

Woodbridge Town News



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VOL. 10 – ISSUE 4

CIRCULATION 3649

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2021



'All Weather' Stadium Is Under Construction

TOWN CONSIDERS ORDINANCE

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

"We are officially under construction as of today," announced Amity School Supt. Dr. Jennifer Byars at the March 8 Amity Board of Education meeting. She said the crews had started digging, working on the pole vault pit area, which is separate from the football field, and has a separate permit.

But crews apparently also started removing sod from the football field, and the town's land use office intervened, saying the town had not received the required warranty from the manufacturer of the materials to be installed that guarantee that the materials they use do not contain any PFAS chemicals. That warranty was a condition of the Zoning Commission's special exception permit for "excava-

tion, removal, filling, grading, and processing of earth products."

The school district is planning to replace the football stadium with a crumb-rubber based surface, that will allow them to use the field year-round.

"The Board of Education is committed to providing the students of Amity with an exceptional comprehensive education in Academics, the Arts, and Athletics," Dr. Byars said when the district applied for the permit. "This process began because the athletic facilities—particularly the stadium which includes the track and field have not been upgraded or improved for over 30 years. The playing surfaces of both areas are significantly below the standards of other high schools throughout

See "Stadium" On Page 22



Towns Welcome Amity Budget Reductions

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Amity School District managed to avoid a confrontation with its member towns regarding its 2022 budget by lowering anticipated expenses by close to \$1 million. Over the course of the past three months the district administration, which started with an increase of just under 6%, managed to shave that increase back to 3.72% and, eventually, 1.8%.

"The biggest [surprise] was Amity," said Woodbridge Finance Board

Chairman Matt Giglietti, when he was meeting with his board on March 4. Giglietti said he went into the Amity Finance Committee meeting expecting a tough negotiation, but it turned out "a very pleasant meeting," he said.

Even members of the Orange Board of Finance did not insist on the .49% increase cap the board had insisted on back in January after delving into the yearly Amity surpluses. This year, in fact, the surplus returned to the

See "Budget" On Page 8

ISSUE DATE CHANGE

The next issue of the Woodbridge Town News will be an Election Issue and will be published on April 23.



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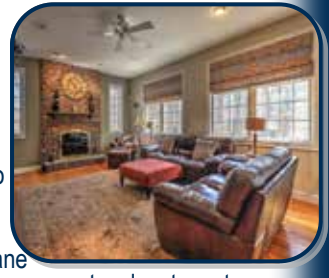


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- Home office with French doors to front foyer
- Laundry/mudroom & half bathroom off kitchen
- Master suite with 2 walk-in closets, reading nook, & full bathroom with dual-sink vanity, spa tub, & shower
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- 2-zone forced warm air & central air conditioning
- Private, wooded 5.28 acre lakefront property



We ask for your vote on MONDAY, May 3rd



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and her 'Row A' team

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Paid for by WDTC • Jeffrey Kennedy, Treasurer



Joe Crisco

- Board of Selectmen, 2017 – present
- State Senator, 1993 – 2017
- Woodbridge Board of Ed, 1989 – 1993
- Town Plan & Zoning Com., 1986–88



Paul Kuriakose

- Board of Finance, 2015 – present (vice-chair, since 2019)



Sheila McCreven

- Amity Region Board of Ed., 2014–present
- Woodbridge Board of Ed., 2005–2013
- CUPOP, 2012-15 • Tax Appeals, 2013-15
- Gov. Access TV Commission, 2001–09

FOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN

FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

- Hank Nusbaum • Jeff Atwood • Celia Waters
- Aldon Hynes (Alt.)

FOR BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

- Andrew Schaffer

FOR AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Carol Oladele • Donna Schuster

FOR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Michael Strambler • Maria Madonick
- Jay Dahya • David Ross (2 year term)

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WE ARE A DIVERSE TEAM, OFFERING EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

From the Democratic Town Committee

BY LAURENCE GROTHEER



Woodbridge Democrats assembled an extraordinary slate of highly qualified, experienced candidates this spring, ready to guide the town through a measured reopening from this year’s disruptive pandemic, and ready to lead the town’s resurgence thereafter.

Profiles of some candidates appeared in the most recent edition of this paper; those are now available at the WDTC website: woodbridgedtdems.org. This week’s column features profiles of several more of your neighbors and friends, running for elected office to serve fellow residents and advance the best interests of the town.

Board of Selectmen candidate Paul Kuriakose has served on the Board of Finance since 2015 and has been its vice-chair since 2019. Paul brings expertise from a successful business career as a real estate investor and manager and decades as a technology strategist. He is a collaborative and forward-thinking leader on the Board of Finance and as liaison to the Board of Police Commissioners.

Paul has degrees in computer science, software engineering, and business from the New York Institute of Technology, Fairfield University, and NYU Stern School of Business, respectively. Paul’s extensive education, professional experience, and working knowledge of the town’s budget will be a great asset on the Board of Selectmen.

Carol Oladele, Ph.D., a chronic disease epidemiologist and health disparities researcher at Yale, seeks to represent Woodbridge on the Amity Board of Education. Her professional expertise will help inform districtwide conversations on public health issues; her affiliation with the American Public Health Association and the American Heart Association, coupled with a joint commitment – with her husband, Jean-David – to raising two school-aged sons, underscore Carol’s vibrant community spirit.

“I’m running to lend my voice to maintaining strong academic school communities that foster creativity, leadership, and inclusiveness,” Carol said.

Another healthcare professional, Maria Federico Madonick, APRN, CRNA, is running to serve on the Woodbridge Board of Education (WBOE). Maria, who will complete her Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice degree this spring, works at Yale New Haven Health and is self-employed as well. She has been a member of the CT Association of Nurse Anesthetists since 2006; she is currently the Beech-

er Road School PTO Executive Board Treasurer, Special Events Coordinator and has served on its Teacher Grant Committee since 2015.

“I have a love for the Woodbridge community and a passion for channeling that energy into concrete ways to support education,” Maria said. “Woodbridge education must continually evolve so that our students meet and exceed the growing challenges of middle school and high school.”

Maria and her husband are raising four school-aged children.

Jay Dahya, Ph.D., is also actively involved at Beecher Road School, and now also seeks a seat on the WBOE. Jay has been on the school’s Diversity Committee since 2018; he and his wife have been active BRS/MAG parents for seven years.

Jay is a professor of finance at Baruch College, CUNY, Graduate Center CUNY, and at Columbia Business School, Columbia University, specializing in all areas of financial management and corporate governance.

“As a board member I will listen to diverse opinions, be fair and transparent in decision making, work collaboratively on committees, help to guide school leadership on future strategy, ensure financial accountability, and selflessly serve the community,” Jay said. “My finance background (provides) unique knowledge of financial planning and budgeting to help the school balance investment needs, that further enrich the quality learning experience for our children at BRS, against fiscal responsibility to all town residents.”

Incumbent WBOE member David Ross, M.D., Ph.D., seeks a second term on Election Day. He and his wife Shana have a 4th grade student at Beecher Road School; David is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine, after receiving three degrees from Yale.

David’s community service includes membership on the New Haven Road Race board of directors, and he’s the executive director of the National Neuroscience Curriculum Initiative.

Profiles of the remaining members of the Democratic slate will appear in the next edition of this column. In the meanwhile, readers are encouraged to visit WoodbridgeCTdems.org to learn how to vote by absentee ballot – should they so choose – ahead of the MONDAY, May 3 election.

Residents who want to be involved in local government should contact the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee at woodbridgedtdems@gmail.com.

Other Side of the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE
WRTC CHAIRMAN



Balanced Government is Better Government

Driving through town you may have noticed ‘Vote Row B for Balance Monday, May 3’ lawn signs popping up. The message is an encouragement to bring bipartisanship back to Woodbridge for the betterment of our town on election day Monday, May 3rd.

Political campaigns can be more about the future than a referendum on the past. In the case of our upcoming town election, both the past and the future are relevant. While I encourage you to view the impressive resumes of our candidates online at Woodbridge-GOP.com, let me take this opportunity to focus on the issues and why the election of local Republican candidates up and down the ticket will achieve better government.

Up until the submission of the controversial application to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission to negate our current zoning laws, the biggest issue in town for a decade was the future of the golf course. The handling of this property since its purchase in 2009 has been fraught with missteps, including knee-jerk changes in contractors to manage it as a golf course, a failed referendum to sell it for high-density development, and most recently a “do nothing” tactic in an effort to let the issue lay fallow. In contrast, town Republicans offer a balanced approach to resolve this long-standing issue: 1) properly manage the golf course now, which means maintaining the most visible parts so that it is attractive and a pleasure for residents who want to walk there and 2) engage a consultant with expertise in golf course repurposing, so residents can learn what options for use of the property are feasible taking into account both current zoning requirements and the results of the town-wide opinion survey.

The zoning controversy has now taken center stage. From the beginning, Republican candidates have publicly defended both our current zoning laws and our town’s reputation in the face of unfounded, scurrilous accusations of racism and “exclusionary zoning.” Conversely, current Democrat officeholders, and aspiring Board of Selectmen candidates, have remained silent on the issue. Why? Of the nine members of the newly created committee to address the affordable housing situation in town, at least seven are registered Democrats and none appear to be on the record op-

posing the proposed zoning changes to allow the construction of affordable housing throughout our town. This is not balanced government when public statements and publicly available information show Woodbridge residents are 10:1 opposed to this application.

As our mill rate continues to put us in the upper echelon of Connecticut towns, there needs to be tighter control on town government decisions that impact our taxes. One area is bonding. The near-automatic practice of issuing new bonds as others are retired – keeping us in debt – needs serious reexamination. There are multiple capital projects now being considered for bonding – and the Democratic plan is to “bundle” them into a single referendum. The plan supported by the Republicans is to put each project up for a vote so taxpayers can make the choice of where to spend their money.

The benefit of Republican leadership is already apparent with the Woodbridge Board of Education. While party affiliation and alignment should have no place on a school board, a stark difference in the two parties’ approaches exists here and we can’t ignore it. Democrat Board members have continued to resist re-opening Beecher Road School due to COVID-19 concerns. The Republican members of the Board followed the science and the safety protocols for the health of students and staff and fully supported the opening of Beecher Road School in September, which included offering on-line learning as an alternative. The result? 80% of the students have been back in school for the full school year and the very few cases of COVID-19 identified among the school population were contact traced to sources not in Beecher. The Republicans got it right, and our Beecher students and parents are the beneficiaries.

The bottom line is Woodbridge is better off when our leadership is balanced. Both at work and at home, the best ideas emerge when two or more people discuss the alternatives. In government, too, voters win when ideas receive thorough vetting and balanced resolution. A drumbeat of past failures needs to be tempered with forward-thinking approaches for the betterment of Woodbridge. The Republican candidates offer this perspective and deserve the voters’ support on Monday, May 3.

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Woodbridge Town News

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

Upcoming Issue Date	Issue Deadline
April 23 Mother's Day/Election Issue	April 16
May 28 Memorial Day Issue	May 21
June 25 Independence Day Issue.....	June 18

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

FROM OUR READERS

Stephen Francis Will Be A Good Advocate for Woodbridge Residents

We are writing to endorse Stephen B. Francis as a candidate for the Town of Woodbridge Board of Selectmen. We have had the privilege of having Steve and his family as neighbors since 2014. In fact, it was Steve and his wife Betsy who first welcomed us and offered their support and assistance during our transition into Woodbridge residency. This was particularly appreciated given the fact that my boyfriend Steve LaRocca and I are wheelchair bound.

Since that time, Steve has helped us in countless ways. For example, he has removed snow from our front walk and driveway areas to ensure our ability to exit our home in the event of an emergency. Steve has also offered to make trips to the transfer station for us in order to dispose of items we would otherwise be unable to dispose of ourselves. These are just a few examples of the generous, caring, and compassionate person Steve is.

Through getting to know and becoming friends with Steve, he has expressed to us both his pride in being a resident of Woodbridge, and his creative ideas by which, if given the

opportunity, he intends to ensure that Woodbridge continues to be a desirable place within which to live. We are confident that as a member of the Town of Woodbridge Board of Selectmen if elected, Steve will listen to, engage with, and advocate for the needs of Woodbridge residents.

Thank you for your attention.
Steve LaRocca and Sandra Soto

What is the Real Purpose of OCA Proposal?

