

Woodbridge Town News



Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper

Mailed Free to Every Home in Woodbridge
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PUBLISHED EVERY THREE WEEKS

VOL. 2 – ISSUE 16

CIRCULATION 4895

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2013



BURNT BAKERY – A JOB “WELL DONE”

Woodbridge Welcomes New Business on Amity Road

By Laura Fantarella - Woodbridge Town News Correspondent

A “slightly skewed sense of humor” and a last name that’s pretty similar to a popular funny guy on Comedy Central led Rebecca Colburn to name her new business at 214 Amity Road, “Burnt Bakery”. “I liked that it was a one-word name and a little bit edgy,” Colburn said at her recent grand opening. “I’m specializing in well-done baking – it just seemed to fit.” A small crowd that included Greater Valley Chamber President Bill Purcell, Woodbridge First Selectman Ellen Scalettar, as well as friends and neighbors attended the opening, enjoying the hot cider, coffee and spread of homemade coconut macaroons and other treats. “Thank you for your new business, especially such a delicious, sweet one,” Scalettar said. “I wish you good luck and we’ll do everything we can to help you, including buying cookies for Town Hall!”

To prepare for her career, Colburn graduated from Lincoln Tech and spent two years renting space at a local restaurant where she began experimenting with recipes and marketing her goods at farmers’ markets and fairs. At 27, Colburn is young, eager and unfazed by the prospect of peeling 100 pounds of apples to fulfill a 165-pie order for a recent holiday or rising each day by 4 a.m. to start baking. Owning her own bakery is a dream come true. “I’ve loved to bake since I was a little girl growing up in Beacon Falls making mud pies for my dad,” she said. Now she incorporates family recipes from her grandmother and adds a dash of her own “twist to the mix”.

People like the name, the new shop and especially the cookies and crumb cake. “We’ve been selling out,” Colburn said. She also offers daily treats like brownies, cupcakes, and all sorts of cakes, including wedding cakes. “Give me a theme and I can run with it,” she said.

Burnt Bakery is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.



Parents and students in Katie McCollom’s fifth grade class discuss a book and its implications in their lives.

PARENTS & KIDS SHARE A LITERARY EXPERIENCE

By Bettina Thiel – Woodbridge Town News Correspondent

It is not unusual for parents or other family members to visit a classroom at Beecher Road School. Typically they serve as a grateful audience for their students’ exploits or they come to talk about something they know or do. But every once in a while the parents attend class to learn, and, as happened most recently, to participate alongside their child.

The event was a “book club,” organized by fifth-grade teacher Katie McCollom as part of American Education Week. Both the children and at least one significant adult read a book – in this case Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli – and then get together

See “Literary” continued on Page 2



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“Literary” continued from Page 1

for an hour or two in the classroom to discuss the story’s significance.

Some families read the book together, some independently, or listened to an audiobook, depending on preference and reading fluency. “That way every family was able to approach reading in their own way to meet the needs of their child,” McCollom said.

The culminating classroom discussion took place in both McCollom’s and in Jan Brown’s classrooms the week of the Thanksgiving holiday. Room parents organized refreshments and the classroom atmosphere was reminiscent of a coffeehouse, filled with the friendly buzz of people chatting about a favorite book. In this conversation, “they’re equals,” McCollom said. What results is a much deeper understanding of a piece of literature, and, possibly, a deeper understanding of the society we are living in.

Maniac Magee is the story of an orphaned boy looking for a home in the fictional town of Two Mills. It is a segregated town, with an East and a West, with artificial, but intensely held boundaries. The boy disregards those boundaries and manages to bring the two halves together. “The last question I asked them is “Can one person change the world,” McCollom said. She said the book always engenders a rich discussion, where children and parents contribute their own perspective.

Woodbridge isn’t usually described as a diverse population, McCollom said. But in her classroom there are children from nine countries, including India, Turkey and Iran. One of her parents who speaks Farsi at home embraced her at the conclusion of the event. She is learning English and she used a dictionary to share the experience with her son. “This was her first opportunity to try out her speaking skills and communicate with others about her reading in English,” McCollom said. “Parents, grandparents, and several staff members in attendance were astounded by the rich conversation contributed by both children and adults,” McCollom said.

Special Needs Resource teacher Elisa Rosner, for instance, was surprised at hearing a student mention how she was able to infer from the details in the story. Rosner said she is anticipating the next book club in the spring, when the event is repeated with another text.

Kindergarten teacher Sharon Wyman was in attendance and delighted to see the maturation of the students she knew from their first reading efforts.

Maniac Magee provides a vast array of discussion topics surrounding the themes of prejudice, racism, homelessness, and poverty. Students were able to use their knowledge of character traits to identify traits which allowed Maniac to persevere through tragedy and hardship, and to remain positive, optimistic and influential in a segregated town. In the end, students came away with the idea that one person can truly make a difference. “And the most important thing is HOME,” she said.



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THE OUTSIDE LIVING BOX

An uncomfortable bed in their daughter's college dorm room inspired husband and wife entrepreneurs Nancy and Dick Coffey to manu-



Laura Fantarella

facture an award-winning latex foam mattress topper. In mid-life, when Nancy Coffey expected to start taking it easy and enjoying leisurely luncheons and some travelling, an un-

expected opportunity prompted her and her husband Dick to start a custom foam manufacturing and supply company, KTT. "It definitely caused many sleepless nights, I wasn't really into the idea but now I think it's fun and different," Coffey said. After a 20 plus year as a graphic designer, Coffey is now doing everything that needs doing in the Hamden shop that employs her, Dick and one employee. Luckily Dick was the one with experience in the business having followed in his own father's footsteps working in a latex manufacturing company in the Valley for decades.

Several years later, their company is prospering, manufacturing a variety of items that include cosmetic applicators, mattresses, as well as business-to-business items that include cut-to-order fillers for NASA spacesuits, designer clothing, boxing gloves, horse saddles, cricket hatcheries, jewelry box inserts and more.

But their most recognizable sale item may be the "Sleep on It" mattress topper that was voted "Most Comfortable Topper in the Market" by "College Lifestyles" magazine. When the couple's daughter, Kate, began her freshman year at a Florida university, her first introduc-



Dick and Nancy Coffey

tion to dorm life was a lumpy, discolored mattress. "She took one look at it and said, 'I'm not sleeping on this,'" Coffey said. So her parents manufactured a comfortable roll-able mattress that fits in its own bag and can cover an existing dorm bed mattress. "It's even great to throw in front of a fireplace to lie on," Coffey said. The product was a hit and soon her roommates and friends were ordering Sleep on It's of their own. It is now one of KTT's biggest sellers, especially since its Made in the USA and is environmentally friendly.

Coffey looks decidedly feminine strutting through her 14,000 square foot factory in Hamden's industrial section, dwarfed by huge steel pieces of machinery. She easily recites the chemical recipe needed for the two-day foam making process, likening it to baking a cake, complete with pouring and mixing the "batter," and cutting the cake with giant cutters. A two day foam making run once a month typically provides all the latex foam for the couple's many varied orders.

Coffey admits now she is enjoying her role as a woman in manufacturing. "It's tough to get a day off," she said. But if she really wants to she can---after all she is the boss.



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BETHANY 5899,000 Great value for a must see home. 7,000+ sf, 14 rms, 3BRs, 5 Full & 1 half ba, kitchen w/grill rm, open flr plan, indoor htcd pool, media rm, game rm... Too many features to list. Darlene Eaton 795-2700.com MLS#N340996



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BETHANY 5699,000 Cust blt Col; 9 rms, 4BRs, 2.5ba, hwflrs, FR w/fplc, Form DR, tile baths. 3,800sf hobby garage w/full fin 2nd flr rec area. Tom Cavaliere 795-2700.com MLS#N339996



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BETHANY 5699,000 Equestrian property, new custom blt 4BR home; 8 rms, 4BRs, 2.5ba, EIK, LR, DR & hwflrs. Includes 3 stall barn. Tom Cavaliere 795-2700.com MLS#N342327



ORANGE 5699,000 Completely rebuilt 12 rm Nantucket Col' 4BRs, 4.5ba, office, FR, form LR/DR, den, play rm, lg EIKw/ssl appl & granite, 4 c gar, almost 1 ac flat lot. Clint Tebbetts 795-2700.com MLS#N341866



WOODBIDGE 5599,000 8 rm, 3BR, 3 ba Colonial; form LR w/fp, form DR, EIK, 1st flr FR. Almost 3 acres. Make this your dream home. Darlene Eaton 795-2700.com MLS#N338918



ORANGE 5579,900 Stately custom Col w/ granite stone entry; 8 rms, 4BRs, 3.5 ba, vust kit, hwflrs, fin LL, 3 c gar, ig pool, priv lot. Tom Cavaliere 795-2700.com MLS#N343071



ORANGE 5499,000 Pristine 9 rms, 5BR, 4 full & 2 half ba RR w/LL walkout in law apart or priv office suite. Conv loc. Owner/Agent. Mario Gambardella 795-2700. MLS#N336870



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ALLIE'S DREAM, INC.

A Unique Young Adult Day Program for Those with Developmental Disabilities

For young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 with cognitive learning and physical disabilities, Allie's Dream, Inc. offers a fulltime day service program qualified by the Department of Social Services in collaboration with the Kennedy Center. Lili Kressen, founder and President of the non-profit, charitable 501(C)3 organization, has created a truly unique setting where young adults with varied abilities can receive integrated therapies that foster independence, social opportunities, dignity and respect. "It's truly a one of a kind environment that provides daytime caring, teaching, recreation and artistic development in this young adult age group," commented Lili Kressen. "Even better, it brings the chance for social networking with peers, a sense of fulfillment with programs directed towards their artistic development in a fun-filled environment."

Allie's Dream, Inc. now offers a Community Saturday Program, "Jump into the Arts", to encourage these young adults to express themselves and socially connect among each other, along with invited professional instructors in arts, music, theatre, and dance. "All funds raised are used entirely to pay for materials and fees for local artists. Kressen said, "Our Jump into the Arts program depends on private fundraising, and we're in need of support from the community and individual contributions." She added, "Not many parents of young adults with developmental disabilities even realize our Saturday program exists. We need to reach out to the community with our message and encourage financial support as well."

Interested parents or contributors may contact Lili Kressen at 26 Maple Vale Drive, Woodbridge, CT 06525, or visit www.alliesdream.org for online contributions via PayPal.

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Circulation of 4,895.

Office Address: 653 Orange Center Road
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477

Phone: 203-553-9062 | Fax: 203-298-9818

Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 10am-3pm · Closed Tues.

Published by Woodbridge Town Newspaper, LLC

- Publisher: Rocky Salperto
Editor: Marlene Silverstein
Production & Design: J. Michael Kriz
Correspondents: Laura Fantarella; Melissa Nicefaro; Bettina Theil
Restaurant Profiles: Susan Noonan
Contributing Writers: Muffy German; Leslie Marsh; Roberta Nestor; Ray Spaziani
Administrative Assistant: Katie Carbone

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Contact us:

- Rocky Salperto: Rocky@woodbridgetownnews.com
Marlene Silverstein: Marlene@woodbridgetownnews.com
Susan Noonan: Susan@woodbridgetownnews.com
Laura Fantarella: Laura@woodbridgetownnews.com
Melissa Nicefaro: Melissa@woodbridgetownnews.com
Bettina Theil: Bettina@woodbridgetownnews.com
Katie Carbone: Katie@woodbridgetownnews.com

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

Table with 2 columns: Upcoming Issue Deadline, Upcoming Issue Dates. Rows include January 10th, January 31st (Valentine's Day Issue), and February 21st.

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

FROM OUR READERS

To the Editor

As a Woodbridge resident concerned about the future of our Town and recently with the plans for the Country Club of Woodbridge (CCW), I have been paying attention to recent Board of Selectmen meetings and actions. Unlike the writer of a recent letter to the editor, I applaud the leadership of Ellen Scalettar and her emphasis on hearing from taxpayers as a first step in addressing issues like the Country Club.

At their recent meeting, it seemed that the fundamental disagreement between the Democratic and Republican Selectmen centered around the community conversations that Ellen insisted be the first step in determining the future of the property. The new format was an important step in changing the Town's problematic way of implementing changes in the past when residents might not understand enough to be able to properly support a proposal nor counter criticism from someone who did not have all the facts. These community conversation meetings, which invited every resident of our town to be listened to, attracted over 250 town residents who made their views heard. As a Woodbridge resident of 22 years and as a member of the Woodbridge Listens-CCW Ad Hoc Committee, I believe this was an opportunity for input that many in our community were pleased to have.

As Ellen's letter to the community (published on the town website in follow-up to the community conversations) notes, the Country Club will be a key element in the Plan of Conservation and Development. The Town's recently hired consultant for this plan, Milone and McBroom, will bring their professional expertise to the next step of the process to determine the long-term future of the CCW property. Ellen's leadership, and the unanimous support of the Board of Selectmen on the vote to retain Milone and McBroom, is fiscally prudent and will provide faster results with greater Town input than any alternative proposal.

With respect to past Town neglect of its infrastructure, I understand that Ed Sheehy showed strong leadership in this regard with the new Fire House and the Public Works Garage. In the few short months Ellen has been First Selectman, she has brought the Beecher Road School Renovation Project to the public for an informative presentation, including the need for the project, its scope, and the impact on taxpayers.

We are fortunate to have leadership that recognizes the need for infrastructure improvements and maintenance as well as vibrant community involvement to keep our Town the wonderful place to live that it is.

Respectfully,

Deborah Fried

Member, Woodbridge Listens-CCW Ad Hoc Committee



WTN Letters Policy

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

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



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EDUCATION

WOODBIDGE, BETHANY RESIDENTS EARN HONORS

Sacred Heart Academy Principal, Sr. Maureen Flynn, ASCJ has announced the Honor Roll for the FIRST marking period of the 2013—2014 academic school year. The following Woodbridge residents were named to the Honor Roll:

HIGH HONORS:

- Lucy Andersen
- Julianne Beltz
- Isabella Buda
- Anna-Claire Luciani
- Teraesa Vitelli



Sacred Heart Academy Principal, Sr. Maureen Flynn, ASCJ has announced the Honor Roll for the FIRST marking period of the 2013 - 14 academic year. Residents of Bethany named to the Honor Roll are:

HIGH HONORS

- Hannah Ahearn
- Jeanne Cassidy
- Sienna DeMaio

HONORS

- Marina Amendola

Academic Honors are awarded at the end of each quarter to students attaining an average of 3.5 or better. Those students who achieve a grade point average of 3.8 or better are awarded High Honors.

