

Woodbridge Town News



Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2016



Retired School Superintendent Dr. Guy Stella, right, and his successor Bob Gilbert were among the volunteers serving lunch.



Sisters Dorothy Malerba, left, and Ann Adamovich enjoy the holiday luncheon at the Senior Center.

SENIOR CENTER OFFICIALS PLAN FOR A NEW ERA

By Bettina Thiel –Woodbridge Town News Correspondent

More than 100 senior citizens enjoyed the traditional holiday luncheon at the senior center last week, served by Rotary Club volunteers. The hall in the basement of the Center Building was buzzing with conversation and laughter and “waiters” squeezing by between chairs. Karen Wagner, an entertainer, added finger-snapping holiday music to provide a background of musical cheer.

The event provides what senior centers all over the nation do: friendly conversation, entertainment and food (stuffed chicken breast with gravy). And for Senior Center Director Jeanette Glicksman and Human Services Director Mary Ellen LaRocca it's an opportunity to catch up with those who show up: there are the pinochle players, the bridge players, the lunch crew, the “regulars”. Maybe half of the attendees at the luncheon were bused over from the local senior care facilities.

Even recently retired Senior Center Director Lee Canning checked in and

among the servers we spotted now-retired School Supt. Dr. Guy Stella along with his successor, Bob Gilbert. The party always is a joyous occasion, and this year was no different.

Planning for the future: But at the administrative level, LaRocca and Glicksman, along with Human Services Commission Chairman Sharon Bender are working hard to bring the senior center into the 21st century. They are trying new programs and are thinking of ways to make the facility itself more attractive. “Our concern is over the viability, the usability,” said Human Services Commission Chairman Sharon Bender at the December 1 Board of Finance budget meeting, where she was asking for funds for a space and needs assessment.

Glicksman had a handout for the finance board members, showing how the state's population of people over 65 will have increased by 57% between 2010 and 2040. She also had a map of the state

showing areas where seniors constitute more than 20% of the total population in black. From 2010 to 2025 that map went from a checkered board to almost all black in 2025. “Connecticut is ageing: Is your town ready?” was the pointed headline.

For years senior center officials have been asking the town for a ramp, for example, to make the facility more easily accessible. There is an elevator that can bring wheelchair-bound people to the lower level, but only one at a time. They

also have been asking for a handicap-accessible bathroom in the basement level where their programs are taking place. Some funds have been set aside for the bathroom project, and the town recently solicited bids for architectural drawings. It looks like the project may come to fruition in 2017.

The senior center is located in the basement of the Center Building, which used to be the town's elementary school

See “New Era” continued on Page 5

Happy Holidays!

From the Staff of the Orange Town News

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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

Rocky Salpento



It is hard for me to believe that we have completed our 6th year as “Your Hometown Newspaper”, but time sure does fly when you are having fun! As we approach another year’s end, I would like to take this opportunity to wish a **Joyous Holiday Season & Happy New Year** to all of our loyal readers. The **Woodbridge Town News** has done its best to continue providing our readership within and outside of Woodbridge a diverse community newspaper that has something for everyone to enjoy.

Our sister paper, the “**Orange Town News**”, now in its 11th year, has grown as area residents have come to rely on both of our publications as their source for positive community news, events and happenings.

I would like to commend our staff of professional writers and contributors: **Feature Writer Bettina Thiel, Susan Noonan, Ginny Reinhard, Roberta Nestor & Ray Spaziani.**

My editor, **Marlene Silverstein** (who has been our editor since day one) and our production manager, **Mike Kriz** continue to produce top notch publications for which area residents can be proud.

In addition, the **loyalty of our ad-**

vertisers and their continued support through their patronage of the WTN & OTN has not gone unnoticed. While the State & Local economies continue to suffer, we are committed to provide local businesses, large & small, an affordable means to promote their goods and services.

But most of all, my heartfelt thanks go out to the hundreds of **townspeople who submit their letters, articles, photos, bulletin board events and more.** While our paper has grown to as many as 44 pages, do not worry; we will continue to make room to publish your local news and events, **no matter how big or small.**

In addition, readers continue to rely on our **enhanced websites** for our publications at **www.woodbridgetownnews.com & www.orangetownnews.com.**

Lastly, I would like to personally wish you all a **Safe, Happy and Healthy 2017.** If you have any comments or suggestions, please always feel free to contact me at rocky@woodbridgetownnews.com.

Sincerely,
Rocky Salpento – Publisher
Woodbridge Town News,
Orange Town News

Woodbridge Town News

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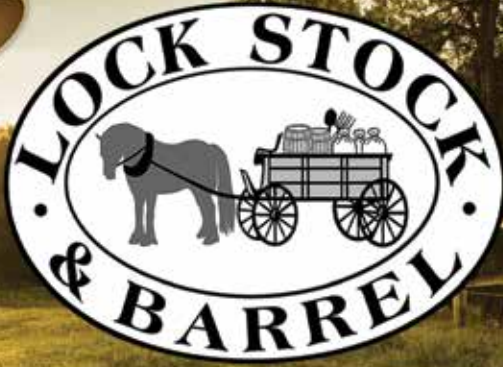
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YALE UNIVERSITY: NOT ON OUR GOLF COURSE

By Bettina Thiel – Woodbridge Town News Correspondent

The Redan Reserve proposal for a destination golf resort on the property of the Yale Golf Course is off the table. The proposal, introduced to townspeople last summer by New York developer Roland Betts, would have added the Country Club of Woodbridge as a second 18-hole golf course. “The University had other priorities at this time,” wrote Bruce Alexander, vice president for New Haven and State Affairs at Yale University in an email.

The proposal, which started as a student suggestion in a class Mr. Betts was teaching at the Yale School of Management, excited many Woodbridge residents who would have liked to see the country club preserved as a golf course. But in an email to First Selectman Ellen Scalettar, which was obtained through a Freedom of Information request and widely shared by Cathy Wick on the Conserve Woodbridge email list, Betts complained about the lack of interest shown by Woodbridge officials. Maybe in an effort to exert pressure, he withdrew his proposal on September 29. Instead, “we will first renovate the Yale Golf Course, then build the hotel, then

add a second course when demand warrants,” he wrote.

Scalettar maintains that the town “engaged in ongoing good faith negotiations with Roland Betts to arrive at mutually acceptable terms for a deal. At the same time, the Town was consistent in its position that no proposal would be acted upon or brought to the voters until Mr. Betts provided us with written confirmation of Yale’s commitment to the project.”

Selectman Joe Dey, at a special Board of Selectmen meeting on October 26, said, “we felt we had nothing to do until Yale comes forward.”

“Yale has made its decision and is not pursuing this project,” Scalettar wrote in an email. “Any rumors or accusations that Woodbridge caused the Redan project to fail are false.”

In the meantime, town officials have progressed with their plans to turn the property into open space, with meadows and possibly a bike path or ice skating and other recreational facilities. “We have 150 acres, there is a lot we can do with it,” Scalettar said at the meeting.

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FIRST SELECTMAN NAMES WALTER AS PERSON OF THE MONTH

First Selectman Ellen Scalettar recognized Trail Master Mike Walter as the November Woodbridge Person of the Month. Scalettar initiated the Woodbridge Person of the Month recognition program to spotlight the many Woodbridge residents, volunteers and employees who go above and beyond the expected in their dedication and commitment to Woodbridge and its residents.

The Town Trail Master is a volunteer who leads the Town's maintenance of its hiking trails. Walter regularly leads and organizes trail maintenance days with other volunteers to clear trails of debris and ensure the trails are well blazed.

Walter has served as the Trail Master since 2000, even using his own tools for the maintenance work. He works on all Woodbridge trails, whether they are owned by the Town, the Woodbridge Land Trust or the Woodbridge Park Association.

Recently, Walter helped re-route

the Bishop West trail system to divert walkers from Camp Whiting, the Boy Scout camp used for camping trips and other events. Walter was instrumental in ensuring accuracy in the Town's new trail maps created by the Regional Council of Governments. Those maps are now available on the Town website, woodbridge.org, and at Town Hall.

"Woodbridge's open space and extensive network of walking trails are, for many, a highlight of living in our town," said First Selectman Ellen Scalettar. "Mike Walter's long-term volunteerism helps make Woodbridge's abundant natural beauty available for us all to enjoy. Mike is a responsive and dedicated volunteer. On behalf of all residents, I thank him for his service."

If you know a Woodbridge employee, resident or volunteer who's gone above and beyond expectations, please nominate that person for this award by contacting Betsy Yagla at byagla@woodbridge.org or 203-389-3403.

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An Antiques Roadshow-style event in November is one of a number of new programs organized by the library in conjunction with the Woodbridge Senior Center. Georgia Chavent, right, brought a quilt to a table manned by Joan and Harold Lindy of Rosedoor Appraisals.



Senior Center Director Jeanette Glicksman, right, chats with guests at the recent holiday luncheon.

“New Era” continued from Page 1

before the Beecher Road School opened in the 1960s. The old school cafeteria is where the seniors eat today. Off to the side is a carpeted, comfortable lounge with sofas, tables and books. The director shares an office with the administrative assistant. A computer room has been moved upstairs, to Room 11.

“We are 40 years old and we look it” Glicksman said about the center. She and members of the commission have been visiting senior centers in Westbrook and in Middletown, both of which also are located in former school buildings. It has given them some new ideas what can be done with the existing space.

“Our facility is just not up to snuff,” Bender said at the finance board meeting. “We need to make ourselves relevant and inviting to baby boomers.”

Health and wellness center: It’s with baby boomers in mind that the Human Services Commission is working on a strategic plan. “We have a vision,” Human Services Director Mary Ellen LaRocca said in a conversation last week.

“We want to create a center for health and wellness.”

They have started adding both new exercise classes as well as educational offerings. In November, a local staging of an “Antiques Roadshow” type event drew some 50 participants, which may not be as large as the televised events, but it attracted a large variety of ages. “Everyone seemed to be integrating and socializing,” Glicksman said. “We can build on this.”

The push for revitalizing the senior center came from residents who attended a workshop for the Town Plan of Conservation and Development two years ago. Several people there mentioned that the center, though serving octogenarians and up, had few things going for the active seniors in their 60s and 70s. Senior Center officials were quick to take that to heart: They added a walking group and a book club. This fall, they offered pickleball demos and come January they will be starting a pickleball group on Friday afternoons. They hope to include yoga and tai chi in addition to the long-stand-

ing exercise classes with Laurie Luce on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so there will be some form of exercise every day.

Some may argue that seniors can join a gym elsewhere to get the health benefit, but a lot of those who come are on a fixed income, Glicksman said. The idea is to have an ongoing, low-cost option every day of the week.

The center also signed on with the ILR (Institute of Learning in Retirement) at Albertus Magnus College, and local seniors can sign up for a variety of classes. Classes are taking place during the day in different area locations, including the Woodbridge Library Meeting Room and several Orange locations.

Glicksman, who previously had volunteered at the library and at the schools, is making use of her many connections to come up with cooperative programming. The Antiques Roadshow, for instance, took place in conjunction with the library; another inter-generational activity is a computer club, with teenagers from the high school helping seniors discover their electronic devices.

Inviting volunteers: Center officials welcome volunteers to help get things done. The annual holiday fair on the first Saturday in November, for example, is now all-volunteer run. It was moved upstairs into the gym, because it had outgrown the cafeteria. Former senior center chef Elaine Marcucio heads up a committee of volunteers that plans and organizes the event. “It became more of a community event,” Glicksman said. It included musical offerings of school groups and adult musicians. The departments at Town Hall offered a silent auction of decorated trees, wreaths and menorahs. “It brought the community out.”

Both Glicksman and LaRocca are encouraging people to bring ideas forward, no matter whether they want to learn something or have a skill to share. For example, one person asked if they could have a dance, Glicksman said. The goal is to keep seniors engaged and healthy so they can stay in their homes and maintain their independence, she said. “People choose to come to the library. We want the same for the senior center.”

