza, so that children across the state can be vaccinated on time," said Dr. Mullen.

"Every child has the right to be fully immunized, and we can do better. This expanded program moves us closer to the goal of vaccinating all Connecticut children." Influenza, commonly known as "flu" or "the flu," viruses are constantly changing, making it important to get vaccinated every year. Each flu season, different flu viruses can spread, and they can affect people differently based on differences in their immune system. Even healthy children and adults can get very sick from the flu. Every year it's estimated that more than 200,000 people are hospitalized because of flu-related complications nationwide.

The influenza season runs from October to May, with activity usually peaking between December and March. Vaccination is the most effective way to protect yourself, and others, from the flu. Individuals can continue to be vaccinated throughout the course of the flu season. This year's flu vaccine includes three different strains of the flu virus, including the 2009 H1N1 virus.

Whether you get the flu vaccine or not, there are ways you can avoid the flu this year and stay healthy:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick, too.
- Stay home when you are sick. If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Seek care early. See your healthcare provider immediately if you develop flu symptoms; antiviral medications can help if taken early in the illness.

To get vaccinated for the flu:

- Check with your regular health care provider to see if they have the flu vaccine available.
- Visit the HealthMap Vaccine Finder at <http://flushot.healthmap.org/> to find a flu clinic near you.

For more information on influenza and vaccination, visit the DPH website at www.ct.gov/dph/flu.

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TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Town of Woodbridge

Meetings for the Month of November 2012

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



Town Hall

12/17 Fire Commission	7:00pm	Fire Station
Woodbridge Board of Education.....	7:30pm	Beecher School N.
12/18 Economic Development Comm	6:00pm	Town Hall
12/19 Inland/Wetlands Agency	7:30pm	Town Hall
12/20 Board of Finance	6:00pm	Town Hall
Conservation Commission.....	7:00pm	Town Hall
12/26 Country Club of Wdbg Comm	6:00pm	Town Hall

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Community Christmas Carol Sing & Reception

The First Church of Christ, Woodbridge, invites the community to a carol sing Sunday, December 16, at 3 p.m. "Come sing with us," said the Rev. Dr. Sara Penn-Strah, pastor at First Church. "Our Christmas Carol sing is a family event, and we welcome the Woodbridge community to join us."

Following the Carol Sing, the Women's Fellowship of the First Church invites carolers to a reception in the Parish house adjoining the church. Says Louise Ford, president of the Women's Fellowship, "Fancy foods served at the Carol Sing Reception are baked and prepared by members of the Women's Fellowship and it's always a pleasure to serve the community." Win Davis, veteran of past Carol Sings, will guide carolers through favorite carols as well as a few novelty numbers. Featured at the Sing are soloist Flora Gonzalez and "What's on Tap," a special acappella group introduced by Sarah Davis. First Church is at 5 Meetinghouse Lane.



Woodbridge Recreation Winter Programs

Recreation Office Open: Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm. 203-389-3446.

Monday

BOWLING – Grades K-6 Amity Bowling Center, December 10 thru March 11-Busing to Amity Bowling will be provided and is included in the cost. Cost also includes rental of bowling shoes. Food may be purchased @ refreshment stand at additional cost. Times: 3:15 Leave for bowling and 5:15 pick up at Amity Bowling Center BY PARENTS, Fees: \$100.00/Residents, \$110.00/Non-Residents.

TAEKWONDO – Grades K-6 World Champion Taekwondo, Amity Road, January 7 Thru March 11; Busing to 152 Amity Road will be provided and is included in the cost. 3:15 Leave for Taekwondo and pick up between 4:30 - 5:00 at World Champion Taekwondo at 152 Amity Road BY PARENTS \$150

INDOOR TENNIS – Grades K-6 Beecher So. Gym 3:25 – 4:25 December 10 – February 4; \$100/Residents; \$110/Non-Residents

KUMON - math.reading.success – Grades K-6 January 7 thru March 11 after school math & reading program; Busing to 152 Amity Road will be provided and is included in the cost. 3:15 Leave for Kumon and pick up between 4:30 - 5:00 at Kumon of Woodbridge at 152 Amity Road BY PARENTS \$280
No Programs December 24, 31, January 21, & February 18

Tuesday

BASKETBALL – Grades K-2 Beecher So. Gym December 11 thru March 5; Times: 3:15 to 5:00 PM; Fees: \$85.00/Residents; \$95.00/Non-Residents

LITTLE SCIENTISTS - K-5 3:30-4:15 Beecher So. Assembly Room January 8- March 5 \$148.00

ARTS & CRAFTS – Grades K-6 Recreation Department Office December 11 thru March 5; 3:30 – 4:30 Fees: \$85.00/Residents; \$95.00/Non-Residents
No Programs December 25, January 1, and February 19

Wednesday

INDOOR SOCCER – Grades K-6 Beecher So. Gym December 12 thru March 6; Times: 3:15 to 5:00PM; Fees: \$85.00/Residents; \$95.00/Non-Residents

CHESS – Grades K-6 Recreation Department Office – January 9 thru March 6; Time: 3:30pm-4:30pm; \$70.00/Resident; \$80/Non-Resident

WORLD DANCE – Grades K-6 Beecher Rotunda - January 9 – March 6; Times: 3:30 to 4:30PM; Fees: \$80.00/Residents; \$90.00/Non-Residents
No Programs December 26, and February 20

Thursday

BASKETBALL – Grades 3-6 Beecher So. Gym December 13 thru March 7; Times: 3:15 to 5:00PM; Fees: \$85.00/Residents; \$95.00/Non-Residents

MUSIC MUSINGS – Grades K-2 Beecher So. Classroom; January 10 - March 7; Time: 3:30 – 4:30pm; Fees: \$106.00/Residents; \$116.00/Non-Residents

***KARATE** – Grades K-6 Beecher Rotunda – November 29 thru January 10; \$70.00; 3:30-4:15 *Uniforms not included.
No Programs December 27 and February 21

Friday

FLOOR HOCKEY – Grades 3-6 Beecher So. Gym December 14 thru March 8; Times: 3:15 to 5:00PM; Fees: \$85.00/Residents; \$95.00/Non-Residents
No Programs December 21, 28, and February 22

Saturday

**IF YOU PLAY WEEKDAY BASKETBALL, SATURDAY COST IS ONLY \$20.00*

BASKETBALL - Center Gym; Dates: December 8 thru March 9 (No class January 12)

Grades K-3; Time: 9:00AM to 10:00AM

Grades 4-6; Time: 10:15AM to 12:00 NOON

Fees: \$85.00/Residents; \$95.00/Non-Resident

GYMNASTICS/MOVENASTICS – Beecher So. Gym; Dates: December 8 thru March 9

All Levels: Gymnastics; 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Mommy & Me Movenastics – (3, 4, and 5 years old): 10:30 AM to 11:15 AM

Fees: \$85.00/Residents; \$95.00/Non-Residents

GUITAR LESSONS - Ages 10 & Up Beecher So. Assembly; January 12 thru March 9; 10:00AM TO 11:00AM; \$80.00/Residents; \$90/Non-Residents
No Programs December 22, 29 and February 23

Mail to: Woodbridge Recreation Department, 11 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525

The Woodbridge Recreation Dept. will make reasonable accommodations to include all members of our community. Let us know if you require assistance to participate in any of our programs.

WOODBIDGE LIBRARY



The Woodbridge Library

Holiday Closings: December 25th & January 1st

December Sale @ the Friends Bookstore

The Friends Bookstore is having a sale during the month of December. All hardcover fiction is only \$1.00 each – that’s a 50% savings! All proceeds go to the Friends of the Woodbridge Library.

BOOKSTORE HOURS: Mondays 10:00am to 1:00pm; Tuesdays 10:00am to 1:00pm; 4:00pm to 6:00pm; Saturdays 10:00 am to 1:00pm

Programs for Adults

Christmas Legends: The Folklore and Origins of Today’s Traditions

Tuesday, December 18th @ 7:00pm - From Advent Calendars to the Yule Log, there are many ways we celebrate the holidays, but these traditions all came from somewhere! What do the red and white stripes on a candy cane symbolize? Why do we decorate a tree? Are all of Santa’s reindeer really female? When did Old Saint Nick start delivering presents? And why did he set up shop at the North Pole? Join us for this presentation by the Smoking Gun Research Agency – you might be surprised to find out just how much mystery exists in the celebration of this holiday! This free program is open to the public. Registration is required.

Jewelry Workshop: Bracelet & Earrings with GERALYN TAGATAC

Wednesday, December 19th @ 7:00pm - Just in time for holiday gift-giving! Join us for this hands-on jewelry class. GERALYN TAGATAC will teach you how to create beautiful hand-crafted jewelry. Participants will design and string a bracelet and earrings using a variety of different beads, including semi-precious stones, glass and wood beads, and gold and silver plated beads. You will only be limited by your imagination – let your creativity loose! Class size is limited to 20 and registration is required. An \$8 materials fee is payable to GERALYN at the program.

Programs for Children

Mathemagics with Ethan Brown (for grades 3 and up)

Wednesday, December 26th @ 4:00pm - Mathemagician Ethan Brown performs feats of mental math in his head!! He does faster-than-a-calculator mental mathematics. Quick...what is the square root of 987?? Ethan started performing at a 5th grade talent show and since then he’s amazed audiences all over the world. Come and find out just how much fun math can be! Advance registration is required.

Film Screenings

All film screenings begin @ 7:00pm in our Meeting Room. Screenings are free, open to the public, and seating is on a first come, first served basis.

December 13th – Hope Springs [rated PG-13]

December 20th – Beasts of the Southern Wild [rated PG-13]

December 27th – Arbitrage [rated R]

Art Exhibit

Our December artist of the month is Patty Meglio. Her work will be displayed in both the Meeting Room and on the Mezzanine level of the Library throughout the month of December. To learn more about Patty, please visit her website at www.pattymegliostudio.com or her blog at www.pennpaint.blogspot.com. This exhibit is free and open to the public. All are welcome to visit.

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AMITY MIDDLE SCHOOL – BETHANY CAMPUS

First Marking Period Honor Roll

First Honors 7th Grade

Timothy Amarante
 Harris Anderson
 Michael Ansaldo
 Sophie Baum
 Christopher Bierzowicz
 Andrew Burford
 Quinlann Burke
 Ian Carpenter
 Lauren Chaffkin
 Mai Chen
 Michelle Cheng
 Allison Christensen
 Megan Ciarleglio
 Merin Cooper
 Eliza Crane
 Edward Criscuolo
 Jacqueline DeGennaro
 Marco Delsanto
 Michael DiMatteo
 Howard Ding
 Olivia Dittman
 Weixin Du
 Tugrul Durdu
 Samantha Fleischman
 Kayleigh Foley
 Melissa Ford
 Jessica Foster
 Elizabeth Frieden
 Jaichen Gao
 Daniel Gomez
 Jacob Gross
 Deepak Gupta
 Amanda Hendrick
 Qingli Hu
 Jack Iannantuoni
 Andrew Johnson
 Ananya Kachru
 Natasha Kaluzynski
 Hannah Kim
 Joseph Kiwanis
 Christina Lee
 Mallory Liete
 George Liang
 Arianne Lilley
 Benjamin Lodewick
 Ayaan Malik
 Gabrielle Marcarelli
 Ryan McManus
 Morgan Meehan
 Henry Molot
 Morgan Kelsey
 Harrison Paek
 Antonio Pellegrino
 Faith Philipot
 Dean Pocwierz
 Danielle Reynolds
 Lucy Richter
 Sarah Richter
 Jacob Rizzutti
 Colin Roy
 Benjamin Sauberman
 Emma Scanlon
 Trevor Schultz
 Anastasia Shnyakin
 Jacob Silliman
 Maxine Squinto
 Jillian Stanford
 Joseph Sugarmann
 Morgan Sullivan
 Sally Thach
 Dane Walsh
 Jillianne Wisnewski
 Kevin Yanagisawa
 Kevin Zhao

First Honors 8th Grade

Victoria Acampora
 Valeria Asprelli
 Zachary Babbitz
 Thomas Barone
 Jimmy Bi
 Camryn Brown
 Alicia Chen
 Connor Henry
 Emily Criscuolo
 Taylor DiRienzo
 Beck DeYoung
 Dausen Fertman
 Lucy Frenkel
 Alexander Friedman
 Katie Goclowski
 Charlotte Gorham
 Elise Grabowski
 Aviva Green
 Theodore Hague
 Katherine Handler
 James He
 Matthew Hill
 Olivia Jacobs
 Sara Jadbabaie
 Arnaaz Khwaja
 Matthew Kirschbaum
 Dahne Kreiger
 Zhi Kang Li
 Joyce Lin
 Luiza Livingston
 Evelyn Luciani
 Oriana Mack
 Bailey MacNamara
 Matthew Merriam
 Julia Nadelmann
 Anastasia Novitski
 Neha Pashankar
 Nicholas Reis
 John Sandberg
 Sergey Savelyev
 Sarah Saxe
 Olga Shevelkina
 Jacquelyn Smith
 Jacqueline Snow
 Andre Sofair
 Zoe Sottile
 Stephanie Sutton
 Felicia Thomas
 Kathleen Walsh
 Lillian Zhang

Second Honors 7th Grade

Adam Ammar
 Lenny Bamberg
 Dennis Charles
 Jordon Conn
 Louis Criscuolo
 Caitlyn Floyd
 Nichols Huribal
 Kathleen Jiang
 Claire Lane
 David Lucarelli
 Alana Mosley
 Sophia Pan
 Sean Park
 Emma Piorkowski
 Kaitlyn Price
 Yosef Shteirman
 Harrison Silver
 Benjamin Xu

Second Honors 8th Grade

Marina Amendola
 Lauren Bollier
 Jena Casman
 Rosalee Chan
 Saniyah Dar
 Olivia Fama
 Emma Gilshannon
 Andrew Hague
 Jessica Hauser
 Adam Hurwitz
 Jacob Keyes
 Megan Laydon
 Emily Merly
 Mitchell O'Neill
 Michaela Seales
 Desiree Torres
 Anna Zaharewicz

Citizenship Award – 7th Grade

Timothy Amarante	Eva Glassman	Clare Pasley
Harris Andersen	Deepak Gupta	Danielle Reynolds
Sophie Baum	Amanda Henrick	Jacob Rizzutti
Lauren Chaffkin	Natasha Kaluzynski	Jillian Stanford
Edward Criscuolo	Joseph Kiwanis	Elise Stirling
Jacqueline DeGennaro	Jill Levine	Morgan Sullivan
Marco Delsanto	Ryan McManus	Dane Walsh
Olivia Dittman	Lauren Merly	Jessica Wang
Elizabeth Frieden	Kelsey Morgan	

Citizenship Award – 8th Grade

Victoria Acampora	Aviva Green	Anthony Mastrangelo
Marina Amendola	Andrew Hague	Matthew Merriam
Zachary Babbitz	Theodore Hague	Julia Nadelmann
Connor Black	Katherine Handler	Neha Pashankar
Mikel Bouls	Jessica Hauser	Sarah Saxe
Camryn Brown	Emma Gilshannon	Olga Shevelkina
Jean-Marie Cassidy	Olivia Jacobs	Jacquelyn Smith
Vincent Civarella	Sara Jadbabaie	Jacqueline Snow
Connor Henry	Khwaja Arnaaz	Zoe Sottile
Alexander Gentile	Zhi Kang Li	Stephanie Sutton
Shane Gordon	Daphne Kreiger	Alexander Tzezos
Charlotte Gorham	Evelyn Luciani	Kathleen Walsh
Elise Grabowski	Bailey MacNamara	
	Theodore Maranats	

Congratulations To All The Honor Roll Students!