Sacred Heart Academy, an independent Catholic college preparatory school founded in 1946 by the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, successfully prepares young women, grades 9 -12 for learning, service and achievement in a global society. The Academy has an enrollment of 500 plus students hailing from five counties in Connecticut – New Haven, Fairfield, Middlesex, Hartford and New London.

KLARIDES, CRISCO SEEK TO PREVENT SEX OFFENDERS FROM RESIDING NEAR SCHOOLS

State Representative Themis Klarides (R-114) and State Senator Joseph J. Crisco, Jr. (D-17) are continuing their efforts to restrict where sex offenders can reside by announcing they will introduce legislation to keep them away from schools and daycare centers. The policy, which Rep. Klarides originally proposed in 2007, would establish "Child Safety Zones" – a 1,000 foot radius around schools, daycares and other locations where children typically gather – and prohibit any registered sex offender from residing there. The proposal would also carry more severe penalties and increased fines for crimes committed within the zones.

Rep. Klarides has proposed similar legislation in the past, but was met with resistance from majority party legislators who instead voted to dilute the policy. "The last thing a parent should have to worry about when they send their child to school is whether a depraved sex offender is lurking around the corner from the jungle gym or classroom," said Rep. Klarides, Deputy

House Republican Leader. "Keeping sex offenders away from kids is a common sense policy that many people assume is already in place, but has been met with inexcusable opposition from other legislative leaders in the past several years. I call on my colleagues to do the right thing for our communities and support this legislation when the 2014 Session convenes."

"State statutes require known sex offenders and predators to register their whereabouts for a very good reason – to safeguard residents and protect them from any recurrence of previous behavior that prompted registration in the first place," Senator Joseph J. Crisco, Jr. (D-Woodbridge) said. "This initiative is a straightforward extension of these safeguards and protections and, if enacted, will help separate those on the registry from schools and daycare centers where children congregate."

The lawmakers plan to push for the legislation during the upcoming 2014 Legislative Session, which convenes February 5, 2014.

WOODBIDGE LIBRARY

Adult Programs

The Lone Ranger film screening

Thursday, December 19th at 7pm, Woodbridge Town Library Meeting Room

Native American warrior Tonto recounts the untold tales that transformed John Reid, a man of the law, into a legend of justice. Rated PG-13. 149 minutes.

We Steal Secrets: The story of WikiLeaks film screening

Thursday, December 26th at 7pm, Woodbridge Town Library Meeting Room

A documentary that details the creation of Julian Assange's controversial website, which facilitated the largest security breach in U.S. history. Rated R. 130 min.

An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe

Tuesday, January 14th at 7pm, Woodbridge Town Library Meeting Room

Join us for a dramatic reading and historic reenactment. Campbell Harmon of the Yale Divinity School, will bring Edgar Allan Poe to life through historic readings of "The Raven" and "The Tell-Tale Heart", historical biography, and audience interaction.

An Afternoon with Dog Whisperer Pat Wright

Saturday, January 25th at 1pm, Woodbridge Town Library Meeting Room

Learn how to bring your dog to peace and solve the problem of unwanted behaviors. Pat Wright has worked as the highest ranking member in the United States of the Jan Fennell International Team of Dog Listeners. Some of the many topics discussed are pulling on the lead, jumping up, aggression, separation anxiety, and excessive barking. Questions are welcome, but no dogs please.

Children's Programs

American Girl Day featuring Felicity

Thursday, December 26th at 2pm, Grades 2-5

Woodbridge Town Library Children's Department

Join the fun on American Girl Day featuring Felicity! Fabric craft, games, and more. Books available at the Children's Desk. Advance registration required. Please call 203-389-3439 or email childrensprogramslioninc.org.



Masque Theater with Larry Hunt

Saturday, December 28 at 2pm, Woodbridge Town Library Meeting Room, Ages 5 and up

Where in the world is Larry Hunt? He is hiding behind any one of his 20 sculpted human and animal masks. His show is part illusion, part magic, part music, and always playful!

Meet the Author featuring Bianca Turetsky

Saturday, January 11 at 2pm, Woodbridge Town Library Meeting Room

Meet the author of the Time Traveling Fashionista - Louise Lambert knows how to travel! Vintage clothing takes her back in time to the most interesting places, onboard the Titanic, or swept away to 18th century France. Now in her newest adventure, a pearl necklace takes her to ancient Egypt and Cleopatra's palace.

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Woodbridge Town Library Children's Department

Calling all Grandparents! Are your grandkids visiting this holiday season? The Woodbridge Town Library has new Grandparent Kits for you! We'll fill a special bag with books, CD's, DVD's, computer games and more, specially tailored to your grandchildren's ages and interests. How many are coming? Do they like sports, dinosaurs, or princesses? Stop by, give us a call at 389-3439, or e mail our children's department at childrensprogramslioninc.org and we'll happily meet your needs. Your Woodbridge Library card is all you need to take advantage of this special service.

WOODBIDGE CLUB INVITES FAMILIES TO CONNECT

By Bettina Thiel, Woodbridge Town News Correspondent

In a town that lacks a town center, it's often the children's activities that connect families and draw them out of the house. One such incubator of social connectivity for more than 60 years has been the Woodbridge Club on Milhaven Road, off Ansonia Road. "We are there every day in the summer," said Jackie Wright, mother of two boys, 12 and 14. The boys play basketball and tennis, and meet friends there for lunch. Jackie and her husband Chris may swim or bring their own friends to hang out. It has become a virtual extension of their backyard.

The Woodbridge Social Club

"Originally it was called the Woodbridge Social Club," said Paul Davis, director of the pool- and tennis club. That was in 1946, and early newspaper clippings from the 1950s show members putting on plays. A stage in the clubhouse hall is still a testament to those activities. But pretty soon the "Social" was left out of the name and the scope of the organization shifted.

Throughout the 1950s, the club boasted six bowling alleys, with a pinsetter resetting pins at the end. Today, the bowling alley is partly storage, partly game room. A spacious kitchen is shared with a caterer, Legendary Events. The entrance to the bowling alley now is a snack bar/cafeteria with café seating.

Summer activities

The pool, which later became the focal point of the club, wasn't built until 1956, and overhauled in the 1980s. After the pool came the tennis courts, today a big draw for many.

The membership consists overwhelmingly of Woodbridge residents (70%), but there are many others from Bethany and Westville and other surrounding towns. Some enjoy the social connections they made, some come for the competitive sports program that Davis had built up. Currently they have about 200 members, Davis said. He has been the director at the facility since 1987.

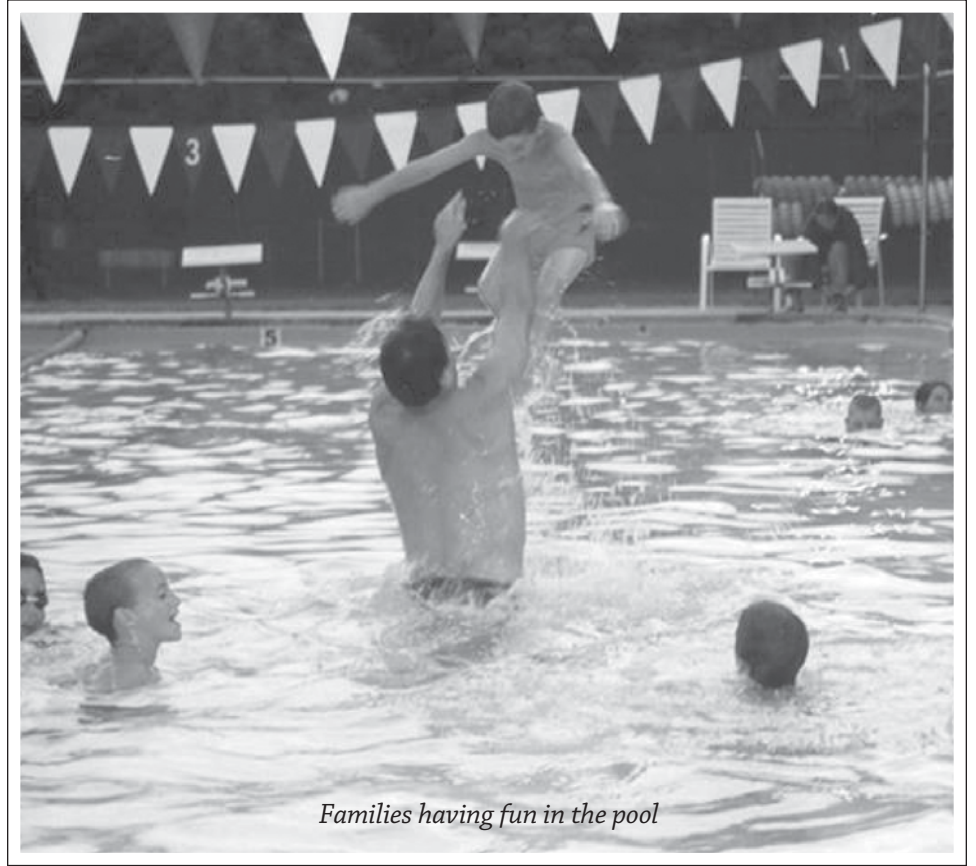
The club is member-owned and led by a volunteer Board of Directors. It is a non-profit organization. As opposed to the Country Club, the Woodbridge Club is more family-oriented, Davis said. In the summer, the picnic and grill area is packed with families, and they have many events planned throughout the season. An ongoing program is the Sunday afternoon "Tennis Olympics," where two family members are paired to play another family.

Tennis program

The tennis program has grown over the past few years under the leadership of Chris Raffone, a tennis pro and boys tennis coach at Amity High School and at Oak Lane Country Club. Raffone has been at the Woodbridge Club for 13 years. He and two assistants offer classes and run league play. In fact, the local club has the largest number of participants in their league, Davis said. It is the quality of the program, though, that made them winners in the league for several years straight. "No other program in the area is run as effectively," Davis said. For tennis they have two hard-top courts, which are open year-round, and five clay courts, which are open from April to the end of November.

Swimming

The pool is still a big draw, given that it is one of the largest outdoor pools in the area, plus heated to 80 degrees. No matter how cold the summer, members will be able to enjoy a swim. Instead of chlorine, they use bromine for water purification, eliminating the burning eyes and the smell of chlorine.



Families having fun in the pool

For many years the swim team was the focus of the Woodbridge Club. It drew members from as far away as Branford and East Haven. Many of Amity's best swimmers got their first taste of competitive swimming here during the summer.

The club is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day – but may stay open a little longer if there is the demand, Davis said. Membership is \$1,700 per year for a family. The club is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily; the tennis courts have lights to allow night play.

Social events

The club is also a popular event venue. The social hall with its large windows and wood flooring, "dresses up pretty well," Davis said. Families host their bar- and bat mitzvah celebrations, sports team events, even weddings have taken place here.

The community has changed over the years, and the club has managed to attract new families every year by tailoring their program to the community's needs. Last year, they added a kiddie pool with a water fountain turtle, which was a big hit with younger families. They also arranged for a bus to pick up campers who participate in the Woodbridge Recreation summer camp at Beecher Road School and bus them to the club for post-camp summer fun. The club hired a supervisor for the group, ranging from first grade to eighth grade. For \$75 per week, the youngsters could play tennis or swim, play soccer, basketball and make crafts; on rainy days, they had the clubhouse and game room open to them. The program proved very popular, Davis said. They had 20 kids sign up for the program, and will do it again next summer.

Also new is a high school membership, where teenagers can sign up for \$800 per season, if the rest of the family would rather stay home.



left to right: Matthew Cummings, Peter Lerner, Mary Ellen LaRocca, Buddy DeGennaro, Anthony Anastasio and Dr. Guy Stella. Missing from the photo are Steven Katz, Anna and Richard Dickerson, Robyn Reilly, Tom and Noah Shernow and Mary D'Ostilio.

Woodbridge Rotary Club partnered with Katz Deli to distribute 33 Thanksgiving Food Baskets to residents of Bethany, Woodbridge and Westville.



First Selectman Ellen Scalett serving one of the seniors enjoying the Thanksgiving Luncheon.

On Friday, November 21st the 100 seniors attending the Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon at the Senior Center enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal with all the holiday trimmings, served by members of the Police Department and staff, Human Services staff and volunteers, and First Selectman, Ellen Scalett. The enjoyable luncheon was free of charge and sponsored through the generosity of the Woodbridge Police Union, IBPO Local 362.

AMITY TEEN CENTER "CHILLY CHILI RUN"

The People's United Bank 2014 "Chilly Chili Run," to benefit the Amity Teen Center, will take place on New Year's Day at the High Plains Community Center in Orange. The 5K Road Race and Fitness Walk will be followed by a hot chili brunch. This will be the 17th year for the Race and it has become a highlight on the Connecticut and New England Racing Calendars.

The Registration fees before December 16 are \$20.00 for Runners, \$15.00 for Runners 12 and under, and \$15.00 for the 5K Fitness Walk. After December 16, and on the day of the Race, the fees are \$25.00 for Runners, \$18.00 for Runners 12 and under, and \$18.00 for the Fitness Walk. You can register online before midnight on Thursday, December 26 at www.hitekracing.com. Applications are also available at the Orange Park and Recreation Office.

We will have an "Early Packet Pickup and Late Registration" on Tuesday, December 31 at the High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road in Orange from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Registration on the Day of the Race will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the Community Center gymnasium. The Race will start at 10:30 a.m.

For more information, please call Race Director, Joe Riccio at (203) 481-7453 or Race Coordinator, Jane Oppen at (203) 795-9351.

SLOSSBERG: STATE HELPS LOCAL FARMS RECOVER STORM LOSSES

After suffering ruined crops and equipment and other losses due to storms and flooding earlier this year, Connecticut's farmers are getting some much needed relief. Local farms are receiving Production Loss Assistance Needed Today (PLANT) grants from the State to help them recover their losses.