‘TIS THE SEASON ... FOR A GOOD READ!

If a certain popular song is to be believed, it may be the most wonderful time of the year, but let’s face it: The holiday season is, for most of us, also the busiest. The shopping. The decorating. The cooking. The baking. The wrapping. The rushing.

The stress.

What better reason to carve out a few minutes for yourself and curl up with a good book? Whether you’re in the mood for humor, mystery or a sweetly simple life lesson, consider giving yourself an early gift with one of these holiday titles.

Ever entertained even a brief fantasy of opting out of pre-Yule madness? Luther and Nora Krank take it a step further in John Grisham’s comedic best-seller “Skipping Christmas.” With their only child overseas serving in the Peace Corps and “precious little to show” for all the spending and effort normally expended around Dec. 25, they decide instead to end the season with a cruise

to the Caribbean. If only they hadn’t told their neighbors ...

“Festival of Deaths,” a holiday mystery by Jane Haddam, takes readers into the wild and woolly world of New York talk-show host Lotte Goldman, known for her sensational forays into guests’ sex lives. Looking for a bit of a change, she plans a trip to Philadelphia to tape a conversation between former FBI agent Gregor Demarkian and a serial killer, but when her crewmembers start turning up dead before filming begins, her special guest will have to use his sleuthing skills to avoid a possible eight nights of murder!

It’s been 16 years since Erin Scott was

abandoned by Raimi Price, the boy of her dreams, at her high-school prom. Now she’s the successful owner of a flourishing department store set for expansion. But in Shirley Hailstock’s “Kwanzaa Angel,” the course of true love hardly

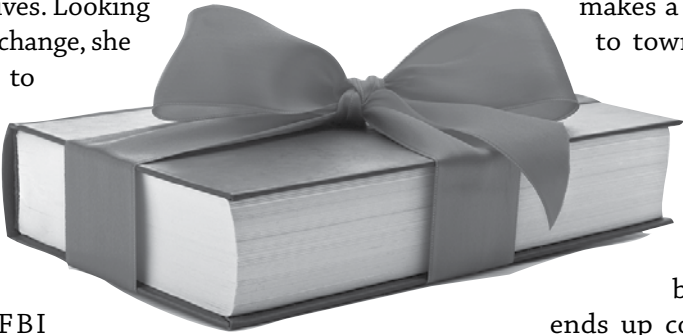
runs smooth: Raimi makes a return visit to town, planning not only to settle but to reconcile with the girl he left behind, yet ends up complicating matters by bidding on the same piece of property as Erin. Is their history doomed to repeat itself?

Adults and kids alike will find much to treasure in Truman Capote’s autobiographical short story “The Thanksgiving Visitor.” Young Buddy and his elderly,

eccentric cousin, Miss Sook, are happily preparing for a big Thanksgiving feast, but this year an unlooked for guest will be at the table -- 12-year-old Odd Henderson, who takes pleasure in tormenting Buddy. Why in the world would Miss Sook insist that Buddy invite him of all people? Could she perhaps have a special lesson about friendship and forgiveness up her sleeve?

New Year’s Eve is a time for beginnings, not endings ... unless you’re one of four very different people who for very different reasons find themselves united in a single purpose at the top of a 15-story building in London (hint: they’re not there for a romantic kiss at midnight). Yet as Nick Hornby shares in his darkly humorous “A Long Way Down,” they hardly expected to spend the night swapping stories with others just as miserable ... or end up postponing death a little while longer as a result.

Happy Reading!



WOODBIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



DOCUMENTARY & PANEL ON OPIOID EPIDEMIC AT AMITY

“Chasing the Dragon” documentary film and a panel to discuss the Opioid Epidemic will be held at Amity Regional High School, 25 Newton Road on January 11th at 6:00 p.m. Parents

and community members are invited to educate themselves about the cycle of addiction. The film includes strong language and content, and is not appropriate for younger viewers.

RESIDENTS NAMED TO HONOR ROLL AT SACRED HEART ACADEMY

Sacred Heart Academy Principal, Sr. Kathleen Mary Coonan, ASCJ, ’76 has announced the Honor Roll for the FIRST marking period of the 2016—2017 academic school year.

The following Woodbridge residents were named to the Honor Roll:

HIGH HONORS

- Carson Dziczkowski
- Anna-Claire Luciani
- Eleanor Luciani

HONORS

- Jacqueline Degennaro

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L to R: Dr. Charles Dumais, Superintendent, Gabriella Urbano, Jonathan Fischman, Dr. Richard Dellinger, Principal.

CAPSS SUPERINTENDENT/STUDENT AWARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Congratulations to eighth grade students, Jonathan Fischman and Gabriella Urbano, who are the recipients of this year’s Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendent (CAPSS) Awards. The award is based on community service, academic achievement, and leadership. Superintendent, Dr. Charles Dumais, presented this award at a ceremony held at the Amity Board of Education meeting on November 14, 2016.

Jonathan Fischman is a responsible and enthusiastic student who continually exhibits maturity and determination in all of his academic classes. Jonathan earns first honors in all advanced level courses. He is an insightful student who displays sensitivity towards his classmates. Jonathan acts as a role model for his peers, is helpful towards other students, and emerges as a leader both in and out of the classroom. Jonathan is an active member of various AMSB clubs, including the math team, the science club, the architecture and engineering club, and the social robotics and engineering program. He also enjoys playing alto sax in our school band. Jonathan has volunteered as a peer tutor this year and has been very helpful in working with other students. His enthusiasm for

learning and helping his peers is a tremendous asset. Outside of school Jonathan volunteers at his synagogue and is collecting winter clothing to donate to those in need for his bar mitzvah community service project.

Gabriella Urbano excels academically, earning first honors in advanced level courses. She was among a small group of Amity students selected to participate in UCONN’s STEM Conference for young women entitled, Multiplying Your Options, sponsored by the UCONN Engineering Department. In addition to her achievements in the classroom, Gabriella is also a leader in athletics as a member of the Amity Middle School volleyball team and a member of the strings program. She volunteers to participate in Fabulous Friends, a peer mentoring club to help students build positive friendships. According to her teachers and the adults who know her, it is Gabriella’s character which stands out as the reason for her receiving this prestigious recognition. Her pleasant disposition, genuine and natural enthusiasm, spirit of helpfulness, and her leadership by example are all areas in which Gabriella consistently distinguishes herself.

STUDENT NEWS

Roger Williams University Class of 2016

Bristol, RI - The following Woodbridge students graduated from Roger Williams University in Spring 2016: Jesse

Dipietro earned a degree in B.A. in Hist/Secondary Education; and Loren Ginty earned a degree in B.A. in Psychology.



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FROM THE FIRST
SELECTMAN'S DESK

By Ellen Scalett



Recently I attended the 2016 Woodbridge Interfaith Thanksgiving Service held this year at Congregation B'nai Jacob. It was moving to see people of so many beliefs and faiths come together to support and celebrate each other. Our coming together as a community now, after months of divisive rhetoric from a presidential campaign, is more important than ever.

We are blessed to live in this community for so many reasons. Our Town residents are increasingly diverse in ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds. I believe this diversity makes us a strong and resilient community, prepared to meet today's challenges and those that lie ahead.

Woodbridge is a town of extraordinary physical beauty that we enjoy from our homes, our roads and as we meander along the miles of trails throughout our woods. We don't take this for granted, but work to protect our natural environment: we have a no-pesticide policy on Town-owned land; we promote energy efficiency; we have two electric vehicle charging stations; we are in the midst of creating a microgrid to provide reliable

electricity to municipal buildings during a power outage; we have a large solar array on Beecher Road School and are exploring others; we own and protect a remarkable amount of open space; a Town program helped the JCC create the state's largest solar carport; and more.

Our dedicated Town employees and our generous resident volunteers keep us safe and secure and enhance our quality of life every day. Our children attend extraordinarily fine schools and we share a high respect for education and a love of learning. Our strong budgetary support for schools is unwavering and our Library is among the best to be found.

Our Town's strength comes from our residents' knowledge, passion, depth of caring and diversity. Sometimes these qualities cause us to disagree about the best course of action, a sure sign that democracy is alive and well in our little town.

This holiday season each of us has reasons to be thankful individually, as families and as a community. We have much to be grateful for in Woodbridge.

MODERN-DAY MENORAHS
COME IN MANY FORMS

It's an old and cherished story: A small band of faithful Jews defeats a mighty army, then reclaims and rededicates the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. But when they go to light the menorah at that dedication, they find only a day's supply of uncontaminated oil. Yet somehow that small supply burns steadfast and bright for a full eight days.

It's an old and cherished symbol, the centerpiece of Hanukkah: A nine-branched candelabrum with one candle, the *shamash* (or "helper" candle) set at a different level from the others and used to light them, as Jewish law requires that the regular candles be used solely for viewing and spreading the word of the miracle.

One wonders what the lighter of that original lamp might make of the myriad options in today's menorahs. There are, after all, just a few basic requirements: The lights must be arranged in a straight line and at the same height (save for the *shamash*) and burn for at least half an hour after nightfall, and the menorah itself must be no taller than 37 feet. Beyond that, they are as highly diverse as those who make or purchase them. Whether your taste runs to the sleek and contemporary, the flowery and ornate, or the unusual and whimsical, there's something for every home and price range.

While bronze, brass, silver plate and aluminum are some of the common ma-

terials for traditional menorahs, many families also use electric versions to light their windows while keeping an oil or candle version for the nightly ritual. If you enjoy a classic look, a sterling silver menorah makes an excellent fit. As Haim Palagi, a 19th-century Turkish rabbi, wrote, "Fortunate is the one who is privileged to make the Hanukkah lamp from silver."

Or you might want to help your kids get into the spirit of the season with one that includes such adornments as dolls, bears, cartoon characters or sports figures -- but whimsy isn't limited to the younger set. Go outside the box with recycled bike chains from India, bullet casings, or even Qassam rockets exploded in Israel -- menorahs have been made from all of them.

As for lighting, since the miracle of Hanukkah occurred with olive oil, an oil menorah is preferred by many, especially Orthodox Jewish families, with olive oil serving as the ideal fuel and cotton wicks preferred for the smooth flame they produce. A tray can be included underneath to catch any drips or leaks. If your menorah uses candles, choose the dripless variety to make it easier to keep clean.

Whatever form this ancient symbol of the season takes in your home, may it light your days with treasured reminders of faith, tradition and celebration.



FROM ANOTHER
POINT OF VIEW

By Selectman
Maria Cruz Kayne



Recently the First Selectman called a Joint Special meeting of the Woodbridge Boards of Selectmen and Finance. First on the agenda was a "Joint Review of Woodbridge Budget Elements and Process". I was very pleased to attend this meeting, since I believe it was prompted by my column of September 30th, in which I laid out a series of suggestions on how to improve the Town's budget process. I hoped that at least some of those suggestions would receive a substantive discussion.

The First Selectman opened the meeting with two misleading assertions: first, that the town has an "award-winning budget and budget process". It is important to understand that the well-deserved award that Finance Director Tony Genovese regularly receives is an award for the budget presentation, that is, for the way in which his budget documents present the town's financial information. It is not an award for the budget itself, or for the policies that underlie the budget, or for the process that is followed by the administration. The First Selectman repeatedly mischaracterizes this award.

Next, the First Selectman said that we have "the support of our residents every year at our Annual Meeting for the budget". This statement is more than misleading, it is simply false. With few exceptions, every year at our Annual Town Meeting we fail to achieve a quorum and the budget passes by default. One of my suggestions for improving our budget process, by the way, was to follow the practice of the vast majority of Connecticut towns and hold an annual budget referendum. Because the complexities of modern life make attendance at the Annual Town Meeting impractical for many people, I believe

that approving the budget by referendum would be a much more democratic and transparent approach.