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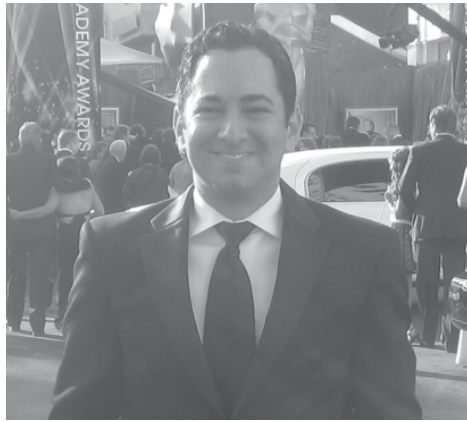
Laura Fantarella

Every February, when Oscar night rolls around, Scott Feinberg is as excited and apprehensive as any of the glamorous celebrity nominees sitting in the audience. It's the night that defines his career, when his reputation is on the line, his skills put to the test, his performance judged. But Feinberg is not an actor, a director, or anyone else involved in the making of a movie -- he's an awards analyst who makes a living predicting the outcome of Oscar night well before the broadcasts.

It is a dream job for the Westward Road resident who never expected his passion for movies would parlay into a career. Today, at just 26-years-old, Feinberg is among the youngest analysts in the industry and among the best, running the awards blog, "The Race," contributing the weekly "Feinberg Forecast" and A-list interviews to the iconic Hollywood Reporter and maintaining a popular industry website, ScottFeinberg.com. "A whole year of my work comes to a head on Oscar Night. You are either right or you're wrong, you showed you know what you are talking about or you had a bad year," Feinberg said. "If I correctly predict as many nominees and winners as possible, it means I was able to get a good read on the tastes of the Academy, which I spend a lot of time trying to do. It's the greatest feeling in the world when I can predict something my competitors did not. But sometimes rules are broken, I get it wrong and that's very disappointing." So far his instincts have served him well. His best year was in 2006 when he predicted 21 of the 24 Oscar winners of 2005, and even in his worst year he still made an impressive 17 correct predictions of the 24 nominees.

After years of upholding his tradition of watching the award's ceremony alone behind closed doors, this past year he "exempted his own rule" to enjoy the experience of a lifetime -- a seat in the audience at the Oscars. "I'm a tough person to watch the Oscars with. If someone is saying, 'Oh, that's a nice dress,' or 'I'm happy for so and so,' it's very distracting and annoying! I had covered it from a press box before but to actually be in the room was a thrill and I am so grateful," he said. "They could have put me behind a pillar with three, tall, fat people in front of me and it would have been thrilling. It was a huge treat." He's pretty sure he witnessed Oscar history, as Meryl Streep became a three-time Oscar winner, a black and white film (The Artist) won Best Picture and Billy Crystal may have hosted the event for the last time.

These days, he regularly interviews the biggest names in the business, such as Meryl Streep, George Clooney, Oprah and last month, the director Steven Spielberg, writer



Feinberg on the set of the 2012 Oscars.

Tony Kushner and cast of Lincoln, including Daniel Day Lewis, and Sally Field. Nevertheless, he has yet to not be awed by the experience. "I'm a movie fan, first and foremost," he said, "so of course I find many of these opportunities pretty surreal. I have to pinch myself quite often!"

Looking back, Feinberg can pinpoint exactly when and why he developed his penchant for film that would eventually lead him from the Woodbridge Town Library to Hollywood's Red Carpet, a journey that was a "long time in the making." He was a ninth grader at Amity Junior High, and an avid trivia buff that enjoyed playing along with the then-TV hit, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." But when he was stumped by a question about four movie classics -- Citizen Kane, The Godfather, Gone with the Wind and Casablanca, Feinberg realized there was an entire genre of trivia he just wasn't familiar with. So he made a trip to the Woodbridge Town Library, checked out all four films and prepared to hunker down and "suffer through them."

"I was shocked to find out I loved them!" Feinberg said. "So I decided I would watch every movie on the American Film Institute's list of the '100 Greatest Movies of All Time,' and then the Academy's list of Oscar movies," he said. From then on he became a frequent visitor at the town library and local video stores, systematically renting the movies on the list. What he found was the movies, even the "dreaded black and whites," far exceeded his expectations and he wanted to share his discoveries with his friends. "It was frustrating because I couldn't call a friend to say, 'Hey do you want to watch Dr. Zhivago? I began to wish other young people would give these old movies a shot,'" he said. "I really wanted to figure out a way to get them into it and thought perhaps writing a book -- young person to young person -- would be the way." So in his spare time and throughout school vacations, Feinberg began to research and contact old timers, actors who had starred in movies as far back as the 1920s. "I didn't start with the Oscar winners, I started with those who had interesting roles but were not necessarily famous, like several of the munchkins from the Wizard of Oz, and Kenny Baker, the actor who was inside R2D2 in Star Wars," he said. Amongst his hundreds of interviews are ones with the last surviving actress from Citizen Kane, Ruth Warrick; and Clair Bloom who starred in Charlie Chaplin movies. Meanwhile his movie-watching hobby was garnering local interest and he was contacted by WTNH to ap-

("LOtB" continued on page 19)



Lori Patrick, Library Media Specialist at Beecher Road School, is one of several teachers and teacher assistants who also work in the Extended Day program after school.

Before & After School Program Benefits Both Parents & Students

For 20 years Beecher Road School (BRS) students have been enriched before and after school in a unique program called Extended Day. Run under the authority of the Woodbridge Board of Education, this fee-based tuition program opens every school day at 7:30 a.m. for early arrivals and remains open until 6:00 each evening. With over 30 children attending in the morning, and 140 in the afternoon, Extended Day hums with activity and learning.

The program's goal is to ensure children are safe and happy while their parents are working or otherwise engaged. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Guy Stella likens the program to "a neighborhood, where everyone knows everyone and they play together and learn together." Furthermore, he says, "Though after school programs are common across the country, a hallmark of our Extended Day is that it is staffed with the same teachers and teaching assistants who work with the children during the school day." Former BRS attendees, now in high school or college, also assist.

Catherine Salinardi, teacher at the school and director of Extended Day, says, "This program is a blend of academic support, personal growth, and supervised play for our children. Whether they're playing sports, swimming, creating computer games, working artistically, or just having fun with friends, the program brings students together in a safe and nurturing atmosphere."

Extended Day uses the full resources of the school including the cafeteria, library, technology center, art room, gym, fitness room, and swimming pool as well as the outside playgrounds, track loop, and gardens that the students help maintain. BRS Principal, Gina Prisco, knows, "It is a comfort for parents to know their child is safe and involved in enriching activities while they tend to their adult responsibilities."

Parents can even use the program 43 days during the year when there is no school. That includes many holidays, all school vacations, and 29 days during the summer. These non-school days provide coverage from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. so children can continue to experience the social, physical, cultural, and academic growth that is associated with Beecher Road School. Research shows that children who attend quality before or after school programs benefit in many ways, including: personal attention from caring adults, opportunities to explore new interests, academic support, development of a sense of belonging to a group, new friendships with peers, opportunities for leadership roles, and a sense of self-esteem independent of their academic talent.

Because family tuition fees fund this program, there is no impact on the Board of Education budget. For more information or to register your Beecher Road School child in Extended Day, go to the district website at www.woodbridge.k12.ct.us and click on Student Programs/Extended Day.

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With Joseph Crisco



Reimbursement for Superstorm Sandy Costs and Losses

In the time since Superstorm Sandy blasted our state I have reminded residents that since the storm had been officially downgraded prior to its destructive impact on Connecticut, insurers are not permitted to assess higher deductibles reserved for actual hurricanes. The distinction is spelled out in Public Act 12-162, enacted earlier this year, which I co-sponsored and which also earned unanimous votes in each chamber of the legislature.

The intent is to protect consumers from more expensive hurricane provisions of their policies if and when the damage their property sustained is caused by a lesser storm. The silver lining in the dark clouds of Sandy is that provisions of this new law have come into play so soon after enactment. This new law applies to virtually all property and casualty insurance policies.

On a related topic, area residents who might qualify for federal disaster assistance must register with FEMA by the end of December to be considered. Application forms can be accessed at this Web site: www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA. Information about available state resources is obtainable at www.ct.gov/sandy.

The Continuing Scourge of Childhood Obesity

Recently published reports paint an increasingly worrisome picture of childhood obesity in Connecticut. News that more than one-third of preschool students in Hartford are either overweight or obese underscores the fact that fully one-quarter of all high school students statewide face the same health concerns (<http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3137&q=393114>).

Physiological risks to overweight children range from bone and joint problems to hypertension and diabetes, and experts warn there are social and emotional health risks as well. Withdrawal, depression, and a negative body image can lead to learning problems and an overall decreased quality of life. Compounding all this is an idea that as childhood obesity becomes more and more prevalent, our culture will become more and more accepting of it. This poses a great risk not only to those individuals, but to our system that must cope with the healthcare and societal fallout.

To stem this tide all key recommendations center around good nutrition, healthy eating behaviors, and increased physical activity. To the extent we adhere to these recommendations we will address the looming crisis embodied in childhood obesity.

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Feinberg serving as moderator with the cast from Lincoln.

(“LotB” continued from page 17)

pear on air in a segment predicting the year’s Oscars. What began as a puff piece turned more serious when studio executives realized that the 15-year-old knew a thing or two about the movies. “I wasn’t as good as I am now, but I had the beginnings of knowing what I was talking about,” he said. It was the start of an annual Oscar-time invitation from the local station which Feinberg continues today, but now he has an official title, “WTNH Awards Analyst.”

Feinberg realized that he didn’t just love old movies, he loved great movies and he was starting to develop a following of enthusiasts who were actually interested in his predictions and opinions. He started his own blog, initially called Andthewinneris.com and before long he was receiving messages from studios like Paramount and Warner Brothers inviting him to film screenings. Still just a kid, now a student at Brandeis University in Boston, Feinberg worried his age would prevent him from being taken seriously. “Luckily I had a deep voice so I sounded older on the phone and I worked up the nerve to go to the press events,” he said. One opportunity led to another and by the time he graduated from college there was an offer from the LA Times newspaper to be its awards specialist. When budget cuts threatened his position, he was offered his current job at the Hollywood Reporter. “All my friends think all I do is go to parties, interviews and movies, but it’s actually a lot of work,” Feinberg said. “But it’s work I love to do, I was doing it long before I was paid for it and if I could pick any job in the world, this would be it.”

When things slow down a bit, Feinberg still plans to pull together that book that will encourage young people to take an interest in old Hollywood and there’s still a few Oscar winning movies he hasn’t seen yet. “I’m glad there are more movies to look forward to, I’d feel sad if I’d seen everything that’s out there,” he said.

Woodbridge Town News Exclusive
Feinberg’s Picks!

Remember you heard it here first! Although it is still months away from Oscar night and this is by no means official, Hollywood Reporter’s Scott Feinberg’s picks at this point are: **Best Picture: Feinberg:** “Too close to call. It’s a very close race this year with no clear frontrunner at this time. But I am quite confident that the best picture Oscar will go to one of five films: Lincoln, Argo, Les Miserables, Silver Linings Playbook, or Zero Dark Thirty.

Best Actor: Daniel Day Lewis, Lincoln. **Feinberg:** “The only thing working against him is he would become the first to win three-time Best Actor winner and he’s only 55, so some might say he has 30 more years of great performances ahead of him and we should give someone else a chance—maybe Hugh Jackman for Les Mis or Denzel Washington for Flight. But if I had a gun to my head I’d say Lewis.”

Best Actress: Jennifer Lawrence, Silver Linings Playbook. **Feinberg:** “At 22 she would be younger than most people who have won in this category, but she has received nearly universal praise for her performance in this very likable film, and I don’t think that Jessica Chastain (Zero Dark Thirty), Marion Cotillard (Rust and Bone), or Quvenzhané Wallis (Beasts of the Southern Wild) are likely to catch her.”

Feinberg’s Favorite Movies: Feinberg, “These are not the films that I think are the 10 greatest, but rather the 10 that I could re-watch forever, listed chronologically.” “City Lights” (1931) “Citizen Kane” (1941) “Casablanca” (1943) “Brief Encounter” (1945) “The Searchers” (1956) “To Kill a Mockingbird” (1962) “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” (1975) “Sideways” (2004) “The Diving Bell and the Butterfly” (2007) “Blue Valentine” (2010).

Among most notable interview/Q&A subjects: Michael Caine, George Clooney, the Coen brothers, Matt Damon, Daniel Day-Lewis, Kirk Douglas, Robert Duvall, Jane Fonda, Dustin Hoffman, Nicole Kidman, Keira Knightley, Madonna, Natalie Portman, Daniel Radcliffe, Mickey Rooney, Martin Scorsese, Aaron Sorkin, Steven Spielberg, Meryl Streep, Quentin Tarantino, Justin Timberlake, Harvey Weinstein, and Oprah Winfrey.