The Open Communities Alliance's (OCA) has submitted a proposal to build a 4-family house on 2 Orchard Road and change zoning throughout Woodbridge to allow affordable, multi-family construction anywhere in town. They further propose that this is an initial step and Woodbridge needs to plan for its "fair share" need of 1842 affordable units over a 20-year period.

How was this requirement determined? After some searching, I found a lengthy study on the OCA website that determined affordable housing is required in each town throughout Connecticut, not only Woodbridge, totaling approximately 138,000 units. This was stated to be a minimal need

See "Letters" On Page 19

Woodbridge Town News

WTN LETTERS POLICY

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

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



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From the First Selectman

BY BETH HELLER

As we head into Spring, and hopefully warmer weather, Town Hall remains busy with many issues and initiatives. Most importantly, as we navigate through our COVID 19 response, we continue to work toward strengthening our community to all work together to face our upcoming challenges and opportunities. Our Human Services Department has assisted many Woodbridge residents to get vaccinated. Of course, we all must still to do our part to crush this horrific virus. Please remember to always practice safe social distancing, wear a mask whenever coming in contact with others, and always wash your hands.

The Boards of Selectmen and Finance have worked diligently since last fall to finalize the proposed FY 2022 budget. As you all know, the Town’s municipal budget represents important priorities for the coming year. Woodbridge’s top priorities must remain 1) providing excellent schools, 2) ensuring public safety, and 3) offering all essential programs and services to our taxpayers. It is obviously a delicate balance. Last fall, in preparation for budget season, we directed all Town departments and Board and Commissions, as always, to be extra mindful of taxpayer dollars as they prepared their proposed budgets. Over the past few years, we have consolidated staff positions and reduced programs. To give additional perspective, between Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and Fiscal Year 2020-2021, the Town portion of the budget (not including the boards of education) decreased by 0.12%.

As a reminder to all residents, the completed Preliminary Budget Hearing will be held on Monday, April 19, at which time residents will be able to ask questions or make comments on every Town department’s budget requests. The Preliminary Budget Summary will be mailed to every home in town prior to the hearing, and the Full Preliminary Budget will be posted on the Town website by the first week in April.

Each year as we convene the budget process, it becomes clearer to me that

we need to grow and diversify our Grand List. In order to continue to maintain our priorities, we must focus on growing revenue. In the past year, I have created the “2030 Task Force” whose membership includes business and town leaders. They have been charged with seeking ways to create a healthier, robust Grand List by 2030. I look forward to their updates and future recommendations.

Following a February Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the Board finalized the charge for the Housing Study Committee. As a reminder, this Committee has been created in response to the Affordable Housing Zoning Application that is currently before our Town Plan and Zoning Commission. This group of volunteers, along with a staff member from our Land Use office, and a facilitator, will evaluate the data, engage the community, assess housing needs and submit a report to the Board of Selectmen. The membership is nearly complete, and work will begin in earnest shortly to begin to create the state-mandated Affordable Housing Plan.

Meanwhile, the Town Plan and Zoning Commission continues to work through the application, which is asking to amend the Zoning Regulations and the Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development to permit multi-family housing in most of the Town’s residential districts, with affordable housing. You may view the application, other documents, and videos of the Public Hearings on the Town Plan & Zoning Commission page on the Town website. I remain confident that the Zoning Commission will review the application in a fair, thorough, and thoughtful way, and continue to provide an opportunity for all sides to be heard. I am equally confident that Woodbridge will remain the wonderful community that we have all come to love.

There remains a proposal to erect a cell tower in a residential neigh-

See “First Selectman” On Page 9

EDUCATION



Lynn Piascyk, Woodbridge Board of Education Chair; Analisa Sherman, Beecher Road School Principal; Robert Millard; Grace Millard; Hun Millard; Lor Ferrante Fernandes, Woodbridge Board of Education Member; Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D., Superintendent of Woodbridge School District.

SCASA Student Recognition Award

On Monday, March 15, 2021, the Woodbridge Board of Education was pleased to recognize the first of this year’s recipients of the South Central Area Superintendents’ Association (SCASA) Student Recognition Award.

Each year, each local Superintendent is able to honor a small number of sixth-grade students who have gone above and beyond in three categories: First, community service and service to others; Second, academic prowess; and Third, leadership to the school community. This year, over three-dozen nominations of Beecher sixth-graders were received, and the selection committee faced a significant challenge. However, this year’s final award recipients rose to the top, and are being recognized at this spring’s Board of Education meetings.

On March 15, the first of this year’s recipients – Grace Millard – was recognized for several significant accomplishments. Grace started her own class newspaper almost two and half years ago. Its mission? To encourage creativity, confidence, community, and

an open forum for peers to express and share ideas. Many of Grace’s classmates have contributed a diverse range of articles, from humorous stories of “talking animals,” to serious topics regarding national and political issues, to education columns such as “Taxes in Connecticut.” Grace has many passions – history, global culture, climate change and social issues, just to name a few. She believes that God put her here in this world to leave it better than she found it. Since she wants to make the world a better place, she tries to do all that she can to build a better community in little ways: for example, co-leading a girls’ church group for people her age to come together in Christ, or giving her all to be a role model for younger people like her little brother, or volunteering, whether that be in class or at the nursery ministry.

Grace attended the March 15 Board of Education meeting with her parents, Robert and Hun Millard, leading the Pledge of Allegiance and thanking the Beecher Road School for the great foundation it has given her.

JOB OPENING

Town of Woodbridge Parks Department Seeks Seasonal Assistant

Woodbridge Parks Department is seeking qualified individuals for temporary full time seasonal laborer positions to assist with ballfield/park maintenance. Individual must have a valid State of CT driver’s license and pass a pre-employment drug and alcohol test, and physical. Forty hour work week (7:30 AM -3:30 Mon.-Fri.; no overtime), no benefits, hourly rate of \$20. Complete application located on the Town Website and return to: Adam Parsons, Town of Woodbridge, 11 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525 or aparsons@woodbridgect.org.

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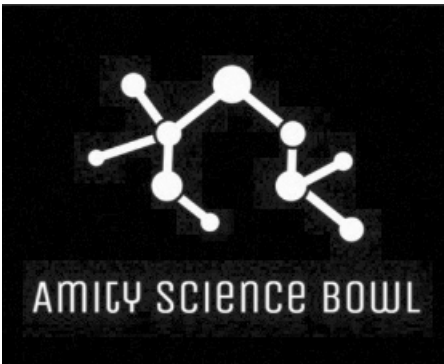
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WOODBRIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Amity Science Bowl Comes in First in Statewide Competition

On Saturday March 13, the Amity Science Bowl team qualified for nationals by winning the statewide competition. The team was made up of five seniors: Peter Scully (co-captain), Arnav Paliwal (co-captain), Eugene Chang, Andy Kim, and Adarsh Kongani. Science Bowl is a Jeopardy-style team competition run by the US Department of Energy since 1991. Questions test students' knowledge of the STEM fields (biology, physics, chemistry, earth science, astronomy, and math) in a fast-paced format. Amity's Science Bowl team is a relatively new club at Amity founded by Arnav and Peter at the end of their freshman year. If an-



yone is interested in joining, they can email either paliwal21@amityschools.org or scullype21@amityschools.org. Amity Science Bowl Advisor/Coach is Deborah Best (Science Teacher) deborah.best@amityregion5.org.



"Woodbridge Together" Luminaria Event

COVID-19 Relief Fundraiser

Christina (Tina) Burland, a junior at Amity Regional High School, created an event that was held on Saturday, March, 13th at 6:00 pm at the Woodbridge Town Green where she and her supporters spelled out the words "Woodbridge Together" with hundreds of luminaria to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the pandemic. The ceremony was livestreamed on Facebook so Woodbridge residents could participate from their homes and still feel the sense of community and a coming together which was Tina's goal for this event.

Tina also created a fundraiser to benefit the Woodbridge Rotary Club COVID Relief Fund. She raised \$3,000 by selling luminaria for residents to light outside their homes and businesses as a visual representation of community. In the attached photo is Tina presenting the check to Anna Dickerson, President of the Woodbridge Rotary Club.

As Tina says, "The purpose of the luminaria project is to show community... show that we're all going through the same thing and we're in this together and we will get through this together...Today we can turn this one-year anniversary into something hopeful. We can change the meaning of what this year has meant and turn it into something inspiring."

Tina, with the help of her volunteers, not only set up luminaria at the Town Green, they also set up luminaria around the town to represent the

coming together of the community and hope for the future. In attendance at the event were First Selectwoman Beth Heller, Chief of Police Frank Cappiello, Woodbridge Rotary Club President Anna Dickerson, Amity Regional High School Principal Anna Mahon and approximately 20 supporters and volunteers.

Selectwoman Heller said, "Seeing the luminarias lit is a beautiful sight and the symbolism of having so many residents participate, albeit from afar, in this one large display is awe-inspiring. It really does bring us together. This evening we've begun to spread light, spread harmony and heal our world. We will get through this together."

This event is the second project that Tina created with her initiative called "Woodbridge Together" through which she fosters community togetherness. Tina's first project enlisted the help of the community to make 112 holiday cards for the seniors in Woodbridge who were not able to see their families due to the pandemic.

You can see a recording of the luminaria event on the Woodbridge Together Facebook page below along with the links provided for her Instagram and website:

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/woodbridgetogether
Instagram:
www.instagram.com/woodbridgetogether
Website:
www.woodbridgetogether.com

STUDENT NEWS

Dean's List Bates College

Lewiston, ME - Alli Fischman of Woodbridge, CT was named to the dean's list at Bates College for the fall semester ending in December 2020. This is a distinction earned by students whose grade point average is 3.88 or higher. Fischman, the daughter of Barry A. Fischman and Gila J. Fischman, is a 2019 graduate of Hamden Hall Country Day School. She is majoring in sociol-

ogy at Bates.

Emerson College

Boston, MA - Gabrielle McGovern, a native of Woodbridge, CT, has been named to Emerson College's Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. McGovern is majoring in Media Arts Production and is a member of the Class of 2024. The requirement to make Emerson's Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher.

Attention Teachers!

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

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

Woodbridge Town News
P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477 • edit@WoodbridgeTownNews.com

“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.” — POPE JOHN PAUL II

WOODBIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

“Budge” From Page 1

towns by Amity was quite welcome, given the steep income declines towns have seen due to the lockdown and low interest rates.

If approved, Amity’s total budget of \$51.7 million represents a \$913,698 increase over the current year’s budget. The contribution of each member town is based on the number of students attending, and would break down as follows:

	2020-21	2021-22	variance	%variance
Bethany	\$ 9,000,731	\$ 8,983,608	(\$17,123)	(-.19%)
Orange	\$25,003,802	\$25,236,005	232,203	.93%
Woodbridge	\$15,756,256	\$16,275,624	\$519,368	3.3%
Other revenue	\$1,023,720	\$1,202, 9702	\$179,250	17.5%
Total	\$50,784,509	\$51,698,207	\$913,698	1.8%

Amity Public Hearing

The public hearing regarding the Amity budget will be held at the Orange Middle School Large Group Instruction Room, Monday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. The referendum is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the three member towns. People can request an absentee ballot ahead of time.

Budget Drivers

The primary budget drivers for 2021-2022 are the number of special education students and their needs; contracted salaries; capital improvements; and providing instructional resources/textbooks for student learning.

School Supt. Jennifer Byars introduced the last round of cuts at the March 8 Board of Education meeting. They included:

- › reduction in health insurance reserve from 25% to 22% (\$386K savings);
- › updated health insurance rate (\$125,748 savings);
- › updated savings in benefits (\$30,178);
- › eliminate two student outplacements (\$184,396 savings);
- › staff position adjustments (\$117,513 in savings);

- › purchase of items in the current fiscal year (musical instrument lease/student agenda books/ sidewalk repair – (\$66,046 savings);
- › devices for remote work (+\$23,250);
- › Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) for new programs/items (\$93,037 savings). Total additional reductions: \$973,738.

This latest round of cuts includes a staff reduction by attrition, which will impact primarily the middle schools. The plan is to maintain two of currently 4 reading teachers as part of the middle schools’ Life Arts rotations. Instead, a Literacy Coach could be shared between the two middle schools and they will teach literacy as part of Reader’s Workshop in English. To make up for the reduced literacy rotation, they will add general music as a rotation.