When we turned to the substance of the special meeting on budget process, much of the discussion focused on whether we should set an overall budget goal. I suggested that we might be more likely to achieve better budget control if we had an overall goal in mind from the start. Only one member of the Board of Finance voiced any support for this concept, indicating that he supported setting an overall goal because he feels that "some of our departments do spend too damn much money". The idea of setting a goal met with considerable resistance. It appears that we have two very different approaches to budgeting on our boards of Selectmen and Finance: I believe that we should decide how much we can afford to spend then prioritize our needs within that limit. Others feel we should decide what we want to buy then raise taxes to cover the cost. In sum, this special meeting was a disappointment. No substantive changes to the budget process will occur. The Scalett administration will conduct business as usual, following a process that has resulted in Woodbridge having the highest municipal property tax in New Haven County, tenth highest of the 169 towns in the state.

As the end of the year approaches, I want to thank the many town residents who have reached out to me with questions and concerns. I'd also like to thank those who have helped me pull together this regular column - especially Cathy Wick - as I consider it vital to voice my constituents' concerns and present "another point of view". As always, you can reach me at (203)887-9065. Happy New Year!



Wishing you and your family
a warm holiday season!

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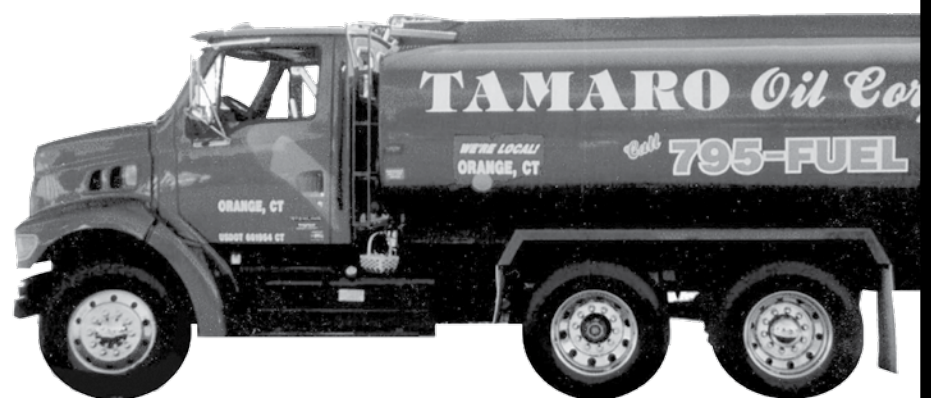
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SAFE SNOW REMOVAL

By Jared Artkop, PTA

No one wants to think of it, but the snow is coming. A necessity of living in the Northeast is snow removal and with that can come some common back aches and pain. Shoveling and snow blowing put increased pressures on our spinal column and can lead to sprains and strains if not done properly. A few careful steps can ensure a season of safe snow removal. It is important to check with your doctor if you have any reservations about your ability to work outside in the cold clearing snow. If you’ve been cleared and feel safe doing so, a proper warm up is necessary to prevent injuries of the spine, shoulders, and legs while clearing snow. Starting with 10 minutes of stretches and light exercise indoors is a great way to increase blood flow and warm-up tissues you will be relying on once you get to work outdoors.

Proper equipment is a must. Ensure you have footwear with traction that is appropriate for the type of work you are about to embark on, in addition to well-fitting, warm clothing that will not hinder movement at your shoulders and knees. Look for a shovel with a light plastic head to reduce the amount of weight you will be moving once you get started. A curved, adjustable handle will limit the amount of bending necessary at your back and knees during snow removal. Never use a shovel that you feel is too big or too small for you. If you have access to, and feel comfortable using, a snow blower it may be a better option as it will not require you to bend over.



Jared Artkop

In terms of correct technique, always push the snow with your legs only lifting when need be, using your legs to do the work. Never bend at your waist, twist, or throw snow over your shoulder as these are high risk maneuvers that will lead to increased risk of shoulder and back pain or injury. Start early while the snow is light, do not attempt to clear deep snow all at once, and take breaks often. These steps can help you make it through the winter injury-free and keep you safe while working in less than ideal conditions. A physical therapist, like those at Amity Physical Therapy, can answer any questions you may have regarding technique and proper warm-up, as well as assess any issues that may limit your ability to safely participate in snow removal. A little bit of caution and foresight can prevent pain and injury when unexpected weather hits.

Jared graduated from the STCC PTA program with high honors this past May, and has been working in the outpatient orthopedic setting since 2011. Prior to completing the PTA program he earned his B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Connecticut. mJared plans to further his education in Functional Movement Systems this fall. In his free-time Jared loves to play disc-golf, read, and travel. Amity Physical Therapy was founded 12 years ago by Michael Dow MSPT and CEO/Director of the practice that now maintains three offices: Woodbridge, Hamden and Branford. For more information, call 203-389-4593 or visit amitypt.com.

NFL CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

More Important Than Ever for Scholastic Athletes

By Lindsay Richard DPT

With National Football League concussions more frequent than ever, the league’s rulings for proper protocol could not have come much sooner. Protocol carefully monitors, over a period of time, a player’s possible return to the field when concussion symptoms have subsided. Similar programs apply to all high school and college athletes engaged in contact sports.

Concussions, in simple terms, are bruises to the brain. The American Association of Neurology defines them as “a trauma-induced alteration in mental status that may or may not involve loss of consciousness”. Over 3.8 million concussions occur every year involving contact sports (football, soccer, lacrosse, etc.) together with accidents from slipping, falling, and striking one’s head. Immediate symptoms include gazing, slurred speech, decreased attention, incoordination/clumsiness, disorientation, impaired memory, nausea/dizziness, vomiting, headaches and irritability.

Many of those affected by concussions will be involved in a multi-level medical management. This ranges from coaches and athletic trainers to emergency department personnel/Internal Medicine doctors to neurologist or concussion specialists. AZ concussion is diagnosed by symptoms and possible MFI or VCT Scan. An ImPact test may be done to determine areas of deficit. An ImPact test may be administered for a baseline measurement beginning at age 10 and used as a reference for athletes in sports that are at high risk for concussions. Physical Therapists are well qualified practitioners and a vital part of concussion management.

Two major issues after a concussion include headaches and balance dysfunction. Headaches may occur in response to over stimulating environments with

bright lights or excessive noise. Other areas that may be affected are reaction time, performing multiple set activities, attention span, and memory. Some symptoms may last longer than

7-10 days, at which point further intervention may be required.

Many of these effects are associated with the vestibular system. The vestibular system is an intricate organization of sensory input from inner ears, and contributes to the body’s awareness of where it is in space. After a concussion, the

vestibular system may be affected in a way that requires specific rehabilitation. Individualized treatments may include visual or oculomotor exercises, balance challenges, as well as neck range of motion and stretching. Sport specific exercises as well as coordination and cardiovascular endurance are incorporated as the person affected progresses, while having symptoms monitored continuously. Athletes follow a specific Return to Play protocol designed to prevent further complications from concussions. Rest and sleep are also critical to helping the brain.

Lindsay Richard DPT is a therapist in Amity Physical Therapy’s Hamden office. Richard, a graduate of the University of Connecticut, received her doctorate degree from Sacred Heart University. Her experience includes orthopedics in Fairfield County, clinical rotations at Madison House in Madison CT, with similar clinical assignments at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Bridgeport Hospital Burn Unit, and Yale-New Haven Children’s Hospital Outpatient Rehabilitation. Amity Physical Therapy was founded by Michael Dow MSPT, CEO/Director eleven years ago and maintains three offices in the Greater New Haven area: Woodbridge, Branford, and Hamden. Lindsay Richard can be reached at 203-691-6248 or visit www.amitypt.com.



Lindsay Richard



2016 HOLIDAY SHIPPING DEADLINES

	Coast to Coast	Cutting It Close	Where To Take It	Contact
U.S. Postal Service	Drop first-class letters and cards in your mailbox by Dec. 20; Dec. 15 for parcel post.	Priority (1-3 day) service by Dec. 21 Express Overnight by Dec. 23	Your local post office or arrange for carrier pickup. Use usps.com to order supplies, print postage and access a host of other services..	www.usps.com
UPS	Dec. 14, check transit times on website or at drop-off location.	Ship 2-Day Air by Dec. 21 or Next-Day Air as late as Dec. 22.	UPS Stores nationwide. Go to ups.com or call 800-789-4623 to find a location or schedule pickup.	www.ups.com; 1-800-PICK-UPS
Fed Ex	Dec. 16 for all FedEx Ground packages.	Overnight by Dec. 22; 2-Day Air by Dec. 21 for delivery Dec. 23; big spenders can utilize priority overnight or same-day delivery on Friday, Dec. 23 for Christmas Eve delivery (in some areas).	Any FedEx Office location or FedEx authorized shipper.	www.fedex.com; 1-800-GO-FEDEX



“AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION”

Prevention: The Gift That Keeps on Giving

Who (besides Chevy Chase in National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation) would ever think that decorating for the holidays would result in sending thousands of people to the emergency room? In 2012, the National Safety Council reported 15,000 injuries from holiday decorating! The National Safety Council states “holiday safety is an issue that burns brightest from late November to mid-January.” Injuries are caused by falls off ladders, tripping over electrical cords, poisonings, or fires.

December, January and February are peak months for home fires. The major causes of home fires are from cooking, especially if unattended, followed by unsafe heating devices, open flames (such as candles), dry Christmas trees (if you have the internet, view this clip http://fire.nist.gov/tree_fire.htm) and other holiday decorations (such as lighting). In 2013, there were 2,200 deaths by fire burns and other fire-related injuries. 12% of candle fires occur in December. Turkey fryers have also caused a number of injuries as well as over 8 million dollars in property damage. (Data sources: National Fire Protection Association, The Consumer Protection Safety Commission and the Electrical Safety Foundation International.)

Most of us think that such injuries or incidents will not happen to us. However, they do happen to people just like us. What we need is “the gift that keeps on giving: PREVENTION.” Follow safe practices, read all directions, don’t take short-cuts and use common sense! For example, most strings of lights have instructions about safe use. It will say, “Plug in no more than three strings”. But how many people have added that

fourth or fifth string despite what the directions say? How many people actually read the directions?

We are busy people. During the holiday season, we often have a very long “to do” list. But rushing a job to get it done should not mean taking shortcuts that circumvent safety. Don’t do something in a manner in which you know isn’t the correct way to do it. (Then you won’t have to say “I knew I shouldn’t have done that!”) In addition to staying injury-free from decorating activities, keep the following messages in mind to make sure your family has a safe holiday season.

If you give sporting equipment such as skateboards, skates or bicycles for holiday presents, be sure to add the proper protective gear. Emergency rooms report an increase in fractures within the few days following the holiday due to spills, falls and collisions.

Candles, while beautifully casting a warm glow, can be very dangerous any time of the year. Frequently they are placed near greens that become quite flammable as they dry out. The holidays can present some special risks for children. Emergency rooms often see children for holiday-related injuries like aspirated pine needles, little ornaments or artificial snow. Poisoning can be a big problem, too. Many holiday plants and berries are poisonous (to your pets also). Alcohol poisoning can also occur if little ones get their hands on glasses with small amounts of leftover drinks. For an information packet on holiday safety, District residents (Bethany, Hamden, North Haven and Woodbridge) can call QVHD, 248-4528 or request by email, dculligan@qvhd.org.

IT’S HUGGING AND KISSING SEASON

The holidays are coming and while it is great to see all the relatives, the kissing and hugging can lead to the exchange of lots of germs. The germ that causes whooping cough in an infant is frightening and can have devastating results. It is very important to protect infants from this disease as they are not fully protected until they are a year old. QVHD offers the pertussis (whooping cough) 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. Clinics are held monthly from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the QVHD district office, 1151 Hartford Turnpike, North Haven. Appointments are required; however you can get an appointment for the same day as a scheduled clinic if you call by 1:00 p.m. Call QVHD, 203 248-4528 for the next clinic date.