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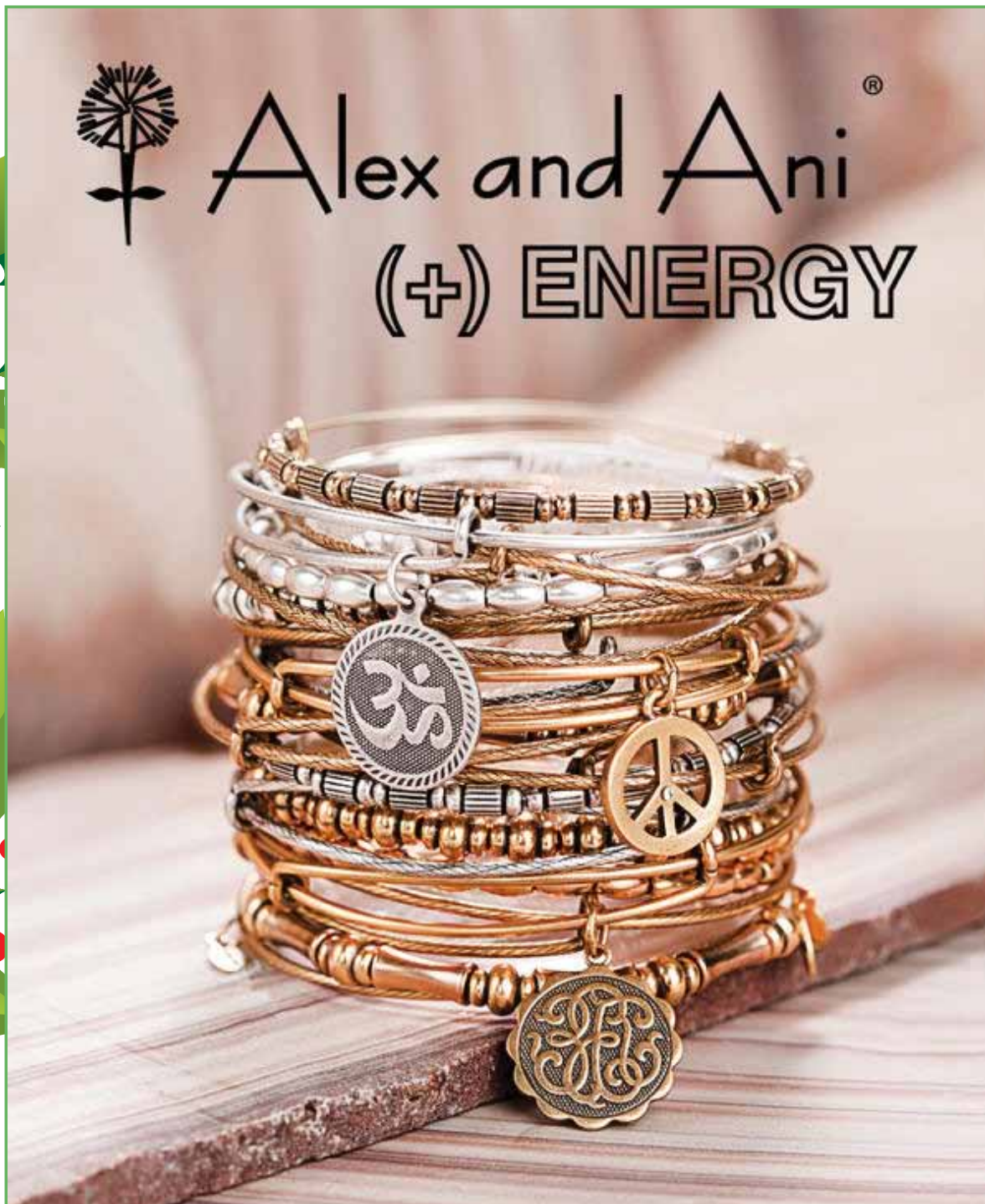



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From the Youth Services Coordinator *By Nancy Pfund*



Photography class instructor Luciana McClure works with students in the afterschool program at Amity Middle School computer Lab. The program is sponsored by Woodbridge Youth Services and the Town of Bethany.

Digital Photography for Teens - With instructor Luciana McClure

On-going enrollment: This is an introductory class on digital photography for Amity Middle School-Bethany students who want to get the most out of their digital cameras and improve their photographic skills as well as for those more experienced students who want to enhance their skills. The class is offered on Thursday afternoons in the computer lab at the Middle School from 2:25pm-3:55pm.

The course will cover camera basics while working through creative assignments on composition, natural and artificial light and color. Students will work in Adobe Photoshop in the computer lab learning professional techniques to maximize their photography. Participants will print their best photos each week to build their portfolios. Weekly projects will allow plenty of time for experimentation. If a student does not have access to a camera, arrangements may be made. Learn about the many careers in photography. A materials fee of \$60.00 per student must be paid in advance and will be pro-rated if a student joins the class later in the ten week session. A discount for siblings and financial assistance available for qualifying families may be arranged. Class will run through January 31st with a make-up date on February 7, 2013. For more information, to sign up and to complete permission slip, please call Youth Services at 203-389-3429 or email youthone@woodbridge.org . Register today and join in when you can.

Fun Fitness Cooking - With instructor Donald Stankus Jr.

Learn how to cook in a hands-on, fun environment! This 10 week class is offered in the Middle School's kitchen after school on Tuesdays from 2:25-3:55pm. Class is limited to 12 participants. Each student receives a notebook with recipes, nutrition and food safety information, a glossary of techniques and terms and an apron. We'll start with basic skills and techniques and enhance the fundamentals to help develop a lifetime of great cooking and creativity.

- Make and eat healthy and nutritious food
- Learn about foods from many cultures
- Prepare party foods, healthy snacks
- Learn to create garnishes and develop food decorating skills
- Bring home what you make to share with your family

A great after school activity! The materials fee of \$80.00 per student must be paid in advance and will be pro-rated if a student joins in later in the ten week class. A discount for siblings and financial assistance is available for qualifying families. Class continues Tuesdays through January 22nd with a make-up date of Jan. 29, 2013. For more information, to sign up and to complete permission slip, please call Youth Services at 203-389-3429 or email youthone@woodbridge.org . Visit our website for the flyer at www.woodbridge.org under Youth services. Register today and join in when you can.

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"Dining with Susan"

By Susan Noonan



Spooner's Family Restaurant & Pizza

Spooner's Family Restaurant & Pizza has been located on busy Whalley Avenue in the Westville section of New Haven since 1987; originally owned by a gentleman named Kevin Spooner (I was always curious where the name came from). I am happy to report that all the construction that held up traffic and impacted the area businesses for months in that area of Whalley Avenue is now completed. Everything seems to be in place and the local merchants are pleased with the improvements. Especially Volkan Gokkiyas, a very charming and ambitious businessman who has owned Spooner's for 6 years. I had an opportunity to sit down with him at the restaurant to discuss his very special success story. Volkan's father Huseyin came to the United States from Istanbul, Turkey in 1994 and settled in Meriden, CT. He was able to bring the rest of his family over in 1999 including wife Rukiye, and sons Volkan and Serkan. Volkan was only 19 years old when he arrived in the United States but he had a dream of owning his own home and business. He immediately went to work for a manufacturing company in Meriden and was mentored by some of his older co-workers who encouraged him to follow his dream. Not only did he purchase his own home, but in 2006 was able to buy Spooner's. The venture is definitely a family operation as dad, mom & brother assist Volkan in the operation of this well known spot in Westville.



Spooner's menu has so much to offer including appetizers, fresh salads, seasonal soups, buffalo wings, pasta, hot & cold grinders, wraps, sandwiches, burgers (they only use Angus Beef), pasta dishes, deep fried dinners, calzones, garlic bread, desserts, beverages and, of course, its popular pizza! Volkan mentioned that the most popular items include its Spooner Special Gourmet Pizza featuring pepperoni, bacon, sausage, onion, mushroom, tomato, Chef & Antipasto Salads, Meatball & Steak grinders, just to name a few. My co-workers loved Spooner's party pizza with 24 slices that I brought into the office for a lunch treat. Quality & freshness is the top priority to Volkan along with customer satisfaction. He definitely will go out of his way to accommodate all his customers.

The majority of Spooner's business is pick-up and delivery, but also offers a very pleasant dining room that can seat up to 50 guests for regular dining or private parties (kid's birthdays, showers, business meetings, etc.). Great spot to go after a sporting event as the restaurant is now serving beef & wine in the dining room. Spooner's also provides the food for "Auntie Carol's Café" located at A-1 Toyota - 50 Amity Road (right down the road) in New Haven offering many of its menu items to the employees and customers of this busy auto dealership. This unique café is open M-F from 7:30am-5:00pm & Sat. until 3:00pm featuring breakfast items in addition to sandwiches & pizza. Spooner's menu has something for everyone, either in your office or family. Great to have lunch or dinner delivered at your convenience or call and have the order ready for pick up on your way to the office or home.

Open 7 days - Sunday-Thursday - 11am-11pm - Friday & Saturday 11am-Midnight

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Final notes: Volkan and his family feel that "quality never goes out of style". They work very hard to please all their customers with a new modern menu. Spooner's features New Haven style pizza, reasonable prices along with catering to today's busy lifestyle. Make a visit soon or call for delivery to this well established restaurant in Westville. Remember to support our local family owned businesses! If you have a favorite restaurant e-mail susan@woodbridgetownnews.com.

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Mark Deklin

Q: Ever since "GCB" was canceled, I've scoured the networks to find some of my favorite actors on other series. I haven't seen **Mark Deklin** on anything recently, so I wondered if you could tell me what he is up to. N- Gigi W., via email

A: Mark recently filmed a guest spot on "Castle" (it is episode 10, which is set to air in early January), where he plays a man whose girlfriend is found dead. Later in 2013 (an exact date has not been set yet), you can see Mark on the big screen in a live-action version of "Tarzan."

Mark told me about the film and his character, John Greystoke: "It's not the Victorian 'Tarzan' that we all grew up with. It's a modern take on it. My character is almost like a **Richard Branson** type -- a wealthy but well-intentioned adventurer and entrepreneur. He discovers there's a serious energy source -- a sort of meteorite, which crashed in Africa -- and he wants to find it."

"He brings his family with him, which of course is a stupid decision, but I suppose in the moment it doesn't seem stupid because he doesn't go thinking he's going to die. He ends up unleashing a mystical force that he never could have anticipated, and everything goes south."

Q: I just rented "The Queen of Versailles" and was mesmerized by the story of **David Siegel**, his wife, **Jackie**, his family, and his struggle to save his time-share/real-estate business. Do you have any updates on how he is doing now? -- George F., Naples, Fla.

A: David recently made national news when he sent a memo to his employees encouraging them to vote for

Mitt Romney in the recent presidential elections. But, politics aside, David was quoted in a Reuters interview this past summer: "We're the most profitable we've ever been." He also is continuing work on his family's new home, which is modeled on the Palace of Versailles in France. In fact, just before the movie's premiere, David filed a defamation suit over the film's portrayal of his business as failing, asserting that some of the film's scenes were staged or exaggerated."

Q: When will "Merlin" return to Syfy? -- Felix S., via e-mail

A: Season five of the popular fantasy series, which premieres Friday, Jan. 4, at 10 p.m. ET on Syfy, will be the final season of the show. Executive producers (**Johnny Capps** and **Julian Murphy**) promise fans that "Merlin" is "leading to a spectacular finale that draws on the best-known elements of this much-loved story, and brings to a conclusion the battle for Camelot."

Q: Will there be an "Avengers" sequel? -- Paul G., Tulsa, Okla.

A: After "The Avengers" smashed all sorts of box-office records this summer, you can bet there will be a sequel. "The Avengers 2" is set to premiere May 1, 2015, with the original cast, as well as some new faces.

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com.

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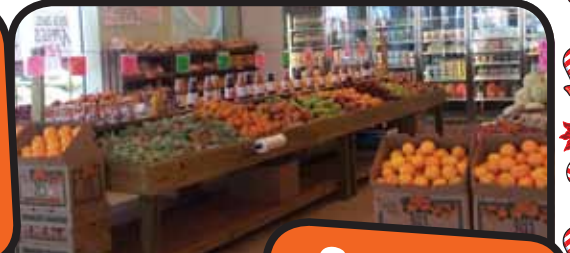
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HISTORY CORNER

With Muffy German

A “Darling” Christmas

At the Historical Society’s recent open house, Thomas Darling’s home was decked out with wreaths, greens and glass balls on the mantles, and swags of greenery up the staircase. In the Victorian parlor antique ornaments, cloth animals stuffed with batting, paper cornucopias and small candles were affixed to the widely spaced branches of a cedar tree. The organist from the Congregational Church played the piano. Antique sleds, skates, dolls and small beautifully printed books were displayed throughout the house. Visitors were served cookies and hot cider or cold punch and the Chamber Singers from Amity High School massed on the stairway to sing carols. Would all this revelry have pleased Mr. Darling?

Most likely he would have found such celebrating strange and unsettling. Under the influence of the Puritan revolution in England in the 1640s, Christian holy days were not recognized in New England in the 18th century. The Massachusetts Bay Colony had gone so far as to pass a law against celebrating Christmas. Although it was repealed in 1681, holiday observance remained uncommon outside of cities before the 19th century. On December 25, farm work went on as usual as recorded in Darling’s day book.

In spite of the absence of Christmas festivities, music played a prominent role in the Sunday services at the Congregational meetinghouse. The Parish of Amity was voted into existence by the Connecticut General Assembly in October of 1738; the first meetinghouse was built in 1740; and the first “chorister,” John Horton, was chosen from the congregation on March 3, 1743. At that time the singing consisted of unadorned chanting of metrical psalms. The church’s first music com-



mittee, including Thomas Darling, was formed in 1786 and charged with hiring a singing master to oversee a “singing school”. Early musical instruments used in the church included bass viols, one of which is on display at the Darling House, and a melodeon possibly made in Woodbridge at the Fiske and Randall Shop on Litchfield Turnpike. Ladies of the congregation including Miss Emily Perkins and Miss Eliza Hotchkiss were paid an honorarium to play the melodeon at Sunday services. The present day organ was a gift of Mary Clark Treat in 1891.

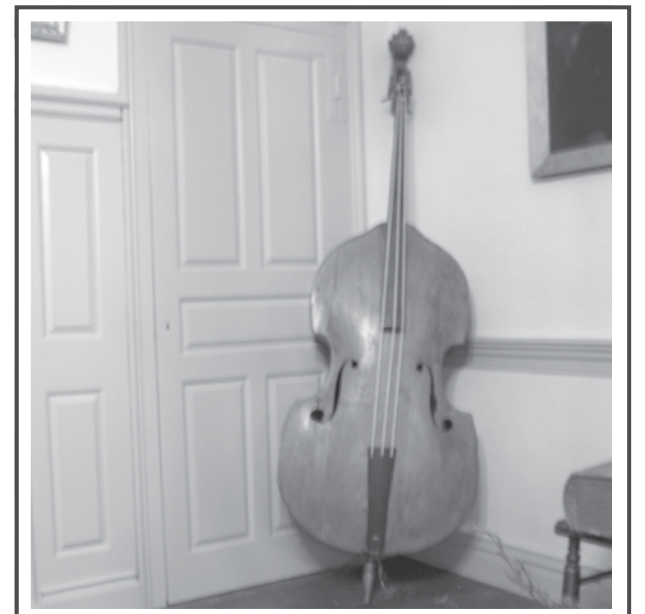
Christmas trees, decorations, cards and gift giving were for the most part products of the Victorian era. Literature and commerce joined forces to ignite interest in formal Christmas celebrating. Beautifully bound and illustrated “gift books” of poetry, essays and stories for ladies and children were produced annually in Britain beginning in 1823. The first American version was published in 1825 and by 1840 more were printed in the U.S. than England. They contained works by such popular authors as Longfellow, Stowe, Emerson, Poe and Irving. Moore’s “A Visit from

Saint Nicholas” (1821) and Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” (1843) were equally popular. While the gift book craze faded by the mid-1800s, the urge to exchange gifts at Christmas carried on.