Dr. Byars assured the board that this program adjustment had been planned for the near future anyways, and that it did not represent a programmatical loss for the students. What may hit the middle school harder than the reconfigured rotations is the elimination of a 10-month secretary. Instead, Byars proposed that the two middle schools share a “floater secretary.”

The cuts also include the elimination of a support services team leader at the middle school, with the responsibilities shifting to the middle school Pupil Services coordinator.

The budget helps maintain health/PE instruction at the middle schools as well as Mandarin Chinese. It also maintains ten paid summer work days for the department chairs to prepare for the new school year.

The district has a history of responsible budgeting, the superintendent assures the reader in the explanatory materials that were posted on the District website, at <https://resources.fnalsite.net/images/v1616003193/amityregion5org/tuxjbe2rb-vjdgppxrm8h/2021-2022BoardApprovedBudget.pdf>.

By looking for cost savings and efficiencies, the school administration “reassures the taxpayers that we are using their money wisely – Our prudent financial management has kept budget increases as low as possible; provided year-end fund balances, which have been returned to the member towns or used for high-priority needs; and our sound financial operations, transparent fiscal reporting, and prudent spending have played a key role in 13 consecutive years of the budget passing on the first try.”

How To Navigate Easter Celebrations In The Era Of Social Distancing

Holidays have been celebrated differently since the outbreak of COVID-19 in late 2019. Easter was among the first major holidays to be celebrated differently in 2020, and celebrations likely won’t return to normal in 2021.

Celebrations and social distancing make strange bedfellows. However, it’s possible for people to safely celebrate Easter with their loved ones.

Watch virtual Mass together. Though it might not be the same as attending Mass in person together as a family, watching virtual Mass together can allow families to engage with their faith alongside one another. If

the weather permits, use a projector and set it up outside so families can safely watch in the backyard. Make sure everyone wears masks and keeps their distance. If the weather is not cooperating, families can still watch Mass together, even if they’re not gathered in the same space. Set up a family Zoom call via a smartphone or laptop and then ask all on the call to watch a live stream of Mass on another device.

Take Easter brunch outside. An outdoor brunch provides another way for families to gather this Easter without compromising their health. Brunch

makes more sense than dinner since it can be eaten in early afternoon when the weather is likely to be warmer than it will be at dinnertime. Heat lamps can add some warmth to outdoor Easter brunches.

Host an egg hunt in the backyard. The Easter egg hunt is one tradition that need not be sacrificed during the pandemic. Easter egg hunts traditionally take place outdoors, and children can wear masks like many are already doing when going to school or participating in sports and other extracurricular activities.

Host an Easter movie night. Fami-

lies isolating and spending the day with only those in their own households can watch a movie that commemorates their Christian faith. Various films are set around Easter, including the classic “The Greatest Story Ever Told” (1965) starring Max von Sydow and Claude Rains and the more recent “Risen” (2016), which focuses on efforts by a Roman military tribune named Clavius (Joseph Fiennes) who is tasked with investigating what happened to Jesus Christ’s body after the Crucifixion.

Families can embrace some old and new traditions as they celebrate Easter in the era of social distancing.



Igniting ImaginationSM
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203-865-4855

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Ready-Made Frames on Sale from April 1st to 30th

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Free Delivery to New Haven County - No Minimum Order - 1-2 Day Delivery

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Earth Day Event

Clean out your closets this Earth Day – residents are invited to bring many recyclable and reusable items to the Library Lawn on Saturday, April 24 from 9-11 am. Masks will be required.

“I hope residents take advantage of this wonderful event to find ways to reuse household items instead of throwing them in the trash,” said First Selectman Beth Heller. “I’m proud that we are able to offer these useful services and to encourage people to reduce, reuse and recycle!”

The Town, in partnership with the South Central Regional Council of Governments, is offering discounted compost bins and rain barrels to residents. Backyard composting is an excellent strategy for homeowners to

reduce waste and lower their carbon footprint. Compost enriches the soil and helps retain oxygen and nutrients. Composting also diverts food waste from the landfill.

Use this link to purchase: scrcogcompostersale.company.site. Any resident who purchases a compost bin and/or rain barrel may pick it up at the Earth Day event.

Friends of the Woodbridge Library will be accepting donations of children’s books, adult books and puzzles. The Friends will only accept clean books without odors, and without smoke damage and books that have not been stored in a garage. Please limit donations to a maximum of four boxes per household.

Take 2 Recycling, a certified electronics recycler, will accept electronic items, such as printers, TVs, DVD players, fax machines, phones, microwaves and other small appliances. Goodwill will have a truck at the event to accept donations of household items. Mattresses and box springs will be accepted for donation through the Bye Bye Mattress program. The Recreation Department will collect donations of sports equipment and lawn games that could be used for summer camp or other programs.

Residents are also asked to participate in Rid Litter Day in which residents pick up roadside litter. Volunteer Kathy Barkin will be at the event with a town map, trash bags and a list of roads in need of attention. Rid Litter

participants will be asked to estimate where they’ll finish and drop off their trash bags which will be collected the following week by Public Works.

Woodbridge residents may, at any time, drop off unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs. The Woodbridge Police Department has a drug take-back box in the lobby. Visitors must be buzzed into the lobby.

Residents may dispose of any of the following items in the box: Prescription medications, ointments or patches, over-the-counter medication, pet medication and vitamins. Not accepted are syringes, thermometers, inhalers, lotions or liquids, aerosol cans, hydrogen peroxide or medications discarded from businesses or clinics.

“First Selectman” From Page 6

borhood on Newton Road. Verizon/Cellco has privately contracted with a Woodbridge landowner to erect a 140-foot tower in that area. Unfortunately, cell towers are not approved or denied at the local level. Neither the Plan and Zoning Commission, nor the Board of Selectmen, or any other land use or town agency, has any authority to approve or deny these structures. These decisions are the exclusive jurisdiction of the State of Connecticut Siting Council. The Board of Selectmen, in our desire to prevent this project, has however, hired a land use attorney to work with the Town to try to find an alternate site for the tower. The Board does not believe that a cell tower should be erected in any residential neighborhood in our Town. We also engaged an engineer who has expertise in these matters and have given him a list of alternate sites and have also asked him to review all the sites to determine their suitability for a tower. We also directed this engineering consultant to also consider the environmental impact a cell tower might have on the area. We await this important report.

The Board of Selectmen will continue to do all we can to oppose this project, and we welcome your support. Should Verizon/Cellco eventually submit an application to the Siting Council regarding their current proposed location at 118 Newton Road, it will be incumbent upon all who oppose this project to submit testimony against it. It is my hope that the Board of Se-

lectmen will vote to do so as well. I will continue to share updates with residents.

Currently the Board of Selectmen is exploring how to accomplish some major goals in our plan for the future, specifically finally finishing renovations at the Old Firehouse, which has been vacant and only used for storage since a fire in 2006. We are working toward creating a beautiful, multi-purpose Community Center, completing renovations at the Senior Center and creating a sidewalk connecting the high school with the Library. Other projects in the Beautification Plan include additional seating and signage throughout Town. The soon-to-come bike route, which is totally paid for by a campaign of private donations matched by a grant, and planned improvements to The Grove (near the old firehouse) are also part of this vision. Resident input from a now-closed survey on the Town website about The Grove will be used to apply for a grant, seeking additional seating options and outdoor game tables, such as chess and checkers.

Woodbridge municipal buildings will reopen to the public on Monday, April 5th. We are all excited to welcome you back! Town Hall will be open during the regular hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Library will be open for browsing 15 hours a week and the Senior Center will also be open for limited hours. Masks and social distancing are required, of course. Upon entry, we are asking visitors to sanitize and sign in, for contact tracing purposes. We are also asking residents to limit

their visits to 30 minutes or less, when possible. We are keeping a close eye on the pandemic and the numbers. I remain serious about keeping residents and staff safe. Things seem to be improving, given the number of vaccines available and the warm weather. If, however, the pandemic takes a turn for the worse again, due to new infectious variants or other factors, we will close our doors again.

As a reminder, the Town of Woodbridge Municipal Elections will be held on Monday, May 3rd and the Amity Regional District 5 Budget Referendum is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5th. Absentee ballot applications are available by request at the Town Clerk’s office, (203-389-3424) or online.

Woodbridge continues to look to the future and help us all reconnect safely. The Town is having a small Earth Day celebration on April 24th from 9 to 11 a.m. on the Library Lawn. We are also looking for nonprofessional musicians of all genres to play informal outdoor acoustic concerts on Thursday evenings on the Library Lawn. Those interested should complete the survey on the Town website. Late last month, the Community Council met with community organizations to discuss how to better coordinate and market our local organizations and events. I look forward to seeing these results and how this coordination may help our Town.

I am also excited to announce the new “Second Saturdays” series. From May through September this year, the Town will host a free outdoor event on the second Saturday of the month

during the summer. Events will include a chalk art party, a community tag sale, Friends of the Library book sale, a game day and a craft fair. Look for details to come soon! In addition to events, we continue to improve our physical assets, especially those outlined in the Woodbridge Town Center Campus Beautification Plan (see the plan on the Board of Selectmen page on the Town website). My goal is to make the Town Center Campus an inviting public gathering space that encourages residents to linger and interact, creating a stronger sense of community. I hope that you are as excited as I am about the possibilities and opportunities the future holds for us.

Finally, I wish to address the two senseless mass shootings in Georgia and Colorado that have saddened us once again. We cannot become inured to these tragedies and allow this to become the acceptable status quo. One or both of these horrific events may have been motivated by hate. The Town of Woodbridge stands with Governor Lamont in condemning “in the strongest of terms – the recent violent acts of racism and hate committed against Asian Americans that we have seen across our country.” An attack against anyone based on race, religion, ethnicity, gender, or sexual preference is an attack against our most fundamental values as Americans and an attack against us all. We cannot remain silent.

As always, my door is open to you. Please feel free as always to reach out to me at 203-389-3401 or bheller@woodbridgect.org. Keep in touch and keep safe Woodbridge!

“I love Passover because for me it is a cry against indifference, a cry for compassion.” — ELIE WIESEL

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Woodbridge Mill Rate Up By 2.6 Percent

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Woodbridge Board of Finance, on March 18, passed a budget proposal for 2022 of \$51,566,481. If approved, it will bring the mill rate to 42.64, which represents a 2.67% increase over this year’s mill rate of 41.53. For the taxpayers, that would mean the average tax bill for a property assessed at \$288,240 would increase by \$320 for Fiscal Year 2022.

The number includes a 2.37% increase for the elementary school and a 3.3% increase for Woodbridge’s share of the Amity budget. The total Amity budget as proposed represents a

1.8% increase.

A budget hearing is scheduled to take place on Monday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m. Residents will have a chance to ask questions and comment. At the time of this printing, it was not known whether the town would return to in-person meetings, either for this or the subsequent Annual Meeting. “We are waiting for clarification from the state,” said Town Finance Director Anthony Genovese. Eventually it will be the Board of Selectmen to decide, possibly with input from the health department, and based on the Governor’s directives. In 2020, the Governor allowed towns to pass their budgets without a public vote.



‘Woodbridge Bike Route’ Crowdfunding Successful!

The Woodbridge Bike Route crowdfunding campaign ended early because it was so successful! Residents were asked to help raise \$7500 which would be matched by Sustainable CT to create an on-road bike route with a few bike racks and safety features. The campaign was scheduled to end in late April – instead it was completed by late March due to the generosity of residents.

The bike route—a five mile route linking several destinations, including Amity Regional High School, the Town Center Campus, Fitzgerald Tract, Beecher Road School, former Country Club of Woodbridge and Pease Place Playground—will be marked by signage and enhanced with bike racks and solar-powered speed awareness signs to help slow down traffic.

The project will receive a matching grant of \$7500 from Sustainable CT’s Community Match Fund, which is an innovative funding resource for public, community-led sustainability projects.

This spring the Town will order the supplies for the project and will install the materials. This project follows a survey about walking and biking in Woodbridge in which many residents responded that they would like to walk or bike more but don’t feel safe doing so. The survey showed support for features such as bike lanes, sidewalks in limited areas, additional signage and safety enhancements.