State Senator Gayle S. Slossberg (D-Milford) welcomed Governor Dannel P. Malloy's announcement that Connecticut's Department of Agriculture (DoAg), in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), approved 239 PLANT grants in October, and began distributing them on the 31st of the month. "The damage inflicted on our farms this year has left them in need of whatever help we can provide," said Sen. Slossberg. "Locally, our communities have stepped up in the aftermath of severe storms, and I'm pleased to see the State doing what it can to aid our recovery efforts."

Locally, Glendale Farms in Milford, Grassy Hill Farm in Orange, Golden Acres Farms in West Haven, and Shepherd Farm in Woodbridge were all approved for PLANT grants. "Severe weather events—the kind that were seemingly unheard of in Connecticut when I was growing up—have become the new normal," said DoAg Commissioner Steven Reviczky in a statement. "These grants are helping farm businesses not only recover today, but also strengthen agricultural infrastructure to better weather tomorrow's tornados, hurricanes, and blizzards, when—not if—they occur. These are wise investments in Connecticut's future and its essential supply of food and farm products."

Nearly \$5 million in PLANT grants will be distributed to farms across the state who applied for the program. Grant applications were reviewed, approved, and processed through a partnership between DoAg and DECD, with assistance from the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association.

Farms can use the assistance to repair damaged property and equipment, to replant lost crops, to apply fertilizer and other soil amendments, to apply any necessary products to prevent disease and pest outbreaks, and to purchase feed to supplement lost hay, corn, and other crops for livestock.

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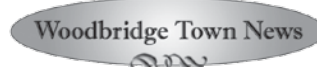
ELLEN SCALETTAR VISITS TROOP 63 CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Woodbridge First Selectman Ellen Scalettar was among the first to visit Boy Scout Troop 63's annual Christmas Tree Sale over the Thanksgiving weekend. Located behind the old firehouse in Woodbridge on Center Road, the troop is selling fresh balsam pine trees, wreaths, kissing balls and baskets. The sale runs weekdays from 3-7pm and Saturdays and Sundays from 9am-7pm until Christmas. Various sizes and prices are available to meet every need and budget. Free local delivery is available.

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

Join the adventure. Join the fun and see what scouting is all about. Meetings are held at Our Lady of the Assumption "Mother" Church located at 1700 Litchfield Turnpike (Rte. 69) in Woodbridge on Monday nights from 7:00 - 8:30 and all boys ages 10 and up or who have completed the fifth grade along with their parents, are encourage to visit.

For more information visit our web site at <http://www.troop963.org> or email Troop63CT@gmail.com.



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AT THE SENIOR CENTER

By Lee Canning

The office will be closed Wednesday, December 25, 2013 and Wednesday January 1, 2014. All of us here at the Center wish everyone a very Happy Holiday Season.

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

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

ZUMBA GOLD

The Senior Center offers Zumba Gold classes on Friday at 9 am in the cafeteria. Call 203-389-3430 to register. \$30 for six weeks.

Lunch Program

Lunch is served on Tuesdays and Fridays at 12:15 pm. Call in reservations at least one day in advance. All meals include salad, bread, juice, coffee/tea, & dessert. Meals cost \$3. Take Outs cost \$4.

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

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

Free Friday afternoon movies at the WSC (\$3 lunch and free popcorn will be served). Movies are shown at the Senior Center on Friday afternoons at 1 pm. Join us at 12:15 for a nutritious \$3 lunch, followed by a movie with free popcorn (or just attend the movie at 1 pm). December 15 Going My Way. December 22 Adam's Rib.

Mah-Jongg

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

PROGRAMS DECEMBER 2013

- Dec 13 — Friday — Zumba Gold. Movie.
- Dec 17 — Tuesday — Holiday Train Show at NY Botanical Gardens.
- Dec 20 — Friday — Zumba Gold. Movie.
- Dec 24 — Tuesday — CLOSED. Office Open. No Exercise. No Lunch. No Bingo.
- Dec 25 — Wednesday — CHRISTMAS. Closed.
- Dec 27 — Friday — Zumba Gold. Movie.
- Dec 31 — Tuesday — New Year's Eve Cocktail Party. Angelo, vocalist.

FUTURE PROGRAMS—2014

- Jan 1—Wednesday—New Year's Day. Closed.
- Jan 3 — Friday — Movie.
- Jan 7 — Tuesday — Bob Lupi, vocalist.
- Jan 10 — Friday — Movie.
- Jan 14 — Tuesday — Twilight Tappers.
- Jan 16 — Thursday — Advisory Board.
- Jan 17 — Friday — Movie.
- Jan 19—Sunday—UCONN Game at Rutgers.
- Jan 21 — Tuesday — Jim Sheehan, Guitarist/Vocalist.
- Jan 24 — Friday — Movie.
- Jan 31 — Friday — Movie.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAIR. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A heartfelt "Thank You" to all who supported our 20th Annual Holiday Fair. Whether you made a monetary donation, baked, donated or brought items, or helped us in any way, we appreciate your support. Our 20th Annual Holiday Fair was a Success; thanks to you!

TRIPS

Trips must be paid for at registration. Checks are payable to Getaway Tours.

December 17, 2013 — Tuesday — Holiday Train show, \$95 includes transportation, lunch at Ann and Tony's, Holiday Train show at NYBG and driver's gratuity.

January 19, 2014 — Sunday — UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME, Piscataway NJ. \$59 includes transportation, tickets to UCONN game, and driver's gratuity.

March 19-21, 2014 — Wednesday to Friday — The Sights, Sounds and Tastes of Lancaster including MOSES. \$399 pp dbl includes roundtrip transportation, Getaway Tours' Tour Director, Hotel Accommodations, Admissions wherever applicable, four (4) Meals (2 dinners, 2 full breakfasts), 2 shows (Caught in the Net & Moses), Taxes & Baggage Handling, and bus driver's & Tour Director's gratuities.

March 21, 2014 — Friday — Westchester Dinner Theatre "Guys & Dolls". \$95 includes transportation, lunch and show at the Westchester Broadway Theatre and driver's gratuity.

May 3-8, 2014 — Saturday to Thursday — 5 Night Bermuda Cruise on Royal Caribbean's Explorer of the Seas. All rates listed are per person double occupancy and include round-trip transfers, cruise, all meals aboard ship, taxes, travel insurance, port charges and gratuities for transfer services in CT. Payment info, ship and ports of call are on the flyer at the senior center. Please stop in or call 203-389-3430.

TRIP CANCELLATIONS FOR DAY TRIPS — Unfortunately NO REFUNDS can be issued for any cancellations made less than 30 days before a scheduled trip or event.

Please Note: All trips must be booked far enough in advance to assure that trips will not be cancelled. The first two rows are reserved for persons with special disabilities only!

ENERGY ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS

The Town of Woodbridge is taking Energy Assistance applications.

This is available to Woodbridge residents who meet income and asset eligibility guidelines. For more information or to make an appointment, please call 203-389-3429.

BOOK CLUB

On December 17th the club will meet in Room 15 at 11:15 a.m. to discuss "Silver Star" by Jeannette Walls. Copies of the book will be available at the Senior Center. Please call Mary D'Ostilio at 203-389-3429 with any questions.

LUNCH BUNCH

This will resume in the spring.

WALKING GROUP

This will resume in the spring.

MENU

Lunch is served at 12:15 p.m.

Friday 12/13

Soup & Chicken Sandwich.

Tuesday 12/17

Roast Beef Dinner.

Friday 12/20

Soup & Eggplant Parm Sandwich.

Tuesday 12/24

No Lunch

Friday 12/27

Soup & Tuna Sandwich.

Friday 12/31

New Year's Party.

W E D N E S D A Y



TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

WOODBIDGE LAND TRUST ELECTS A NEW PRESIDENT

The Woodbridge Land Trust is pleased to announce that it has elected Christopher Keevil as its President. Mr. Keevil succeeds longtime Board member, Lochlin Reidy and immediate past President Bryan Pines. Established in 1964, the Woodbridge Land Trust is a nonprofit corporation committed to the conservation, preservation and protection of our natural resources.

Chris has a long-standing interest in land use and open space, having grown up in Lincoln, Massachusetts which has an open space policy that has been seen as an exemplar for other communities. He has played a leadership role at the Farm and Wilderness Foundation in Plymouth, Vermont with an orientation towards outdoor education, farming, and wilderness experience. Chris looks forward to, "working with the Land Trust Board, our membership, and the people of Woodbridge to sustain and preserve our open space -- a wonderful feature of our town today, and a legacy for future generations".

Formerly a Partner at The Boston Consulting Group, an international management consultancy, Chris is currently Managing Director at Wellspring Consulting, a firm that provides strategy and management consulting services to nonprofit organizations and institutions. Chris moved to Woodbridge in 1991, and presently lives there with his wife Sharon de Kadt and their two children. He graduated from the Yale School of Management in 1987 and from Amherst College in 1977.

TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2014

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



Town Hall

1/6	Town Plan & Zoning Commission	7:30pm	Town Hall
1/8	Board of Selectmen	6:00pm	Town Hall
	Police Commission	6:00pm	Police Dept.
1/13	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:30pm	Town Hall
1/15	Inland/Wetlands Agency	7:30pm	Town Hall
1/27	Recreation Commission.....	7:00pm	Beecher School South
1/28	Government Access TV Commission	7:15pm	Town Hall

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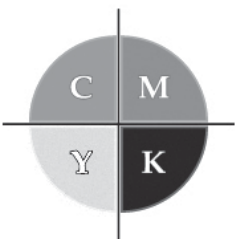
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18,000 cases of pertussis have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control this year. The disease is also known as whooping cough, which is on the rise in many states, including CT. Pertussis is particularly severe for infants, who are not fully protected against this terrible cough until they are one year old. You can protect the infant you care about by protecting yourself against pertussis. Quinnipiac Valley Health District (QVHD) is now offering the pertussis vaccine (in the form of Tdap-tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) to parents, grandparents, babysitters and other caregivers or contacts of newborns and infants 12 months and younger. If you are over age 18 and have never had a Tdap vaccine, (a combined booster immunization containing tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis protection) you are eligible to receive this vaccine. A \$10.00 administration fee is requested. No one will be turned away for lack of ability to pay this fee. Immunization clinics are held every 4-6 weeks. Call QVHD, 203 248-4528 or visit us online, www.qvhd.org for clinic dates and times.

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Antibiotic Misuse: A Public Health Problem

No one likes to feel sick. In a day and age when modern medicine can cure so many ills with medications, it would seem reasonable to request an antibiotic when you are sick. However, antibiotics only kill bacteria, not viruses. Furthermore, the germs that are destroyed by antibiotics have a remarkable way of mutating and learning how to “resist” them. This is called “antibiotic resistance”. Taking an antibiotic when you don’t really need one can lead to antibiotic resistance. This can become a serious problem should you develop a bacterial infection that requires an antibiotic, but the germs have developed a resistance to them.

The Minnesota Antibiotic Resistance Collaborative (MARC) has developed a campaign called “Keep Antibiotics Working”. Try the quiz that it has developed to see what your “antibiotic IQ” is. (All questions are true or false.)

1. Antibiotics will zap a nasty cold or a bad case of the flu in short order.
2. Antibiotics are good for treating strep throat.
3. Antibiotics won’t help if you have a chest cold-but you’ll need them if you have acute bronchitis.
4. If you have green or yellow nasal drainage, your illness is caused by bacteria-not a virus.
5. It doesn’t matter if your child is sick with a virus or some kind of bacteria. You’ll want an antibiotic all the same.
6. It never does any harm to take an antibiotic-even if your illness isn’t caused by bacteria.
7. You can stop taking an antibiotic as soon as you feel better-and save the leftover antibiotics for the next time you’re sick.
8. It’s no big deal if a few bacteria become resistant to some kinds of antibiotics-there is always something else you can take.

The answers: 1) False 2) True 3) False 4) False 5) False 6) False 7) False 8) False. So how did you do?

The explanations are as follows:

1) FALSE Diseases can be caused by different kinds of germs. Some are caused by bacteria and others are caused by viruses. Anti-bacterial drugs-or antibiotics will help fight diseases caused by bacteria, but they don’t work with viruses. Colds and flu are caused by viruses, so antibiotics won’t help with those diseases.

2) TRUE Most sore throats are caused by viruses, but strep throat is caused by bacteria. If your doctor does a test and your child has strep throat, it will need to be treated with an antibiotic.

3) FALSE “Acute bronchitis” and “chest cold” are two different names for the same illness. This illness is caused by a virus so antibiotics won’t help.

4) FALSE Nasal drainage helps wash away the virus that’s making you sick. At first it will be clear, but then it will get thicker and the color will change to white, yellow or green. But that doesn’t mean you need an antibiotic.

5) FALSE An antibiotic won’t help if your child has a virus. If you misuse antibiotics, people in your family may be sick more often and more seriously ill when they do get sick.

6) FALSE By misusing antibiotics, you could also be helping to breed “super bugs” or “resistant” bacteria that are not killed by antibiotics. Antibiotics are one of our most important weapons in the fight against disease. We can’t afford to undermine their effectiveness.

7) FALSE You need to finish taking all of the antibiotics your doctor gave you-even if you already feel better. You need to kill off all of the germs that made you sick. If you try to use “leftovers” you may not be using the right antibiotic for your illness-and if you are using them for a virus, they won’t work at all.

8) FALSE Don’t count on being able to use “something else” if a “super bug” makes you sick. We only have a limited number of antibiotics available. Often, “super bugs” have to be treated with stronger antibiotics. These stronger drugs may have more side effects and you may have to stay in the hospital and have them given through a vein.

Tuberculosis, gonorrhea, staph aureus and enterococcal diseases have already developed resistant strains. Follow these rules for smart and effective antibiotic use: Take the antibiotics AS PRESCRIBED by your health care provider. This is the only effective way to take the medication. Do not skip doses.

Finish the entire prescription. If you develop side effects, call your health care provider so that another antibiotic can be prescribed.

Do not share antibiotics with other people.

Read the labels on the medication container. They are there for a reason. Some medications may not work as well or may react with other medicines or foods.

For more information on antibiotics, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Get Smart, Know When Antibiotics Work”. Residents of Quinnipiack Valley Health District (Bethany, Hamden, North Haven and Woodbridge) who do not have internet access can call QVHD, 203 248-4528 for written materials on antibiotic resistance. This column was written by V. Deborah Culligan, Coordinator of Health Education programs/Deputy Director.