In 1850 the first American Christmas cards were printed by Pease Great Variety Store in Albany as tokens from the business to its customers. It wasn’t until twenty years later that there was widespread public acceptance of sending holiday cards, especially the handsome ones designed by Louis Prang. Businesses sought to attract Christmastime customers with specially designed window displays. Macy’s in New York has done this annually since its opening in 1858.

The tradition of decorated evergreens came to America on a small scale through German immigrants. The vogue for Christmas trees grew with published descriptions of them from Europe culminating in the 1848 illustration of Queen Victoria and her German husband, Prince Albert, and their children standing around a decorated tree in Windsor Castle. The tree was a fir “about eight feet high with six tiers of branches, each with a dozen wax tapers and decorations, most of which were edible, with an angel at the top...”. Today the Woodbridge Boy Scouts raise funds through selling Christmas trees on the grounds of the old firehouse on Meetinghouse Lane.

Thus, while Thomas (1720-1789) would not have understood our open house, his grandson (1794-1872) and namesake might look down from his portrait with more benevolent familiarity. To learn more about the subject, register at the Woodbridge Library for the December 18th (7 p.m.) program, “Christmas Legends: The folklore and origins of today’s traditions”.



Thomas Darling’s desk with Victorian Christmas books, a melodeon from the Fiske and Randall Shop c. 1860; a bass viol from the Congregational Church

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Jewish Unity Concert

The Jewish Community of Greater New Haven is proud to announce the "Jewish Unity Concert," which will take place on the 8th day of Chanukah, Sunday December 16, 2012 at the Lyman Center for Performing Arts at Southern Connecticut State University, 501 Crescent Street, New Haven. Doors open at 3:30; concert begins at 4:00.

JFACT, the Jewish Federation Association of CT, representing all nine federations in the state, will be honoring our retiring senior Senator Joseph I. Lieberman at the concert. The tribute is in recognition for the decades of service provided by Senator Lieberman to our country, our state and the CT Jewish Community. Regarded as Israel's best friend in the U.S. Senate, the Jewish Ledger joins the CT Federations in honoring Senator Lieberman upon his retirement. JFACT will present a gift to the Senator and all CT Federations are encouraged to join in the festivities. Senator Lieberman will offer brief remarks.

The concert will feature 8th Day and the Maccabeats. 8th Day is one of the hottest new bands in Jewish music today infusing rock, blues, reggae with its inimitable vocal harmonies and uplifting lyrics. Fans all over the world have been raving about this Southern California based Jewish rock group. They have performed hundreds of shows across the globe, including Lincoln Center, American Airlines Arena (Miami), Australia, Hong Kong and many more.

The Maccabeats Premier A Cappella group has performed all over the world, from Alabama to (New) Zealand, including the White House. In addition, they are a YouTube sensation with over 7.5 million hits on their "Candlelight" music video, which earned them a special appearance on The Today Show.

This event is cosponsored by Chabad Centers of Greater New Haven, JCC of Greater New Haven and Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy. The concert promises to be entertaining for all members of the community.

Chanukah is the holiday which celebrates the victory of right over might, and religious freedom over tyranny. It is most appropriate for these organizations, all of which promote Jewish unity, to join together for this community-wide celebration.

Tickets can be purchased by phone: The John Lyman Box Office (203) 392-6154 or online: jewishunityconcert.com. Tickets in Advance: Adults \$12, Children 12 & under \$8. Tickets at the Door: Adults \$15, Children 12 & under \$10. VIP Tickets: Single Ticket \$36, Family VIP package of four \$118. For more information, email info@jewishunityconcert.com.

Adult Ed Programs at Congregation B'nai Jacob

On Sunday, January 6 at 10AM, come hear noted author, professor and Professional Trainer at the ADL of Difference Institute, Hadar Lubin, MD, as she presents a multi-media program on: Contemporary Anti-Semitism: Can you read the writing on the wall? Lubin is on the Board of Trustees at The Jewish Federation of Western CT, Chair of the Israel Advocacy Committee at B'nai Israel, a Capital and Congressional Club member at AIPAC and the Recipient of the 2012 Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Award. Her CBJ presentation will illustrate how contemporary anti-Semitism manifests itself on American college campuses, in discussions of America's foreign policy, world opinion and in the media.

Professionally, Lubin is the Co-Director, Post Traumatic Stress Center of New Haven and an Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine. She's the author of Trauma-Centered Group Psychotherapy for Women, (Haworth Press, 2008) and a leading expert on the treatment of trauma-related disorders.

Audience members will have the opportunity to take part in a Q&A immediately following the presentation.

On Friday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m, CBJ invites the community to a very special Shabbat service to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Our featured speaker will be Robert Burns Stepto, who is a member of the Yale faculty in African American Studies, American Studies and English since 1974. He will speak about: Shared Vision of the Promised Land. Through citing various literary narratives and historical events, Stepto will compare the many experiences that confronted both Eastern European Jews and African Americans in their quest for the American Dream. How have our cultures transitioned and adapted? What have we learned? And where do we go from here?

Stepto's principal fields are American and African American autobiography, fiction, poetry and visual arts since 1840. He has also served on numerous editorial boards, national literary committees, and has been a featured lecturer at conferences here and abroad. This fascinating program takes place at 8:15-9:00pm., immediately following 7:30pm Friday night services.

For more information, visit-- www.bnaijacob.org, or call (203) 389-2111.

Hanukkah at Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven

Come join the fun and celebrate Shabbat Hanukkah at Temple Emanuel, 150 Derby Avenue, Orange. On Friday, December 14, we will welcome Shabbat with a music-filled service led by Rabbi Michael Farbman and the Temple Emanuel Band, light our chanukiot together and enjoy a delicious latke dinner with family and friends. All are welcome to participate in this joyous annual event. The service begins at 6pm; dinner reservations can be made by calling the Temple office at 203-396-3000 or on the TE website: www.templeemanuel-gnh.org.



Temple Emanuel

Our Hanukkah celebration is just one of many exciting events for families, individuals and children of all ages at Temple Emanuel. Recent programs include our multi-generational sukkah build and family sukkot program, highlighted by an adult study session, the creation of decorations for the TE sukkah and a family-style potluck dinner. Simchat Torah was marked by another family program including adult study, the consecration of new religious school students and the opportunity for everyone in our community to dance with the Torah, with musical accompaniment by members of the TE Band. All of our events end with our famously tasty onegs.

For more information about Temple Emanuel programs, please go to www.templeemanuel-gnh.org, or call the office at 203-397-3000.

Pasta Dinner on Saturday

The public is warmly invited to attend a Jazz Vespers Service followed by a Pasta Dinner at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 680 Race Brook Road, Orange, on Saturday, December 15, at 5 p.m. The exciting and entertaining event will be held to raise money for the Nambale Magnet School in western Kenya. A suggested donation is \$10 per person/\$20 per family.



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Amity Students Invited to Boston Science Symposium

By Laura Fantarella - Woodbridge Town News Correspondent

Developing cutting edge technology that could eventually make algae a viable source of biodiesel fuel or discovering a way to use polymer plastic to create synthetic human organs that may revolutionize the organ donation system are hardly typical high school curriculum topics. But Amity Regional High School's Science Research Program gives seniors like Tanay Lathia and Satish Bhat the freedom to indulge their love of science without limits, enabling them to take on research projects as involved as any scientist.

The research the two conducted for their classwork led to a recent invitation to attend an international science symposium in Boston, hosted by the international Materials Research Society. According to its website, the MRS is "an international organization of materials researchers from academia, industry, and government that promotes communication for the advancement of interdisciplinary materials research to improve the quality of life." To

attend the conference, hopefuls must submit an application about their research and of the 6,500 who attend, nearly all are at the college, graduate and post-doctoral level. Though Lathia and Bhat were among the youngest there, there was nothing inexperienced about the research they champion.

Lathia has spent the past year testing the "Trigger Theory: The Effect of Different Nutrients on the Lipid Content in *Tetraselmis suecica*." For those of us not so science-savvy, Lathia did his best to put his work in layman's terms. He explained that in his experiments to change algae's growing conditions, and "starve it of its nutrients," his findings revealed the algae would nearly double its oil production. "Algae fuel is currently about five times more expensive than oil so my research is of interest to people investigating an economically viable fuel source," Lathia said. "Thirty percent of algae's body weight is oil, but under starved conditions it increases to 60 percent. This is a fairly new field that is gaining interest as a sustainable source of green energy fuel."

Attending the symposium was eye-opening and exciting for Lathia who was able to see projects above and beyond the scope of typical high school work. "It was cool to see cutting edge projects done by people from Massachusetts Institute of Technology or the Indian Institute of Technology in India who have all the resources at their disposal," he said.

Bhat presented the work he conducted at local labs and at the University of Connecticut in tissue and biomedical engineering. Working with the thermal plastic, polymer (polycaprolactone), Bhat extracted pieces of rats' heart ventricles then used the material to create "scaffolding" to see if the material could stimulate the body to regenerate its own organ tissue. The rats not only survived but their platelet counts rose and they had increased blood flow to the heart indicating it functioned at or above the level it had before the scaffolding was implemented. "I am not the first person to ever try this but it's still pretty novel," Bhat said. "It has been done in bone tissue engineering, but not commonly investigated in the heart. A lot of research is being done in tissue engineering, because the main goal is finding a solution to the organ donor system. If we can develop synthetic organs people won't have to wait for organs."



Pictured (l-r): Amity High School Students Tanay Lathia and Satish Bhat.

me! A gentleman even asked me if I was doing my Ph.D. work in the U.S.!" he said.

Bhat particularly enjoyed the opportunity to interact with scientists from countries like Japan, China and India. "It is very interesting to see the different experiences people are having around the world. Even though we think America is on the forefront of technology, it is really other countries like Poland, Switzerland, and Sweden that are on the cutting edge of research," Bhat said.

Both Bhat and Lathia are thankful the Amity curriculum includes this independent study course. "I've always been fascinated by science and sitting in a classroom taking notes was never enough," Bhat said. "I was always looking for scientific experiments on YouTube and reading about the newest inventions in Popular Science. I read anything I could get my hands on. In this class I finally found a great science experience that fit my needs."

Among the largest program of its kind in the state, according to instructor Deborah Dey, the class is representative of an authentic research program where students choose their own course of study and the facilities where they will work. "It's typical for students in this program to learn this level of sophistication and knowledge of material that gives them the ability to present at high profile competitions and conferences," Dey said. She was thrilled when her two students were accepted to attend the MRS forum. "It was an extremely selective and competitive process, there are professionals whose work is not accepted," she said.

For their next projects, both young men plan to do cancer research. In the meantime, they are applying to universities with strong science programs like the University of Michigan, and Rice University and hoping to have their work published by the MRS.

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SENIOR CENTER



For information or reservations on the following events call the Senior Center at 203-389-3430.

The Senior Center offers exercise (combination of cardio, strength training, flexibility, & aerobic) on Tuesday & Thursday at 10:00 am in the gym. All are reminded to bring their own weights.

Lunch Program

Lunch is served on Tuesdays and Fridays at 12:15 pm. Call in reservations at least one day in advance.

Art Class

The Art Class meets on Wednesdays in the Senior Center Café from 10 to 12 noon. Call Lee Canning at 203-389-3430 for information or to register.

Shopping On Wednesdays

Shopping at Amity Shopping Center-- if you need a ride to pick up groceries, do banking, go to the drug store, etc.; please call the office at 203-389-3430 to make a reservation. The cost is \$4.00.

Senior Center Craft Group

The Senior Center Craft Group meets every Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm. Knitting, Crocheting, Sewing, and Socializing are some of the activities of the group.

Free Friday Afternoon Movies At The WSC

Movies are shown at the Senior Center on Friday afternoons at 1 pm. Join us at 12:15 for a nutritious \$3 lunch, followed by a movie with free popcorn (or just attend the movie at 1 pm).

Mah-jongg

The Mah-jongg group meets every Monday and Friday in Room 15 from 10 am to 12 noon. Novices are welcome – they will teach you.

TRIPS

February 2, 2012 — Saturday — UCONN Women's Basketball Game, Queens NY, \$54 transportation, tickets to UCONN game, and driver's gratuity.

February 16, 2012 — Saturday — UCONN Women's Basketball Game, Piscataway NJ, \$57 includes transportation, tickets to UCONN game, and driver's gratuity.

New! Book Club

Our Book Club will have its kickoff meeting on Tuesday, January 29th at 11:15. Anyone interested can meet at the Human Services Department, Room 14 in the Center Building. We will kick off this new program by discussing "Beyond the Miracle Worker," a biography of Anne Sullivan Macy, written by Kim Nielsen.

Our next session will be held on February 26th at 11:15; and we will meet in Room 14 in Human Services. We will be discussing "Love in a Headscarf," written by Shelina Janmohaned. It is the journey of her life while trying to find a partner.

Refreshments will be provided. Please call Mary D'Ostilio at 203-389-3429 with any questions or comments.

New! Walking Group

Put your sneakers on and join us for a walk at the Fitzgerald Walking Trail (AKA the cornfield) on Beecher Road, Fridays at 10 A.M. We will meet every Friday at 10 in the parking lot, weather permitting. Call 203-389-3429 with any questions.

LOCAL BUSINESS



**Real Living Wareck D'Ostilio
Opens Second Office**

Real Living Wareck D'Ostilio Real Estate proudly announces the opening of its second office at 174 Cherry Street in Milford on November 1, 2012. The expansion of the office is timely, as Real Living Wareck D'Ostilio has seen a record sales increase in 2012. "We started with five agents and have increased to 18 in just 14 months. This move puts us closer to many of our existing customers and prospective clients in the Orange, Milford and upper Fairfield County," said John Wareck, partner and designated broker.