“Thank you to all residents who made this campaign a success!” said First Selectman Beth Heller. “More and more residents are using our streets and walking paths during the pandemic. Bike amenities will make it safer and easier for people to get around town without a car and the signs will encourage drivers to be more mindful of others on the roads.”

Residents who donated \$50 were entered in a drawing to win one of two \$25 gift certificates to Thai Stories. Gift certificate winners are: Jessica Dorey and Michael Franczak. Those who donated \$100 were entered in a drawing to win a full tune-up and reusable water bottle from D’Aniello’s Amity Bicycles and the winner is Theresa DeMattie. A big thank you goes out to the “major donors” who donated at the \$250 level: B&B Transportation, Neil Bainton, Christopher Bartels, Thawatchai Boonyalai, Anne Boucher, Carly Brown, Matthew Curry, Rupak Datta, Beth and Allen Heller, Marc Ian Keslow, Dr. Nathan Kruger, Kristy Laydon, Amy McGonagle, Lori Paragas, Rizwan Parvez and Jeffrey Townsend.

Sustainable CT is an initiative of Eastern Connecticut State University’s Institute for Sustainable Energy that inspires, supports, and recognizes sustainability action by towns and cities statewide. The Community Match Fund — supported by the Smart Seed Fund, Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation and the Connecticut Green Bank — provides a dollar-for-dollar match to donations raised from the community, doubling local investment in projects. Anyone can lead a project and ideas can be proposed at any time.

“Through the Community Match Fund, we aim to put residents at the forefront of creating positive, impactful change,” said Abe Hilding-Salorio, community outreach manager for Sustainable CT. “Match Fund projects are community led and community funded, demonstrating the power of people working together to make change in their communities.”

Have a great idea for a public project in your community? Contact Sustainable CT at hildingsalorioa@easternct.edu.

Town of Woodbridge Meetings for the Month of April 2021



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

4/5	Town Plan & Zoning Commission.....6:30 PM	Town Hall
	Human Services.....7:00 PM	
4/6	Darling House Committee4:30 PM	
4/8	Community Council.....9:30 AM	
	Economic Development Commission.....6:00 PM	Town Hall
4/12	Library Commission6:30 PM	Library
	Zoning Board of Appeals7:30 PM	Town Hall
	Agricultural Commission8:00 PM	
4/14	Board of Selectmen.....5:00 PM	Town Hall
4/15	Board of Finance.....6:00 PM	Town Hall
	Conservation Commission.....7:30 PM	Town Hall
4/19	Preliminary Budget HearingAll Day	
	Fire Commission6:00 PM	Fire Station
	Police Commission6:15 PM	Police Station
3/17	Diversity & Inclusion Committee.....6:30 PM	
	Inland/Wetlands Agency7:30 PM	Town Hall
4/20	2030 Task Force6:00 PM	
4/21	Diversity & Inclusion Committee.....6:30 PM	
	Inlands Wetlands Agency.....7:30 PM	Town Hall
4/26	CUPOP5:30 PM	Town Hall
	Recreation Commission7:00 PM	Beecher Rd School So
4/27	Gov’t Access TV Commission7:30 PM	Town Hall

AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



Over 75 Woodbridge seniors enjoyed a delicious, traditional St. Patrick's Day lunch during the monthly drive-thru event at The Woodbridge Center, co-sponsored by Visiting Angels of Woodbridge with treat bags provided by Hamden Health and Rehab



Senior Center Director Kristy Moriarty and Human Services Director Jeanette Glicksman embraced the spirit of the event while enjoying friendly conversations with each participant

Are you over 55 years old? Contact The Woodbridge Center: Call 203-389-3430 or email kmoriarty@woodbridgect.org for information and registration for all programming.

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

Spring Drive-thru Earth Day Luncheon: Put your windows down and enjoy some upbeat musical entertainment by former CT state troubadour, Pierce Campbell, while picking up your choice of gourmet sandwich on rustic bread, curry chicken salad with mango chutney or seafood salad. Both are served with an ancient grain side salad and pineapple upside-down cake for dessert. These delicious lunches provided by Jewish Senior Services are sponsored in full by the newly renovated Linden of Woodbridge. A beautiful sea glass art craft will be provided by Hamden Health and Rehab. RSVP with choice of sandwich by April 15. Masks required.

The next drive-thru luncheon will be Thursday, May 6 celebrating Mother's Day. Call for more details and to RSVP.

The Woodbridge Center is excited to announce several programs that will be offered beginning in April. All programs require pre-registration. Programs can be accommodated for various levels. We look forward to seeing everybody regularly in person especially as the warmer weather approaches! All in-person classes will have COVID-19 safety measures in place which include: temperatures taken, social distancing maintained, recorded attendance, and masks worn at all times.

These programs will take place outside unless inclement weather, then inside with safety measures:

Craft Group: Thursdays, 10am – 12pm beginning April 15. Bring your

current knitting or crocheting project and enjoy some long over-due social time. Instructor available if needed.

Painting for Pleasure with Graham Dale: All levels, Wednesdays, 10am – 12pm beginning April 28. Come paint your choice of subject with acrylics or watercolors - call for materials list. 10-week session/ \$60 (no class 5/5).

Exercise with Laurie: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11am beginning April 27. Enjoy an aerobic, cardio and strength training (with hand weights) workout to upbeat music. \$2/fee.

Targeted Strength Training: Mondays, 9-10am beginning May 10. Led by Michele Tenney, this exercise class uses exercise bands to focus on strengthening specific muscle groups to help increase balance, stability, and flexibility.

Pickleball: Monday thru Friday, 12:30-3:30pm. Indoor play will resume May 10. Prior court sign-up required. Limited number of participants.

Zoom classes continue:

Get to the Point of Health Lecture Series: Join Dr. Artemis D. Morris, Naturopathic Physician, Licensed Acupuncturist, experienced educator, researcher, and author, on Friday, April 16 from 11:30am to 12:30pm for the next free Zoom presentation, "Decreasing Systemic Inflammation". This program can also be accessed live on WGATV channel 79.

View the last lecture presentation, "Fall Proof Yourself at Home" by Kyle Branday of Amity Physical Therapy, at <https://youtu.be/xaXhAO52Ios>.

Zoom Targeted Strength Training with Michele Tenney: Mondays, 9-10am \$5/class. See description above. Session ends April 25.

T'ai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance (TJQ: MBB): 24-week session, 2 days per week, Mondays and Fridays, 10-11 am. Beginning April 26. Im-

prove strength, mobility, balance and daily function to prevent falls. This program, instructed by Bill Banick, is offered at no cost in partnership with the CT Healthy Living Collective and funded in part by the CT Department of Aging and Disability Services State Unit on Aging. RSVP by April 12. Space is limited.

AAA Defensive Driving Course is offered virtually April 6, 13, 20 or 27. This free, four-hour class, taken from the comfort of your own home, may qualify you for an auto insurance discount upon completion. Register at www.AAA.COM/DEFENSIVEDRIVING.

Services offered:

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

Meals: Seniors may reserve flash frozen meals (\$5/meal) by noon on Monday for delivery to your home on Tuesday. Choose from a wide variety of options including chicken parmesan, stuffed chicken breast with broccoli and cheese, beef stroganoff, and cranberry, ginger salmon. Meals include a vegetable, roll and dessert. Minimum order of two meals please.

Boredom Busters: Puzzles and brain games (word searches/crossword puzzles) are available. Call The Woodbridge Center to arrange for pick-up.

Woodbridge Human Services: Call 203-389-3429 or 203-389-3430 for information or email humanservices@woodbridgect.org. The Human Services Department social worker, Judi Young, is available to those in

need of assistance due to isolation and other issues associated with long-term quarantine and social distancing.

Assistance with COVID-19 vaccine appointments is available through the Human Services Dept. Residents 55+ may email jglicksman@woodbridgect.org for links and phone numbers to access vaccination appointments at area locations. Homebound residents in need of a vaccine may use <https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/homebound> to submit information or call Human Services, 203-389-3430. Residents, unable to drive or find a ride to their appointment, may call The Woodbridge Center for assistance with transportation.

File 2020 taxes with VITA for free from home: In partnership with the IRS and the Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS), the Woodbridge Human Services VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program is still available to prepare income tax returns at no cost for qualifying residents. Like everything else in a pandemic, the program looks a little different this year. If you have a camera phone and an email address, you can begin the process at GetYourRefund.org/WBSC-CT.

This new and secure national VITA website was created to serve the virtual needs of the program during the pandemic. To use this website, you will be directed to fill out the intake questionnaire and upload specific documents. Your secure file will be conveyed to our local group of volunteer tax preparers based on your indicated preference. One tax preparer will contact you for a phone interview during which your taxes will be prepared. A second will call to review your return for accuracy, and finally you will receive a copy of your Federal and State returns via email to be electronically

See "Woodbridge Center" On Page 12

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www.visitingangels.com/woodbridge
www.visitingangels.com/newington

HCA0000561

Kranz's Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Hugo and Eve Kranz, long-time residents of Bethany and now Woodbridge, celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on April 17. The couple met on the Hamptons in Long Island, and have resided in the Bethany-Woodbridge for the past 37 years. They have four adult children, all married, and six grandchildren. Mike Kranz, his wife Jennifer, and their 3 children live in Bethany, and

Erich Kranz, his wife, Alejandra, and their 2 children live in Woodbridge. All four of Eve and Hugo's children graduated from Amity High School, and now two grandchildren attend the high school. Two more grandchildren attend Beecher Elementary and Bethany Community school. The couple are members of Assumption Church in Woodbridge and plan to renew their vows at the church.

“Woodbridge Center” From Page 11

signed before they are e-filed. Estimated turnaround time from start to finish is one week. Taxpayers who are unable to access a camera phone or email are encouraged to call Woodbridge Human Services at (203) 389-3429. Following a telephone intake interview, a VITA volunteer will schedule a drive-through appointment for

document scanning.

Food Pantry: Woodbridge Human Services is available to assist seniors and families in need with non-perishable food items from the food pantry as well as gift cards to Stop & Shop for perishable items for qualifying families. Items needed for the Food Pantry include coffee and tea, spaghetti sauce, shampoo and conditioner, body wash, and deodorant.

Woodbridge Town News

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TOWN DEPARTMENTS

Recreation News



Taijiquan (T'ai-Chi) & Qigong with Bill Banick

Taijiquan is an ancient Chinese martial art based on internal energy or "chi". It uses slow flowing and connected movement to integrate the mind and body and generate flexibility, strength, and well-being. Receive individualized instruction offered within a group setting. Classes consist of seated and standing exercises (Qigong), taiji walking, and traditional taiji forms. Thursdays, 5:30 pm, April 8 through June 24. Register at woodbridgect.org

Rain or Shine Summer Camp

Woodbridge Recreation Summer camps will run, rain or shine, June 28 through Aug. 6, 9 am - noon at Beecher Road South School for campers entering grades 1-8. Camp offers a wide range of activities including arts and crafts, drama, fitness, swimming and more. Three week minimum registration. Due to a limited amount of spaces,

no mail in registration accepted. Register online at woodbridgect.org or in the Rec Dept. Office. Registration opens to all Woodbridge Residents on April 26th. Those enrolled in 2020 Virtual Summer Camp or 2020 Sports Camp have priority registration the week of April 19-23.

Town Fitness Center

Town Fitness Center is re-opening to Woodbridge residents only, on Saturday, April 10th. The Fitness Center will be available Saturdays and Sundays to Woodbridge members by reservation only; drop ins are not accepted. Resident seniors over 65 years of age are free. Call 203-389-3446 during Recreation Office hours Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm to make a reservation. Saturdays and Sundays 8:00 to 9:30 am, 10:00 to 11:30 am, 12:00 to 1:30 pm, are the time slots available. Masks to be worn at all times and social distancing enforced. Maximum 6 per session.

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ARTS & LEISURE



Musicians Sought for Woodbridge Unplugged Series

The Woodbridge Town Library and Town of Woodbridge are organizing outdoor acoustic concerts this spring and summer. The Woodbridge Unplugged concert series will be a fun, free and safe way for residents to come together, enjoy each other’s company and listen to local talent.

Local, nonprofessional musicians willing to play for a modest fee are encouraged to fill out a short survey

on either the Library’s or the Town’s website. Concerts will be held on the Library lawn from 6-7 pm on Thursdays in May and June. Residents will be encouraged to attend and to picnic at a safe distance from one another.