DOLLAR\$ AND \$ENSE

Gifts That Keep Giving

By Roberta L. Nestor

We all love to give our children and grandchildren the “special gifts” or the “must have” items that appear on their list – there is nothing better than seeing their smiling faces as they unwrap that special gift. Precious and expensive, especially those tech items. Often, especially grandparents, start to question the purchase of an iPhone for a 13 year old, won’t it be obsolete in a few short years?

Try something different this holiday season! Chances are your child or grandchild already has a 529 College Savings Plan. These plans allow anyone to contribute on behalf of the child. The attraction of 529 plans is that they grow completely tax free* as long as the funds are used for higher education expenses; room and board, tuition, books, even trade or technical schools.

If you are a parent who hasn’t established a 529 plan, maybe you have hesitated thinking it would be unaffordable or that you need a large sum to get it going. Not true! The CT CHET plan will let you start with as little as \$50 and an on-going commitment to \$50 a month. There is also the question, “what if my child doesn’t go to college”? You can change the beneficiary on a 529 and pass funds down to a sibling, cousin, niece or any relative – anyone can be the beneficiary regardless of age.

While it is unlikely that parents will be able to save enough to cover all college costs, whatever you can save helps enormously – especially when it comes to all the “extras”. Remember, anyone can contribute on behalf of the beneficiary. A 529 plan can be established by anyone, for anyone. Meaning, if your grandchild doesn’t have one yet – you can open the account on their behalf.

Another idea, think ROTH! If the special young people in your life are grown and just starting out in their careers, or even just working part time for extra savings – you can open a ROTH IRA for them. You have to be careful not to over contribute as the contribution maximum is 100% of wages (W-2 earnings) up to a maximum of \$5,500. Some investment companies will allow you to open a ROTH IRA with as little as \$500, and additional deposits of at least \$50.

The greatest attraction of ROTH IRAs is that the accumulation and use of funds (in accordance with IRS rules) is completely tax free. Sometimes it’s not how much you invest, it is how long you have to invest. Consider an annual \$500 contribution that grows at a hypothetical rate of 4% for 40 years – that would mean saving \$1.76 a day; over 40 years it could be worth over \$50,000, and all tax free if withdrawn in accordance with IRS rules.

What not to give? While in the past, US Savings Bonds may have been attractive, today’s low interest rate environment should make you think twice. Series EE bonds issued from November 2013 through April 2014 earn today’s announced rate of 0.10% (one tenth of one percent). All Series EE bonds issued since May 2005 earn a fixed rate in the first 20 years after issue. At 20 years, the bonds will be worth at least two times their purchase price. The bonds will continue to earn interest at their original fixed rate for an additional 10 years unless new terms and conditions are announced before the final 10-year period begins.

Happy shopping and best wishes to all for a joyous holiday season!

*The fees, expenses, and features of 529 plans can vary from state to state. 529 plans involve investment risk, including the possible loss of funds. There is no guarantee that a college-funding goal will be met. In order to be federally tax-free, earnings must be used to pay for qualified higher education expenses. The earnings portion of a nonqualified withdrawal will be subject to ordinary income tax at the recipient’s marginal rate and subject to a 10-percent penalty. By investing in a plan outside your state of residence, you may lose any state tax benefits. 529 plans are subject to enrollment, maintenance, and administration/management fees and expenses.

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 is 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.

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Scout Ben O'Connor and Senior Center Director Lee
Canning with one of the emergency bags.

SCOUT'S WEATHER EMERGENCY BAGS

Ben O'Connor of Boy Scout Troop 963 in Woodbridge is currently working on his Eagle Project which consists of raising funds, organizing and distributing Weather Emergency Bags for seniors residing in Woodbridge. The bags consisted of a blanket, crank flashlight, night lights, a radio, batteries, water, snacks, and a folder and plastic bag for pertinent emergency information. Boy scouts from Troop 963 recently spent a Saturday distributing 50 bags to senior residents.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

Boy Scout Troop 63, meetings Monday nights from 7:00 pm – 8:30pm, Our Lady of the Assumption “Mother” Church, 1700 Litchfield Turnpike (Rte. 69), Woodbridge; September- April and May-June outdoors at Camp Whiting, all boys ages 10 and up or who have completed the fifth grade are welcome to stop by and see what we're all about. For more information, visit <http://www.troop963.org> or email Troop63CT@gmail.com.

Woodbridge Republican Town Committee Meetings, second Tuesday of each month. For more information, contact Dorothy Martino at dorothyjmartino@yahoo.com or 203-397-1547 or Kathy Gartland, gartlandkb@aol.com or 203-387-8792.

Woodbridge Rotary Club Meetings, 1st and 3rd Friday of the month, 7:30am breakfast meeting, Country Corner Diner, 756 Amity Toad, Bethany and the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 12:15pm luncheon meeting, Carmine Tuscan Grill, 1500 Whalley Avenue, New Haven. Anyone interested in learning more about Rotary should contact Anna Dickerson at 203-710-0223 or email annadickerson@yahoo.com.

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

Trap Falls Kennel Club Obedience Classes, every level, AKC STAR Puppy (obedience for dogs under 12 months) and Family Manners Classes/Obedience; begins week of September 16, 2013, held Wednesday and Thursday evenings, Pawz for Wellness in Shelton, CT. For registration and/or information, call 203-450-9485 or email tfkctraining@gmail.com. Trap Falls Kennel Club is a non-profit member club of the American Kennel Club (AKC)

Community Carol Sing, Sunday, December 15, 2013, 3:00pm, Sanctuary, First Church of Christ, Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge. Tea hosted by Women's Fellowship following the Community Sing.

FROM YOUR STATE SENATOR

By Joseph Crisco



The dangerous and unsettling prospect of a complete stranger gaining unrestricted access to personal credit cards and bank account information is one of everyone's greatest worries. One day last week the State Capitol Police conducted a training session for legislators and staff members to address the matter of consumer safety and identity theft to help prevent that from happening. With lessons learned, state Capitol personnel are now better prepared to help residents avoid what can be a devastating breach of privacy and security. The timing coincides with a seasonal stampede on retailers and the highest volume of consumer activity all year.

Would-be criminals look to take advantage of shoppers sometimes rushed and distracted by deadlines and crowds during this busy time. Beyond the usual warnings to stay alert, keep valuables protected, and safeguard all personal information, crime prevention experts offer a bounty of sound advice to help everyone avoid becoming victims of identity theft.

First and foremost, to limit exposure, the experts recommend shoppers carry only the identification and credit cards absolutely necessary. When they're used, we are encouraged to make sure no one is lurking nearby, trying to read or photograph the card numbers. Likewise, if that information is to be shared by telephone ensure no one is listening – if used online be sure it is encrypted on a secure website.

A very popular means by which thieves acquire personal financial information is by stealing mail – they feast upon outgoing bill payments and preapproved credit card offers. Increased use of automatic and electronic payment options makes this a diminishing threat, but those who mail

checks and credit card information are encouraged by crime prevention experts to use official mailboxes or go into a post office rather than leave material in a residential or other unguarded mailbox.

Other threats to the security of personal information are routinely disguised in seemingly innocuous email many people receive every day. Suffice it to say, no legitimate operation will request social security information or bank account numbers by email and no 'get rich quick' stock tips will arrive unsolicited – these and similar rip-off attempts should be ignored and deleted. Links to websites and other attachments originating from unfamiliar sources also should not be trusted and, in fact, may inadvertently install spyware simply by opening them.

Law enforcement and crime prevention sources describe a vexing paradox about identity theft: with the right information these crimes are relatively easy to commit but discovering, investigating, and prosecuting them can be excruciating and time-consuming. This doesn't even take into account the time and effort a victim must then invest in restoring his or her good name and credit. A much better investment, they say, is in all necessary and timely preventative measures.

Experts offer one final word of caution about identity theft, email scams, and so-called phishing attempts. Even as many generous people make charitable contributions this time of year to help the less-fortunate, assist a favorite cause, and avail themselves of potential tax advantages, a number of would-be charities are set-up temporarily and for less-honorable purposes. In these and all related matters, vigilance is a first, last, and the best line of defense.

Notice – Merritt Avenue Bridge Closing

Attention: Residents of Merritt Avenue, Miles Avenue, Manila Avenue

Merritt avenue bridge will close for replacment on or about Monday, December 30, 2013 thru Fall of 2014



DINING WITH SUSAN

By Susan Noonan



RESTAURANT | BAR | TAPAS

SOLUN RESTAURANT/BAR/TAPAS

Solun Restaurant in Woodbridge specializes in "Tapas", so I thought it would be fitting to talk about the history of this concept that has become very popular over the past few years. The word "Tapas" means "lids" in Spanish, and refers to a slice of bread being used to cover the top of a wine glass to prevent fruit flies from getting in the wine.

"Tapas" are snacks, canapés or finger food and come in many different forms. It has evolved somewhat with Gazpacho and Pella also offered, as well as Manchego and quince paste, flan, and tres leches cake. Solun Restaurant opened in March 2012 and is the latest addition to the "Tapas" trend in our area.

I had an opportunity to sit down with Solun owner Carlos Hernandez and he had quite a success story to share with me. In 1987 he came to the East Coast at the age of 17 for a vacation from Guatemala. He decided to stay for a while and began working in the restaurant business, washing dishes, cooking, waiting tables, managing and perfecting his abilities as a chef. Carlos's hard work, compassion and perserverance paid off. He purchased Meigas Restaurant in Norwalk and this award winning restaurant received CT Magazine's Best Tapas in the state and glowing reviews from the New York Times, Zagat Survey. Late in 2012 he renovated that location and it is now "Tinto Bar Tapas" with a beautiful new horseshoe bar and the same quality food as Solun. The popularity of the Spanish Mediterranean cuisine was the inspiration for Solun Restaurant Bar Tapas. He decided to open his latest venture in the Town of Woodbridge. Carlos felt the town definitely had a taste for this type of food and would support the "Tapas" concept. The location needed Carlos's magic touch to get that special feel of an authentic Spanish restaurant, where the traditional and the modern fuse in a coherent way. While old word concepts are kept, it uses new techniques, reflecting the new culinary revolution where flavors and aromas play a very important role in the creation of its dishes. Solun uses only the highest quality ingredients, Certified Angus beef and fresh local produce in the preparation of its meals. It also offers many gluten free & vegetarian dishes, along with homemade pasta. Solun's mission is to provide the hospitality, innate in the Spanish culture, with quality food and friendly, professional service. Carlos has assembled a great team in the kitchen that includes two chefs from the former "Roomba" Restaurant in New Haven. He is excited to have this talented duo creating many signature dishes. The cozy bar is great for a dinner or just a cocktail. Open 6 days - Express Lunch 11:30 -2:30 Tuesday-Sunday - Dinner Sunday-Thursday - 4:30-9:30pm. Friday & Saturday serving until 10:30pm. Bar open late. Ladies Night Wednesday includes \$2.50 cocktails & \$5.00 Tapas from 4-8pm - Live Music, call for nights-Reservations accepted - All major credit cards - Plenty of parking - Handicapped accessible - Family friendly with choices for kids. The main dining room can accommodate private parties up to 56 and the smaller area seats 30 or catering off premise. Follow us on Facebook: "Solun Restaurant, Bar & Tapas" for updates on offers and musical artists. Reserve now for Christmas Eve, 3 course dinner menu for \$29.99 per person, 12:00-7:00 pm or New Year Eve Celebration, 3 course dinner menu for \$39.99 per person w/seatings at 5:00 and 8:30 pm.

SOLUN RESTAURANT/BAR/TAPAS

245 Amity Road (Route 63)

Woodbridge, CT 06525

Phone - 203-298-9741 - Fax - 203-298-9743
website: soluntapasbar.com

Final notes: Make a visit soon to this charming and cozy "Tapas" restaurant in Woodbridge. Carlos and his professional staff will make your dining experience very special, offering exceptional food, outstanding service and ambiance. He has come a long way since he left his family and birthplace 25 years ago. A true success story! Please remember to support our local family owned businesses. If you have a favorite restaurant, e-mail susan@woodbridgetownnews.com - Happy Holidays to all our loyal WTN readers!

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Taraji Henson

Q: I love "The Witches of East End." Can you tell me if it will be back for another season? -- Lynn W., via email

A: Lifetime recently announced that "Witches" will return for a second 13-episode season, to air sometime in 2014 (an exact date has not been decided yet). The hit drama stars **Julia Ormond, Madchen Amick, Jenna Dewan Tatum** and **Rachel Boston** as a family of witches living in the secluded seaside town of East Haven. The show also stars **Eric Winter, Daniel DiTomasso** and **Virginia Madsen**. And don't miss the season one finale, which airs Sunday, Dec. 15, at 10 p.m. ET/PT.

Q: Can you tell me why "King and Maxwell" wasn't renewed? My husband and I really liked that show. We like most of the TNT shows; we especially miss Brenda and "The Closer." -- Karen J. in Florida

A: The consensus reason for the show's demise is the ever-popular "low ratings." And while the drama series -- which centered on former Secret Service agents who become private detectives, played by **Rebecca Romijn** and **Jon Tenney** -- didn't have rock-bottom ratings, the show was enough on the bubble that TNT decided not to renew. On top of low ratings, "King and Maxwell" also lost one-third of its "Major Crimes" lead-in audience, which is usually a nail in the coffin for any struggling freshman series.

Q: We are huge fans of "Person of Interest." We were not expecting Carter to be killed off! She, Reese and Finch are the program. Without her, it won't be the same. Why was Carter written out? -- Laura K., via email

A: **Taraji P. Henson**, who played Officer Joss Carter for two and a half seasons on the CBS drama, was just as surprised as you were that her character

died. However, she knows it was time for her character to go, and it was a great way to surprise and stun the audience. She recently told "Entertainment Weekly": "You portray a character for so long, you care about her and her life. But art imitates life -- it comes to an end unexpectedly. It was bittersweet, because I enjoyed portraying Carter. What a strong, powerful woman on television."

But don't get too sad about Carter's death, because you could see her again someday -- in a flashback. The show is known for using flashbacks to propel the story lines, and Taraji said she definitely would be up for returning to film flashback scenes.