The Milford office is conveniently located less than half a mile from the I-95, 39A exit/entrance and under a mile from the Milford Green. "While we continue to focus on Greater New Haven and the Yale community in our New Haven location, this new Milford office allows us and our agents to expand in more directions. It fits well with our business strategy for the future," added Wareck. "Today's consumers want a full relationship with their real estate agents and the company that stands behind them. Real Living continues to help us deliver a fresh message that speaks to the consumer on multiple levels," added Wareck. "We continue to expand on the Real Living branding. We anticipate the hiring of more agents to fill both offices and to accommodate clients as the company continues its record growth," said Wareck.

Real Living Wareck D'Ostilio Real Estate has considerable expertise assisting clients with buying and selling homes. The company has its roots in retail and office brokerage. It also has a history of servicing developers and investors. Real Living is a full-service real estate franchise with 400 offices and more than 10,000 sales professionals coast to coast. Real Living Real Estate is owned by Warren Buffet and his company, Berkshire Hathaway.

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Lucibello & Proscino, LLP was founded in 2012 by Emily S. Lucibello and Lisamaria T. Proscino, based upon a shared vision and common goal of providing ethical, high quality representation, at client-sensitive rates.

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Wine Talk

With Ray Spaziani

Where is that \$10 Bottle of Wine in Restaurants?



"Give me a bowl of wine. In this I bury all unkindness." - William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

When the Franzia group featured "two-buck-chuck" the \$1.99 wines of the Charles Shaw Winery a wine revolution began...and it is going to continue. The good quality of the Charles Shaw line of wines and the extremely low cost attracted many, many new wine drinkers to the club of wine consumers. Millions of cases were sold in California at that low price and even at a dollar higher per bottle in other states the wine flew out of the stores by the thousands of cases.

The question raised by many was "how can this wine be sold so cheap and be so good?" The Franzia Group had the answer as they purchased millions of gallons of decent wine when there was a surplus and then turned pennies into dollars by selling it in great volume and in the meantime generated numerous new wine drinkers. Now the question is if they can do it why can't others do it? California wine prices have been rising at an alarming rate making wine purchases limited to those with excessive discretionary income and forgetting about the everyday drinkers. But now, there are more options for the consumer as other California producers have evaluated their portfolio prices and have made some downward adjustments.

But where the lower wine bottle prices should occur, at the restaurant level, they have not adjusted to accommodate the consumer; at least most of them have not adjusted. The pricing of wine by the bottle in restaurants in most cases is obscene. The average consumer knows what a bottle of wine costs at the retail liquor outlet and when they go to a restaurant for dinner and want to order a favorite wine of theirs they suddenly are shocked at the price. A friend recently went to a restaurant and ordered a bottle of Luna di Luna Merlot/Cabernet Blend and paid \$30 for the bottle. The wholesale cost to the restaurant was \$79.88 for a case of 12 bottles or a bottle cost of \$6.66 and they charged \$30 generating a 22% beverage cost, a ridiculously low percentage figure for wines.

The retail price for this wine in a liquor store is \$11.99 per bottle and yet the restaurant offers to sell a bottle for \$30 expecting the consumer to pay almost three times more than at a liquor store. How can that be justified? How about wines by the glass? How can area restaurants live with themselves for charging \$7.00 to \$10.00 PER GLASS of average wines they do not know how to handle properly? Many bars and restaurants just open a bottle of red wine pour out a glass and then stick a cork in the bottle. Then a day or two later after the red wine has oxidized, they pull out the cork and charge the consumer more than the bottle costs us retail for a single glass of wine. All they have to do is VAC the wine or stick in a rubber stopper and use a device to suck out the air. It takes the bartender less than 30 seconds to treat the wines properly yet they do not do so. They know how to charge for wines but many establishments do not know how to treat wines properly. Whites should be chilled and in doing so they do not have to VAC the wines to keep them from oxidizing. It makes me wonder, wine being a food, that if they do not know how to treat wines, if the steak or burger you are eating is being handled properly as well!

If you go into an establishment that is selling red wines by the glass be sure they VAC those wines or make sure they open a new bottle in front of you! If you go to the bar at the Olive Garden Restaurant on the Post Road in Orange and you will see five to ten red wines open at the bar. They are ALL VACed and have rubber stoppers in them. They know how to handle wines. They also charge \$9.00 to \$10.00 per glass of fair to good red wines that cost them between \$8.00 to \$12.00 per bottle. Assuming \$10.00 is their bottle cost and five servings per bottle that gives them \$45.00 to \$50.00 per bottle!!

Distilled spirits is another area where price gouging is running rampant. A case of Iceberg Vodka costs the restaurant \$133.92 or \$11.16 for a 25.4 ounce or 750ml bottle. The per ounce cost to the restaurant is \$.44 and if a one ounce drink cost \$5.00 (Vodka-tonic, etc.) the cost percentage per drink would be 12.5% for liquor alone and soda, garnish, ice may add another 12 cents per drink for a total drink cost of \$.525 or 10% drink cost. Amazing. And my estimated per drink cost is too low for most bars and restaurants so that percentage goes even lower with higher prices and the profit margin increases. Now we are not against restaurants or bars making money, but it gets to the point of being ridiculous and unfair to the consumer.

By overpricing wines people are turned off and refuse to buy when they should be drinking a nice bottle of wine with dinner. We know that wine and food go together very well and each is enhanced by the other and...it is traditional and good for us health-wise.

If a quality wine like Charles Shaw can be sold for \$1.99 or even \$2.99 per bottle why the restaurateur can't use some imagination and offer a food compatible wine list that is reasonable and saleable and sell wine for \$10 a bottle? It takes education, training, fiscal understanding and a spirit of wanting to satisfy customers and stay solvent and profitable at the same time.

America is never going to ever be a wine-oriented country until the wine prices are reasonable and the retailer and restaurateur realize that sales will only increase with product knowledge and reasonable prices. There has to be an incentive to buy the product and price is a key inspiration for sales.

BEST BUY OF THE WEEK: 2010 BODEGAS ALBERTO PUCELA Sauvignon Blanc Viura \$9.99 from Spain with love, a crisp, fruity easy-to-drink white wine which could match up nicely with most fish and chicken dishes. Toast the coming holiday season with some wonderful Villia Yolanda Prosecco Italian sparkling wine. At about \$10.00 per bottle you will be glad you did!

Ray Spaziani is the Chapter Director of the New Haven Chapter of the American Wine Society. He teaches wine appreciation classes at Gateway Community College, and is a member of the International Tasting Panel of Amenti Del Vino and Wine Maker Magazine. He is an award winning home wine maker. Email Ray with your wine questions and wine events at Ray.Spaziani@gmail.com.

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.

2012 Annual Fund Drive for Bethany's Clark Memorial Library, contributions requested to help for the cost of a website to update services, etc.

The Davis Gallery Presents Carol Raccio's Oil Paintings "Ancient Cities", Saturday, December 1, 2012-Saturday, January 5, 2013, 200 Boston Post Road (inside VideoLab), Orange; free and open to the public. Hours: Monday-Friday/10:00am-6:00pm, Saturday/10:00am-4:00pm. For more information, call 203-795-4705 or go to www.DavisGalleryCT.com.

Hooked on the Sound Crochet Guild, Saturdays, January 5, 2013, February 2, 2013, and March 2, 2013, 10am-1pm, Case Memorial Library, 176 Tyler City Road, Orange, small meeting room on 2nd level (elevator available); share stitch successes, assist with pattern problems and have a great time crocheting, no fee. For more information, Visit <http://hotscrochetguild.yolasite.com/>, Email HOTSCrochetGuild@Live.com.

Woodbridge Town News

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Protect the Babies in Your Life!

The holidays are coming. Families will be visiting and sharing hugs, kisses and handshakes. Along with this exchange of affection, germs will be passed from one to another. You can protect the infant you care about by protecting yourself against pertussis. Quinipiack Valley Health District (QVHD) is now offering the pertussis vaccine (in the form of Tdap-tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) to parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, babysitters and other caregivers or contacts of newborns and infants 12 months and younger. If you are over age 18 and have never had a Tdap vaccine, (a combined booster immunization containing tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis protection) you are eligible to receive this vaccine. A \$10.00 administration fee is requested. No one will be turned away for lack of ability to pay this fee. Immunization clinics are held every 4-6 weeks. Call QVHD, 203 248-4528 or visit us online, www.qvhd.org for clinic dates and times.

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Death Notices



Robin Alfred Clarke

Robin Alfred Clarke of Woodbridge and New Smyrna Beach, FL died November 6, 2012. He was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba and attended United College in Winnipeg and University of Manitoba. Robin moved to the US in 1973 where he joined the Howell Corporation in Stratford and later became a partner and President. During his business career, he travelled extensively, visiting many foreign countries worldwide.

He and his wife were longtime members of the Milford Yacht Club. They also enjoyed spending the winters in New Smyrna Beach, FL since the early 1990s.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife of 57 years Beverley and daughter Laura, both of Woodbridge.

Woodbridge Town News

Death Notices

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

Memorial Service Set for Robert Gregg

By Bettina Thiel – Orange Town News Correspondent

A memorial service for long-time Woodbridge Land Trust President Robert A. Gregg will take place Saturday, December 15, at 11 a.m. at the First Church of Christ on Meetinghouse Lane.

Gregg, 94, has contributed in many ways to the life of the town and took an active interest in town affairs right up until his death. He stepped away from his position as head of the Land Trust in September when he saw his health failing, but continued to serve on the board.

Gregg was a chemist by trade. He worked for Uniroyal for almost 42 years, where he worked in fundamental research on the mechanism of free radical polymerization, and was instrumental in the development of new products and processes, most notably the development of elastic fiber, later known as spandex. His inventions also included a stable flexible vapor barrier for rubber fuel tanks for airplanes; an adhesive system for steel belted tires; and, various foam rubber and plastic products. He designed and built a pilot plant for melt spinning fibers, among dozens of other projects.

In 2003, The New Haven Section of the American Chemical Society awarded Gregg the Maurice R. Chamberland Award for enhancing societal well-being through the application of chemistry for his work in improvement of automobile tires and contributions toward the development of cellular plastics.

An advocate for the protection and conservation of open space, Mr. Gregg was involved in most open space acquisitions the town has made in the past several decades. His influence is felt statewide, as over the years he proposed various legislation that helped municipalities and trusts acquire and protect land. Cathy Wick, who serves on the Land Trust, said "It was my privilege to get to know Bob over the last two years. He had a wealth of knowledge about the town and its history and taught me much. He will be missed by all who knew him, and all who enjoy the beauty and serenity of Woodbridge's open spaces."

Former Selectman Joe Calistro, who has worked with Mr. Gregg on many projects in the past years, remembered Mr. Gregg's involvement in bringing two soccer fields to Pease Road and the tennis courts to the center of town. Gregg also helped make Woodbridge a "wet" town, supporting the push to allow businesses to sell alcohol. Gregg's greatest achievement, in Calistro's recollection, was the establishment of the Chestnut tree orchard at the Fitzgerald trail, in an effort to save the American chestnut tree from extinction. "He was a very smart guy who had a lot of friends," Calistro said.

Yet, at the same time, Mr. Gregg was not afraid to speak out against projects he thought to be ill-conceived or not beneficial to the land, among them most recently a baseball diamond and a playground on the Hitchcock property, projects that were hotly debated in town. Most recently he worked behind the scenes to save a meadow in the south end of town from development.

Yet even when people disagreed with him, they respected his opinion. "Bob was a great contributor to the town," said Robert Hill, who is working to make the baseball diamond a reality. "As much as we had a difference on the ball field, he and I always had a great deal of respect for each other."

Gregg is survived by his wife, Jean, and son Tim. A daughter, Debbie, predeceased him.

Citizen's Police Academy is Back, With So Much More to Offer

By Terri Miles, Special to the Woodbridge Town News

It's been 17 years since the Town of Woodbridge Police Department had a Citizen's Police Academy. Program Coordinator Sgt. Brian McCarthy recalls there was one in 1995 during his tenure with the department. Seeing the program's popularity in Orange, Stratford and Hamden, McCarthy tried to resurrect the academy in 2009, but, despite his efforts and an excellent curriculum for the 12 week class, no one in town showed any interest so he let it die, until now.

What is the Citizen's Police Academy? It is an ambitious multi-faceted class that gives regular citizens an in-depth look at police work from the inside out.

Don't think that you'll be sitting in a stuffy classroom listening to lectures every week, the citizen's academy curriculum has plenty of fun and interesting chapters and activities that will stay with you for a long time after you graduate.

Officers volunteer their time to speak to the class about areas in which they are considered specialists: for example, High School Resource Officer Rich Rizzutti will tell you about his job at the school, challenges he faces and being an important connection between the teens and the department. He also is the department's accident deconstructionist, and will share the tools he uses to determine what occurred at an accident scene.

McCarthy and Sgt. James Sullivan will run the class on taxers and firearms and talk about responding to violent encounters, such as domestic disputes and how they would use psychology to diffuse a situation. Officer Tom Balch will bring you through the procedures for taking crime scene photos. And Sgt. Frank Cappiello, and perhaps other investigators, will give you hands-on training on how to procure finger prints.

For many years, the Woodbridge Police Department has been trying to get a K-9 approved in its budget. One particular night will be dedicated to the narcotics dog. A K-9 team from a neighboring town will come in for a demonstration on narcotics detection. Deputy Ray Stuart will offer a history of the department, including changes that have been made over the years, as well as the chapter on the department's administration. Lt. Jeff Leiby will cover the role of the field training officer whom all new recruits must "ride" with in order to learn department procedures before going out on patrol alone.

Also to be covered:

- Recruit selection
- Communications
- Arrest and search warrants
- Booking procedures
- Everyday Department operations
- Patrol procedures
- Animal Control
- DUI Radar and Laser
- Traffic enforcement
- SWAT
- Penal Codes sexual assault, domestic violence, rape crisis

Does this sound interesting yet? McCarthy also has included a chapter on emergency operations: How decisions are made during a storm. The town's emergency management plan and how it works.

But that's not all, you also will have an opportunity to use a F.A.T.S. (Fire Arms Training Simulator) — this is fun, if you've never experienced it, you can act out your inner cop, by yelling at the "bad guy" on the screen — "Drop it, down on the ground, do it, do it now" and the character on the screen will react to whatever you do. He might even shoot you. While working with the FATS simulator you will feel the adrenaline rush, the confidence or uncertainty an actual officer experiences during an emergency situation. McCarthy has arranged for a trip to the Ansonia Gun Club for a live shooting opportunity. You will learn how to carry, stand and shoot a real gun with one of Woodbridge's firearm instructors.