If you’re a musician looking for an audience and want to play for your family, friends and neighbors in a safe and informal setting, please sign up to express an interest.



Welcome to the Woodbridge Gardens for Wildlife Club

What is it? We (Joi Prud’homme and Enrene van Tonder) are excited to announce the newly created Woodbridge Gardens for Wildlife Club and Facebook Group as an ongoing effort to involve our community members in registering town properties and private residences as Certified Wildlife Habitats with the National Wildlife Federation. It involves many great projects to do with children, as well as Citizen Scientist opportunities for all ages. You can fully participate without leaving home!

How? It’s easier than you think! Living in Woodbridge, every property has most likely checked most boxes to comply with certification and with small modifications would be able to fulfill all requirements. The Woodbridge Gardens for Wildlife Club is here to help with ideas. Once you have certified your property, chances are you would like to continue to create more wildlife friendly spaces, take part in Citizen Scientist projects and hang out with other wildlife enthusiasts.

Why?

1. Community Building: The Beecher Road School PTO sees this as a wonderful opportunity to build community while we are still restricted due to Covid and beyond. The possibilities for collaboration are endless!
2. Woodbridge Schools and the Town of Woodbridge could potentially benefit by receiving federal and state monies and grants for educational programming and conservation of wildlife environments.
3. Woodbridge residents will also benefit from the positive effects of enjoying nature, which is

known to enhance physical and mental health.

Who? Anyone who lives in Woodbridge who is interested in learning about, creating and maintaining wildlife friendly spaces and participating in community-wide projects. Beecher Road School, the BRS PTO, the Woodbridge Garden Club, the Town of Woodbridge and eventually other organizations will join forces to learn, create and conserve wildlife spaces and habitats throughout our beautiful town.

How?

Step 1: Join our private Facebook group to learn more and for inspiring/sharing ideas: www.facebook.com/groups/woodbridgegardensforwildlife/

Step 2: Go through the checklist to see which requirements you have already met to see how to certify your property as a Certified Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation;

Step 3: Certify your property as a Wildlife Habitat at www.nwf.org/certifiedwildlifehabitat and proudly display your sign (or choose not to certify and just do the projects that interest you);

Step 4: Continue sharing and getting inspiration from our club and join in future projects.

Cost? FREE to join Woodbridge Gardens for Wildlife Group/Club, but if you want to certify your garden through the National Wildlife Federation, the Certification Fee is \$20, and you can purchase a metal sign to proudly display on your property for an additional \$30. There are also a variety of sign options available for purchase on this site: <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife>.

MASSARO

COMMUNITY FARM

Celebrate Earth Day with Massaro Farm

The month of April offers many ways to celebrate Earth Day and the onset of spring!

Rock Earth Day with Team Melonhead and help us earn a \$20,000 match

Celebrate Earth Day 2021 by walking, hiking or cycling as a member of the “Massaro Melonheads” team in the annual Rock to Rock Earth Day fundraising event. Join our award-winning team of walkers and riders by a) logging miles on your own during the month of April or b) showing up on Saturday, April 24 for socially distanced walks/rides.

This year, we received a generous challenge grant of \$20,000; you can help us secure that grant by fundraising with an easy-to-use online platform. Register on RocktoRock.org or contact Caty Poole at caty@massaro-farm.org for assistance.

April 10 Day of Service

Volunteer for our annual spring Day of Service, Saturday, April 10 from 10:00am-1:00pm. This event is held in conjunction with Earth Day. It’s the perfect time to help us tidy up the farm for guests and get things in order for planting. Sign up at RocktoRock.org.

Subscribe to our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program

Nourish yourself and your family by subscribing for a 10- or 20-week CSA share of our fresh organic produce. Distribution set to begin in mid-June. Supporting an organic farm like ours sequesters carbon, creates natural habitat and reduces your carbon footprint. We have already started planting summer crops so it’s important for you to sign up now before we sell out.

See “Massaro” On Page 15

ARTS & LEISURE

“Massaro” From Page 14

Subscribing to our CSA also protects open space, creates jobs and supports the donation of thousands of pounds of fresh produce to hunger relief each year. Distribution begins in mid-June. Full share - \$695; Half share - \$370. www.MassaroFarm.org/join-our-csa.

Get involved in a Community Garden

The farm manages 13 community gardens in Ansonia, Derby, Seymour, Shelton and Oxford. We welcome both new and experienced gardeners to help oversee these vegetable gardens, including watering, weeding and harvesting. We supply all the materials; you set your own schedule! Take the produce home or add it to our donations for hunger relief partners. Visit our site for more details or to sign up: www.MassaroFarm.org/community-gardens.

Take the Food Solutions New England (FSNE) 21-Day Equity Challenge

Join the farm in taking the FSNE pledge to build the capacity for our region to produce at least 50% of our food by 2060 while supporting healthy food for all, sustainable farming and fishing, and thriving communities. The 21-Day Equity Challenge which begins on April 5, invites participants to deepen their understanding of, and willingness to confront, racism for twenty-one consecutive days in April of 2021. Explore and sign up at www.foodsolutionsne.org.

Upcoming Spring and Summer Activities

Registration is now open for several farm programs:

- › Full-day Summer Camp July

- 12-August 13 for campers aged 4-11;
- › Backyard Goat Basics, Saturday, April 17 @ 10:00am;
- › Spring Explorers, weekly on Sundays for ages 4-11, beginning April 18;
- › Beekeeping (virtual), April 24 @ 9:00am.

The farm is also accepting applications for its Summer Youth Employment Program for teens 15-18. Please visit our website for all the registration and application information: www.MassaroFarm.org.

Online Store is Open for Business

Massaro’s organic produce and other locally produced items are available through our online store every other week. Support local farmers with your purchase of milk, eggs, butter-milk, kefir, cheese, mushrooms, pork products, coffee, and Massaro produce and jarred tomato products. Other items added based on their availability. Order by 8pm Wednesday evenings for no-contact pickup on Friday afternoons. Peruse the online store at www.MassaroFarm.Square.Site.

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

TOWN DEPARTMENTS

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



Woodbridge First Selectman’s Youth Award

Woodbridge Youth Services, in collaboration with First Selectman Beth Heller, is accepting nominations for the First Selectman’s Youth Award. The annual award, now in its twenty-second year, will be presented to a deserving young Woodbridge resident at a time to be determined. People’s United Bank in Woodbridge will sponsor the \$200 award. Call 203-389-3429 for more information or you may find the nomination form on the Town’s website at <https://www.woodbridgect.org/160/Youth-Services>. Please submit nominations to Woodbridge Youth Services at 11 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525, by Monday, April 12, 2021.

Woodbridge Job Bank Seeks Teens Who Want Work

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

Due to COVID-19, most jobs are currently outdoors with masks and social distancing as required. Teens can do yard work, dog walking, raking, etc. Responsible teens who wish to join the Job Bank should call for an

interview at 203-389-3464 or e-mail npfund@woodbridgect.org.

Red Cross Babysitter Training

Two-day training for ages 12-18 will take place 1:15 to 5:15 pm on Tuesday, April 13 and Wednesday, April 14 at the Center Building at 4 Meetinghouse Lane. Students must attend both days to earn certificate. Social distancing measures will be in place and masks are required. Snacks will be provided. The fee is \$60 for residents, \$65 for non-residents. Space is limited. Call Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3429 for information or to register or e-mail: npfund@woodbridgect.org.

Time for Spring Yard Clean-up? Woodbridge Job Bank Can Help

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

Chalk Art-Save the Date

Families who want to help create some bright, happy chalk art pictures can join the fun around the Woodbridge Center on May 8th. Bring a picnic to enjoy the outdoors. Please call 203-389-3464 to register for available space. Chalk will be provided to registered families. Masks will be required.

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

Indoor Services

- › Fridays 6:00 pm**

Outdoor Services (weather permitting)

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

** also available via Zoom, like all weekday services

In the weeks ahead, BEKI hopes to offer in-person services on more weekdays. For updates, email bekitefilla@gmail.com.

Children's Services

Children's outdoor services are held on Saturday mornings, weather permitting. To receive the weekly newsletter, email Youth and Family Programming Director Annie Norman-Schiff at anormanschiff@beki.org.

Passover Services

- › Friday, April 2 Yizkor memorial prayers in the sanctuary and Zoom, 9:30am, following 8:45 am morning service.
- › Saturday, April 3 outside (weather permitting) 9:30 am.
- › Sunday, April 4 outside (weather permitting) 9:30 am. Also including Yizkor memorial prayers.

Kadima Youth Group Events

BEKI Kadima, the youth group for 4th through 8th graders, will go to the Adventure Park at the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport on Sunday, April 11. RSVP to anormanschiff@beki.org.

The Kadima Book Club will discuss *The Way Back* by Gavriel Savit, a fantastical story of demons and adventure, inspired by Jewish folklore, on Sunday, April 25.

Yom HaShoah Book Talk

On Wednesday, April 7 at 8:00 pm, John. W. Weiser will speak about his book, *A Thousand Kisses: A Family's Escape from the Nazis to a New Life*, based on the letters his parents wrote when they were in Vienna

and Hungary, trying to escape from Europe. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

Yom HaAtzmaut Gala

BEKI will join congregations across the U.S. on Wednesday, April 14 at



8:00 pm for a celebration of Israel Independence Day. The online program will include music, dancing, and interviews. American singer songwriter Craig Taubman, whose extensive musical catalog consists of over 50 recordings, will perform, as will Israeli singer Dganit Daddo. To request the link, email office@beki.org.



Earth Day Program

Rabbi Ellen Bernstein will speak Wednesday, April 21 at 8:00 pm on



Judaism and Ecology. Known as "the birth mother of the Jewish environmental movement," Rabbi Bernstein in 1988 founded Shomrei Adamah, Keepers of the Earth, the first national Jewish environmental organization. The author of several books, she most recently published an ecologically oriented Passover haggadah called *The Promise of the Land*, which is available at the BEKI Gift Shop. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

Lag BaOmer Kumsitz

Thursday evening April 29 is Lag BaOmer, the 33rd day of the Omer. The folk-custom is to sing around a campfire at a "kumsitz," meaning "come" and "sit." The kumsitz will start at 7 pm in the BEKI courtyard with nigunim—which have no words—as well as traditional American songs and Hebrew songs. Please bring your own folding chair. Song sheets will be provided. Details at beki.org.

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

The First Church of Christ Woodbridge

The First Church of Christ is overjoyed to announce that the doors to the Meetinghouse will be opened!

The FCCW Music Committee has put together a "Special Musical Easter Service", featuring pianists, vocalists, and violinists from our parish and community. Come to hear your favorite Easter hymns!

Our celebration will conclude outdoors as we join to sing "Christ The Lord Has Risen Today". All our welcome to join us for our first official, in-person service.

Easter Worship Service

Sunday, April 4th at 10 a.m.

inside the Meetinghouse!

PLEASE NOTE: Windows and doors will be open so wear warm coats. MASKS ARE MANDATORY. People will be asked to sit socially distanced.

*If you are unable to attend the service in the Sanctuary, you are welcome to request a Zoom invitation to be emailed to you on Saturday, April 3rd.

**You can also view our Easter Sunday Service live streamed from our website at www.uccw.org.

Future Sunday Services will continue to run via Zoom for an indeterminate amount of time. For an invite to our Zoom Meetings, please email the office or log on to our website and add your name to our church email list. We invite all people in the community to join us.

Live Stream Services can be viewed on our website every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. A video recording of the live stream is featured for the entire week following the service.

To view previous Sunday Services, visit us on YouTube using the link provided on all pages of our website. (Links, contact info, and a schedule of upcoming Services are listed at the bottom of this article.)

*If you would like assistance in gaining access to Sunday Service, please call us by Friday morning, at 203-389-2119, or email us at office@uccw.org.

Plans for our Church School and Youth Program are underway for the spring season. Now is the perfect time



The First Church of Christ

to inquire about what our Christian Education department can do for your families. Please contact JoAnna Rubino at growfirstchurch@gmail.com or visit the Sunday School page of our website for more information.

The Church Office is open by appointment only, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Please call or email to schedule a visit.

Weekly Bible Study sessions are now being held in-person at the Parish House. Join us for meetings each Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Boy Scout Troop #907 continues to meet weekly at 7:00 p.m. New members are invited to attend. For information, visit their website at www.troop907.org.