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**WINTER VACATION
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- \$7.00 - Bowl and get a bag of chips and soda, plus bowling shoe rental.

or


- \$11.00 - Bowl and choice of hot dog, grilled cheese, or chicken nuggets and soda.

Sign up opportunities will be at Bethany Middle School on Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch beginning December 6th, or call Woodbridge Youth Services at 203-389-3429.

This program is sponsored by Woodbridge Youth Services and the Town of Bethany. Volunteers needed! Parents, grandparents, college students, high school juniors and seniors are encouraged to help. It's a great way to support our young teens, and create a safe, fun way to meet friends. Please call 203-389-3429 for more information and to register for this event.

**TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE MEETINGS
FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2016**

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



Town Hall


12/10 Conservation Comm. Sp. Mtg.	5:00pm	Town Hall
12/12 Library Commission	6:00pm	Library
Zoning Board of Appeals	7:30pm	Town Hall
12/13 Government Access TV	7:15pm	Town Hall
12/14 Board of Selectmen	5:00pm	Town Hall
12/15 Board of Finance	6:00pm	Town Hall
Conservation Commission	7:30pm	Town Hall
12/19 Fire Commission	6:00pm	Fire Station
CUPOP	6:30pm	Town Hall
12/21 Inland/Wetlands Agency	7:30pm	Town Hall

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<p>NEW PRICE!</p>  <p>OXFORD \$482,000 55+living, 11rm, 4BR, 3.5 ba N10159340 Darlene Eaton, 203-795-2392</p>	 <p>TRUMBULL \$465,000 Expanded Ranch 5BRs N10163102 Mike Sirochman, 203-795-2365</p>	 <p>SEYMOUR \$409,900 Beautiful 9rm, 4BR Colonial N10175163 Lori Miko, 203-795-2328</p>	 <p>NEW HAVEN \$399,900 Stately Colonial 4,200+sf N10176079 Rosemary Sowitcky, 203-795-2390</p>	 <p>EAST HAVEN \$394,900 Gorgeous waterfront condo N10170790 Mike Sirochman, 203-795-2365</p>
 <p>NEW HAVEN \$369,900 Waterfront 4 fam N10086772 Nick Mastrangelo, 203-795-2351</p>	 <p>WEST HAVEN \$349,000 Close to beach; 8 rm Ranch N10156131 Mary Radzizewski, 203-795-2389</p>	 <p>BETHANY \$333,900 Lovely, 13 rm Colonial N10159311 Tom Cavaliere, 203-795-2300</p>	 <p>BETHANY \$324,900 Spacious 8 rm, 3BR Colonial N10156319 Tom Cavaliere, 203-795-2300</p>	 <p>WEST HAVEN \$314,900 Multi unit beach house N10163720 Mike Sirochman, 203-795-2365</p>
<p>ON DEPOSIT IN 13 DAYS!</p>  <p>WESTVILLE \$299,000 8 rm center hall Col N10182888 Nick Mastrangelo, 203-795-2351</p>	<p>NEW PRICE!</p>  <p>SEYMOUR \$279,900 8 rm, 4/5BR, 3 ba Colonial N10152455 Lori Miko, 203-795-2328</p>	<p>NEW LISTINGS!</p>  <p>MILFORD \$269,900 Cozy 5rm, 3BR, 2 F ba Cape N10181266 Mario Gambardella, 203-795-2375</p>	 <p>BETHANY \$260,000 10 rm, 3BR 2.5ba RR N10154736 Darlene Eaton, 203-795-2392</p>	 <p>NAUGATUCK \$155,000 HUD Home 3BR, 2Ba N10184371 Toni Ross, 203-795-2332</p>



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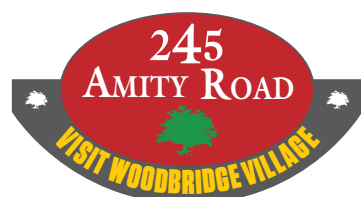
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Q: Oh, my gosh! I can't believe the cliffhanger for **"How to Get Away with Murder"**! Please tell me I don't have to wait until next fall to see how this all pans out. -- Nancy F, via email

A: You won't have to wait TOO long for "HTGAWM" to return. Right now, the show is on winter hiatus and will return to ABC on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 10/9c. SPOILER ALERT: I can't wait to see the aftermath of Wes' (played by **Alfred Enoch**) grisly death, discover who killed him and placed him in Annalise's (**Viola Davis**) house before caught it fire, and see the events that led up to poor Waitlist's demise.

I also am thrilled to report that Jan. 19 marks the return of **"Scandal,"** which makes its sixth-season premiere right beforehand at 9/8c. You might recall that "Scandal" was scheduled for a midseason debut this year to accommodate star **Kerry Washington's** real-life pregnancy. However, this does mean that it will be a slightly shorter season -- 16 episodes instead of 22. I don't think that's necessarily a bad thing, though: To me, it just means that every episode will have that much more bang for the buck, and I can't wait!

Q: Will **"The Path"** be back for another season? If so, can you give me any hints as to what we can expect? -- Paula T., Birmingham, Alabama

A: Hulu did indeed order a second season of this thrilling drama, and starts streaming the first episode Jan. 25. "The Path" follows the Meyerist Movement as its followers try to make sense of Dr. Meyer's (**Keir Dullea**) mysterious departure.



Viola Davis [ABC/Bob D'Amico]

Tormented by strange visions, Eddie (**Aaron Paul**) struggles with a new life in the secular world, while Sarah (**Michelle Monaghan**), despite her skepticism of Cal (**Hugh Dancy**), now stands beside him as Co-Guardian of the Light. When Sarah finally learns of Cal's dark past, she buries the truth for the betterment of the Movement. Cal and Sarah, now closer than ever, strive to atone for their misdeeds, while Eddie, confronted with the meaning of his visions, discovers the truth of Dr. Meyer's departure.

Q: Is it true that **"The Lion King"** is being remade? Why? The movie is perfect as is. -- Kelli Y., via email

A: Actor-director-producer **Jon Favreau**, who brought us the live-action remake of **"The Jungle Book"** this past April (and it was recently announced that he is making a sequel), is at the helm of the live-action remake of "The Lion King." Walt Disney Studios has stated that the reimagining is on the fast track to production and will include the songs from the original -- written by **Elton John, Tim Rice** and **Hans Zimmer** -- including the Oscar-winning "Can You Feel the Love Tonight."

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803; or e-mail her at letters@cindy-elavsky.com.



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CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS TRACE TO DRUIDS, SINGLE MOM

Many Christmas customs are carry-overs from pre-Christian celebrations. Hanging gifts on trees is supposed to stem from tree worship of the Druids and the belief that the tree was the giver of all good things. In the eighth century, Saint Boniface is said to have substituted a fir tree for the pagan oak as a symbol of faith.

Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer, fostered the Christmas tree cult in the 16th century by using a candlelit tree as a symbol of Christ's heavenly home. It's said he was so taken with the Christmas night sky that he wished to bring "the lights of the stars" into the home of his family. Trees decorated with candles, fruit and paper flowers were introduced into Britain soon after Queen Victoria's marriage, leading to our customs today.

The Druids also are partly responsible for the use of mistletoe at Christmastime. They regarded mistletoe as sacred because it stayed green even during winter. On the sixth day of the new moon, a Druid priest would cut mistletoe from an oak tree with a sacred sickle. A passing virgin was called upon to catch the falling plant, which was not allowed to touch the ground. The Druids dedicated the plant to the Goddess of Love, which explains the kissing that goes on under it. Originally, when a boy kissed a girl, he plucked a berry from the

cluster and presented it to her. When the berries were gone, so were the kisses.

A wreath with holly, red berries and other decorations dates from at least the 17th century. Holly, with its sharply pointed leaves, symbolized the thorns in Christ's crown-of-thorns. Red berries symbolized the drops of Christ's blood. A wreath at Christmas signified a home that celebrated the birth of Christ.

Tinsel on the Christmas tree is attributed to a woman whose husband died. She was left to bring up a large family of children herself, and she was determined to make a happy time for them at Christmas. She prepared a Christmas tree to surprise them on Christmas Day. Unfortunately, spiders visited the tree, and crawled from branch to branch, making webs all over it. The Christ Child saw the tree and knew she would be devastated to find this on Christmas morning. He changed the spiders' webs to shining silver.

In Christmas tree decorations, angels are usually portrayed as wimpy blondes in girl's blouses and sandals. In the Bible, however, angels are muscular bullies who frequently goad humans into fist-fights. Life isn't all harps and heavenly choirs for angels; there's a strict career structure. The only angels mentioned by name in the Bible are archangels, the eighth-ranking order of angels.



CHRISTMAS TREES CHANGE WITH TIMES

For thousands of years, plants and trees that remain green throughout the year have held special significance through winter's early darkness and cold. Not only were they a reminder that warmth, light and crops would return again with the spring, but in many countries their branches were draped over doors and windows in an effort to repel witches, ghosts, evil spirits and illness.

But how did the evergreen become a fixture of Dec. 25?

We can thank Germany for starting that tradition in the 16th century, when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. And it's widely held that Martin Luther was the first to add light to a tree. As the story goes, the Protestant reformer was walking home one evening when he was struck by the beauty of stars twinkling among evergreens. To illustrate it for his family, he put up a tree in the main room of his house and wired candles to its branches.

Americans weren't so quick to catch on, however. New England Puritans regarded Christmas as sacred, and celebrations of the day, including Christmas carols, were described by William Bradford as "pagan mockery." In fact, in 1659, the General Court of Massachusetts passed a law making any further observance of Dec. 25 other than a church service a penal offense: People actually would be fined for hanging decorations!

Prince Albert, husband to Queen Victoria, made Christmas trees fashionable in

England by accepting his wife's suggestion to decorate their family's at Windsor Castle in the style of his childhood, with candles, sweets, fruits, gingerbread and an angel at the top. After a sketch of the tree ran in the Illustrated London News, what had been largely regarded as a pagan symbol rapidly gained popularity in both Britain and America. By 1870, fine glass ornaments were being imported from Germany, and in 1882, Edward Johnson, an assistant to Thomas Edison, produced the first set of electric tree lights.

Since those early days, style trends in Christmas trees have been about as limitless as human imagination. Artificial trees, which became popular in the early 20th century, have been comprised of everything from colored ostrich feathers to papier mache to glass and plastic. In 1930, the Addis Housewares Company even created one from brush bristles, using the same machinery it used to make toilet brushes.

And if you're not going with a live tree this year, who says it has to be green -- or an evergreen? Put an Indian spin on your holiday with a mango or banana tree. Choose from lipstick-red or zebra striped, ice-blue or lavender ... black for those with a Gothic streak ... even rainbow and candy-corn shades. Whatever the hue, whether the lights are fiber optic or traditional bulbs, the branches strung with popcorn or electronics -- there's something to tickle every fancy and illuminate every home with the spirit of the most wonderful time of the year.

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COLDWELL BANKER COLLECTS TOYS FOR THE YALE TOY CLOSET

The Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Woodbridge has been designated as a local drop site for the Yale Toy Closet program again this year. Founded in 1993 by Ann Nyberg, WTNH News 8 anchorwoman, the Toy Closet helps insure that pediatric patients come away from their hospitalization with a pleasant memory. In addition, the toys serve as gifts for special occasions such as birthdays and holiday celebrations for hospitalized children. Toys, gifts and financial contributions are needed throughout the year. The success of the

Toy Closet program is directly related to community involvement. The Woodbridge Office, located at 270 Amity Road, will be accepting donated toys through December 15th. Once the reception area of the office is full of toys, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage staff and sales associates will deliver the toys to the Yale Toy Closet. For more information about the Yale Toy Closet collection, please contact Aileen DeFeo at (203) 389-0015. A list of toy suggestions is also available upon request.