After the 12-week course is completed, you will have the chance for a ride-along with a patrol officer on duty. You never know what you will encounter, stopping a speeding car, responding to a loud house party, assisting the fire department with a call; anything can happen during a ride along.

A graduation party is included in the course. If you are interested in becoming a part of the 2013 Woodbridge Police Department's Citizen's Police Academy, pick up an application at the front desk of the PD and return it no later than Friday, January 18, 2013. The course begins February 5, 2013 and runs for 12 consecutive weeks. Participants over the age of 18, who complete at least five weeks of training, will be allowed to participate in the live range shooting and Ride-Along program.

For More information, call Sgt. Brian McCarthy at 203-387-2511 (Ext. 20). Knowledge is everything. Get to know your Woodbridge Police personnel and what they do.



ENTERTAINMENT

top 10 movies

- 1. The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn -- Part Two (PG-13)**
Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
- 2. Skyfall (PG-13)**
Daniel Craig, Judi Dench
- 3. Lincoln (PG-13)**
Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field
- 4. Rise of the Guardians (PG)**
animated
- 5. Life of Pi (PG)**
Suraj Sharma, Gerard Depardieu
- 6. Wreck-It Ralph (PG)**
animated
- 7. Red Dawn (PG-13)**
Chris Hemsworth, Isabel Lucas
- 8. Flight (R)**
Denzel Washington, Nadine Velazquez
- 9. Silver Linings Playbook (R)**
Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence
- 10. Argo (R)**
Ben Affleck, Alan Arkin

TOP DVD RENTALS AND SALES

- 1. The Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13)**
Andrew Garfield
- 2. Prometheus (R)**
Noomi Rapace
- 3. The Campaign (R)**
Will Ferrell
- 4. Brave (PG)**
animated
- 5. That's My Boy (R)**
Adam Sandler
- 6. Magic Mike (R)**
Channing Tatum
- 7. Marvel's the Avengers (2012) (PG-13)**
Robert Downey Jr.
- 8. Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG)**
animated
- 9. The Raven (R)**
John Cusack
- 10. Arthur Christmas (PG)**
animated

Chartbusters

Top 10 Pop Singles

- 1. Rihanna**
"Diamonds"
- 2. Maroon 5**
"One More Night"
- 3. Ke\$ha**
"Die Young"
- 4. Bruno Mars**
"Locked Out of Heaven"
- 5. fun.**
"Some Nights"
- 6. Ne-Yo**
"Let Me Love You (Until You Learn to Love Yourself)"
- 7. PSY**
"Gangnam Style"
- 8. The Lumineers**
"Ho Hey"
- 9. Taylor Swift**
"We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together"
- 10. Flo Rida**
"I Cry"



PSY

Top 10 Country Singles

- 1. Taylor Swift**
"We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together"
- 2. Florida Georgia Line**
"Cruise"
- 3. Luke Bryan**
"Kiss Tomorrow Goodbye"
- 4. Hunter Hayes**
"Wanted"
- 5. Carrie Underwood**
"Blown Away"
- 6. Lee Brice**
"Hard to Love"
- 7. Jake Owen**
"The One That Got Away"
- 8. Rascal Flatts**
"Come Wake Me Up"
- 9. Miranda Lambert**
"Fastest Girl In Town"
- 10. Justin Moore**
"Til My Last Day"

COUCH THEATER DVD PREVIEW BY DNA SMITH



Ana Kendrick in "Pitch Perfect"

EDITOR'S NOTE: New DVDs reviewed in this column will be available in stores the week of December 17, 2012.

PICKS OF THE WEEK

"Pitch Perfect" (PG-13) -- The Bel-las are an all-vocal university ensemble looking to reinvent themselves after an embarrassing performance. Beca (Ana Kendrick) is an incoming college freshman who's already too cool for school, but somehow gets coerced into joining this singing group. Of course, the gaggle of misfits drastically improve their singing and take on the obnoxious rival singers, the Treble Makers.

It's more tolerable than an episode of "Glee." The musical performances are impressive, even for

those who aren't into such things. Kendrick brings vocal talent and star power to the musical numbers. Self-referential humor and some promising young comic-relief actors push this one over the line from tolerable to even enjoyable.

"Total Recall" (PG-13) -- In the grimy, blue-tinted future, you can get sweet memories implanted in your brain. Instead of taking a vacation or seeking therapy, Douglas Quaid (Colin Farrell) chooses to have memories of another life as a super-spy zapped into his brain. During the process, something goes awry and Quaid is suddenly hunted by the authorities and finds himself in the role of revolutionary hero.

This movie hardly has the right to exist in the same universe as the 1990 film of the same name, starring good ol' Arnold Schwarzenegger, so I'll hold back on comparing the two. Don't expect mind-bending science-fiction or over-the-top humor. This is boilerplate futuristic blockbuster thriller. The action sequences are nice, but your recall of the film will intertwine with the boring bits from movies like "Minority Report," forming one blu-ish futuristic memory mush.

"Trouble With the Curve" (PG-13) -- Clint Eastwood snarls and grumps his way through this drama about a reluctant old codger reconnecting with his daughter through the business of baseball. Gus (Eastwood) is a renowned talent scout for major-league baseball, but it seems his age is catching up to him. His daughter (Amy Adams) takes a leave from her big-shot law firm to accompany him on one last season of high-pressure drafts. It's a slow, predictable drama that isn't exactly a stretch for ol' Clint.

1. When and where did the Bee Gees make their American television debut?
 2. Which one-hit group recorded "Please Love Me Forever" in 1961?
 3. What is singer Tony Burrows best known for?
 4. Name Herbie Hancock's best-known solo jazz efforts. (Hint: Think fruit.)
 5. Name the song with this lyric: "I get so tired of working so hard for our survival. I look to the time with you to keep me awake and alive ..."

FLASHBACK TRIVIA
POP ROCK & SOUL BY MICK HARPER

In 1968 on "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour," their name came from the initials of a DJ named Bill Gates who introduced them to a promoter named Bill Goode, and is not an abbreviation of Brothers Gibb, as is widely believed. 2. Cathy Jean and the Roommates. The original duo's biggest claim to fame was coming in second in a talent show behind Tom & Jerry, aka Simon and Garfunkel. 3. Burrows consistently sang with groups who had only one hit. "Love Grooves (Where My Rosemary Goes)" and "My Baby Loves Lovin'." both in 1970. 4. "Watermelon Man" (1962) and "Can'toupe Island" (1964). 5. "In Your Eyes," by Peter Gabriel on his 1986 album "So." It took nearly 20 years, but in 2005, the song finally had enough sales to be certified Gold.

Sudoku answers on page 37

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

9				6		5		
		3		7				1
	5		2		4	6		
2		5		9		8		
		8			3			2
	4		8					1
		1	3			4		6
	7			5				3
4					7		8	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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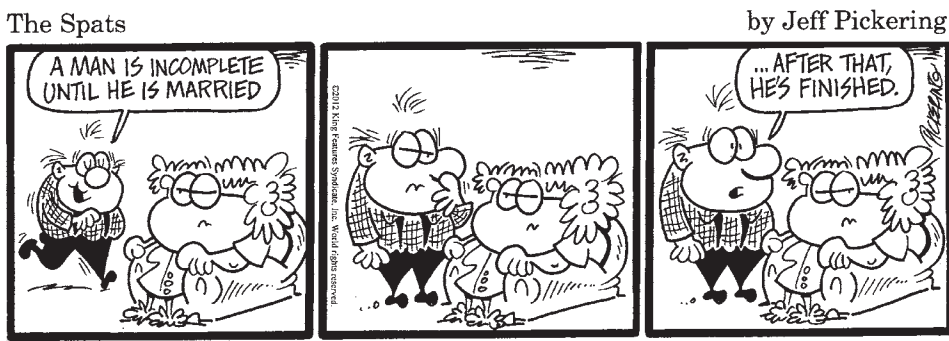
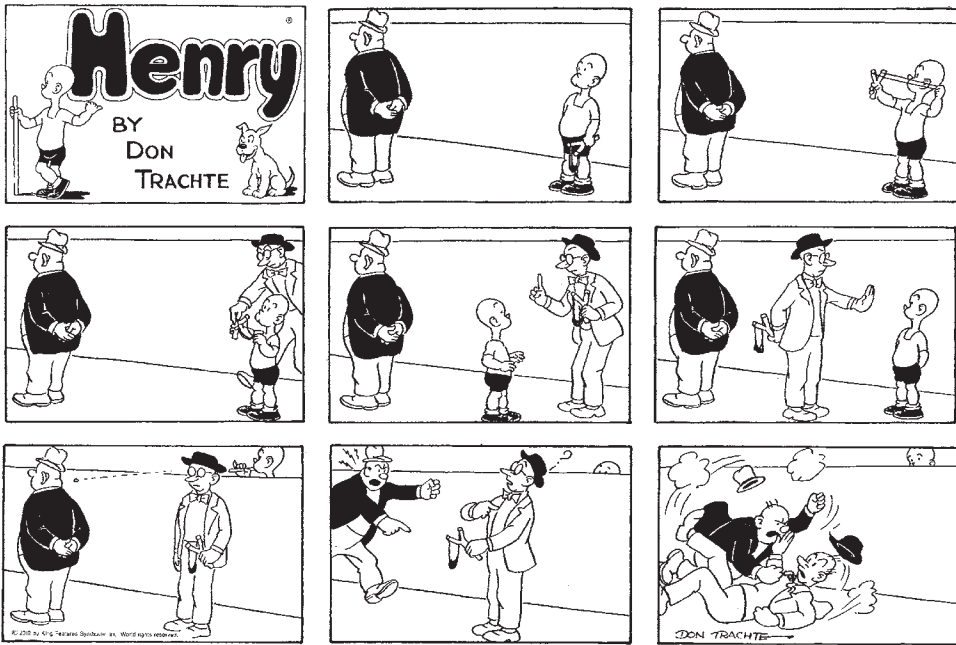
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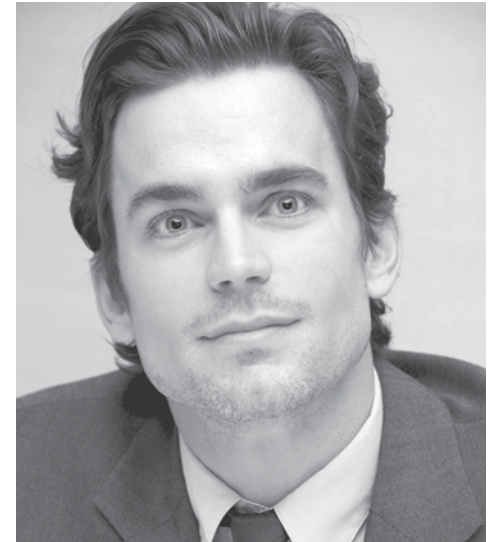
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COMICS / CROSSWORD / HOLLYWOOD



HOLLYWOOD

By Tony Rizzo



Matt Bomer

HOLLYWOOD -- Matt Damon, like George Clooney, has major causes. He's an environmentalist and philanthropist, as well as one of the founders of the Not On Our Watch project, which aims to bring attention to stopping mass atrocities. He's also one of the founders of Water.org, which provides clean water to Africa, and strives to fight AIDS and poverty in the Third World. Now he will narrate an eight-part documentary series on Showtime being developed by James Cameron and Jerry Weintraub. It will focus on the effects we humans have had on climate change. It's about time someone woke up!

"Modern Family's" Ty Burrell is headed to the big screen in three major films. He'll join "Saturday Night Live" players Kristen Wiig and Bill Hader, plus Luke Wilson, in "The Skeleton Twins," about estranged twins (Wiig and Hader) who unite to talk about issues after they cheat death. Burrell plays Hader's former teacher who becomes his lover. Next, he's a butter carver in "Butter" with Jennifer Garner, Olivia Wilde, Alicia Silverstone and Hugh Jackman. Ty also will be the voice of Mr. Peabody in the animated "Mr. Peabody & Sherman," with Stephen Colbert and Allison Janney. Nine-year-old Max Charles, the young Peter Parker in "The Amazing Spiderman," will voice Sherman.

Speaking of "Modern Family," "White Collar" star Matt Bomer is the real thing. He and his partner, publicist Simon Halls, have three children: Kit, Henry and Walker Bomer. Matt and Simon recently received the "Inspiration Award" from The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Edu-

cation Network. It was presented to them by Matt's "Magic Mike" co-star Joe Manganiello (they were together in college at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh). Manganiello said, "You are the example that the rest of our country needs to wake up to and see in terms of equality and putting an end to the bullying epidemic and making sure that every family is respected in our schools and our society."

Going public with his real life hasn't hurt Bomer's "reel" life. He's got the film "Space Station 76," which is being called a sci-fi comedy, with Liv Tyler, Patrick Wilson and Jerry O'Connell, and then "Winter's Tale" with Will Smith, Colin Farrell, Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly, William Hurt and Eva Marie Saint. (In case you don't know Eva Marie Saint, she won an Oscar for playing opposite Marlon Brando in "On the Waterfront.")

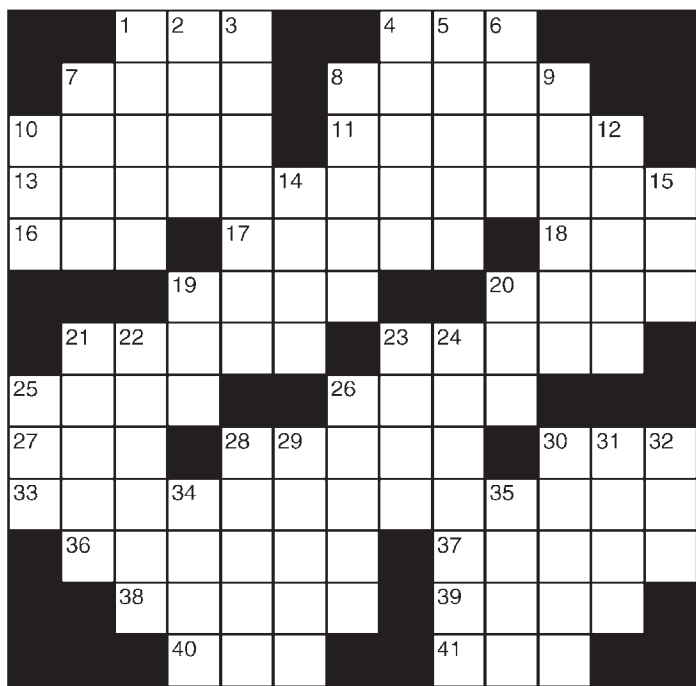
Bomer explains why he went public with his relationship, "When you aren't allowed to speak about who you love or who you're attracted to, it makes you feel invisible." On the plus side ... he never has to worry about getting lipstick on his "White Collar."