Q: Can you please tell me if "Bunheads" will return to ABC Family anytime this year? -- Frank W., via email

A: ABC Family canceled the ballerina dramedy after only one season, which many critics say was entirely too soon, and that the show was just finding its ground and still had a lot more to give. But fan and critical favor couldn't save this **Amy Sherman Palladino**-created show (she's most famous for "Gilmore Girls"), with "Bunheads" airing its last dance this past February.

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

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HOLLY HILL THANKSGIVING BASKETS FOR ORANGE SENIORS

Thanks to the generosity of the children of Holly Hill Childcare and Learning Center, several senior residents of Orange will be enjoying bountiful Thanksgiving baskets filled with everything needed for a wonderful holiday dinner, along with a grocery gift card. The Thanksgiving food drive was the perfect opportunity for our staff to teach our young people a very valuable lesson... the meaning of giving. Pictured above with the children are (far left) Infant Teacher Alice DiNicola and Assistant Director Debbie Fedorko and (far right), Pre-School Teacher, Stephenie Lucas.



Many are cheered by the lights of the festive holiday tree and Menorah on the triangle in front of the "Old Fire House" as they drive by. The holiday lights are provided to the Town by the generosity of the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association

Top - First Selectman Ellen Scalettar stopped by while the Firemen were trimming the tree. Left to right are: Woodbridge Volunteer Firemen, Capt. Adam O'Hara, First Selectman Ellen Scalettar, and Wayne Blanchette.

Bottom - A night view of the lights of the tree and Menorah.

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TREATMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

When Michael Dow, founder and Clinical Director, first opened his facility for physical therapy eight years ago, he envisioned the finest state of the art practice in the region.

With a staff of licensed, highly degreed therapists treating a constant flow of patients, Dow has almost reached his goal. With a far larger facility in Woodbridge that opened last year, he has since expanded his practice to Hamden with new quarters at 2285



Michael Dow

Whitney Avenue. In February of 2014 a third office will be opened in Branford to serve the entire Shoreline community. The combined offices provide the largest physical therapy practice in the area.

"Beyond our impressive facilities with all the possible therapy and fitness equipment necessary, it's the licensed and degreed, highly skilled therapists that have made our reputation in the area," Dow continued. "Entire families have put their physical problems in our hands. From young children to gracefully aging adults, the treatment of movement dysfunctions, correcting physical ailments, and eliminating pain is the core mission of our practice." Dow

went on, "Obviously, no one enjoys pain or the inability to move comfortably due to muscle or joint problems. We're able to treat a wide range of symptoms from simple back pain and strains to orthopedic problems, post-surgical rehabilitation from joint replacements, sports related injuries, balance disorders, and neurological conditions. In short, we treat any annoying, debilitating condition that impedes normal physical performance."

Amity Physical Therapy also takes on the frustrated recreational golfer. Often, the Club Golf Pro, while "improving" the swing, may not be able to detect underlying causes for poor performance on the course. "It might be a simple muscle-joint problem causing imbalance or bad posture that might disturb the natural athletic movement of a golfer's swing. We have the technology to analyze the physical problem, isolate the cause and correct it.

"We also consult with the golfers and other athletes on a variety of physical and mechanical problems to keep them at the top of their game.

"Ideally, once we've diagnosed and corrected a physical problem, our patients are able to continue normal activity without constantly coming back to us. That's our goal," Dow concluded, "to fix the problem through the talents of our experienced therapists. Then nature takes over."

Michael Dow MSPT can be reached at Amity Physical Therapy at 203-389-4593. A graduate of Sacred Heart University, he is founder and Clinical Director of the practice at One Bradley Road, Ste 801, Woodbridge. www.amitypt.com

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Sunday:

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9:00 a.m. Church Alive, Eucharist with the worship band

10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist

Interfaith Service of Remembrance for the Victims of Sandy Hook:

December 14th at 9:00 a.m.

December 24th Christmas Eve, Carols, Candlelight and Communion:

4:30 p.m. Music

5:00 p.m. Communion Service begins

December 25th Christmas Day Eucharist: 10:00 a.m.

December 29th, Sunday:

7:45 a.m. Traditional Eucharist, no music

9:00 a.m. Carols, and Worship for Children with Worship Band

10:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols with Eucharist



Church of the Good Shepherd

OUR LADY OF SORROWS CHURCH CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Our Lady of Sorrows Church, a traditional Catholic Church, located at 378 Spring Street, Orange, CT 06477 (203-795-5076) announces its holiday schedule - Christmas (the 25th): Midnight Mass (12:00am), 9:00am, and 1:00pm.



Our Lady of Sorrows Church

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

St. Lawrence Church is pleased to announce that its annual Christmas concert will take place on Sunday, December 22nd at 2:00pm. This year's program of holiday favorites features many wonderful guest artists from the area who have performed nationally and worldwide: organist and pianist Jeremy Hutchins, violinist Kate O'Brien, Kathy Bizub on trumpet, Kathie Sumrow on flute, Barbie Harger, soprano, and The Saint Lawrence Choir. The performance is led by Orange resident, Cantor/Music Director/ tenor soloist Gary Harger, who has been featured on Broadway, national tours, and with international opera houses and symphonies. St. Lawrence Church is located at 505 Shelton Avenue in Huntington, CT.



St. Lawrence Church

The concert is free and open to the general public --- all are welcome.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAROL SING

The Annual Community Carol Sing will be held at the First Church of Christ on Meetinghouse Lane in Woodbridge on Sunday, December 15th at 3:00 p.m. Bring family and friends to the church sanctuary to make a joyful noise. A reception will follow in the Parish House.

CANTABILE VOCAL QUARTET TO GIVE BENEFIT CONCERT

Cantabile Vocal Quartet and the West Haven High School Choral Dept. under the direction of Phyllis Silver will be performing a joint benefit Christmas Concert at First Congregational Church, 1 Church Street, on the Green in West Haven. Proceeds from the concert will go to the church fund. The performance will be on Sunday, December 15th at 3:00 p.m. The program will include varied seasonal works for vocal quartet and choir. They will sing traditional and contemporary carols, spirituals and anthems.

Cantabile Vocal Quartet's members include Robin and Jack Sellati, of Cheshire; Leila Tofig Mustakos, of Guilford; and Roy Mazzacane, of Hamden. Each singer has had quite lengthy solo experience in the field of Opera, Oratorio, Operetta, Recital and Musical Theatre. The quartet has performed extensively throughout the state and has appeared on Connecticut Fox TV singing holiday favorites and recorded a particularly whimsical jingle for that station's weatherman.

Admission is \$10.00 for adults, and children under 12 will be admitted free. For concert information call the church office at - 203-933-6291



CATHOLIC PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION DAY

Thursday November 21st was Catholic School Principal Appreciation Day as appointed by the NCEA (Nat'l Catholic Education Assoc.) and boy, was it a busy day in the St. Mary School office! Principal Lacerenza was showered all day with love and thanks and enjoyed the students as they visited and delivered cards & gifts! The entire school community is grateful for your leadership & dedication to your ministry Mr. Lacerenza!



Attention Churches, Synagogues & Houses of Worship!

Send us your organizations events listings and items of interest.

We will publish them for free.

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



BARK BYTES...

By Vicki & Richard Horowitz

Keep the Holiday Season Fun and Safe for Your Dog

In planning for this season's holiday festivities, it is important to keep your pets in mind. While most of us welcome the sights, sounds and smells of the season, holidays can also be chaotic—especially for dogs. Holiday festivities can interrupt a dog's routine and present a potentially unsafe situation. But by following a few common-sense tips, the holidays can be cheery for everyone—including the family dog.

Holiday foods can be harmful

- Many holiday foods can be harmful to canines, causing symptoms as mild as an upset stomach or as severe as vomiting and diarrhea. Avoid giving your dog fatty or spicy foods, bread dough, fresh herbs, alcohol beverages, caffeine and sweets of all kinds—especially those with chocolate or xylitol, an artificial sweetener.
- Particularly dangerous are cooked poultry bones. Cooked bones easily splinter, and the bone shards can cause choking, get stuck in your dog's gums or possibly damage his intestines. Instead, treat your dog to "dog bones" specifically designed for him to chew. Ask your veterinarian for suggestions.
- Discourage your dog from foraging in the garbage—secure lids on all trashcans.
- It's natural that you'd want to share holiday treats with your dog. While a little taste of turkey or sweet potatoes can make your dog happy, don't overdo it—too much of a good thing can make him sick.

Decorations are not playthings

- Keep your pet away from holiday plants, many of which are poisonous, such as holly, mistletoe, poinsettias and amaryllis (a type of lily). Also be sure all pot-pourri is out of your pet's reach.
- Snow globes can contain antifreeze, which is toxic to dogs. Whether in the garage or in a snow globe, keep antifreeze products away from your happy, tail-wagging dog. If there is an antifreeze spill, keep your dog out of the room while you clean up the liquid. Dilute the spot with water and floor cleaner to ensure your dog does not lick the area later.
- Keep electrical wires and batteries out of your pet's reach. Chewing or biting anything electrical can cause him shock or burns.
- Don't leave lighted candles unattended. A lit candle knocked over by a swinging tail can burn your pet or cause a fire.

Christmas trees can be hazardous

- Anchor the tree to the ceiling or wall to prevent it from tipping over.
- Hang non-breakable ornaments near the bottom of the tree.
- Avoid putting tinsel on your tree. If ingested, tinsel can twist in your dog's intestines and be deadly.
- Don't let your dog drink the Christmas tree water. The water may contain preservative chemicals, which can trigger severe indigestion in dogs. Stagnant plain water can breed bacteria and cause nausea or diarrhea to the pet that imbibes.
- Regularly sweep up fallen pine needles, as they can puncture holes in a dog's intestines if ingested.

Help your dog feel safe and relaxed

- Most dogs get very excited when guests arrive. To help your dog be calmer, exercise him prior to the festivities. After 30 minutes of walking or playtime, your dog will more likely be relaxed or want to nap.
- As a general rule, don't allow the family dog to greet unfamiliar guests since unusual activities and commotion can cause him extra stress.
- Give your dog a break from the hubbub by putting him in his crate or in a quiet room with his doggie bed. Allow him to rejoin the festivities after guests have arrived.
- Pets stressed by unfamiliar events typically pant more, so keep your dog's water bowl filled with fresh water.

Pets like presents too!

- Help your dog stay busy and out of the holiday trimmings by giving him fun, safe gifts.
- The Buster Cube™ and Kong™ are virtually indestructible puzzle toys that reward your dog with treats and keep him well entertained.

Please don't give a pet as a surprise gift!

A cute puppy might seem like the perfect gift choice, but many of these holiday presents end up at animal shelters. Owning a dog takes a genuine commitment of time and responsibility, and adoptive owners must be ready to participate in training and other activities. If someone you know seriously wants a dog, consider giving a leash and collar, or a dog training certificate from Bark Busters along with a note saying a dog of the recipient's choice comes with it. This helps ensure the lucky person gets just the right pet to bring into the family.

Following these simple tips will help make the festivities safe and happy for your whole family, including your canine companions.

Vicki and Richard Horowitz, of Woodbridge, are dog behavioral therapists and trainers with Bark Busters, one of 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

GET READY TO CRUISE NEWS

By Leslie Marsh



A Holiday Poem

'Twas holiday time, and people were stressed.
What to get for each other, what would be best?
But there's no need to worry, I'm willing to bet,
If you read to the bottom, you'll know what to get!

A cruise for the family, why, that would be great!
You can all go together, hey, let's pick a date!
And then, choose a cruise line, but how will you pick?
Just contact Cruise Planners, we'll sit in for St. Nick.

Cruise like a Norwegian or a pirate with Disney,
Or sail with Celebrity, the choice will be easy.
You could sail on a river to try something new,
Or Royal Caribbean, to name just a few.

You've chosen your cruise line, now where will you go?
The Islands, the Med or Puerto Rico?
You can visit a place like Alaska or Rome,
The choices are endless, why would you stay home?

If you don't like to fly, try a cruise from New York.
The view is spectacular, a truly great port.
From there you can sail to so many great places.
Your family will thank you with their best happy faces!

You've made your decision, now sit back and relax.
I'll take care of your booking, and provide all the facts.
From your stateroom, your passport, you're dining and more,
To touring or relaxing, there's so much in store!

As I mentioned before, there's no need to be blue,
Just count on me to choose the right cruise for you!
Your holiday gift will truly be great.
Call Cruise Planners today, it's never too late!

Wishing You Smooth Sailing This Holiday
Season and Throughout the New Year!

Leslie Marsh, ECC
Cruise Planners of Orange
203-799-2367

IRIZARRY RECEIVES 2013 FIVE STAR WEALTH MANAGEMENT AWARD

Joseph Irizarry, financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial in Woodbridge has been named a recipient of the 2013 Five Star Wealth Manager award by Five Star Professional. The award goes to less than seven percent of the wealth managers in the region based on research administered by Five Star Professional, a third party research firm.

To receive the 2013 Five Star Wealth Manager award, a wealth manager must meet 10 objective eligibility and evaluation criteria associated with providing quality services to clients including client retention rates, client assets administered, firm review and favorable regulatory and complaint history.

As a financial advisor with Ufland and Associates, a financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Irizarry focuses on helping his clients plan for their financial goals for a lifetime – through a personal long-term financial planning relationship. For more information, please contact Joseph Irizarry at 1 Bradley Road, Suite 711, Woodbridge, CT 06525 or by phone at (203) 387-4240 x12.

About the research process: The FIVE STAR Wealth Manager Program ("Program") research was conducted March 2013 through May 2013. All identified broker dealers, RIA firms and FINRA-registered representatives in the area were contacted to gather wealth manager nominations. The quality of client service provided by nominated wealth managers was evaluated using ten objective criteria, but results may not represent a particular client experience. Not all wealth managers use discretionary control to manage clients' assets. Five Star Professional, manages the Program, but does not endorse listed wealth managers. Investors should conduct their own evaluation of a financial professional as working with a financial advisor is not a guarantee of future financial success. For details go to: <http://www.fivestarprofessional.com/wm2013researchoverview.htm>.

FROM THE YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

By Nancy Pfund



Youth Services Programs

Fun Fitness Cooking Class with Chef John Bencivengo is gearing up for the winter months with all-new recipes! It's hands-on, fun, and delicious! Take your creations home to share! This 10-session class meets in the Bethany Middle School's kitchen after school on Tuesdays from 2:25-3:55pm. Class is limited to 12 Amity Middle School students, so call now to register. Participants receive an apron and a notebook with recipes, nutrition and food

safety information, and a glossary of techniques/terms.