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CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Marrakech President & CEO, Heather LaTorra (left) with Honorary Chairs Bruce DelMonico of Yale University School of Management and Jennifer DelMonico, Esq. of Murtha Cullina [Photo Credit: Digi Von Douglas]

MARRAKECH'S 16TH ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION A SUCCESS!

Marrakech, Inc., a nonprofit human service organization based in Woodbridge, held its 16th annual Gala & Auction on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at the Toyota Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford. Over 250 guests attended. The event was chaired by Jennifer DelMonico, Esq. of Murtha Cullina and Bruce DelMonico of Yale University's School of Management. Guests bid on hundreds of items in a silent auction and enjoyed music during the cocktail hour provided by Musical Intervention. A brief program and live auction was followed along with dinner and dancing to the music of Third

Shift. Murtha Cullina, Attorneys At Law and L.H. Brenner, Inc. and Thompson Peck Insurance were title sponsors for the event. Proceeds from the successful evening will directly impact the people supported by the programs and services of Marrakech. Marrakech, Inc. is a nonprofit human service organization that provides a broad array of supports to children and adults with and without disabilities throughout the state of Connecticut. This year marked Marrakech's 45th year of service in the state. For more information, visit its website at www.marrakechinc.org.

SECOND ANNUAL FIRST NIGHT WOODBRIDGE

A New Year's Eve Event for Children & Families

The Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven is starting off the New Year with a bang! The center, located at 360 Amity Road, will host its second annual family New Year's Eve event, complete with face painting, craft-making, a DJ dance party, games, and a "new year's toast" from 5PM to 9PM on Saturday, December 31st. With Hanukkah arriving later than usual, potato latkes, candle lighting, and festive games will be an added bonus this year. Families will have an opportunity to make noise and throw confetti before heading home ahead of the masses. The schedule will run as follows:

- 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.: Free Swim in the pool
- 6 p.m.: DJ, Dancing, Food, Games, and more!
- 6:30 p.m.: Hanukkah candle lighting
- 6:45 p.m. PJ library Hanukkah story in the living room (optional)
- 7 p.m.: Dreidel tournament begins
- 8 p.m.: Ice cream sundae bar opens
- 8:45 p.m.: Ball drop and New Year's "Toast"

All children must be accompanied by an adult. First Night Woodbridge at the JCC will provide families with a fun and safe place to spend their evening together, without breaking the bank, or having to be on the roads late at night. As a large

community space, the JCC is eager to offer this opportunity for families in the Greater New Haven area.

Registration includes entry, food, and soft drinks, as well as fun NYE giveaways. Prices:

- Adults and Children 13+ \$10 in advance/\$15 at the door
- Children 12 and under \$5
- Children 2 and under free
- Family max \$30 in advance/\$40 at the door

Tickets at jccnh.org/rsvp beginning December 1st.

"First Night" events happen in more than 50 US cities, including three in Connecticut: Hartford, Westport/Weston, and Danbury. What's unique about First Night Woodbridge at the JCC is that families will be able to come inside to experience a variety of activities without having to brave the cold or worry about parking.

For additional information, please contact Eliana Sugarman, Youth Programs and Family Events Coordinator at the JCC: elianas@jcc.org; 203-387-2522 x306, or visit jccnh.org.

Sponsorships from area businesses are being actively pursued. If you would like to become a business sponsor for First Night Woodbridge, please contact Dr. Mara Balk, JCC Program Director: marab@jccnh.org; 203-387-2522 x300.



COLLECTION FOR HAITI FLOOD VICTIMS

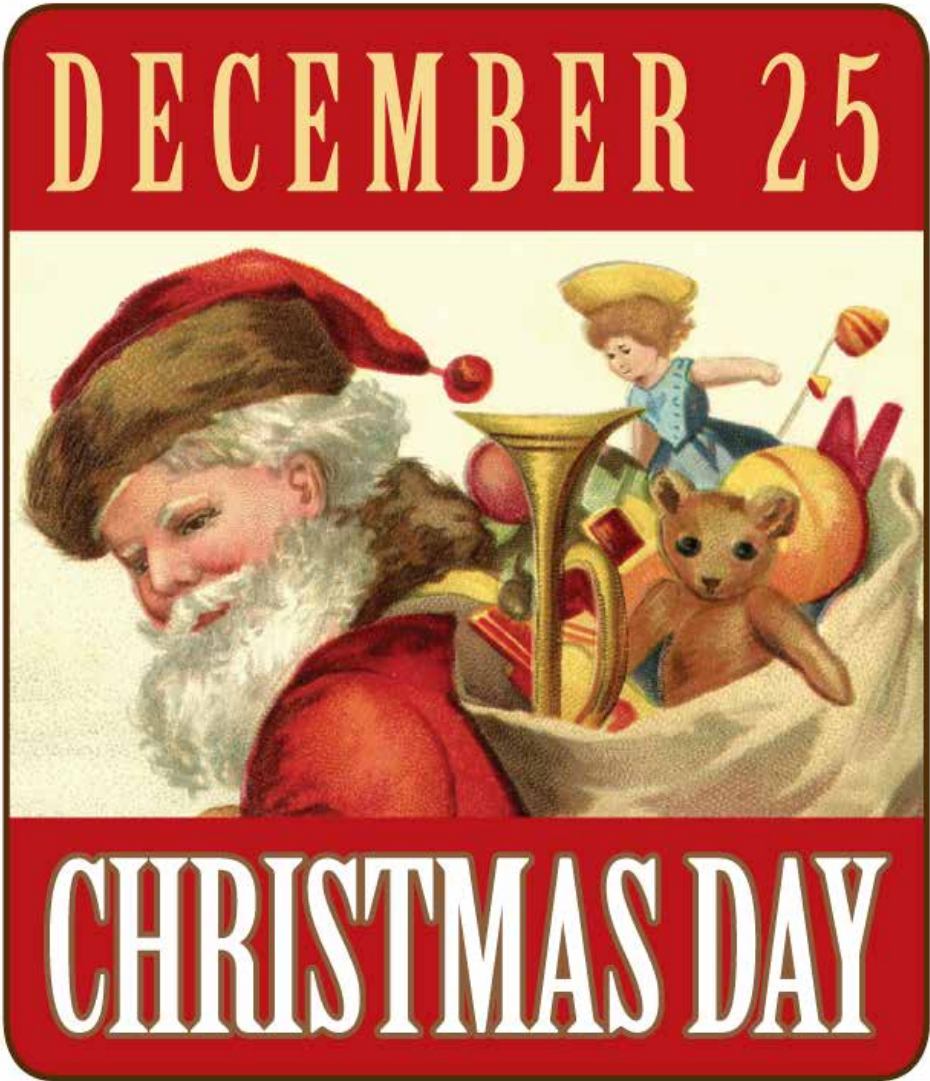
Dr. T.C. Nanavati is again collecting supplies for Haiti flood victims. Please clean your attics. All clothing items (shoes, socks, etc.), bedding, bath toiletries, first aid and non perishable items should be packed in a cardboard box. Please do not bring in trash bags. Boxes should be labeled as Haiti Relief. Please do not enclose defective bulky items or food. Clothing for the temperate region are desirable.

These items can be dropped off at these two locations:

ANSONIA ANIMAL HOSPITAL: 876 South Main Street, Seymour, CT 06483 • 203-735-9915 • Hours Monday-Friday 10am-4pm

OXFORD-SEYMOUR ANIMAL HOSPITAL: 105 Oxford Road, Oxford, Ct 06478 • Hours Saturday 9am-11am

Items can be dropped off inside or outside by the door if closed.



AT THE SENIOR CENTER

By Jeanette Glicksman
Woodbridge Senior
Center Director



Woodbridge residents Debbie Fernbach and her husband Jonathan Bell speak with Assessor David Smernoff during the Antique Roadshow - Woodbridge Edition program at the Woodbridge Senior Center co-sponsored by the Woodbridge Library. Mr. Smernoff is an expert in fine art and antiques. The painting belonged to Fernbach's uncle in Philadelphia and was passed down through her mother to her. It is a pastel of European descent. Other interesting pieces were abundant with some locals finding out that they owned small treasures!



Harold Lindy of Rose D'Or Antiques and Appraisals examines a piece of pink jade from an early 20th century Chinese chess set that belongs to Woodbridge residents Charin and Rob Powers. The chess set was a gift to Ms. Powers and she and her husband were fascinated to learn its history. The event was supported by Brookdale Woodbridge with hors d'oeuvres and wine. Another similar event will be held in the Spring.



Members of the Woodbridge Rotary Club along with Rotary member and Human Services Director Mary Ellen LaRocca, 2nd from right, show off the beautiful cake at the annual Holiday luncheon sponsored by the Woodbridge Rotary Club. Over 100 people attended the luncheon with entertainment provided by Karin Wagner.



The Senior Center celebrated the birthday of six 90-year-old's recently. All of the seniors turned 90 in the last few months. From left are Rose Schultz, Isabel Kratochvil, Larry Luciani, Julian Spector and Marie Gurrieri- not shown is Virginia Smith.

The Woodbridge Senior center is a hub of activity! Join us for one of our upcoming programs - "Managing your Medications" on Tuesday, December 13th at 12:45 following our lunch program. Lunch is \$3.00.

On Tuesday, December 20th Pierce Campbell will entertain following our

lunch program at 12:45pm. Our New Year's Party is December 27th with entertainer John Paolillo.

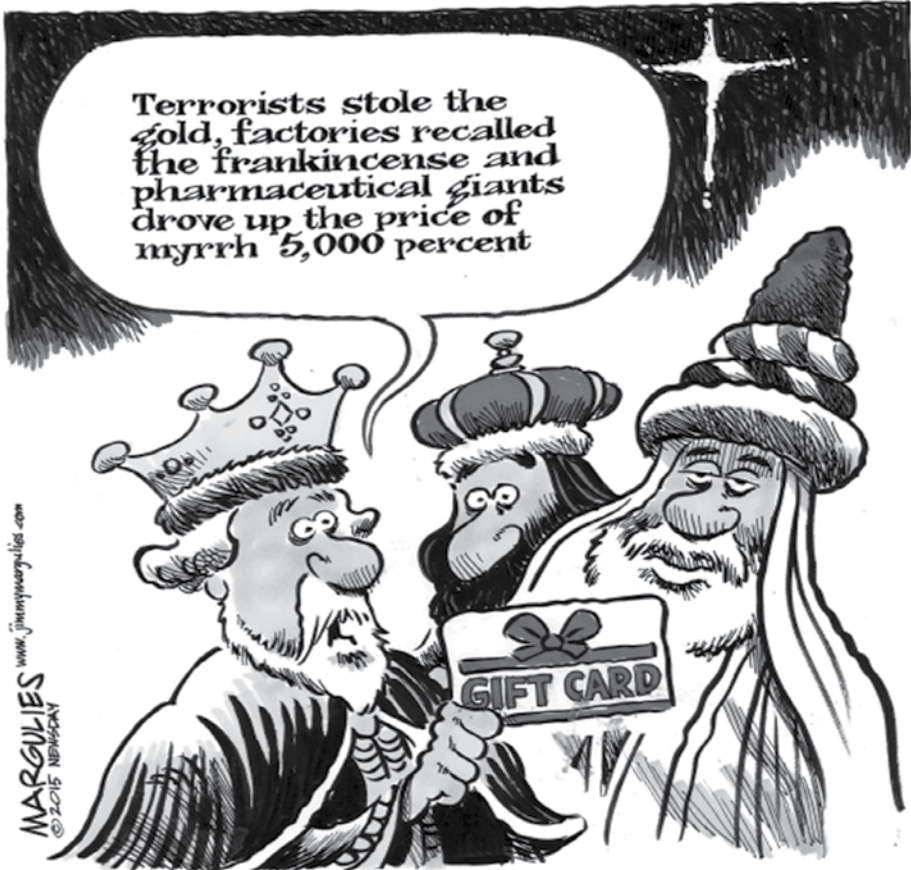
Drop in for our exercise program each Tuesday and Thursday at 10am for just \$2.00 per class or join in a friendly game of pinochle, bridge or mahjong call for details.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AFTER-SCHOOL LITERACY TUTORING!