For more information regarding First Church activities and/or events, please contact us. We are eager to hear from you!

Phone: 203-389-2119

Email us at office@uccw.org

Website: www.uccw.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ucwoodbridge

FCCW Sunday Service Schedule

April 4th Easter Sunday, a special musical service celebration (in-person)

April 11th Rev. Anya Powers

April 18th Rev. Karl Duetzmann, from the Devon UCC Church (in-person)

April 25th Rev. Anya Powers

Please Note: For any and all meetings and events being attended at First Church a facemask must be worn upon entering the building(s) and all Covid-19 safely protocols and standards followed.

ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

Send us your organizations events listings and items of interest.
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Woodbridge Town News – P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477
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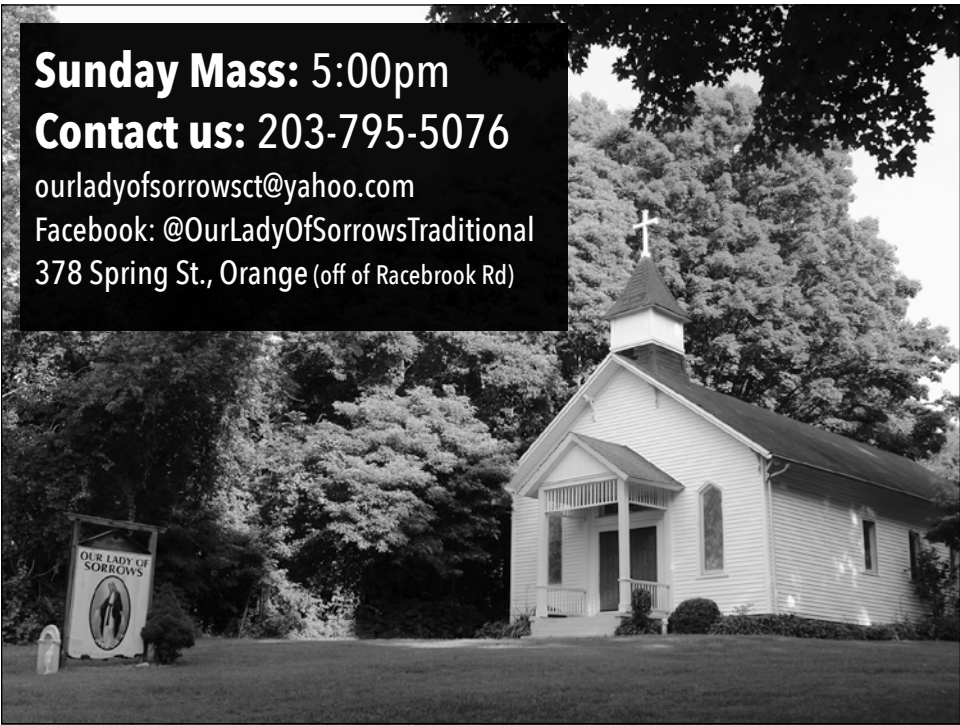
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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Sunday Mass: 5:00pm
Contact us: 203-795-5076
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Facebook: @OurLadyOfSorrowsTraditional
378 Spring St., Orange (off of Racebrook Rd)



EASTER SUNDAY



APRIL 4



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B’Nai Jacob Events

Happening This Shabbat Friday

- › 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat - on zoom and live stream

Saturday

- › 9:00 AM Bread and Torah
- › 10:00 AM Shabbat service - on zoom and live stream



PASSOVER Shabbat and conclusion of Passover

- › Friday, April 2, 6:00pm Service
- › Saturday, April 3, 9:30am Service, 6:00pm Service
- › Sunday, April 4, 9:30am Service 11:00am Yizkor (no early minyan)

Upcoming Events CBJ Book Club Discussion

Sunday, April 11, 11:00 am on Zoom

Invisible Years: A Family's Collected Account of Separation and Survival during the Holocaust in the Netherlands; Presented by author Daphne Geismar and co-presenter Sharon Strauss

The book, *Invisible Years*, is an intimate portrait of an extended Jewish family living in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands who, when faced with imminent deportation, refused to comply. As the Nazis tightened their grip on the Jewish population, Daphne Geismar's family was slowly restricted from public life. Sensing the murderous consequences of deportation, they decided to separate and go into hiding. Through interwoven letters, diaries, and interviews, Geismar presents the story of nine family members—her parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles—in their own words, alongside a trove of photographs and artifacts. This family's detailed account of one of history's most horrific chapters challenges us to follow their example of resistance to inhumanity.

Sharon Strauss works as an embryologist in an IVF unit. She makes babies every day. Sharon worked as a neurosurgical nurse and as a genetic researcher. She served as a commander of the electronic intelligent course in the IDF Intelligence Corps.

Daphne Geismar designs books on art and history for major museums. Her involvement in publications that use art and literature to educate

began with her thesis at Yale on DIRECTION magazine (1937–1945), in which artists and writers speak out against fascism. Geismar developed a photography and writing program for teenage mothers; and teaches design at universities.

Ladino Culture from Yesterday to Today: A Musical Journey

Sunday, April 18, 2021 at 10am on Zoom

Sarah Aroeste

International performer, Sarah Aroeste, will lead us on this journey of history, visual storytelling, and song. She will demonstrate the evolution of Ladino music over the centuries as Jews migrated East-in terms of content, melody, and rhythm. It is an interactive experience for the audience—watching, listening, even singing along.

Cantor's Corner

Our very own Cantor Barbara is in the Cantors Assembly's Spring 2021 edition of their Sacred Sounds newsletter.

Thank you to all who contributed coats to Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen. CBJ's winter coat drive was a huge success! We collected over 150 coats and 45 winter gear items, and donated them to DESK for distribution to homeless clients. We greatly appreciate your support.

We are pleased to be partnering with the JCC to promote its annual Beckerman Jewish Film Series, which is going virtual this year. Five diverse categories of films will be streamed for you to watch from home, followed by zoom discussions for each category. The series will run through May and there is something for everyone. Tickets may be purchased per movie, category, or the whole series.

The current category is Family & Relationships, streaming the film *In Search of Israeli Cuisine* the week of March 30th. The next category is Activism, streaming the film *Fig Tree* the week of April 5th.

ZOOM SCHEDULE of weekly services and classes:

- › Morning Minyan at 7:45am (Monday-Friday), 9:00am (Sunday)
- › Evening Minyan at 6:00pm (Sunday-Thursday)
- › Shabbat Shmooze at 6:00pm Friday
- › Kaballat Shabbat at 6:30pm Friday
- › Bread & Torah at 9:00am Saturday
- › Shabbat Morning at 10:00am Saturday

203-389-2111
info@bnaijacob.org
BnaiJacob.org

DID YOU KNOW?

April 16th is National Health Care Decisions Day

Who will make health care decisions for you if you are unable to do so yourself?

National Health Care Decisions Day exists to educate and empower the public to proactively think about the importance of advance health care planning. There may come a time when you are unable to make medical decisions for yourself due to injury, illness, or disease. It is important that you sign a document called "Health Care Instructions". **Anyone over the age of eighteen (18) should have Health Care Instructions.**

To recognize the 13th Annual National Health Care Decisions Day, we want to remind you that:

You have the right to make decisions about the medical care you receive.

- You have the right to tell your physician that you do not want certain medical treatments.
- You have the right to name the person (or people) who will make health care decisions for you if you are unable to do so for yourself.
- You have the right to pre-direct specific instructions about any aspect of your health care.
- You have the right to have your wishes communicated in the event you no longer are able to express your own medical wishes.

Your rights can be protected by signing Health Care Instructions. Health Care Instructions are legal instructions to your physicians and family members that express your wishes pertaining to your medical care. These instructions will govern if you are unable to actively participate in your medical decision making or communicate your medical wishes.

Health Care Instructions allow you to:

- Designate one or more individuals ("Health Care Representatives") to make medical decisions on your behalf, in accordance with your wishes.
- Authorize your Health Care Representatives to discuss your medical history and current medical status with your physicians.
- Direct the withholding or withdrawing of mechanical life support systems if you are in a persistent vegetative state or the final stages of a terminal illness.
- Name a person to serve as your Conservator (someone to manage your personal or financial matters) if you should ever be deemed incapable by the Probate Court.
- Donate all or part of your body, following your death, for transplantation, therapy, education, or research if you wish to do so.

If you change your mind about any of the decisions you have made, you have the right to change or revoke your Health Care Instructions at any time while you are alive and mentally capable.

We encourage you to take a few moments to consider your health care wishes in observance of the 13th Annual National Health Care Decisions Day. If you are interested in learning more about how to protect your medical rights and medical wishes, please contact the office. We would be glad to meet with you for a no hassle, no charge initial consultation, no matter how long it lasts.



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HEALTH & FITNESS

Proprioception: The 6th Sense of the Body

Balance is a complex thing in life, but in the body it takes on a whole different meaning. We have to balance our heart rate, blood pressure, cholesterol, breathing, and digestion. The most critical thing to balance our body functionally is something most people don't even sense. It's called Proprioception.

Proprioception is our body's innate ability to know where it is in space. Meaning, that our body can sense its own positioning. Seems simple right? It is, until our body experiences trauma, strain, or forbid a debilitating event such as a stroke or surgery.

Our body's 6th Sense is much more complex in how it operates. Ask yourself a question: How do you know your foot hit the ground when you walk? Take it one step further. How do you know you landed in a stable position which will allow you to absorb the impact, assess the change of ground surface under your foot, and know it's safe to load that leg and take your next step? Not so easy is it?

Proprioception works based on our nervous system being able to instantaneously uptake and interpret information and fire a signal back to your muscles with how to respond. Think of how quickly you can walk, run, jump, or climb. Your body has to respond even quicker to create the right response to the ever-changing conditions around you. This is what makes proprioception truly our body's 6th sense.

But proprioception isn't just about signals coming from your feet up. It's also about total body position. How do we know that we are slouching at our desk? What about sensing where your arm is when you're reaching to get the plate out of the upper cabinet?

Our 6th sense has so many far-reaching implications that we cannot function properly without it. Where we see it being the most integral, though, is in our balance. We walk fast, slow, sideways, backwards, and every way in between. But none of that can occur without proprioception.

Now that we know why it's so important, let's look at what affects proprioception. Orthopedic injuries such as sprains, strains, tears, and broken bones can negatively affect this sense. By changing the length tension relationship of different muscles create an opening for muscles to lag in their ability to sustain and create a contraction to stabilize. Ligaments which have been over stretched cannot provide the natural input back to the brain to then engage stabilizing muscles when the joint moves outside of it's normal pattern.

Proprioception is also affected by the combined input of our vestibular system, stretch receptors within the muscles,



Kyle Brandy, MSPT

and our nerves running between our thighs, calves, and ankles/feet. This combined input creates movement strategies to overcome a disturbance in our balance.

Ankle-Knee-Hip Strategy is the way in which our lower back coordinates functional movement of what muscles contract at what time. The old saying "Timing is everything" certainly applies to the way in which our muscles work together to create motion. If your thigh muscles (quadriceps and hamstrings) fire too early it could lead to our toes dragging across the ground and tripping.

Whether you are 1, 21, or 91 years old, proprioception can make or break our ability to move and function. High level athletes need it to stabilize their movement so they can wow us with their athletic prowess. But all of us need it to make sure we don't end up falling over ourselves. Want to get your proprioception "balanced"you have to start with finding out why it's not working properly. That's where we come in. A full head to toe assessment to determine the proper treatment path is the first step. From there, progression of balance related exercises to increase stability will help restore your function and confidence.

For more information or to speak with a therapist about the next step to rebalance your body, call (203) 389-4593. Tap into your 6th sense today!

Kyle Brandy, MSPT, is a Physical Therapist and Partner working in the Woodbridge, CT office at 1 Bradley Rd, Suite 801. A graduate of Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT, Kyle specializes in the treatment of orthopedic and neurological injuries and dysfunction. With over 13 years of experience working with patients from infants and kids to geriatrics and professional athletes, Kyle's approach to treatment is to maximize a person's physical potential through functional evaluation and find the root cause of their dysfunction. He can be reached directly at (203) 389-4593 or visit www.amitypt.com/appointments/ to schedule your evaluation.