Fee of \$100.00 includes food and supplies, and must be paid in advance (discount for siblings in same class; financial assistance may be arranged for qualifying families). Class dates are as follows: January 7, 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 25, March 4, 11, 18, with snow dates of April 1 and 8. For more information, please call Woodbridge Youth Services at 203-389-3429.

Why Rake Those Leaves? Teens Need Jobs in Woodbridge

The Woodbridge Job Bank has numerous teenagers who are experienced in leaf raking, babysitting, pet care, and other odd jobs. Many have completed the American Red Cross Babysitters

Training Course.

If you are a Woodbridge resident and would like more information, call Woodbridge Youth Services at 203-389-3429.

Woodbridge Job Bank for Woodbridge Residents

Woodbridge teens between the ages of 13 and 17 who are willing to work and want to earn money should contact Woodbridge Youth Services at 203-389-3429 to schedule an interview. Parental permission is required to join. Jobs may include raking, childcare, pet care, snow shoveling, housework, party help, and other odd jobs. We help teens find work

with Woodbridge residents who need a hand around the home or office. It's a great way to build responsibility and gain work experience close to home.

Contact Nancy Pfund, Youth Services Director at 203-389-3429 or Jeanette Glicksman, Youth Program Coordinator at 203-389-3449 for further information.



SILENT JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY OPEN TO PARENTS

Discover the Montessori Method at The Silent Journey of Discovery hosted by New England School of Montessori in Milford on Saturday, January 18, 2014 from 9:30 AM - 12 Noon, Light refreshments offered. Parents will discover why this scientific method of education guides children to develop their own, individual passions to carry with them through a lifetime. Why do Montessori children seem to inherently understand more socially, emotionally and academically?

In a three-year and multi-age classroom, the Montessori certified teacher uses a variety of educational opportunities to assist children in their personal learning process. The materials are the real teachers, once an introductory lesson has been given by the certified Montessori teacher, the child practices with the materials until mastery is achieved.

Reserve your space now and take the Montessori Journey of Discovery. Uncover the mystery behind the three-year cycle of growth and development that a Montessori education can provide to your child. Call 203-878-9822 to RSVP for this event.



WOODBIDGE RUNNING CO. COLLECTING SHOES

By Laura Fantarella - Woodbridge Town News Correspondent

The threadbare sneaker you've logged countless miles running in can still go a long distance in helping others. The Woodbridge Running Company, 7 Landin Street, is collecting any type of worn shoes to recycle for cash that will be donated to local autism charities. According to store associate Matt Santillo, the Running Company will sell the used shoes to ShoeBox Recycling, a company which pays 50 cents per pound for bulk shipments of re-wearable shoes. "The Running Company has set a goal of collecting 2,000 pounds, which will enable us to make a \$1,000 donation for what is a rapidly-growing developmental disorder," Santillo said. "It's the holiday season, we're hoping to get the word out and have people donate their footwear for a worthy cause."

The Running Store has been collecting shoes to recycle for about three years, at times accumulating nearly 3,000 pounds of used footwear. Since runners typically opt for lightweight sneakers, Santillo estimates a typical donated shoe weighs only about 10-12 ounces or 24-ounces a pair so a lot of shoes are needed to meet the goal. "Recycling shoes not only will benefit causes for autism, it will also help ease the burdens of our state's overwhelmed landfills," Santillo said. According to the EPA, over 300 million pairs of shoes nation-wide are thrown in the trash each year, needing more than 200 years to decompose.

Shoes may be dropped off during store hours at the Woodbridge store or at its Brookfield location at 800 Federal Road.



BOY SCOUT TROOP 63 - SCOUTING FOR FOOD

Boy Scouts from Woodbridge Troop 63 joined Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts across the nation in one of the area's largest food drives last month. Each year scouts, leaders and parents collect non-perishable food and other items for local food pantries. This was a two-part event with scouts distributing flyers one week and, a week later, they returned to collect filled bags from the community and brought the food to Woodbridge Human Services for distribution to local residents in need. For more information, visit our web site at <http://www.troop963.org> or email Troop63CT@gmail.com.

HISTORY CORNER

Muffy German

Roads of Woodbridge: What's in a Name?

The topic of Woodbridge's road names was suggested to me six months ago by Edee Lockyer. She asked if I had heard of Jerusalem Road. I had never seen it listed on any map. If you know its history and derivation, I invite you to contact me before publication of the next WTN issue which will contain a sequel to this story.

My road name research began with a study of the Woodbridge map from the 1868 Beers Atlas. Although it shows our major roads, only four are labeled. Today's Racebrook Road was called "Road to Milford Meadows" (in the northwest district). Ansonia Road (Rt. 243) was called "Old Derby Road." In 1868 Ansonia was still part of Derby. The other two named roads were turnpikes. Route 69 was labeled "Old Litchfield Turnpike," and Rimmon Road (Rt. 313) was simply called "Old Turnpike". These were toll roads managed by a corporation of, usually, local investors.

The term "turnpike" itself deserves attention. While we are familiar with the dictionary definition: "a toll road or one formerly maintained as such," it had a more specific meaning. A turnpike was literally a "revolving frame bearing spikes and serving as a barrier;" "a toll bar: tollgate." Between the 1790s and the 1850s, 125 turnpike companies were granted charters by the Connecticut General Assembly. Some companies laid out new roads, while others were granted control of existing "public" roads. The corporation would raise funds through stock shares to improve the road, and maintain it by collection of tolls. State approval was necessary for placement and number of toll gates. The road bed and the company's books were inspected annually by three commissioners. They were empowered to order repairs which must be completed by their set deadline. If the corporation were negligent, the commissioners could order the toll gates opened or even revoke the charter.

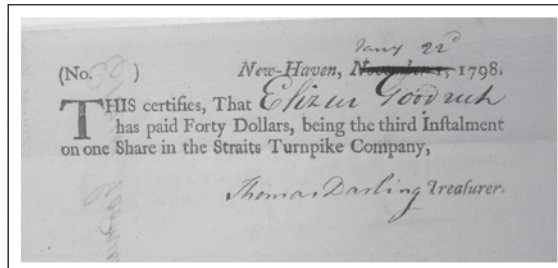
Planned as far back as 1798, "Rimmon Falls Turnpike" was chartered in May of 1802. It ran from the center of "Chusetown" (Seymour) to "Hotchkisstown" (Westville) where it joined Strait's Turnpike. Records do not indicate when this road ceased to be a turnpike. The Beers map shows an "old toll house" on the right side of Rimmon Road above (modern) Rimmon Hill Road. The last known mention of it as an active toll road was in 1838 when permission was given to move one of the toll gates.

The Litchfield Turnpike dates back to the late 18th century when it was called "Strait's Turnpike". The Historical Society holds many of the turnpike documents because Thomas Darling (Jr.) was the company's first treasurer. The corporation sold shares to finance improvements to the existing road. Incorporated in 1797, "The Strait's Turnpike Company" had as its mission "establishing and keeping in repair a turnpike road from New-Haven Court House, to the Court House in Litchfield". The Connecticut General Assembly granted the corporation permission to collect tolls to fund the upkeep of the 36 mile road. The document states: "as soon as said company shall have put said road in full and complete repair, said company shall be, and they are hereby authorized to erect and establish three turnpikes on said road". The first toll gate was between Litchfield and Watertown, the second closer to Waterbury, and the third "between the place in the highway called the Strait's in Woodbridge, and the school house north of the dwelling house of Noadiah Carrington in said Woodbridge".

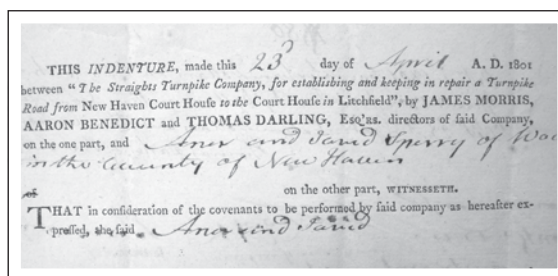
This description needs some explanation. The "Strait's" for which the company was named was a narrow gap in the hills near the present border of Bethany and Prospect on Rt. 63. In 1797, Bethany was still part of Woodbridge. A dramatic 1830s description of the straits has survived. The road "passes by Beacon Mountain, a rude ridge of almost naked rock" and "passes through a narrow



Photo of a reproduction toll fare signboard from Connecticut, circa 1830.



A receipt for a share of Strait's Turnpike stock



Indenture of Amos and David Sperry of Woodbridge to work on Strait's Turnpike



6 1/2 mile marker stone

defile formed by a gap in the mountain, barely sufficient in width for a road and a small but sprightly brook....On both sides the cliffs are lofty...on the east... they overhang in a threatening manner."

The third toll gate was located in the vicinity of Bradley Road. The incorporation papers go on to specify toll rates:

- Every travelling pleasure four wheeled carriage, 25 cents
- Every chaise, chair or sulkey, 12.5
- Mail stage, 6.2
- Every other stage 25
- Every loaded wagon or cart, 12.5
- Every empty wagon or cart 6.2
- Every single horse cart loaded, 6.2
- Every single horse cart empty, 4
- Every pleasure sleigh, 6.2
- Every loaded sled or sleigh, 6.2
- Every empty sled or sleigh, 3
- Every person and horse, 4
- Horses, cattle and mules, each 1
- Sheep and hogs, each..... 0.5

Some exemptions from the tolls included "persons travelling on the Lord's day, and other public days to attend public worship; persons travelling to attend society, town or freemen's meetings and funerals; and farmers belonging to the town where any gate shall be established, passing through the same to attend their ordinary farming business; persons going to mill with a horse, and militia going to attend military exercises and reviews."

The route of the turnpike also needs clarification. It ran along (modern) Whalley Ave. through Westville, and through Woodbridge along Rt. 69, but in Bethany just above Hilldale Road at Davidson's Corner, it veered off to join Rt. 63 for the rest of its route to the center of Litchfield. (Rt. 69 continues as Carrington Road.) Upkeep of the turnpike was done by hiring local men with a contract titled an "indenture". In 1801 Amos and David Sperry entered into such an agreement "to repair and finish all that part of the Turnpike road of said Company which is between the mile post Number 6 and...Number 7 so that the same shall be put in good Turnpike repair, sufficiently raised and having all necessary Ditches and Sluices to the acceptance of the Board....". For five years of repair and maintenance they received \$80. In Connecticut, turnpike companies bore the cost of cutting trees and removing stones, but did not own and could not profit from the sale of such timber and stones. The cost of bridge repair was often a bone of contention between the company and the town which was nominally responsible for it. In order to keep the turnpike open, sometimes the company paid for the work and tried with limited success for reimbursement. Therefore, the tolls which were ideally going to be divided among the investors were often retained to pay for road work.

And people found ways to avoid paying the toll. The lower part of Amity Road was referred to as the "Shunpike" as it was used to circumvent the Woodbridge toll on the way to and from New Haven. In 1821, the lower 2 1/2 miles of Strait's Turnpike from its intersection with Rimmon Falls Turnpike (where Whalley Ave. and Fountain St. meet) to the New Haven Court House was converted to a public road. By that time expenses were exceeding upkeep from tolls. One document in the Darling collection laments over the estimate of \$5,000 to repair a small section in upper Woodbridge. I could not find an exact date for the repeal of the charter or return of the road to free public use. Although the toll road was phased out, the name Strait's Turnpike lives on in Middlebury and Watertown. I will close with a modern note about part of this road. According to Wikipedia, Rt. 63 "is the second longest state road entirely within Connecticut". At 52.57 miles, its length is exceeded only by Rt. 15's 83.53 miles.

ENTERTAINMENT

TOP 10 MOVIES

- 1. The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13)**
Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
- 2. Thor: The Dark World (PG-13)**
Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman
- 3. The Best Man Holiday (R)**
Monica Calhoun, Morris Chestnut
- 4. Delivery Man (PG-13)**
Vince Vaughn, Chris Pratt
- 5. Free Birds (PG)**
animated
- 6. Last Vegas (PG-13)**
Robert De Niro, Michael Douglas
- 7. Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (R)**
Johnny Knoxville, Jackson Nicoll
- 8. Gravity (PG-13)**
Sandra Bullock, George Clooney
- 9. 12 Years a Slave (R)**
Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael K. Williams
- 10. Dallas Buyers Club (R)**
Matthew McConaughey, Jennifer Garner

TOP 10 RENTALS

- 1. White House Down (PG-13)**
Channing Tatum
- 2. Grown Ups 2 (PG-13)**
Adam Sandler
- 3. The Heat (R)**
Sandra Bullock
- 4. Pacific Rim (PG-13)**
Idris Elba
- 5. The Hangover, Part III (R)**
Bradley Cooper
- 6. Monsters University (G)**
animated
- 7. The Croods (PG)**
animated
- 8. The Purge (R)**
Ethan Hawke
- 9. After Earth (PG-13)**
Jaden Smith
- 10. This Is the End (R)**
James Franco

CHART BUSTERS

Top 10 Pop Singles

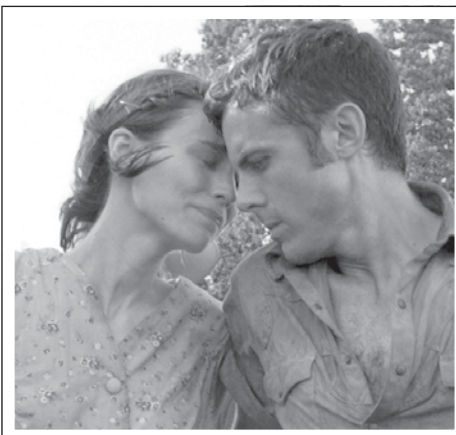
- 1. Lorde**
"Royals"
- 2. Eminem feat. Rihanna**
"The Monster"
- 3. Miley Cyrus**
"Wrecking Ball"
- 4. Avicii**
"Wake Me Up!"
- 5. Katy Perry**
"Roar"
- 6. One Republic**
"Counting Stars"
- 7. Imagine Dragons**
"Demons"
- 8. Drake feat. Majid Jordan**
"Hold On, We're Going Home"
- 9. Lady Gaga**
"Applause"
- 10. Pitbull feat. Ke\$ha**
"Timber"



Lady Gaga

Top 10 Country Singles

- 1. Keith Urban and Miranda Lambert**
"We Were Us"
- 2. Luke Bryan**
"That's My Kind of Night"
- 3. Blake Shelton**
"Mine Would Be You"
- 4. Florida Georgia Line**
"Stay"
- 5. Taylor Swift**
"Red"
- 6. Joe Nichols**
"Sunny and 75"
- 7. Thomas Rhett**
"It Goes Like This"
- 8. Tim McGraw**
"Southern Girl"
- 9. Eli Young Band**
"Drunk Last Night"
- 10. Parmalee**
"Carolina"



Rooney Mara, Casey Affleck in "Ain't Them Bodies Saints"

EDITOR'S NOTE: DVDs reviewed in this column will be available in stores the week of Dec. 16, 2013.