Experience Corps needs volunteers age 50+ to tutor literacy starting in January, Mondays through Thursdays 2-6pm, on Willow Street in New Haven. Volunteering continues during the summer. Volunteers receive a small stipend & help for their own or their child/grandchild's college costs or student loans. Training will be held in January. Must have a H.S.

diploma and will be fingerprinted. For more information, call Sheila at 203-752-3059 or email sgreenstein@aoascc.org.

Experience Corps - Greater New Haven is a program of the Agency on Aging of South Central and an AmeriCorps National Service program. For more information, visit www.aoascc.org/experiencecorps.



HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



ELM CITY GIRLS' CHOIR HOLIDAY CLASSICS CONCERT

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd is pleased to host Holiday Classics featuring the Elm City Girls' Choir. The concert will take place on Friday, December 16 at 7:30 PM. The program will include a variety of holiday music performed by New England's premiere girls' chorale ensemble. The choir is based in New Haven and has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Advance tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for seniors/students. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors/students. Advance tickets may be purchased after church services on Sundays or by contacting the church at (203)795-6577. Proceeds from all ticket sales benefit the United Girls' Choir scholarship program. For any questions regarding the performance or to book future performances, please contact the Elm City Girls' Choir at (203) 787-1244 or send an email to info@unit-edchoir.com.

All are welcome to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons at the Church of the Good Shepherd. On Sunday, December 11th at the 9:30 am service please join us for Advent

Lessons and Carols. The Annual Christmas Pageant and Wassail Party take place on Sunday, December 28th at the 9:30 am service. Early worshippers can attend our 8am service on that day if they wish. On Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, our Choir will begin singing at 4:30 p.m. and our service will begin at 5 p.m. Our regular Sunday services will take place on Christmas Day at 8 am and 9:30 am. Contact the Parish Office at (203) 795-6577 or via email at thegoodspheherd@optonline.net with any questions. Please join us for joyous music, fellowship, and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd is located on 680 Racebrook Road, Orange, Connecticut. Sunday service times include Rite II Holy Eucharist without music at 8 a.m. and Rite II Holy Eucharist with music @ 9:30 a.m. For more information about the The Church of the Good Shepherd's many other programs, please call the Parish Office @ (203) 795-6577, email us @ thegoodspheherd@optonline.net, visit our website @ www.thegoodshepherdorangedc.org, and of course, check our Facebook page www.facebook.com/cg-sorangedcfor frequent postings.

SHARE YOUR JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SUCCESSES

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut will meet on Sunday, December 18, 2016, at 1:30 pm, at Temple Sinai, 41 West Hartford Road, Newington, CT 06111. The program is free and open to all.

Come and share your successes with other Jewish genealogists from throughout Connecticut. Attendees will have about ten minutes to explain at least

one success found on their genealogical journey. Describe your brainstorm, your interviewing and research techniques, advice given—anything and everything that added to your family tree. You never know, your success may demolish someone else's genealogical brick wall!

For additional information, visit the JGSCT website, www.jgsct.org.

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, ADVENT SERVICES & EVENTS

The First Church of Christ Woodbridge invites all members of the community to join us at 5 Meeting House Lane, for the following Advent Services and Events:

Sunday, December 11, is the third Sunday of Advent. The Bell Choir will bring its special gifts to the 10 a.m. service and at 3 p.m. we open the Meeting House doors for the Annual Community Carol Sing for the entire family, followed by a reception in the Parish House. After the carol sing members of the Middle School Youth Group for 5th – 8th graders will go out for a holiday dinner.

Sunday, December 18, is the fourth Sunday of Advent. The annual Christmas Pageant will be held during the 10 a.m. service. After the service members of the congregation will go caroling to seniors.

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve candle light service at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.



First Church of Christ

Sunday, December 25, A service of Lessons and Carols at 10 a.m.

Weekly Bible Study - Wednesday, 10-11 a.m., will continue to meet through Advent in the Parish House. We study both Old and New Testament passages based on the Lectionary.

Nursery care will be available for the Christmas Eve service in addition to the Sunday morning services. For more information on these events, please contact us at (203) 389-2119 or office@uccw.org.

COMMUNITY CAROL SING

There will be a Community Carol Sing, Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 p.m. at the First Church of Christ, Meeting-house Lane, Woodbridge.

Bring family and friends to join us at the church sanctuary to sing favorite Christmas carols. A reception will follow in the Parish House.

ORANGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HOLIDAY SERVICES

Orange Congregational Church, located at 205 Meeting House Lane, welcomes you to join us for our upcoming holiday services. On Sunday, December 11th we will gather at 10 a.m. for Advent worship and "A Christmas Story" led by the children and youth of the congregation, with music from the Junior, Senior and Handbell Choirs. On Sunday, December 18th we will have Advent services at 8 a.m. in the Chapel and also at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary, with a Blessing of the Blankets which our congregation is donating to the Department of Children & Families and to Boys & Girls Village. On Wednesday, December 14th the "Longest Night Interfaith Service of Healing and Hope" will take place at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary. You are invited to come and be filled with healing light during this darkest time of the year; through readings, song and prayer, may you experience hope for your life.

For December 24th on Christmas



Orange Congregational Church

Eve there will be two services in our Sanctuary: a family service will take place at 5 p.m. and a traditional Candlelight service of Lessons and Carols will take place at 10 p.m. On December 25, Christmas morning service will be at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary, with all children invited to come in their pajamas; our Crib Room will also be open for all birth to Pre-K children. Please note, there will be no regular coffee hour following the Christmas morning service. For more information or any questions, please call the church office at 203-795-9749.

"Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside and quiet home!" — CHARLES DICKENS

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

In the midst of joy and the anticipation of Christ's arrival, a Blue Christmas service sets aside a time to acknowledge the darkness of the loss and pain that are present in our lives. For some, the loss is new and immediate; for some, the loss is well-worn with times' passing. Come

on December 18 to this contemplative, peaceful service, creating a space for memories that may seem out of place this season. All are welcome. Sunday Dec. 18, 2016 at 7:00 pm.. 283 Bridgeport Ave., Milford, CT 06460. Phone: 203-874-2701.



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HOW TO MAKE GIFT
WRAPPING EASIER

While holiday shoppers are often enthusiastic about finding great gifts for their loved ones, many are decidedly less excited about wrapping those gifts. Many holiday shoppers spend hours wrapping gifts each year, and as gift lists grow, so does the amount of time needed to get all of those presents wrapped, hidden, packaged and/or shipped. Shoppers can employ the following strategies to make the process go much more smoothly and to reduce gift wrap-related anxiety.

Relearn the basics. Some people may think they know how to wrap gifts, only to realize it's harder than it looks once the paper, scissors and Scotch tape comes out. Relearn the basics by viewing online tutorials prior to wrapping gifts so the lessons learned remain fresh in your mind. Learn how to wrap standard clothing gift boxes and recognize that such boxes can often be used to house oddly-shaped items.

Wrap as you buy. Instead of getting bogged down with wrapping all in one evening, wrap presents as you purchase them. This ensures that you don't leave everything for the last minute and reduces the likelihood that curious kids or inquisitive spouses discover gifts before the big day.

Work on a hard surface. It may be tempting to lay everything out on your bed and wrap gifts while you're binge-watching the latest Netflix series. But hard surfaces make the best places to wrap gifts. This ensures there won't be any wrinkles in the paper and that you won't lose supplies in the bedspread.

• Rely on double-sided tape. For that professional look, invest in some dou-

ble-sized tape so you will not have any unsightly tape lines.

Keep all of your supplies together. Store wrapping paper, scissors, tags, tape, ribbons, and whatever else you may need to wrap gifts in one convenient location. This cuts down on time wasted hunting for supplies around the house.

Draw on plain gift boxes. Make your own "wrapped gifts" by drawing or stenciling on plain gift boxes if you're short on time.

Identify recipients by gift wrap. Designate one gift wrap for each person on your shopping list. This way you can easily distinguish one person's gifts from another's. This can keep things more organized when sorting and visiting with friends and relatives later on.

Keep gift bags on hand. Gift bags work in a pinch and make it easy to conceal gifts that are hard to wrap. Curious loved ones can easily peak inside gift bags, so be sure to wrap gifts in tissue paper before placing them in the bags.

Less is usually more. Do not use too much paper when wrapping; otherwise, you will be left with bulky, sloppy folds. Before trimming the gift wrap from the roll, check that it overlaps the ends of the box by just a couple of inches. A sturdy paper will help you achieve crisper folds and prevent tears when wrapping. For the simplest wrapping design, try kraft paper (brown mailing paper), which can be dressed up with ribbons, cutouts or stamps.

The process of wrapping holiday gifts can go more smoothly when applying some time-tested tips and tricks.

DOLLAR\$ AND \$EN\$E

THE ANNUAL GIFT EXCLUSION

By Roberta L. Nestor

It is somewhat interesting that the IRS “allows” you to gift money to family members each year. The way this is phrased might lead someone to believe that there are some actual tax benefits if you give away cash to your kids! There are many misconceptions when it comes to the IRS Section 2503(b) that allows you to exclude certain gifts that would otherwise be required to be filed on a gift tax return.

At the risk of oversimplification, in 2016 and 2017, the maximum gift you can give without having to file a gift tax return is \$14,000. Now for the misconceptions:

Gift of \$14,000 will give me a tax break. FALSE. There is no tax benefit to the person giving the gift or to the person receiving the gift.

I can gift \$14,000 to as many family members as I want. TRUE. For example, if you are married and you have a son who is married with 2 children, you could gift \$14,000 to your son; \$14,000 to his wife and \$14,000 to each of their children. In addition, your spouse can also gift \$14,000 to each family member. In this example between husband and wife, you would be able to gift \$112,000 to your son and his family.

If I gift more than \$14,000 and file a federal gift tax return I will have to pay taxes. FALSE. You will not have any tax liability unless, at your death you have exceeded the lifetime estate and tax gift exemption.

If I gift my \$300,000 home to my son, I don’t have to file a gift tax return since it is not cash. FALSE. It doesn’t matter if

the gift is cash or an asset. If it exceeds the \$14,000 annual gift exclusion you have to file a federal gift tax return.

The IRS is keeping track of how much money I gift. TRUE. The IRS is tracking your lifetime gifts to make sure they do not exceed the lifetime estate and gift tax exemption of \$5.45 million (2016 limit) during your lifetime. For most of us this should not be a concern.

The annual gift exclusion is relatively simple; however, you have to use extreme caution when there is a long term care situation. Gifting a home could jeopardize eligibility for Medicaid and trigger the five year look-back period. You should consult a tax advisor, financial advisor or attorney if you are unsure of the implications of gifting in a long term care situation. Happy Holidays to All and Best Wishes for the year ahead!

Roberta L. Nestor is a financial advisor practicing at 491 New Haven Avenue in Milford, CT offering retirement, long term care, investment and tax planning services. She also offers securities and advisory services as an Investment Adviser Representative of Commonwealth Financial Network – a member FINRA/SIPC and a Registered Investment Adviser. Fixed insurance products offered through Nestor Financial Network are separate and unrelated to Commonwealth. Commonwealth Financial Network or Nestor Financial Network does not provide legal or tax advice. You should consult a legal or tax professional regarding your individual situation. Roberta can be reached at Nestor Financial Network, 203-876-8066 or roberta@nestorfinancial.com.