Make Your Own Chocolate Easter Bunnies

The Easter bunny is a tradition that has been passed down for centuries. Symbolizing fertility and wealth, the Easter bunny became a holiday standard in Germany during the 16th century.

The custom of chocolate eggs came along centuries after the Easter bunny, originating in the 19th century in France and Germany. As Easter celebrations evolved, chocolate eggs were not the only delicacy; chocolate Easter bunnies also were shared and enjoyed.

While there are scores of mass-produced chocolate bunnies available for purchase, and many local chocolatiers also make Easter bunnies and other sweet treats, families may want to try making their own chocolate Easter bunnies this year. This can be a family-friendly activity that favors togetherness with the promise of a sweet reward.

1. The first step to creating chocolate Easter bunnies is to select the type of chocolate you prefer. Bunnies can be made from white chocolate, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, or even a combination for a marbled effect. Chocolate melts, chips or chocolate couverture are widely available at specialty chocolate and food shops or craft supply stores, according to DoItYourself.com. This simplifies the bunny-making process. Some retailers also may sell bunny-making kits that pair the chocolate melts with the mold in one box for ultimate convenience.

2. Craft stores also have aisles devoted to culinary crafts. Browse to find an Easter bunny mold. Some may sell solid chocolate bunnies or hollow varieties. Choose molds in the desired size, as bunny molds may be large or small.

3. Follow directions to melt chocolate successfully. Some chocolates can be slowly melted in the microwave. A double-boiler method, in which the chocolate is melted in a bowl placed above a pan with boiling water, can help the chocolate melt consistently and prevent it from burning.

4. Pour the chocolate into the mold and gently tap the mold so that it displaces air bubbles and helps the chocolate settle evenly into the design. Allow the chocolate to set up in the refrigerator. If your mold is hollow, you can seal the two halves of the bunny with a little melted chocolate on the seam.

Creativity can be unleashed when making homemade chocolate bunnies. Experiment with adding a few drops of peppermint oil or orange liqueur to customize the flavor. Before sealing hollow bunnies, place peanut butter or raspberry jam inside for a tasty surprise. Use colored candy melts to add colorful eyes or cheeks or to tint the inside of the bunny ears.

For an even more festive effect, seal a lollipop stick in a chocolate bunny and use it to secure the Easter bunny to the top of a cake.

“Letters” From Page 5

as it only addresses the states most economically challenged residents. The state is divided into nine “planning regions” which are comprised of 6 to 38 towns. Woodbridge is in the South Central Region comprised of 15 towns centered around New Haven. OCA has determined the total affordable housing burden for the South Central Region is 26,000 units and that of Woodbridge is 1842.

How does this make sense? Constructing 138,000 housing units throughout Connecticut in the next 20 years will increase the current housing stock by 9%. There is no demand for this additional housing. A study performed by UCONN projects the population of Connecticut to grow by a mere 50,000 people over the next 20 years. That is a need for about 20,000 units. What will happen with the 118,000 empty units once the residents relocate to these new apartments? The 26,000 units required in the South Central Region is more than 50% of the current total housing in New Haven where these financially burdened people most likely reside. This plan will move these people into the surrounding suburbs and leave half of the New Haven homes vacant! New Haven and the other inner cities of Connecticut will become blighted! The homes will become worthless.

Additionally, how do these affordable units address the stated problem? The state’s definition of “affordable housing” is that which is affordable to those earning 60% or less of the State Median Income (SMI). The number of required units in the OCA study is specifically for those people earning only 30% of the SMI or less. They still couldn’t afford these new units without assistance, as I’m sure they are receiving now.

What is the real purpose of this proposal? How does building more apartments change the current situation? It appears the goal of this effort is not to alleviate anyone’s financial burden, but rather to diversify the suburbs at the expense of blighting the inner cities, stressing infrastructure, lowering property values and raising taxes for all involved. The current proposal for 1842 units in Woodbridge is not justified.

If it is determined that the town is not compliant with the state statutes for affordable housing which is 10% of the total stock, then a careful plan should be formulated involving the residents and town officials to meet requirements with minimal impact

on the town’s character and resources.
Lou Ruotolo

Vote to Protect Country Club Land

We have a rare chance to do two great things for Woodbridge. We can help overburdened taxpayers by returning the Country Club of Woodbridge clubhouse to the tax rolls and, at the same time, preserve and protect a magnificent New England landscape of 147 acres. How? With town residents deciding in a referendum the following question:

“Shall the town of Woodbridge pass an ordinance that requires the sale of the former CCW clubhouse and surrounding five acres of developed land for re-use as a restaurant and banquet facility, and create a park of the remaining 147 acres, to be protected in perpetuity as town-owned open space? Yes or no.”

Our bet is the answer will be an overwhelming “yes”. It’s a win for taxpayers and a win for those who want that scenic tract protected.

Unlike previous development proposals, the clubhouse re-use as a banquet and meeting facility shouldn’t be controversial and requires no zone change; it was the building’s use for sixty years.

A conservation easement on the balance of the property will permanently protect it from development. Current and future generations will enjoy it for hiking, biking, dog walking, bird watching, sunset and star gazing, meditation, nature studies, sledding, skating, skiing, fishing, picnicking, and agriculture (a mix of favored uses from a range of people).

Is there a greater thing that we can leave for posterity than our town’s version of a national park?

As decreed by our town charter (“Not less than 150 members of the Town Meeting may, at any time, petition over their personal signatures for the enactment of any proposed lawful ordinance ... by filing such petition, including the complete text of such ordinance, with the Town Clerk.” That petition will be circulated soon, and as per our charter, the “Board of Selectmen shall call for a referendum ... If a majority of the persons voting at such referendum shall vote ‘yes’ then such ordinance shall take effect.”

We have a pathway to taxpayer relief and protecting the land. A petition will circulate soon to start the process.
Paul DeCoster, William Silberberg, James Urbano, Susan Israel, Chris Dickerson, Donald Menzies, James Hubbard

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Buddy Degennaro Affiliates With Coldwell Banker Realty

Coldwell Banker Realty in Connecticut is pleased to announce that Woodbridge native and resident Buddy DeGennaro has affiliated with the Woodbridge office. As an affiliated real estate agent, DeGennaro will provide residential real estate services in New Haven County as well as the surrounding communities. DeGennaro brings with him 30+ years of experience in the real estate industry.

“We are thrilled that Buddy has joined our amazing Coldwell Banker family. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our team” said Aileen DeFeo, Branch Vice President of the Woodbridge and Orange offices. “It’s our #1 market share, technology, senior leadership, and great agents that attracted Buddy to join us, and he is going to make a great team even better!”

DeGennaro has earned many awards for his sales success. He constantly strives to build his professional skill set to provide exceptional service to clients. DeGennaro is a member of National Association of Realtors, the Connecticut Association of Realtors, as well as the New Haven Middlesex

Board of Realtors and the SMARTMLS. He is active in his community as a former member of the Woodbridge Town Planning and Zoning Commission, a member and past president of the Woodbridge Rotary Club and a former member and coach of Bethwood Baseball. A parishioner of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, DeGennaro enjoys golf, skiing and fishing. DeGennaro and his wife Mary live in Woodbridge with their three children, Louis, Jackie and Claire.

“Nothing is more exciting to me,” says Buddy, “than the gratifying feeling I get from helping people meet their real estate needs. You can always count on me to do what is in my client’s best interest. I pride myself on being honest, trustworthy and knowledgeable in the current real estate trends. I know how important it is to find your dream home or get the most money for your property. It is my responsibility to help you achieve your goals. Let my experience work for you.”

Buddy DeGennaro can be reached at 203-710-2548 or at buddy.degennaro@cbrealty.com. Welcome!

DEATH NOTICES

Rita Gilman Gedansky

Rita Gilman Gedansky, 88, former long-time member of the Amity Board of Education, passed away unexpectedly at home on March 15, 2021. She was a resident of Woodbridge.

Rita was born October 31, 1932 in Paterson, NJ daughter of the late Paul and Sadie (Atkins) Gilman. She graduated from Eastside High School in Paterson and Syracuse University where she also earned a Master’s Degree in Education. It was there that she met the love of her life Stanley Gedansky on a blind date to a Syracuse Football game which led to an incredible 66-year marriage. Rita was a devoted wife to Stan and together they were true partners in everything they did. Family was Rita’s calling, as a mother; she was the loudest and most positive supporter of her children and their friends. Her home was always open for a good time, a hot meal, endless snacks and even long-term stays when needed. She was always willing to listen and offer sound and encouraging advice. She made her home the center for family meals and holiday celebrations where her motto was “the more people the better” and there was always more than enough food to go around. Rita loved to spend time with her grandchildren and kvelled at their academic accomplishments proudly cheering at their recognition ceremonies and graduations. She beamed with pride at their dance recitals, swim meets, soccer games, track meets, baseball and softball games. Rita was always up for an outing with family and loved to ask “what restaurant should we go to on Saturday night?” Summers found Rita socializing and soaking up the sun around the pool. She and Stan loved to watch UConn Men and Women’s basketball, attending many games when they were able.

Together, Rita and Stan were long time members of the Amity Athletics Booster Club where they raised considerable funds through their renowned youth basketball tournament which they ran tirelessly for 34 years. Behind the concession stand Rita kept everything moving smoothly and offered up one of the best hot dogs around. Their devotion was recognized with their induction into the Amity

Athletics Hall of Fame in 2000. Rita was an educator for most of her adult life and was a much beloved teacher at Amity Middle School Bethany for 15 years where she made Medieval History come alive. She was named Amity’s Teacher of the Year in 1991. She was constantly recognized in the community by former students and they remembered her for her inspiration in the classroom and her support of all of their endeavors. After retirement she continued to serve the Amity District for 14 years as an elected member of the Board of Education where she was a staunch supporter of Amity’s Students, Athletes, Teachers and Coaches. Volunteerism was second nature for Rita and in addition to the above service she also lent her time to the early Woodbridge Father’s Baseball League and many other community organizations.

In addition to her husband Rita is survived by her loving children Steven Gedansky of Arlington, TX, Susan Kelly of Bethany, Matthew Gedansky of Tolland and Beth (Ken) Young of Bethany and much adored grandchildren Natalie and Rachel Gedansky, Cheyann and Dakota Kelly and Carly, Jordan and Zachary Young. She was predeceased by her eldest grandchild Brian Gedansky and her son-in-law Jerry Kelly. She is also survived by her dear brother and sister-in-law Sidney (Buddy) and Linda Gilman of Little Falls, NJ and her brothers-in-law David Gedansky and Lewis (Joan) Gedansky of FL and their families.

We are forever grateful to her caregivers Dawn, Kim, Lorraine, Danielle, Deidra, Kay and A’Zsha who have provided loving care to both her and Stan.

Due to COVID restrictions burial and Shiva will be private. The Robert E. Shure & Son Funeral Home, New Haven is in care of Arrangements. A scholarship in Rita’s name has been set up to be given to a graduating senior each year. Memorial contributions can be made in her memory to Amity Regional High School, 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525, Attention Rita Gedansky Scholarship. To sign an online registry book, leave a message of condolence or watch the funeral service, please log onto www.shurefuneralhome.com.