Send letters to Tony Rizzo's Hollywood, 8306 Wilshire Blvd., No. 362, Beverly Hills, CA 90211.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Bam!"
- 4 Altar affirmative
- 7 Consequently
- 8 Dodge
- 10 Decorate
- 11 Eateries
- 13 Good thing with a bad element
- 16 Pigpen
- 17 Beethoven's "Für —"
- 18 Slithery squeezer
- 19 Chow
- 20 Galley supply
- 21 Nervous
- 23 Move laterally
- 25 Humdinger
- 26 Finished
- 27 — Baba
- 28 Accumulate
- 30 Witticism
- 33 Ambivalence of a sort
- 36 Sir Isaac who developed a short hand method
- 37 Finish
- 38 Archaeologists' meccas
- 39 Best pocket



- 22 Panacea
 - 23 Mediocre
 - 24 As an alternative
 - 25 Felon's flight
 - 26 Curses
 - 28 Fess up
 - 29 Wherewithal
 - 30 Web surfer's need
 - 31 Responsibility
 - 32 Recipe meas.
 - 34 Needle case
 - 35 Bygone Peruvian
- DOWN**
- 1 Substitute
 - 2 Shrek is one
 - 3 Is curious (about)
 - 4 Wall-climbing plants
 - 5 Thickly populated
 - 6 Mined-over
 - 7 Rewrite, maybe
 - 8 Forgo the cue cards
 - 9 — Council ("Survivor" meeting)
 - 10 Mornings (Abbr.)
 - 12 Sleep soundly?
 - 14 Sad
 - 15 Petrol
 - 19 Wildebeest
 - 20 Praise in verse
 - 21 Dutch flower
 - 22 pair
 - 40 "Monty Python" opener
 - 41 Beavers' creation

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King Crossword Answers on Page 37



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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

	P	O	W		I	D	O						
	E	R	G	O		A	V	E	R	T			
A	D	O	R	N		D	I	N	E	R	S		
M	I	X	E	D		B	L	E	S	S	I	N	G
S	T	Y		E	L	I	S	E		B	O	A	
				G	R	U	B			O	A	R	S
	T	E	N	S	E		S	I	D	L	E		
L	U	L	U			D	O	N	E				
A	L	I		A	M	A	S	S		M	O	T	
M	I	X	E	D	E	M	O	T	I	O	N	S	
	P	I	T	M	A	N		E	N	D	U	P	
		R	U	I	N	S		A	C	E	S		
		I	T	S				D	A	M			

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

9	2	4	1	8	6	3	5	7
6	8	3	9	7	5	2	4	1
1	5	7	2	3	4	6	9	8
2	6	5	7	9	1	8	3	4
7	1	8	5	4	3	9	6	2
3	4	9	8	6	2	7	1	5
5	9	1	3	2	8	4	7	6
8	7	6	4	5	9	1	2	3
4	3	2	6	1	7	5	8	9



LOCAL SPORTS

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Beware of the Pitfalls of Fall and Winter

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

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



Kyle Brandy

Keep a flat back while you lift. This takes the stress off the lower lumbar spine eliminating the possibility of strains and sprains or worse injuries such as herniated discs and sciatica. Helpful, also, are warm up and cool down exercises such as hamstring, knee to chest, and trunk rotation stretches.

Winterize your body. For you anxious snowbirds with skis already racked up on the roof, prepare yourself with proper exercise. Knees, hamstrings, calves, back, shoulders, biceps and triceps all come into play on the slopes. Many of the exercises used in preparation for yard work, apply to winter sports. Trunk rotation stretches, hamstring stretches, light weight workouts with dumbbells for biceps, triceps and deltoids are important in preventing serious injury. Squats with light barbells for your quads, hamstrings, and glutes strengthen these important stress absorbing muscles. The spine and lower back also takes a heavy shock, absorbing a beating during both skiing and snowboarding. Prepare yourself with warm up knee to chest exercises, trunk rotations and quad and hamstrings stretches.

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

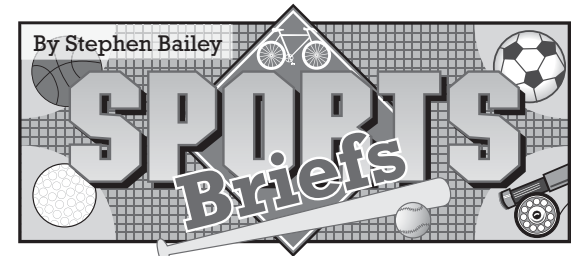
Kyle Brandy, MSPT, is a licensed physical therapist and partner at Amity Physical Therapy, located at 1 Bradley Rd, Suite 801 in Woodbridge. Kyle is a graduate of Quinnipiac University with his Masters in Physical Therapy. He works with patients of all ages and ability levels, treating high level athletes with fractures and sprains to gait and balance dysfunction in the elderly. Kyle can be reached to set up an evaluation at (203) 389-4593.

Amity Girls' Basketball Opens Season with Win over Sacred Heart

Chloe Brinton scored a game-high 16 points as the Lady Spartans recorded a 45-35 season-opening victory over Sacred Heart. The Lady Spartans ran out to a 14-5 lead with 1:48 left in the first quarter and never looked back, forcing 15 turnovers, en route to defeating a team which beat them three times last winter.

A quick score from Molly Schmitt and back-to-back buckets from Brinton gave Amity an early 6-1 lead as the Lady Spartans wasted no time in starting the 2012-13 season off strong. After taking a 14-8 lead into the second quarter, Brinton and Kristen Post converted consecutive layups before Molly Ronan and Janae Graham each went 2-for-2 at the foul line to send Amity into halftime leading 24-16. The Lady Spartans held Sacred Heart to just 2-of-15 shooting in the frame.

While the Amity offense slowed down in the middle quarters, a jumper from freshman Elise Graham helped keep the Lady Spartans ahead before Brinton stole ball and scored a layup at the other end as Amity took a 31-23 into the fourth quarter. While the Lady Spartans did not record a field goal, they made 9-of-16 free throws in the closing period to seal the victory. Led by Post (nine rebounds) and Schmitt (eight), Amity controlled the glass by a 43-32 margin.



Spartans Ice Hockey Returns to Division II

Amity's ice hockey team won state title in 2008 and 2010 at the Division-II level before being promoted to D I in 2011. After a treacherous two-year experiment, head coach Gary Lindgren and the Spartans are heading back to D II.

Amity lost 19 players over the two seasons and will lose six more this winter. Lindgren and the CIAC agreed that the move was best for all parties after the Spartans finished 6-13-1 last year, two wins away from qualifying for the state tournament. Key components Joe Bianchi, Luke Sacramone, Riley Hine and Joe DeGoursey all graduated leaving tri-captains Nick Nuzzolo, Patch Flynn and Eric Dykun to pick up the slack.

Nuzzolo, the goalie, is looking for an improved season after facing the tough D-I competition. Flynn will line up at left wing with Dykun the team's most reliable defender – though he will be sidelined for the first two weeks of the season due to a broken clavicle.

Branford will likely be Amity's top competition in the Southern Connecticut Conference after the Hornets made it all the way to the state finals last year before falling to Trumbull.

Junior Brian Mosher and sophomore Christian Mortali are the reserve net minders while the Spartans roster will include six more blue-liners in senior Zhang Liu, returning juniors Johnny Usailla, Ryan Hauser, and Scott Saffran, first year-junior Justin Proto and sophomore Dalton Luciani. Junior Adam Shea centers the first line that includes senior right wing Dane Simone and junior left wing John Crocker. The Spartans' second is junior center Brett McNeill, senior Keating Seymour and the junior Flynn. Junior Bubba Pignataro and sophomore Liam Caracciolo flank third line senior center Brendan Ferrer and the fourth line is freshman center Graham Hughes and sophomore wingers Zach Shelnitz and Kevin Ryan.


The Spartans will open their season when they host Sheehan at 1 p.m. on December 15 in the Edward Bennett Rink in West Haven.

Four Amity Football Players Named to Levi Jackson All-Star Team


Amity place kicker Lyle Luth, defensive back/quarterback Tyler Burns, and linemen Dennis Flanagan and Greg Purcell were named to the Levi Jackson All-Star team, selected by coaches in the Greater New Haven area. The 25 chosen players will be honored at an annual awards banquet, this year held Thursday, December 6 at the Cascade Banquet Facility in Hamden at 6 p. m. Tickets are \$40. each and can be purchased by sending checks to the New Haven Gridiron Club, PO Box 32, New Haven 06501. All questions should be directed to Gridiron Club Executive Director Don Nielsen at 203-795-5331.

Purcell was also named the recipient of the 6th annual Floyd Little Scholarship, given by members of the Gridiron Club. David Sampoli and Minnie Chen Named CT/SCC Scholar Athletes for October. David Sampoli and Minnie Chen were two of 16 scholar-athletes honored by the SCC. Only Varsity letter winners who have a 3.0/B average and demonstrate leadership abilities are honored with the award. He is also involved with National Honor Society, Student Government, Link Crew, and AHS Challenge Team, participated in the American Legion Boys State 2012 and was presented with the Fairfield University Book award.


Chen is a three-sport athlete (cross country, indoor track, outdoor track) and also ranks in the top half of her class. She is involved in the Environmental Club, Habitat for Humanity and the school orchestra and has received numerous academic awards including being named to the National Honor Society, CAPT Scholar, Student of Distinction, and Class I,II, and III awards.



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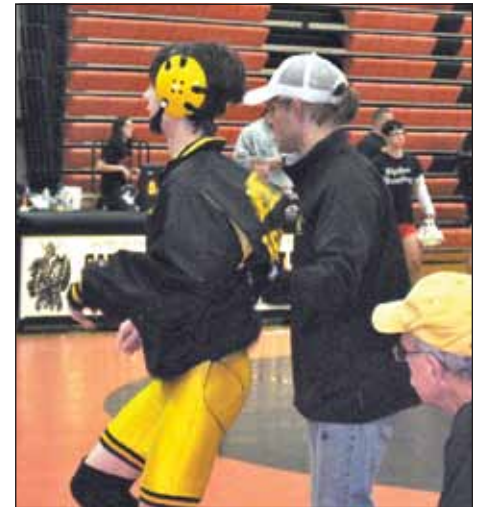
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LOCAL SPORTS



The boys from Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge finished up their season by winning their division as well as the MIST tournament. Great job! The team is coached by Seth Ragaini of Everson Soccer and managed by Sabra Donovan.



MacDonald Finding His Place on the Amity Wrestling Team

By Stephen Bailey – Woodbridge Town News Correspondent

In a sport where positioning is everything, Austin MacDonald is in a unique situation. MacDonald is a junior captain on the Amity wrestling team. Close to half the athletes on the team are his age or older. So in order to achieve his goal of returning the team to SCC lore — the Spartans were conference champions in 2006 and 2007 — he must walk the tightrope of mentoring the younger, less experienced wrestlers while encouraging, but not stepping on the toes of the upperclassmen. “I’m really trying to earn the position,” MacDonald, a Woodbridge resident, said. “It’s kind of an awkward position because I need to have the respect of the junior wrestlers and the senior wrestlers because I’m their age or younger than them. I can’t really yell at them, but I still want to be encouraging and make sure they’re not goofing around.”

After a rebuilding year in 2012, MacDonald said this year’s team has the talent, depth and motivation to compete for another SCC crown. MacDonald wrestles in the 120-pound weight class, while 126-pound Jesse Calla, 132-pound twin brother Mike Calla, who won junior Varsity SCCs and states last year, and 145-pound Dan Grober are three of the other core returners. Individually, MacDonald said Grober has a legitimate chance of competing for a state title.

First-year juniors Matt Daddio and Damon Robinson are expected to make key contributions while freshmen Eli Silver and Jay Calla are expected to start at the 106- and 113-pound classes after competing in 7th and 8th grade.

With almost all 14 weight classes filled and the team’s first live scrimmage against Southington on Saturday, December 8th, MacDonald and Co. are licking their chops in anticipation of their first live action. “A lot of times with the wrestling team, a bunch of kids will quit.” MacDonald said. “But so far the new kids have stuck with it. I think that’s really good. I’m just trying to be encouraging and hopefully we’ll have a good season this year.”

Last year, Amity often only filled nine of the 14 weight classes, forcing them to start matches at a distinct disadvantage. Ultimately, MacDonald said, practices and matches became geared to profiting the strongest individual wrestlers.

This year, team success is paramount. All of the young wrestlers have already experienced live wrestling in practice and will be expected to hold their own in matches this season. “We’d already start out the match losing by a lot of points,” MacDonald said of last year’s frustrations. “Now if we can send out a kid who knows the fundamentals and is able to not get pinned, I think we have a really good shot here.”

MacDonald spent his offseason studying up and mastering new techniques, and along with Grober, won his respective weight classes in the Long Branch, N.J. tournament in August. MacDonald hopes to use this knowledge and experience to help lead the Spartans.

Unlike some wrestlers, MacDonald is also very keen to prepare his body for the season. Rather than having to toss on multiple sweatshirts into a garbage bag and run through the Amity hallways to cut weight for that week’s match, MacDonald enters the season with a healthy diet and just five pounds over his target mark. Then, through natural training, he’s already the weight he needs to be. “My philosophy is that if you’re trying to cut too much weight and you’re putting on all the sweatshirts and stuff to get all the water weight down, then with all that added clothing, you’re not going to be able to work as hard because it’s slowing you down, and then it’s going to make it harder to lose the weight,” MacDonald said. “Also, if you’re not eating enough, then you’re not going to have enough energy to wrestle at your fullest.”

Already, he’s passed that knowledge on to Jay Calla, who was considering trying to cut 10 pounds to get to 106. MacDonald told him it would be better for both his body and his wrestling to stay at 113.

With a full season ahead of him, MacDonald will have many more opportunities to help lead the Spartans. If the team can stay together and continue to improve, another SCC championship may just be within reach.

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- a statement long associated with Frank Woodruff Rogers. However, after 56 years in the real estate business, Frank gave up his real estate office and joined Weichert Regional Realtors. Why? Frank said he simply didn't want to do it all by himself anymore, and knew that being associated with a national name agency would provide a broader service base to meet the needs of his many Orange clients. Frank can be reached at 795-2349, or on his cell phone, 795-0000

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Beecher Road School Hosts Chinese Principals

Twenty school principals from Shandong Province, China, visited Woodbridge's elementary school, Beecher Road School (BRS), in November as part of an ongoing exchange of educational ideas between exemplary Connecticut schools and those in China. After the one-day visit, two of the principals, Mr. Wang and Mr. Li, remained in Woodbridge for an additional week to observe and talk to teachers, administrators, parents and students. With sister-schools already established, Woodbridge educators Dr. Guy Stella, Nancy White, Rick Wood and James Crawford have made trips to China in the past as part of this exchange.