DEATH NOTICES



Laticrete Co-Founder Lillian Rosenstock Rothberg Passes Away

Laticrete co-founder and wife of the late Dr. Henry M. Rothberg, Lillian Rosenstock Rothberg, passed away on November 27, 2016. Throughout her impressive life, Mrs. Rothberg remained the bedrock upon which the Rothberg family legacy was built and the inspiration for the values instilled in the family-owned company, Laticrete. She was 91 years old.

Mrs. Rothberg co-founded Laticrete with her late husband in 1956. While overseeing office and administrative functions in support of her husband’s efforts to champion superior tile and stone adhesives, she also maintained a home and ensured the successful upbringing of their seven children.

Together, and lovingly, she and her husband established the soul of Laticrete, shaping it into the family-run and family-oriented business it is today. “Words cannot express the depth and pain of this loss. Our devoted mother was a true inspiration to all members of the immediate Rothberg and extended Laticrete family,” said David Rothberg, chairman and chief executive officer of LATICRETE. “She was not only our

loving mom, but was instrumental in the creation of the company’s philosophy and values.”

Lyle A. Bell

Lyle A Bell, age 87, of Bethany, passed away Wednesday, November 23, 2016 in Beacon Brook Nursing Home in Naugatuck. He was born in New Brunswick, Canada on August 10, 1929 to the late George and Myra Fitzherbert Bell.

Mr. Bell proudly served in the US Navy, National Guard and the Civil Air Patrol. Before retiring, he was a welder for AVCO Lycoming. active in the community, he was a member of the Brothers of the Brush and helped with many fundraisers for local charities.

A devoted father, grandfather, great grandfather and great great grandfather, he is survived by his sons William Bell (Kathy) of Woodbridge, Christopher Bell (Cynthia) of Milford, Bruce Bell (Karen) of Stoddard, NH, Lyle Vitale (Laurie) of West Haven, and Terry Bell (Margaret) of New Haven, daughters Apryl Lilac of Bennington, VT, Pauline Brownley of Bethany and Margaret Davenport of Lancaster, PA, daughter-in-law Sandra Bell of New Haven, sixteen grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren and many great, great grandchildren.

Beside his parents, he is predeceased by his wife Barbara Frank Bell, son James Bell, grandson Brian Bell, brother Madison Bell and sisters Easter and Ruth. Arrangements were in the capable hands of the Smith Funeral Home, 135 N Broad St., Milford. A prayer service was held during the visitation with military honors. Interment will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to Wounded Warriors Project, P O Box 758517, Topeka, KS, 66675. To leave condolences, please visit our website @ www.georgejsmithandson.com.

DEATH NOTICES

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



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ENTERTAINMENT

TOP 10 MOVIES

1. **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (PG-13)**

Eddie Redmayne, Katherine Waterston
2. **Dr. Strange (PG-13)**

Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor
3. **Trolls (PG)**

animated
4. **Arrival (PG-13)**

Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner
5. **Almost Christmas (PG-13)**

Kimberly Elise, Omar Epps
6. **Hacksaw Ridge (R)**

Andrew Garfield, Sam Worthington
7. **The Edge of Seventeen (R)**

Hailee Steinfeld, Haley Lu Richardson
8. **Bleed for This (R)**

Miles Teller, Aaron Eckhart
9. **The Accountant (R)**

Ben Affleck, Anna Kendrick
10. **Shut In (PG-13)**

Naomi Watts, Charlie Heaton

TOP 10 VOD

1. **Bad Moms (R)**

Mila Kunis
2. **Sausage Party (R)**

animated
3. **Star Trek Beyond (PG-13)**

Chris Pine
4. **Nine Lives (PG)**

Kevin Spacey
5. **Independence Day: Resurgence (PG-13)**

Liam Hemsworth
6. **Ghostbusters (PG-13)**

Melissa McCarthy
7. **The Legend of Tarzan (PG-13)**

Alexander Skarsgard
8. **Nerve (PG-13)**

Emma Roberts
9. **Central Intelligence (PG-13)**

Dwayne Johnson
10. **Lights Out (PG-13)**

Teresa Palmer

1. Which Chattanooga group was originally called The Roosters?

2. Name the Canadian group that netted its second gold record with "Laughing."

3. Who released "Tiger Feet" in 1974?

4. Which Heatwave song made it to the R&B charts in 1977?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "The old house is still standing tho' the paint is cracked and dry, and there's that old oak tree I used to play on."



1. The Impressions. The group was inducted into the 1998 Grammy Hall of Fame for their hit "People Get Ready." 2. The Guess Who, in 1969. It came out first on their "Canned Wheat" album. 3. Mud. The song played a part in the 2012 Summer Olympics opening ceremony in London. 4. "Boogie Nights," later covered by KC and the Sunshine Band. 5. "Green, Green Grass of Home," by Tom Jones in 1966. In the song, a man dreams that he's back at his childhood home, but awakes to find himself a prisoner on death row. The song was first released on the country charts in 1965, but it was Jones who made it a worldwide No. 1 hit.

SPORTS QUIZ

By Chris Richcreek

1. Who was the last Kansas City Royals player before Kendrys Morales in 2015 to belt three home runs in a game?

2. Between 1970 and 2000, who hit the most triples in any one major-league season?

3. In 2015, QB Christian Hackenberg became the all-time passing yards leader (8,318) at Penn State. Who had held the mark?

4. When was the last time before 2014-15 (Kyrie Irving) that an NBA player had two games of 55 or more points in the same season?

5. Of the previous 10 NHL Hart Memorial Trophy winners (league MVP), five have been either Alex Ovechkin or Sidney Crosby. Name three of the other five.

6. In 2016, Christian Pulisic (17 years, 253 days) became the youngest player to score a goal for the U.S. men's national soccer team. Who had been the youngest?

7. How many times did Ken Norton go the distance in a heavyweight boxing match against Muhammad Ali?

1. Danny Fartabull, in 1991 versus Oakland. 2. Willie Wilson (1985, Kansas City) and Lance Johnson (1996, New York Mets) each hit 21 in a season. 3. Zack Mills, who passed for 7,212 yards (2001-04). 4. Kobe Bryant, during the 2006-07 season (he had three such games). 5. Henrik Sedin, Corey Perry, Evgeni Malkin, Carey Price and Patrick Kane. 6. Juan Agudelo was 17 years, 359 days old when he scored a goal in 2010. 7. Three times, with Norton winning one of them.



Meryl Streep, Hugh Grant in "Florence Foster Jenkins" [Paramount Pictures]

EDITOR'S NOTE: DVDs reviewed in this column are available in stores the week of December 12, 2016.

PICKS OF THE WEEK

"Suicide Squad" (R) -- A gaggle of super-villains are rounded up to form a special team that bickers its way through waves of underdeveloped enemies in a no-holds-barred assault on Marvel's domination over super-ensemble movies. The titular squad includes assassin Deadshot (Will Smith); Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie), the Joker's steady girlfriend; some boomerang guy (Jai Courtney); a special-forces guy (Joel Kinnaman); and a host of other hastily introduced characters you'll struggle to like. Viola Davis plays the government official responsible for sending this motley bunch against the Enchantress (Cara Delevigne), an evil super-witch. First off, this ain't "The Avengers." These heroes are anti-heros. Also, Jared Leto's much-hyped version of the Joker makes an appearance -- and that's it, an

appearance. You'll be grateful it's brief, because it's hard to imagine listening to that strained voice for much longer.

"Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" (PG-13) -- Jake (Asa Butterfield), a teenage boy raised on his grandfather's tall tales, finds himself in a little corner of time and space where he gets to see how real the fantastic stories are. After a bit of time travel, Jake finds himself on a Welsh island where Miss Peregrine (Eva Green) looks after a class of children with bizarre abilities -- a floating girl, an invisible boy and so on. The inhabitants are threatened by non-peculiar human society that fears them, and another group called the Hollows (led by Samuel L. Jackson) that wants them for nefarious purposes. Adapted from a young-adult novel series of the same name, the movie toys with how to properly pace itself. The first act really limps along. When things really get rolling, director Tim Burton finds some surreal imagery to indulge in like he likes to do. The plot eventually starts whirring so fast that it's difficult to keep track of all the time-loops, dread beasts and peculiarities.

"Florence Foster Jenkins" (PG-13) -- OK, no more superpowers. This one has a woman who lacks a special talent (singing), and still manages to be inspiring and filled with life. Florence (Meryl Streep) has always been in love with music and dreamed of being a celebrated opera singer. She's an awful singer, but she's also a wealthy New York elite, and her husband (Hugh Grant) is determined to make her dream come true before she loses her battle with syphilis. Also, it's the 1940s and people really need entertainment. Streep's performance is charming, but you can't help but see her smiling at herself on the inside with each mangled note.

Sudoku answers on page 28

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

COMICS/CROSSWORD/HOLLYWOOD

Henry BY DON TRACHTE

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HI, BOB -- HOW'S TRICKS? (GREAT!)

I JUST WON A SUIT! IN THERE

COURTHOUSE

AND I HAD ALMOST NOTHING TO HANG IT ON!

COURTHOUSE

The Spats by Jeff Pickering

I'M GOD'S GIFT TO WOMEN.

I HOPE GOD KEPT THE RECEIPT.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Timber wolf

5 U.K. television option

8 Lily variety

12 Opposed to, slangily

13 Always, in verse

14 Mimicked

15 Get bigger

16 Banner

18 "— Street"

20 Leads

21 Edges

23 Adam's mate

24 Recklessly

28 Book after Joel

31 Sphere

32 "SNL" alumna Cheri

34 Debt notice

35 Seniors' dance

37 Vexing situation

39 By way of

41 Use scissors

42 Offering a nice view

45 Illegal steroid use, e.g.

49 Vertical space

51 Birthright barterer

52 Not working

53 Genetic stuff (Abbr.)

54 Matterhorn's range

55 Pinochle ploy

56 Affirmative

57 For fear that

DOWN

1 Trails behind

2 Shrek is one

3 Life stories, for short

4 Ahead

5 Huge monster

6 Spelling contest

7 Rugged cliff

8 Digestive aid

9 Widespread illness

10 Kelly or Hackman

11 Rhyming tributes

17 Payable

19 Venus de —

22 Old daggers

24 Bounce

25 Blunder

26 Especially

27 Baby-sitters, often

29 Partner of aah

30 Take to court

33 Personal (Pref.)

36 Paid heed to

38 Attraction

40 Atmosphere

42 Thin wedge

43 Relinquish

44 Buffalo Bill's last name

46 Capri, e.g.

47 Siestas

48 Sudden rush of wind

50 Individual

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HOLLYWOOD

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- When Bradley Cooper was shooting "American Sniper," his director, Clint Eastwood, told him about his problems trying to schedule Beyonce to film his planned remake of "A Star Is Born," because of her concert appearances. He finally gave up and suggested Bradley should take it on as his first directing project. Bradley mulled it over and decided to look for a female singing star to fill the shoes of Judy Garland (in the 1954 version) and Barbra Streisand (in the 1976 remake). He approached Lady GaGa, and she said "yes." Not only is he set to direct and star in it, but he's got a release date from Warner Brothers -- Sept. 28, 2018.



Bradley Cooper [depositphotos.com]

1980s video game featuring apes and monsters destroying cities, due in April 2018.

Wonder why Meryl Streep hasn't announced any new projects? Could it be her last film, "Florence Foster Jenkins," with Hugh Grant, which cost \$29 million but earned only \$44 million, has made her more cautious?

Burt Reynolds will be back on the big screen, playing a real-estate mogul, with the Dec. 2 release of the crime/thriller "Pocket Listing," with Rob Lowe. The film, completed in 2015, had problems getting distribution until now.