DEATH NOTICES

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

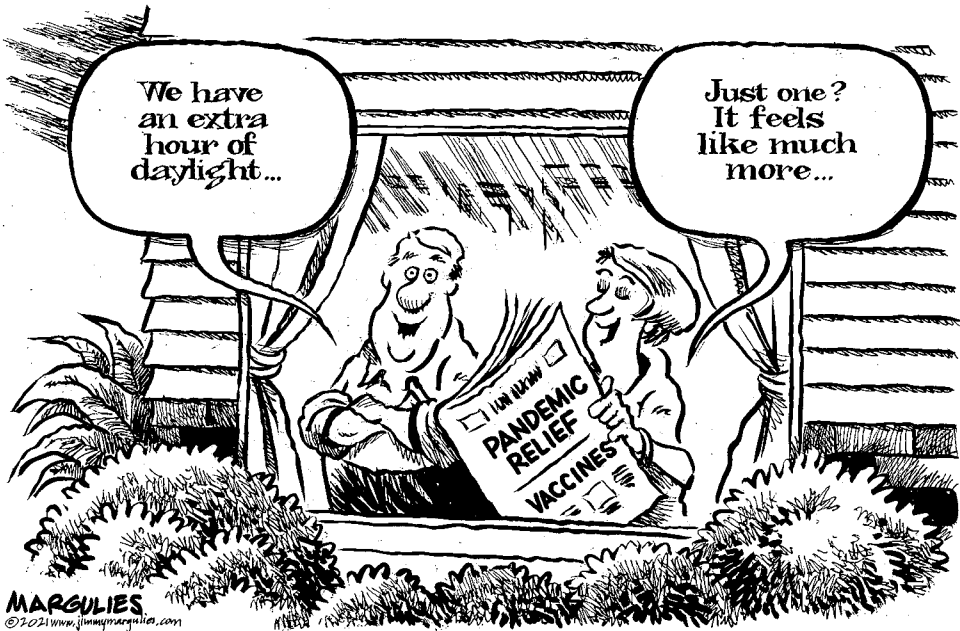
Woodbridge Club Opens Its 75th Season

The Woodbridge Club, an outdoor pool and tennis club on 10 Millhaven Road, is celebrating its 75th season this year. The club will be hosting an open house on April 24, from 9am-12pm. In celebration of the 75th anniversary, it is offering a \$75 initiation fee (for a short time only) to new members. This savings of up to \$1425 is offered up until May 1.

The club offers its members many activities to choose from year-round, whether swimming, diving, tennis, so-

cializing, or any combination thereof. The 7-court tennis facility is managed by one of the top tennis professionals in Connecticut, Chris Raffone. The newly renovated 25-meter pool is managed by one of the most sought after club professionals in New Haven county, Anthony Taddei. The pool offers swimming lessons and swim/dive teams.

To schedule a tour, call 203.397.2582 and leave a message; or email office@thewoodbridgeclub.org.



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Holy Week Celebrates The Origins Of The Eucharist

The Eucharist is a central component of the Christian faith. During the Eucharistic celebration, the sharing of bread and wine, which many Christians believe symbolizes the actual body and blood of Christ after the process of transubstantiation, takes place.

The Easter season is a key time to reflect on the origins of sharing communion and the Eucharist. Church teaching and Biblical study says the origin of the Eucharist occurred at the Last Supper of Jesus, which is commemorated on Holy Thursday. According to the religious resource The Catholic Tradition, the Last Supper in the New Testament set the course for the tenets of the Christian faith. Christian liturgies exist

because Jesus Christ told people to do what he had done, in memory of him.

The most detailed account of the first sharing of the Eucharist is found in St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, which predates the Gospels. St. Paul 1 Corinthians, Chapter 11, offers nearly verbatim the terminology used in today's Apostolic liturgy. St. Paul's words read:

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and giving thanks, broke, and said: Take ye, and eat: This is My Body, which shall be delivered for you: this do for the commemoration of Me.

In like manner also the chalice, after He had supped, saying: This chalice is the new testament in My Blood: this do ye, as often as you shall drink, for the commemoration of Me. For as often as you shall eat this Bread, and drink the Chalice, you shall show the death of the Lord, until He come.

Jesus and his disciples gathered on the first day of Passover for the Last Supper. In addition to sharing food and wine, Jesus explained that one in their midst would betray Him and another would deny knowing Him.

Jesus also explained to the disciples how the bread was a symbol of his body and would be broken for them. In addition, the wine was a symbol

for his blood and would be poured out for their sins to be forgiven, indicates Bible Study Tools. Additional Christian traditions which emerged during the Last Supper include the washing of feet. Jesus washed his disciples' feet as an example to be servants to all.

From the Last Supper on, faithful Christians follow the guidance of Jesus Christ, and the Eucharist is the central component of masses within many Christian churches. Keeping this feast renews repentance and people's faith in Jesus' blood and sacrifice.

Easter is an opportunity to dive deeper into the Christian faith and the meanings behind the tenets of Christianity.



Todd Sasso and Stephanie Ciarleglio visit the gravesite of Lent Sperry, one of the earliest Woodbridge residents, at East Side Cemetery.

New Stone Commemorates A Forefather

Todd Sasso, East Side Cemetery superintendent, has been repairing and replacing historic headstones in the cemetery. He is shown with a stone for Lent Sperry, who died November 23, 1823, and whose stone had been damaged and lost over time.

The location for the replacement stone was determined by using the Hale and Baldwin records for the East Side cemetery. Sasso sourced the bluestone for the replacement from a construction site on Hancock

Avenue in Bridgeport. It was to be removed and discarded during the reconstruction of the old Columbia Phonograph Co. into Cherry Street Loft Apartments.

John Nolan of Nolan Monuments in Hamden did the engraving. The whole project was funded and donated by Stephanie Ciarleglio and Todd Sasso. The new stone was installed in the cemetery on March 12. Sasso also re-installed a few other stones in need of repair.

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“Stadium” From Page 1

the state of Connecticut.”

A district-wide referendum in December 2019 provided the funding for the project, with residents in Bethany and Orange voting in favor, but Woodbridge residents did not. In fact, a group of them — who preferred not to be identified — sought a moratorium to allow both the state and the federal authorities to pass their own PFAS regulations before the project is allowed to go forward. In December they withdrew the lawsuit, reportedly for a lack of money.

Last July, the Zoning Commission had granted the district the permit “subject to the condition that any existing warranty between the Amity Regional School District #5 Board of Education and Field Turf shall memorialize the guarantee in the letter dated October 25, 2019, from Darren Gill, senior vice president of Marketing & Innovation of Field Turf that states, ‘We are aware of media reports around the potential presence of trace amounts of PFAS chemicals in some artificial turf fields. In light of these reports, we have worked closely with our supplier of artificial turf filaments to verify that our products do not contain those chemicals. Our supplier has confirmed that their products are free of PFAS, PFOs and fluorine. We care deeply about the safety of our surfaces and those who use them and we will continue to vigilantly monitor our products to ensure that they remain free of these substances.’”

Zoning Enforcement Officer Kristine Sullivan has since confirmed that she has received the warranty, and will present it to the Zoning Commission at its regular meeting April 5 to determine that it meets the condition of the permit.

When asked about the issue of groundwater protection, and whether it had been considered for this permit, Sullivan said groundwater protection is under the purview of the Zoning Commission, while the Inland-Wetlands Agency’s concern is surface water. When the application was presented to Inland-Wetlands last spring, they found the stadium field to be outside

the 100-foot upland review area, and hence outside its purview.

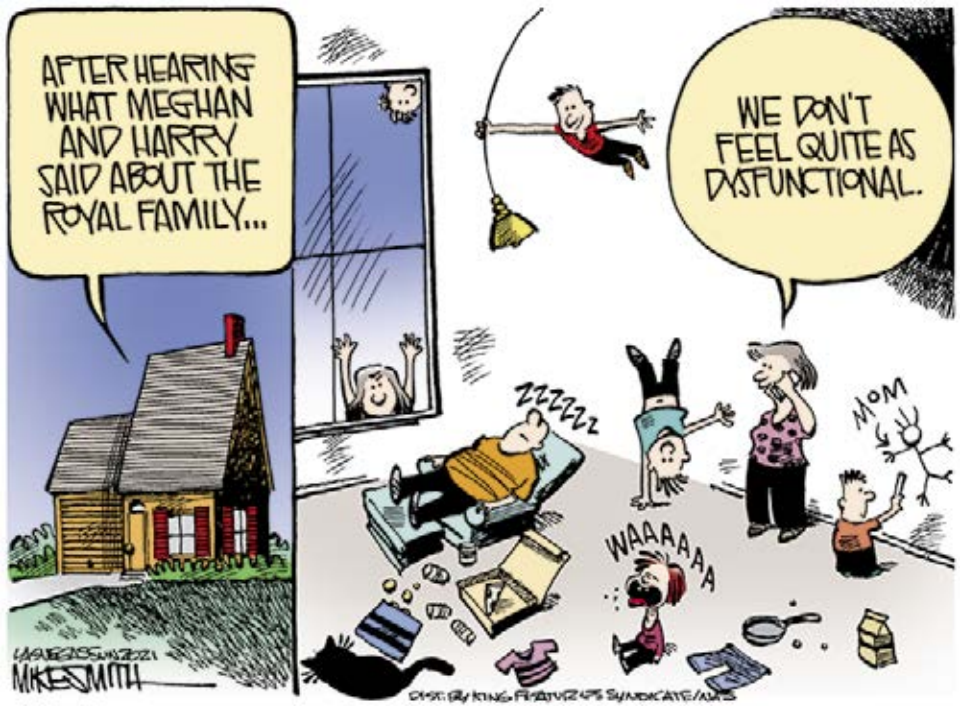
In a letter to the athletic community, Dr. Byars said the district was determined to advance the construction timeline “in an effort to complete the project prior to the TPZ approval expiration in July 2021 and to further ensure that the facility will be ready for school sports in the fall.” She said although the district could request an extension on the TPZ approval, if necessary, “we cannot be certain about such a result.”

The Woodbridge Conservation Commission, meanwhile, has expressed its own concerns regarding the installation of a crumb rubber field. The commission sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen and the Amity district, asking them to halt construction until the Environmental Protection Agency completes its research on PFAS chemicals. Commission Chairman Jason Morrill used DEEP maps which show the area as an endangered species habitat. The map did not identify which species, and he submitted a request for clarification to DEEP.

Morrill also expressed frustration over the fact that the Conservation Commission was not informed of the pending application when the town was first approached. He only became aware of it when construction vehicles started showing up near the high school track.

Opponents of artificial turf meanwhile have asked the town to adopt an ordinance prohibiting the use of such materials. The Ordinance Committee, a subcommittee of the Board of Selectmen, has looked at two potential ordinances, one prohibiting only man-made materials, while the other also prohibits some organic alternatives such as cork. They kicked the issue back to the Board of Selectmen for discussion at its regular meeting April 14.

Town Counsel Jerry Weiner stated at a meeting of the Ordinance Committee that any such ordinance, if adopted, would not be retroactive and would not affect the construction under way. If the selectmen want to proceed with any one of the proposed ordinances, they will schedule a hearing for the public to weigh in.



Easter Centerpiece Ideas To Beautify The Table

Easter is a springtime holiday that marks a prime opportunity to cast off the remnants of winter weather and dress a home in bright, colorful hues.

Come Easter, tulips and daffodils may be sprouting, lilies are on display in churches and many other spring touches are incorporated into home decor. Celebrants who will be hosting their families or more intimate Easter gatherings can extend the eye-catching improvements to the dining table. Easter centerpieces are a prime way to add color and ambiance to interior designs.

Here's a look at various ways to decorate the table for Easter celebrations.

Carrot-filled container: Embrace an Easter bunny theme by hanging a bundle of carrots inside a glass vase or bowl and topping with orange, yellow and other spring-themed flowers and greenery.

Pussy willow basket: Weave pussy willow stems into a basket shape or braid them together to make a ring. Then fill with colored Easter eggs or flower petals.

Nested flowers: Purchase a wooden or wicker basket and weave or glue small twigs onto it. This will give it the look of a natural bird's nest, which is one of the markers of the spring season. The nest can cradle spring blooms, such as tulips, or hold Easter eggs.

Easter bunny garden: Fill a shallow ceramic bowl with floral design moss or another green filler. Place a

gold-foil chocolate bunny or a ceramic rabbit in the center and put small tea-light candles and a small glass canister of pastel-colored candy eggs to complete the picture.

Take a 'peep': Marshmallow Peeps® are an Easter staple and they can have a place outside of Easter baskets. Line a small vase with Peeps. Place cut flowers inside for a festive centerpiece.

Rainy day decor: April showers bring May flowers. Put that sentiment on display by purchasing an inexpensive pair of brightly colored rubber rain boots. Place cut fresh tulips into narrow glass vases and then slip the vases inside of the boots for a festive and funny table conversation piece.

Floating flowers: Poke the stem of a flower into a square of bubble wrap. Place into a small fishbowl filled with water and watch the flowers float on top. Tint the water a pastel hue if desired.

Painted pinecone bouquet: If you have pine cones left over from Christmas decorations or a pile that the kids may have collected from the yard, paint them in bright colors for an Easter makeover. Place in the container of your choice and add some faux or real greenery to complete the bouquet picture.

Dining tables can be incorporated into Easter decor. There are many different creative options for crafting centerpieces guests will adore.

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