PICKS OF THE WEEK

"Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters" (PG-13) -- Percy Jackson is the heroic son of Poseidon, the Greek sea god -- and his human parent must be related to Harry Potter. In this sequel, Percy attends a magic training camp, where he drills alongside other magic teenagers. (If that sounds too much like Potter, then just replace "magic" with "mythical," and you'll get the Percy Jackson flavor.) They need the same Magic Macguffin that the bad guys are after. Eventually, Percy and his pals must brave a large body of water teeming with terrifying creatures. Much like its predecessor, the movie serves as a flashy adventure that will thrill the kids without leaving much to remember. It has plenty of smash-boom action -- Percy carries a sword instead of a magic wand, after all.

"Ain't Them Bodies Saints" (R) -- In a dreamy rural corner of 1970s Texas, two intense and endearing hick kids, Bob and Ruth (Casey Affleck and Rooney Mara), are pinned in a shootout with the law. Ruth shoots a sheriff (Ben Foster, and no word on the deputy), but Bob takes the heat and the 25-year sentence. After some time, Bob busts out of a chain gang, just as the young sheriff starts to take a keen interest in Ruth and the young daughter she's been raising on her own.

Dramatic and focused, the film is at its best when the lonesome wide-open country setting underlines the doomed love story. Mara's performance is especially drawing -- she plays her cards close while living in the most complicated position of all.

"Elysium" (R) -- In the future, earth has become a grimy, overpopulated mess. Hovering over the giant slum is Elysium, an ideal space world inhabited by rich people -- a place full of luxury and super-advanced health care.

Max DaCosta (Matt Damon) is a wisemouth ex-con working in future L.A. When he gets a deadly dose of radiation, Max becomes part of a plan to break through Elysium's security and grab some of that healing technology. The big idea: criminal technicians outfit Max with a cutting-edge exoskeleton system.

DOG OF THE WEEK

"The Lone Ranger" (PG-13) -- In this reboot nobody asked for, Tonto (Johnny Depp) is the show-stealing mentor to the Lone Ranger's (Armie Hammer) whiny, bland, reluctant hero. Overly brutal outlaw Butch Cavendish (Michael Fichtner) kicks up trouble, and a pacifist lawyer from the East, John Reid, has to put on a mask and sacrifice his beliefs in the name of justice and revenge. One of the sacred rules of cinema has been broken: When you make boring, loud, genre-remake schlock, make it short. Finishing up at 149 minutes, "The Lone Ranger" has little to say and too much time to say it.

- Name the 15-year-old singer who had a No. 1 hit in 1960 with "I'm Sorry."
- What was the very first song recorded by Roy Orbison?
- Who was the first group to release "Hanging on the Telephone"? (No, it wasn't Blondie.)
- What was Diesel's big hit of 1980?
- Name the song that contains this lyric: "After I gave you everything I had, You laughed and called me a clown, Remember, in your search for fortune and fame, What goes up, must come down."



1. Brenda Lee, who won her first singing contest at age 3 and was the main support for her family from the age of 10, when her father died. Lee also recorded "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" at age 13.
2. "Trying to Get to You," with The Teen Kings in 1956.
3. The Nerves, in 1976. Guitarist Jack Lee wrote it for the group.
4. "Sausalito Summer Night."
5. "It's Just a Matter of Time," by Brook Benton in 1959. Benton penned the song with Clyde Otis for Nat King Cole, but it was decided that Benton would use it as his first release. The song topped the R&B charts for nine weeks.

Sudoku answers on page 27

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

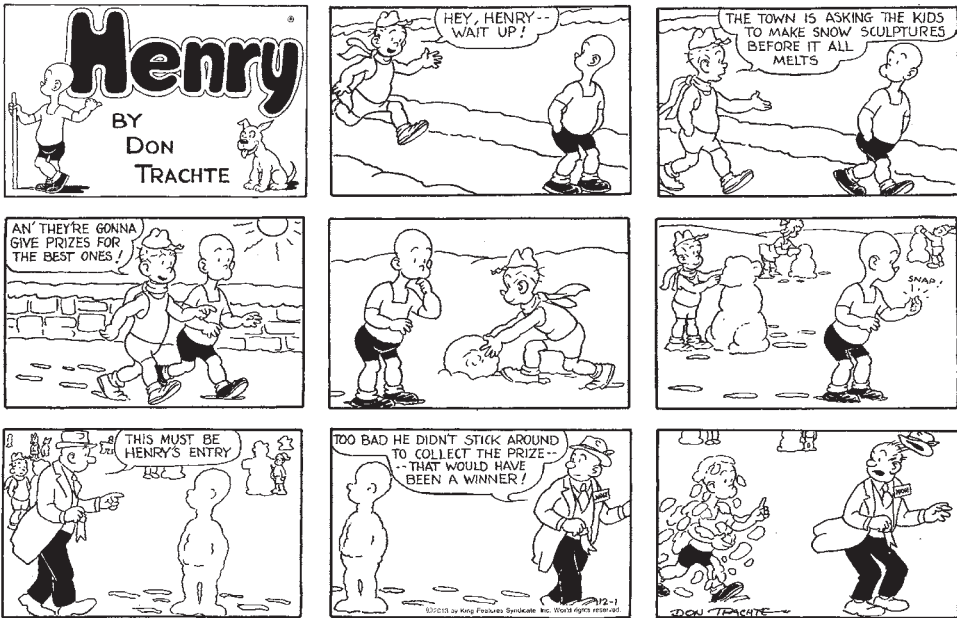
2			3		9	6
	7		8			5
		4		1	3	
8			1			2
4	6			9	1	
		9	7			6
		6		9		7
	2			3		8
9			4	5	6	

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



HOLLYWOOD

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- While Robert Downey Jr. is deciding if he wants to star in "Ironman 4," he's been busy making two new films. "Chef," with Jon Favreau (who directed and acted in "Ironman" and "Ironman 2," and acted in "Ironman 3"), Scarlett Johansson, Sofia Vergara, Dustin Hoffman and John Leguizamo, out May 9; and "The Judge," with Robert Duvall, Billy Bob Thornton and Dax Shepard, which will be released Oct. 10. If Downey decides not to do "Ironman 4," Mark Walberg has volunteered to replace him.



Terence Howard in "Ironman"

Terence Howard (Oscar nominated for "Hustle & Flow" in 2005) was signed to play Air Force Lt. Col. James "War Machine" Rhodes in "Ironman" and two sequels. He was replaced by Don Cheadle in the sequels. Howard recently explained, "We did a three-picture deal -- a certain amount for the first, the second and for the third. They came to me with the second and said, 'We will pay you one-eighth of what we contractually had for you because we think the second one will be successful with or without you.' I called 'my friend' (Downey), who I helped get the first job, and he didn't call me back for three months."

Anyone else would have called their lawyers, but Howard only says, "Oh, I love him. God's going to bless him." Sounds like there's a little rust in that tin man.

Daniel Day-Lewis won three best-actor Oscars but made a mess of his private life. Well, it used to be private until his son Gabe Day did a rap video saying, "Bipolar stoop kid taking care of biz. Call me Gabe Day and not Gabe

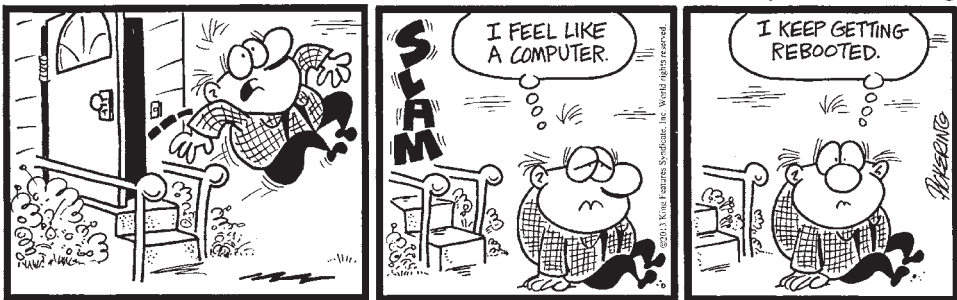
Day-Lewis, cause if you're trying to call me out, I'm going to Gabe Day-Lose it! I know what my name is, and I know what fame is. Judging someone for their dad is just as bad as being a racist."

Day-Lewis ended his six-year affair in 1995 with French actress Isabelle Adjani, who in 1996 called him a "Lothario" and a "womanizer" in The London Daily Mail. Day-Lewis married Arthur Miller's daughter, Rebecca, soon after, while he was shooting Miller's "The Crucible," and they have two sons. Gabe, 18, who attends Sarah Lawrence College, adds in his rap, "I feel the most grief for my mother, who has no one left but me and my older brother. I'm bipolar, wear it like a badge, was on a bad path and re-evaluated my life. Thank God I survived 'cause now it's easier to smile."

You just can't make this stuff up. Hey, Arthur Miller could have gotten two plays out of it!

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Crony
- 4 Light (Sp.)
- 7 Summary
- 12 Carte lead-in
- 13 "A Chorus Line" song
- 14 Entertain
- 15 Energy
- 16 Good product, idiomatically
- 18 Recede
- 19 Be frugal
- 20 Record
- 22 Id counterpart
- 23 Loathe
- 27 Possessed
- 29 "Clue" item
- 31 Cavalry unit
- 34 Guiding principle
- 35 Goes over the books
- 37 Weeding implement
- 38 Brewery output
- 39 Med. plan option
- 41 Creche trio
- 45 Eucalyptus eater
- 47 Heavy weight
- 48 Duke Ellington classic
- 52 Clear the

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48	49	50	51					52			
53						54			55		
56						57			58		

- tables
- 8 Ostrich's cousin
- 9 Scoundrel
- 10 Fool
- 11 Em, en, o, —, kue
- 17 Recognize
- 21 Psalm group
- 23 Seraglio
- 24 Mimic
- 25 Pirouette
- 26 Conclude
- 28 Suitable
- 30 "The Name of the Rose" author
- 31 Bill
- 32 Regret
- 33 Praise in rhyme
- 36 Not barefoot
- 37 Empty
- 40 New Zealand native
- 42 Cornered
- 43 Overcharge
- 44 Smaller map
- 45 Dandling locale
- 46 21-Down member
- 48 Turf
- 49 Exist
- 50 Erstwhile M&Ms color
- 51 "Impossible"

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— King Crossword — Weekly SUDOKU —

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	A	L		L	U	Z		R	E	C	A	P	
A	L	A		O	N	E		A	M	U	S	E	
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Answer

2	5	8	3	4	7	9	1	6
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Wine Talk

With Ray Spaziani



MATCHING WINE AND FOOD

Wine is food. Certain foods go very well with other foods. Steak and potatoes are a favorite match. The texture and weight of the steak and texture and weight of the potatoes are a sharp contrast that seem to go together very well. Some people like green beans or carrots with this combination. I love fresh corn on the cob with mine, preferably from some of our wonderful local growers. What wine would go well with my favorite combination? I like a big heavy red wine with a long dry after taste. California Cabernet, Primitivo, Barolo, some Zinfandel, Shiraz, Pinotage and Malbec. All of these wines are full-bodied and go well with red meats. They are also great with Lamb, sirloin and game meats. The key is to find a full-bodied red that you like with your favorite hardy meat dishes.

When wine is properly matched with foods BOTH taste better. If you go out for lobster and order the wrong Chardonnay, (a single fermentation chardonnay usually made with no oak in stainless, cold weather chards from the state of Washington or the Finger Lakes region of New York State and most of our Connecticut chards for example), the match does not work because the crisp malic acid does not match up well with a big buttery lobster. However, if you get a big chard from Napa Valley that has been run through a secondary fermentation where the malic acid changes and turns into Lactic Acid and is aged in an oak barrel. Wow! It is the best lobster and the best Chard you have ever had. (Lactic acid is similar to Lactos in milk, eggs, and butter!) It is too bad many restaurateurs do not know this. The Europeans have known this for hundreds of years. We have salt and pepper shakers as fixtures in every kitchen. The Europeans have a bottle of wine.

Classic matches of food and wine generally are similar in weight. Hardy food matches best with hardy wine. Light foods match with lighter bodied wines and so forth. Some matches are as follows; Sole, Flounder, Clams and Oysters, lighter fish dishes go well with wines such as Pinot Blanc, Alsace Riesling, Chablis, Muscadet, Kabinett and Spatlese, Sauvignon Blanc, Orvieto, Soave, Verdicchio, Frascati, Pinot Grigio, and Pinot Gris. Medium fish dishes such as Snapper, Bass, Shrimp, Scallops and some Veal dishes such as Veal Paillard would match up well with medium bodied whites; such as the following: Pouilly-Fume, Sancerre, Graves, Gavi, Gewurztraminer and single fermentation Chardonnay. Full-bodied fish and chicken dishes such as salmon, tuna, swordfish, lobster, duck and roasted chicken would match well with Chardonnay double fermentation, Chablis Grand Cru, Merasault, Montrachet and Viogner.

Light-bodied reds such as Pinot Noir Bordeaux, Burgundy, Beaujolais, Chianti, Valpolicella Badolino can match well with salmon, tuna, swordfish, duck, and roast chicken. Medium bodied reds including Malbec, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Rioja, Barbera, Docetto Chianti Classic Riserva Zinfandel, Merlot, Bordeaux and Burgundy match wonderfully with veal and pork chops and game birds.