The visiting principals were here to study American education in outstanding schools and spent every school day engaged in surveying all aspects of 21st century educational practices. Their top charge was to learn about the creativity in American schools that prepare students for the century ahead.

Classroom organization, instructional practices, curriculum, technology integration, emotional and physical development, arts demonstrations and many other topics engrossed the visitors by day. The opportunity to talk with their American counterparts and students was possible through the use of translators. Several friends and families of BRS, fluent in Chinese, provided that invaluable service.

As part of the school district's goal of developing a generation of good local, national and global citizens, student representatives had a special meeting with the visitors where they could ask questions about life in China, particularly about school and children.

After school hours and on the weekend, the school community took over and welcomed the visitors into their homes as honored guests. For example, one-week's stay in an American home was graciously extended to both principals by the Perlman-Wyndorf family. Mrs. Perlman-Wyndorf said of the experience, "We were so happy to play a small part in continuing to open up Beecher's relationship with other cultures around the world. It was amazing how our community came together to welcome and appreciate our visitors. I am really proud." Continuing she said, "My favorite image was when, without a translator, we got Mr. Wang to have a catch with our son. Mr. Wang had never played baseball before."

American culture and democracy were front and center for the visitors. They were here on Election Day and watched the results unfold on televi-



Met by the school's administrative team, a delegation of 20 school principals from China recently visited Beecher Road School in Woodbridge. They were here to observe exemplary schools in Connecticut.

sion. They attended a Woodbridge Board of Education meeting and saw the process and the voting that form decisions for the schools. BRS Principal Gina Prisco brought the principals to Amity High School and Amity Middle School - Bethany, where they witnessed a dynamic high school and middle school in action.

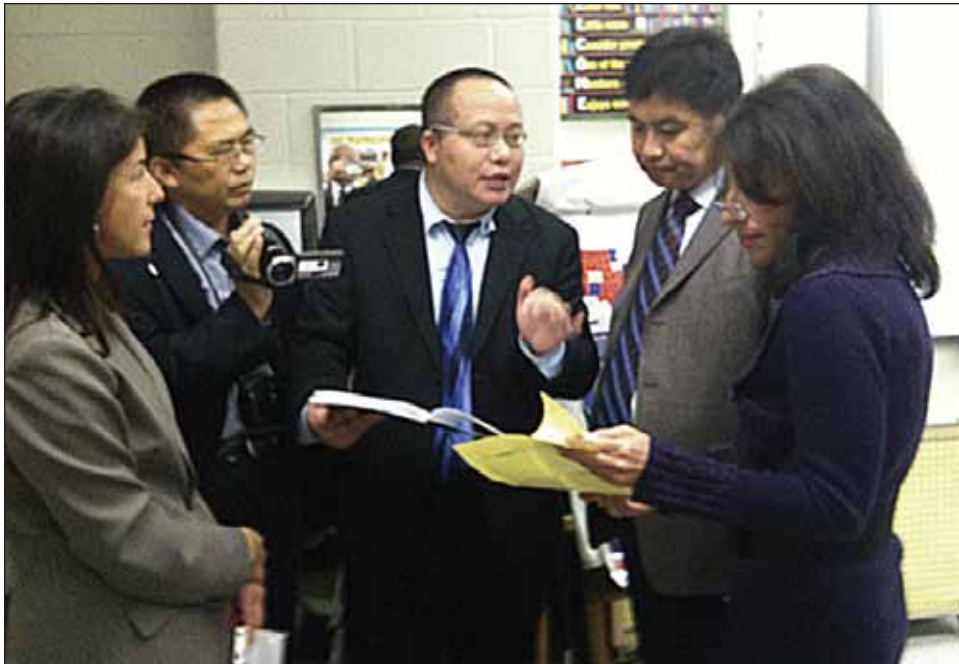
Board of Education President Margaret Hamilton remarked, "I was impressed with their (visiting principals) observations, warmth, and sincere desire to learn from our staff and our children. I think all of us felt more similarities than differences in our shared goal of providing the best possible education for all children."

Other families and staff took the visitors to a youth soccer game, a Sound Tigers hockey game in Bridgeport at which the BRS Band played the American national anthem at the arena, to local restaurants, and several families hosted dinners.

Some of the impressions of the visitors, according to Superintendent Stella, were: "The principals were amazed by the amount of differentiated instruction in the classrooms, where not all children are progressing at the same rate and, therefore, teachers work with small groups and individuals to move their students forward." He also said, "They were impressed with the amount of parent involvement they saw regarding their children's education, both in school and outside of school." Also, "They thought the smaller classes really aided the teachers in their task of reaching all students."

The visit coincided with the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and the subsequent snowstorm causing schedule changes and impromptu accommodations to be made. The original delegation of 20 was scheduled to arrive on Halloween, October 31, but due to the weather here they were stranded in the Beijing Airport until JFK International Airport in New York could accept arriving flights. They finally arrived on November 2, but schools were closed. However, power and heat were restored at BRS and the Connecticut Association of Schools prevailed on the Woodbridge team to host a forum where an exchange of ideas among the administrative team and teacher Rick Wood took place. Eighteen of the 20 principals went to other schools in Connecticut. Two remained in Woodbridge.

Schools reopened on Monday, November 5, and then were closed again on November 8 due to the 9-inch snowstorm that fell on Woodbridge. More changes in plans followed. After a whirlwind week, the visitors left on November 9.



Through a translator, Beecher Road School Principal explains the school's programs to visiting principals from China. L-R: Gina Prisco, BRS Principal, Mr. Li, visiting principal, Dr. Gu, BRS parent and translator, Mr. Wang, visiting principal, Naomi Reisfeld, BRS teacher.

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Colonel Joseph Hellauer was the keynote speaker at Beecher Road School's Veterans Day remembrance activities.



Gina Prisco (L), Beecher Road School Principal, delivered hundreds of letters to Veterans at West Haven's VA Hospital. A member of the Volunteer Auxiliary accepted the gift.

Veterans Day Events Give Meaning at Beecher Road School

"Veterans Day was not only observed but brought to life as a day of learning at Beecher Road School (BRS)," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Guy Stella reported recently to the Board of Education. Starting with a heart-warming opening ceremony, the entire school gathered in front of the north entrance. Woodbridge resident Colonel Joe Hellauer, our keynote speaker, spoke about the meaning of Veteran's Day, which included many historical references. Mrs. Prisco, BRS Principal, shared remarks about the day and introduced over a dozen veterans who were invited to the ceremony. Marking the event with music, the BRS band played patriotic songs.

Throughout the day, lessons in the classrooms focused on the holiday and its significance in American culture. The unique BRS Veterans Wall of Honor had new names added to it providing our students with many real life role models. As a school-wide activity, students and staff created cards, posters, and letters of thanks for Veterans in the VA Hospital in West Haven. Mrs. Prisco personally delivered the items to the hospital where they will be distributed throughout the year on veterans' lunch trays and posted on walls.

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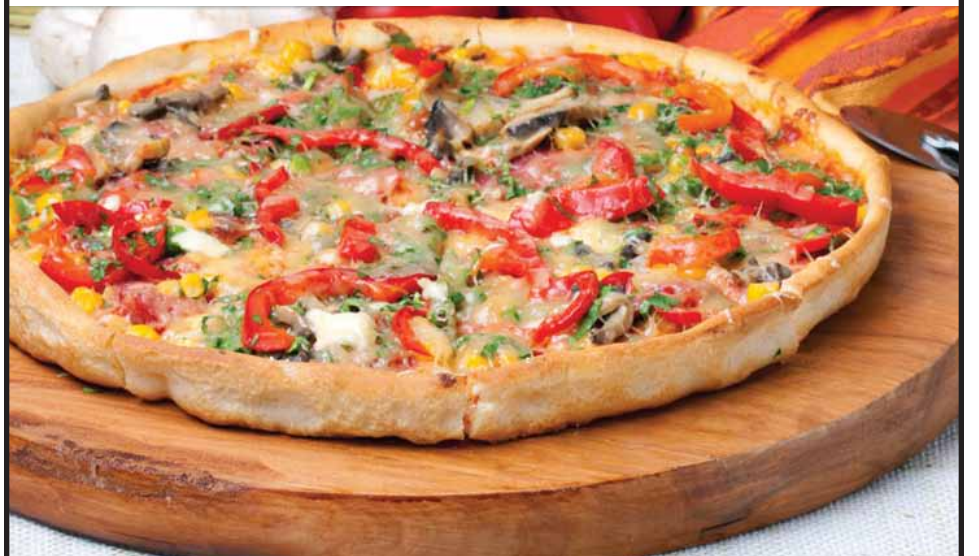
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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Make a start on that new workplace challenge. But get more information before you find yourself too deeply involved without knowing in which direction you should go.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You might find things becoming tedious as your schedule slows down for the holidays. Use this time to get information about a possible post-New Year job change.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) The creative Twin finds outlets for her or his ideas in the early part of the week. The practical Twin takes it a step further and rallies support to turn the ideas into reality.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It's time to stop being intimidated by someone's negative behavior. Start taking positive steps on your own to help strengthen your position down the line.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Look closely at that so-called golden opportunity. Best to be a cautious Cat who approaches things slowly, than one who pounces without knowing where you'll land.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your apology can resolve that personal situation before it overshadows the holidays. You'll feel better, even if you're only partly to blame for what happened.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Avoid overtaxing yourself, even if your energy levels are high and you feel that you can do it all. Best to pace yourself so you won't run yourself down before the holidays.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your sense of humor helps get you through a stressful period. Some of your quick quips can take the edge off any remaining negativity being aimed at you.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your artistic talents not only help you express yourself these days, but they also set up a line of communication between you and someone very special.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) It's fine to appreciate the importance of "proper form" for doing things. But relax a bit in order to allow newcomers on the project to feel less intimidated by you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Use your boundless reserve of optimism to persuade others to work with you to resolve a difficult workplace problem before it can ruin your holiday fun.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You brim over with self-confidence as you begin to tackle a new challenge. And, before you know it, you're not alone: Others have taken the plunge with you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a highly defined sense of commitment to others. You would make a fine social worker.



Bark Bytes...

By Vicki & Richard Horowitz

Don't Give a Puppy as a Gift!

Please don't give a puppy as a holiday gift! As a professional dog behavioral therapist and trainer, I see cases year after year of puppies that were given as a "wow for now" surprise, but when the newness wore off and their owners became tired of all the daily puppy care responsibilities, they were neglected, given up or even abused. A living puppy should not be thought of in the same category as a holiday toy. When a puppy is adopted, he should be carefully chosen as a permanent addition to the family who will contribute much, but will also have needs of his own, which require a serious commitment from all family members to meet.

Many dogs surrendered to shelters are young—just six months to three years old—and a good portion of these are puppies less than six months old. In addition, people need to know that the number one cause of death for dogs isn't trauma or disease—it's euthanasia due to behavior problems. In fact, three to four million dogs and cats will be euthanized this year in the U.S. That number could include that cute puppy bought as a Christmas gift!

Adding a puppy to your life is, on average, a 15-year responsibility. Raising a happy, well-balanced puppy requires an enormous time commitment, so a young pup is not a suitable choice for every dog-lover. Remember, it may take several years for a rambunctious puppy to settle down into a calmer adult dog.

If the intended recipient seems ready for a puppy, be sure they can answer "yes" to these questions:

- Are you ready to participate in training and managing all aspects of the responsibilities of puppy (and dog) ownership, each and every day?
- Can you afford to provide good nutrition, veterinary care, training and everything else the pup will need to become a good canine citizen?
- Are you willing to walk or take your dog out to toilet at least six times a day, in all sorts of weather?
- Do you have a reliable pet sitter or dog walker who can care for your pet when you're at work or out of town?

If someone on your gift list really wants a puppy, consider giving a homemade gift certificate for one instead. Wrap a can of dog food, fancy collar or good book on raising a puppy, and include a note saying a puppy (or dog) of the recipient's choice comes with the gift.

And remember too that dogs of all ages make perfect companions. Most adult dogs tend to be calmer, have more predictable behaviors, and are already housebroken.

If your gift recipient is really ready for dog ownership, set a date after the holidays to start looking for the perfect dog. Research responsible breeders or visit your local animal shelter or rescue so the gift recipient can choose a dog that they really want and one that will match their lifestyle.

As a trainer with the world's largest dog training company, I am committed to helping people better understand how dogs think, act and communicate, and therefore be responsible dog owners. The holidays are the giving season—so give a puppy his best chance to become a long-term companion and have a happy life by NOT putting him under the tree.

Vicki and Richard Horowitz, of Woodbridge, are dog behavioral therapists and trainers with Bark Busters, the world's largest dog training company. For more information, call 1-877-500-BARK (2275) or visit www.BarkBusters.com.

Find the Right Gift for Dogs or Cats



DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My daughter and her family have two big dogs and a cat. I like giving gifts to the pets as well as my grandkids. Do you have any suggestions? -- Tammy, via email

DEAR TAMMY: Anything that looks cozy, fun and safe for pets is a good bet. I've always appreciated even small gifts like a cute bandanna for my dog or small catnip toys for my cat. If you're looking for gifts beyond stocking stuffers, here are some that most pet owners will appreciate:

- Dog and cat beds: These range in price from about \$15 on up to a few hundred dollars. Look for a sturdy fabric covering that is easy to brush fur from, and stuffing that can't be easily pulled out and chewed on.
- Cat furniture: From a simple padded windowsill seat to "kitty condo" play complexes that cats can wander through, cat owners appreciate these combination scratching posts and rest areas.
- Travel safety: A number of products have come on the market to keep dogs and cats safe in the car, from traditional travel crates to adapted seat belts that keep Fido securely in his seat.
- Toys: For your daughter's big dogs, sturdy chew toys are probably welcome. I still really like Kong chew toys, which are nearly impossible to damage and can be filled with peanut butter or another treat. For cats, something beyond the catnip mouse could include one of Bergan's "Turbo Tracks," in which a ball inset in a round or figure-eight track scoots around with every swipe of the paw.

No matter which gift you choose, or if you decide to just give small, inexpensive gifts to your daughter's pets, I'm sure they'll be appreciated.

Send your question or comment to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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