Also hitting screens the same day is "The Comedian," starring Robert De Niro and a great cast, including Leslie Mann, Cloris Leachman, Danny DeVito, Edie Falco and Harvey Keitel. The following week we'll see Oscar-winner Natalie Portman as Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy in "Jackie," with Peter Sarsgaard and John Hurt, and "Office Christmas Party," with Jason Bateman, Olivia Nunn, Kate McKinnon and Jennifer Aniston.

Every year I try to avoid using the "C" word for as long as I can, but without using it now, that last film would be called just "Office Party."

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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GNHCC TO PERFORM 2016 FALL CONCERT – TAPESTRY OF VOICES

Celebrating its 53rd year making music in the community, Greater New Haven Community Chorus invites the public to its concert, Tapestry of Voices, on Saturday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Battell Chapel in New Haven.

The Tapestry of Voices program weaves a diverse array of selections to spice up the concert season with exciting works like Daniel Pinkham’s Christmas Cantata and favorites like the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel’s Messiah. The chorus will also feature Haydn’s Missa Brevis accompanied by a full brass choir, Philip Kern’s Mary Had a Baby, and Jake Runestad’s Nyon, Nyon – a piece designed to vocally imitate an orchestra - complete with wah wah pedals, synthesizers, drums and bass. Also on the program is one of Morton Lauridsen’s six Italian madrigals, and Sleep by well-known American composer, Eric

Whitacre. The concert will be under the direction of Noah Blocker-Glynn with Barbara Robbins as the piano accompanist.

Tickets are available online at www.gnhcc.org or from a GNHCC chorus member in advance for \$15. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for \$20 immediately prior to the concert.

GNHCC regularly consists of between 85 to 100 voices and draws its membership from throughout the Greater New Haven area. The nonprofit chorus strives to embrace the wide diversity of the community and is committed to making quality music accessible and approachable for audiences and members alike, and has done so since its founding in 1963.

For more information about GNHCC, please visit www.gnhcc.org, or email info@gnhcc.org.

ANSONIA NATURE CENTER
DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT 06401

Telephone: 203-736-1053/Email: ansnaturectr@ansoniacct.org

117TH ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
BIRD COUNT

Saturday, Dececeember 17, 12:30 pm

This annual survey provides important data to assess the increase or decline of avian populations worldwide. After an early morning start, the New Haven Bird Club will stop at the Nature Center for lunch at 12:30. Be ready to join members of the club to look and listen along the park’s trails. For adults. FREE.

DRUM IN THE
WINTER

Saturday, December 17, 5 pm

True winter begins on December 21! On that day we’ll have a full fifteen hours of darkness! Since June, the days have been getting shorter, but from now on, the reverse will be true. We’ll stoke the fire pit, so bring your drum and other percussion instruments, and warm yourself with good fellowship. Ranger Dawn will lead us. FREE, but bring a canned food item for our local homeless shelter.

WINTER
NATURE DAYS

Tuesday–Thursday, December
27–29, 10 am–2 pm

For children who love the outdoors and wildlife. These popular educational classes are designed for children 5 to 10 years old. We’ll have a chance to explore the park’s 150 acres and visit a variety of habitats. Come join new and old friends, play games, create beautiful and useful items using natural objects, and even go for a sled ride if we have snow. TUITION: \$30/day (\$90 for all 3 days) for priority students (Ansonia residents and current family-level FANCI members); \$35/day (\$105 for all 3 days) all others. Please come in to register in advance by December 16.

JANUARY 2017
NEW YEAR’S DAY HIKE

Sunday, January 1, 2017, 10 am

Bring a healthy start to your new year at the Nature Center. Our ranger will conduct this brisk walk while you learn a little about the local Flora and Fauna.

HAPPY ECO-FRIENDLY NEW YEAR

The biggest party night of the year is fast approaching, and with the holiday hijinks also can come, unfortunately, some environmentally unfriendly waste. Frankly, most of us usually are too busy having fun to think much about that, but if you’d like to make this New Year’s Eve a healthier one for our planet even as you celebrate, here are some helpful ideas:

Consider carpooling. If you’re celebrating with friends, why not share a vehicle? Not only will you save on fuel and reduce emissions, but you’ll stay safer with more likelihood of a designated driver. And don’t rule out public transportation, especially as some cities offer free rides in the evening and early-morning hours.

Cut down on the paper. Hosting an event at home? Instead of buying cheap paper goods such as hats and banners that will just end up in tomorrow’s trash, opt for ones you can store and reuse next year. Use regular glasses, plates and utensils instead of the disposable kind, or a biodegradable variety. You can even make your own noisemakers with items you already have around the house. And how about some useful party favors such as reusable water bottles?

Candles, anyone? Sure, glittery disco balls and strobe lights are flashily fun, but how about setting a more low-key mood with some soy candles? They’re a great way to ring in the new year with a hint of romance.

Get crafty with bottles. After the corks have been popped and the contents are quaffed, you can either drop those empty bottles in a recycling bin or put them to new use as a flower vase, salad-dressing container or candleholder. For an even more creative touch, decoupage them with anything from rhinestones to lace to what-have-you.

Serve earth-friendly edibles. Whether you’re dining out or in, you can make healthy and responsible food choices by going vegetarian with local seasonal produce and avoiding pre-packaged appetizers – or even charm guests with an edible centerpiece. If you’re still in the mood for meat, try to select a grass-fed, free-range variety.

Avoid one-time outfits. It’s natural to want to glam it up on Dec. 31, but you don’t have to spend a fortune on something that will sit in your closet the rest of the time. Try borrowing from your best friend, renting or hitting your local thrift and consignment stores for the perfect glad rags and accessories.

And then there’s always the quiet night in. Sometimes ringing in the new year can be just as fun and meaningful with loved ones at home ... less noise, less chance of a hangover. Bring out a deck of cards or some board games, or use the time as a family to reflect on all you experienced and accomplished during the outgoing year as you prepare new plans and goals for the coming one.



New York Times ★★★★★ Very Good
“Superb Indian Food” New Haven Register
Elm City News ★★★★★ Excellent
Voted “Best Indian Restaurant” New Haven Advocate 2012
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Mixed Greens with Gorgonzola Cheese, Dried Cranberries with Balsamic Vinaigrette

ENTRÉES

Choice of:
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All served with Oven Roasted Potatoes, Sautéed Green Beans and Julienne Carrots
Vegetarian Option Available

Chocolate Mousse Torte with Raspberry Coulis
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BARK BYTES...

By Vicki & Richard Horowitz





SHOULD PETS BE GIVEN AS A SURPRISE HOLIDAY GIFT?

By Richard and Vicki Horowitz

Every year as the Holidays approach, the topic of giving a pet as a gift comes up. If you plan to give a pet as a surprise, you need to realize that the new owners may be too occupied with holiday preparations, celebrations, guests and overall activity to give the new pet the attention he needs for proper housebreaking, crate training and overall puppy manners.

Holidays are a hectic time of year for most households. Introducing a pet during this time may cause stress for both the new pet as well as younger family members. The chaotic times of the Holidays may create a potentially hazardous environment for the unfamiliar puppy, especially if the household is not used to having a four legged creature under foot. It can be hard to keep ornaments, decorations, tinsel, wrapping paper, Poinsettias and other poisonous plants out of reach of the new pet.

Owning a pet is a lifetime commitment that every family member needs to agree upon. This is an important process every family should make together. Pets should never be given on an impulse.

Adding an animal to the family is an important decision. Hold family meetings to create rules about caring for

the dog before you get the furry family member. What kind of dog fits in with the family dynamics -- large or small, young or old, active or low energy? Who is financially responsible? Where will he sleep and eat? Who will walk him and clean up after him? Will he be allowed on the couch, the bed, and in all rooms of the house?

Making sure the family has time for the new pet is essential to the puppy's development into a well behaved dog. A stressful introduction can have negative effects and hinder a safe, successful integration into the family.

To improve the chances of a successful transition into your home, introduce pets during a relaxed, quiet time when the family can devote full attention to helping the animal adjust. Also have the proper supplies (food, crate, collar, leash, food and water bowls, hard dog appropriate toys) as well as a planned visit to the veterinarian.

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.dog-training-new-haven-ct.com.

J.M. Kriz

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Make your holiday preparations one step at a time in order to avoid being overwhelmed and leaving things undone. That confusing family situation continues to work itself out.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Ease this year's holiday money pressures by letting your thrifty side guide you as you look for those perfect gifts that typically reflect your good taste and love of beauty.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You'll have a good handle on potential holiday problems if you delegate tasks to family members, friends or co-workers -- most of whom will be more than happy to help out.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Right now you are especially vulnerable to holiday scams that seek to take advantage of your generosity. Best advice: Check them out before you send out your checks.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The upcoming holiday season gives the Big Cat much to purr about. Relationships grow stronger, and new opportunities loom on the horizon, just waiting to be pounced on.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A changing situation brings conflicting advice about how to go forward with your holiday plans. Your best bet: Make the decision you feel most com-

fortable with.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Holiday plans get back on track after some confusion about the direction you expected to take. A potentially troublesome money matter needs your immediate attention.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your holiday preparations are on track. But you need to confront a personal situation while you can still keep it from overwhelming everything else.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Tight financial matters ease a bit during this holiday season. But the sagacious Sagittarian is well-advised to keep a tight hold on the reins while shopping for gifts.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Don't put off making decisions about this year's holiday celebrations, despite the negative comments you've been getting from several quarters. Do it NOW!

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The holidays will bring new friends and new opportunities. Meanwhile, be careful to use your energy wisely as you go about making holiday preparations.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) There's good news coming from a most unlikely source. And it could turn out to be one of the best holiday gifts you have had in years. Remember to stay positive.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are respected for your honesty and loyalty. You make friends slowly -- but with rare exceptions, they're in your life forever.

TALES OF FERAL CATS

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I wanted to add to your recent columns about feral cats. Maybe some can't be tamed, but my friends and family would disagree.

I recently visited with friends in North Carolina and met their beautiful cat, "Stormy." Their story is this: They had been feeding this feral cat for some time outside, and of course, he wouldn't come near them. Then one night they heard a howling outside. Looking out, they saw a mountain lion or panther, whatever they call them there, threatening Stormy. They opened the door, and Stormy came in, and never went outside again.

Another story I have is of a feral cat that was "adopted" by my son's chickens! He has six chickens in his backyard in Florida, and one day someone dropped off a very young kitten. He got into the coop, but



instead of running or attacking, the kitten assumed those chickens were his parents! Now a full-grown cat, he remains mostly feral and won't come inside my son's house, but he hangs out in the chicken coop daily with his new family.

Hope your readers enjoy the stories! -- John S., via email

DEAR JOHN: What amazing stories! I'm glad both cats found loving homes and new families. Thank you for sharing them.

It's rare for feral cats to be coaxed inside and become fully domesticated cats that are comfortable around humans. But for those that do find a home -- even if they never quite cross the threshold of the house -- life can be happier and more rewarding for them as well as the humans who care for them.

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



LAFF - A - DAY



THE CASHIER



THE CASHIER



top ten

World's Best-Selling BEERS

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2. Tsingtao
3. Bud Light
4. Budweiser
5. Skol
6. Yanjing
7. Heineken
8. Harbin
9. Brahma
10. Coors Light

Source: Business Insider

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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The Garden Bug

Christmas rose blooms in early winter in mild climates, and late winter or early spring where the soil freezes hard. Native to Europe and western Asia, this plant loves shade or dappled sun and moist soil. It ranges in many colors from white and cream to pink, rose, burgundy and light green. Amend the soil with plenty of organic matter, such as aged leaf mold and compost. They are deer- and vole-resistant and spread nicely on their own.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: www.hgtv.com, www.whiteflowerfarm.com



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