When you cook with wine use a wine that has the same style you are going to serve. If you are not sure what goes well with what, order what I call a user friendly wine. Reds would include Merlot, Chianti and Pinot Noir. Whites would include Pinot Gregio, Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling and Chapagne and other sparkling wines. So go out and find some great wine and food matches. You will be glad you did! By the way Muni, the owner of Vallero Gas station and convenience store on the corner of Lambert Road and The Post Road in Orange has a new Latte machine that makes wonderful stuff! He only charges a dollar or two for the same stuff they get seven to ten bucks for a little further up the road. Muni is a gregarious character who treats his customers wonderfully. Mention you heard about his machine in this article and get your first cup free!

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

DEATH NOTICES

Donald Michael "Bud" Priest

Donald Michael "Bud" Priest, 83, of Hamden and formerly of Orange, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at Yale New Haven Hospital. He is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Ruth Priest, his loving children, Pamela P. Irving and husband Dr. Jack, of Hamden, Donald M. Priest, Jr. of Branford, and Amy E. Paier and husband Richard of Orange; and his cherished grandchildren Brian Irving, Alison Irving Appleby and husband Michael, Griffin Paier, and Kelsey Paier. He is also survived by his brothers Richard and Edward Priest, both of Syracuse, NY and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his daughter, Susan L. Priest, and his brother, John Priest.



"Bud" Priest

Born December 10, 1929 in Syracuse, NY, he was the son of the late John G. and Catherine Downes Priest. Bud graduated from Holy Rosary High School in Syracuse and St. Bonaventure University, class of 1951. After serving in the U.S. Army, he had a distinguished career as a realtor and owner of First Woodbridge Realtors. He was a past president of the New Haven Board of Realtors and was honored as the CT Realtor of the Year. He was a civic-minded person who was a past president of the Orange Board of Education and a past chairman of the Orange Police Commission. Bud was also a charter member of the Woodbridge Rotary Club, serving as its first president and was a Paul Harris Fellow.

He was a communicant of St. Rita Church in Hamden. Bud was a selfless giver with an abundance of compassion and kindness. He committed himself to family, friends, and those in need. He brought joy to everyone he met. An eternal optimist, he took great pleasure in life and never turned down an invitation for fun. Bud's family deeply thanks all those who cared for Bud over the past six months, especially the staff at Whitney Center.

His life was celebrated with a mass of Christian Burial at St. Rita Church, Hamden followed by entombment in Mt. St. Peters Cemetery Mausoleum, Derby. Sisk Brothers Funeral Home of Hamden handled the arrangements. For those wishing to make a donation in Bud's memory, please make them to either the Woodbridge Rotary Club, P.O.B. 4096, Woodbridge, CT 06525 or to the Rocky Mountain MS Center, 8845 Wagner Street, Westminster, CO 80031 (specify "For Research").

Woodbridge Town News

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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Careful, Lamb. Don't let your generous nature lead to some serious overspending as you contemplate your holiday gift-giving. Your social life kicks off into high gear by week's end.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A positive attitude helps you weather annoying but unavoidable changes in holiday plans. Aspects favor new friendships and reinforcement of existing relationships.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Demands on your energy level could be much higher than usual as you prepare for the upcoming holidays. Be sure to pace yourself. Friends and family will be happy to help.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't allow a suddenly icy reaction from a friend or family member to continue without learning what caused it -- and what can be done to restore that once warm and caring relationship.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A relationship seems to be unraveling, mostly from a lack of attention. It might be a good idea to ease up on whatever else you're doing so you can spend more time working to mend it.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) New facts emerge that not only help explain the recent rift with a trusted colleague, but also might provide a chance to wipe the slate clean and make a fresh start in your friendship.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A family member's personal situation is, fortunately, resolved in time for you to get back into your hectic round of holiday preparations. An old friend might bring a new friend into your life.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Pace yourself in meeting holiday pressures and workplace demands to avoid winding up with a frayed temper and a Scorpion stinger that lashes out at puzzled kith, kin and colleagues.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A financial matter requires close attention. Also, news from a trusted source provides the means to help sort out a long-standing state of confusion and put it into perspective.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) This is a good time to reinforce family ties. Make it a priority to assess and resolve all outstanding problems. Start the upcoming holiday season with a full measure of love.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Don't be pressured into a so-called solid-gold investment. Wait until the holiday distractions are over. Then take a harder look at it. You might find that the "gold" is starting to flake off.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A former friend might be trying to heal the breach between you by using a mutual friend as an intermediary. Best advice: Keep an open mind despite any lingering bad feelings.

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DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have two dogs and a cat, and I love them all dearly. I also try to make things a little better for pets that don't have homes by helping out two days a month at the local shelter. Please let your readers know that they can make a huge difference in dogs' and cats' lives even with a small contribution. If they can't give their time, they can donate money, food or other pet-care items. Sign me -- Caring in Kalamazoo

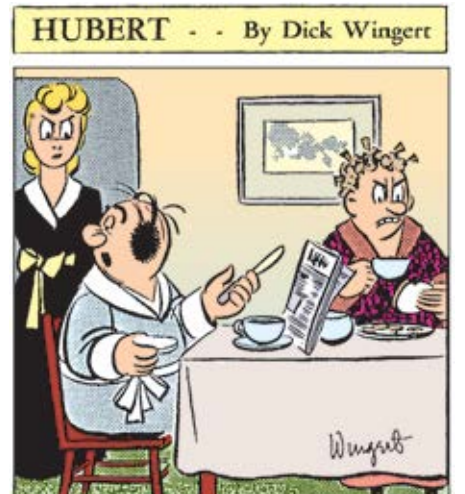
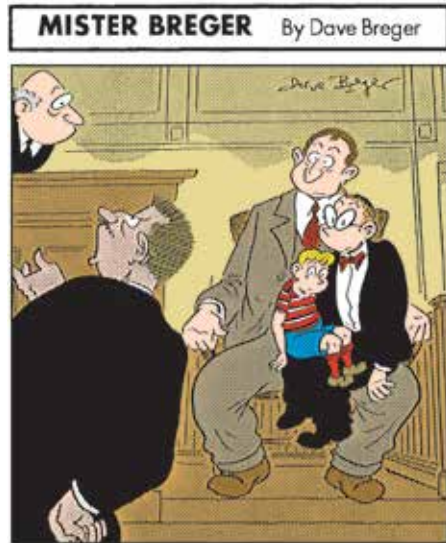
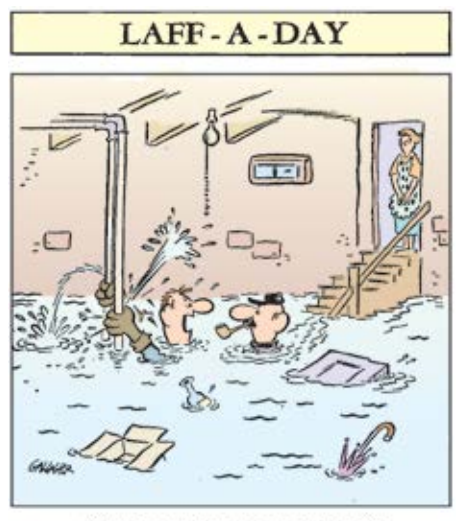
DEAR KALAMAZOO: You told them, and thanks! The holiday season offers the most opportunities to donate, no matter what amount, to a number of causes benefiting pets. So while you're busy making gift lists and holiday preparations, don't forget to include pets in need somewhere in those thoughts.

Most local shelters have Web pages online where you can find out about upcoming fundraising events, see what food or supplies are needed, or find a contact number or e-mail address to learn more. Those that don't have a website often have listings or dedicated space in the town or community newspaper.

Major pet-care organizations and pet-supply stores have fundraising drives throughout the year, while local organizations sometimes hold supply drives and other events with the help of local businesses or municipalities.

You also can donate your free time to help out at local animal shelters. Contact your nearest shelter to see if opportunities are available, how much time is required and if additional training is needed for certain volunteer positions.

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com. Did you know mosquitos can transmit heartworm larvae to dogs, but fleas don't? Find out more in my new book, "Fighting Fleas," available now.



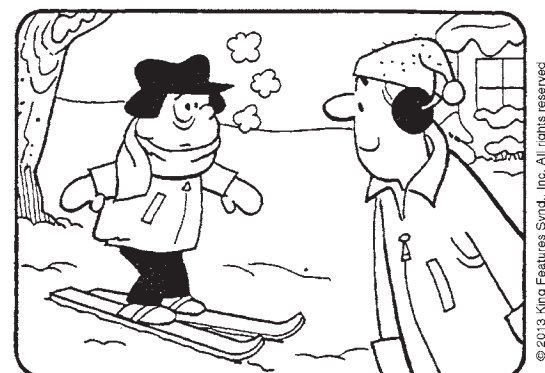
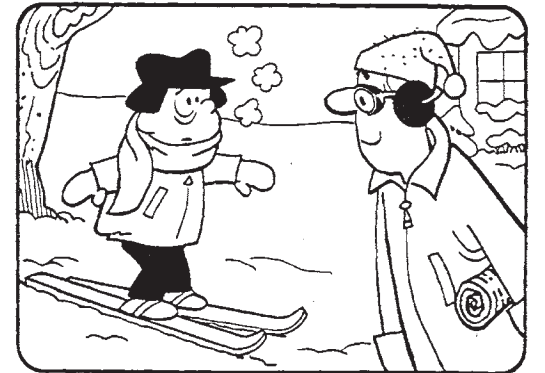
top ten

Elf names

1. Buddy
2. Elfie
3. Charlie
4. Jingle
5. Fred
6. Jack
7. Snowflake
8. Max
9. Jolly
10. Bob

Source: The Elf on the Shelf

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF




CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

DIFFERENCES: 1. Skis are shorter. 2. Scarf is shorter. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Goggles are missing. 5. Jacket is opened. 6. Newspaper is missing.

The Garden Bug

Watering in winter



For most houseplants, water when the soil surface begins to dry; rooms that are heated affect how often you do so. The water given should not be too cold or hot, and be sure to provide adequate drainage. Houseplants with more tuberous roots, such as dracena and philodendron, should be kept on the dry side.

Source: www.colostate.edu

- Brenda Weaver

ARTS & LEISURE

GREATER NH COMMUNITY CHORUS TO PERFORM HOLIDAY CONCERT

As part of its 50th Anniversary Celebration, Greater New Haven Community Chorus (GNHCC) will be performing its second of three choral concerts during its 2013 – 2014 50th anniversary concert season. The annual Holiday Concert – Experience the Joy! – will feature traditional seasonal favorites, including select choruses from Handel’s Messiah. The chorus will perform under the direction of Noah Blocker-Glynn, Artistic Director with Mark Sullivan, Accompanist. The chorus will be joined by members of the Jonathan Edwards College Philharmonic of Yale University for the Messiah choruses, and the CT Men’s Choral Ensemble – the award-winning male choir of the Connecticut Children’s Chorus.

The concert will take place Sunday afternoon, December 15 at 4:00 p.m. in Battell Chapel on the Yale University Campus, New Haven, CT. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Tickets and program information are available at www.gnhcc.org.

Greater New Haven Community Chorus consists of approximately 100 voices and draws its membership from throughout the Greater New Haven area. GNHCC strives to embrace the wide diversity of the community and is committed to making quality music accessible and approachable for audiences and members alike. Greater New Haven Community Chorus was founded in 1963 as a venture in community singing and continues to perform with pride and distinction.

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

SUZUKI HOLIDAY CONCERTS

The Suzuki Music Schools of Westport & Orange will present two recitals featuring violin and piano students. The concert will take place at the 6th Floor Commons of the Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden, CT 06517 on December 15th (Sunday) at 1pm and 3pm. Free admission.

The Suzuki Music School Background: The Suzuki Music Schools of Westport & Orange offer instruction in violin, viola, cello, flute, guitar, piano, chamber music, ensemble and music theory. The schools follow the teachings of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, providing a high quality music education that promotes the values of respect, discipline, personal confidence, teamwork and a strong work ethic. Our mission guides students to acquire a lifelong love of music and develop excellent musical skills within a nurturing environment that enriches family bonds.

The school is a non-profit organization and provides an international faculty trained in the Suzuki Method and highly experienced as both teachers and performers. Alongside the many learning opportunities at the school, we encourage our students to share their gifts with the wider community in performances and class opportunities. For more information, visit www.suzukischools.org.

“HE WHO LAUGHS” KICKS OFF JCC THEATERWORKS SEASON

Thanks to a grant from Connecticut Humanities, JCC Theaterworks is proud to announce the season’s kickoff production of He Who Laughs on December 14-16 at the Off-Broadway Theater, 41 Broadway, New Haven, CT. \$25; \$12 seniors and students, tickets available at www.jccnh.org or 203.387.2522 x300.

He Who Laughs, a new play by Ian Cohen, is a modern-day retelling of the Biblical tale of the sacrifice of Isaac. Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac live in contemporary Manhattan and God calls on Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son. Abraham becomes Alfred Wells, a passionately devout businessman with a personal relationship with the Almighty, and his wife, Sheila, will stop at nothing to save their conflicted, video-game obsessed 17-year-old son, Zach (short for Isaac, meaning “he who laughs.”) Directed by local resident Reuven Robert Russell, son of the late Joey and Josi Russell.

JCC Cultural Arts Manager DeDe Jacobs-Komisar selected He Who Laughs as JCC Theaterwork’s first show because it “exemplifies the company’s mission of exploring what Jewish theater is and can be. Plays like He Who Laughs go deep into Jewish tradition to make us question who we are, where we’ve come from, and where we’re going as a community”. With the help of the Connecticut Humanities Fund, Jacobs-Komisar is presenting interfaith panels following two of the performances, delving into the theological and sociological themes of the play.

JCC Theaterworks is the resident theater company of the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven. Founded in 2012, JCC Theaterworks is dedicated to exploring Jewish identity and community and expanding the meaning of Jewish theater by cultivating new voices and ideas.

Connecticut Humanities (CTH) is a non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities that funds, creates and collaborates on hundreds of cultural programs across Connecticut each year. Connecticut Humanities brings together people of all ages and backgrounds to express, share and explore ideas in thoughtful and productive ways. From local discussion groups to major exhibitions on important historical events, CTH programs engage, enlighten and educate. Learn more by visiting www.cthumanities.org.

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