

Woodbridge Town News



Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper

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FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022

Amity Referendum Set for May 3

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

People who have questions about the Amity budget for the 2022-23 school year can follow the presentation at the District Annual Meeting on Monday, May 2, at 5:30 p.m. in the presentation room at the District offices in Woodbridge. School Supt., Dr. Jennifer Byars, will present the budget, but there will be no vote taken at that time. As is customary, the vote will be by referendum the next day, on Tuesday, May 3, in the three member towns. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the regular voting locations.

The district, which includes Amity High School and the two middle schools, one in Bethany, the other in Orange, is requesting a \$53.7 million budget, which represents a 3.99 percent increase over this year's, an increase of just over \$2 million. According to the superintendent, the increase is due in large part to increases in salaries and benefits (+\$1 million and \$622,000, respectively); a \$278,500 increase in transportation costs; \$183,500 in special education increases and a \$32,500 increase in liability insurance.

The budget adds 7.2 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to the three schools, namely a special education teacher and a mental health clinician; two digital media teachers at the middle schools; a new position to facilitate diversity, equity and inclusion into the curriculum; one cybertechnology specialist and one additional security guard at the high school.

Broken down per member town,

based on their respective number of students, Orange will see a \$1.3 million increase (\$26,575,116 total); Woodbridge will see a \$921,000 increase (\$17,197,401 total) while Bethany's allocation will barely change at all (\$8,988,339 total).

The Amity Board of Education, after initially entertaining a 4.9% increase, agreed with the recommendation of the Amity Finance Committee (AFC) to cut back the Medical Reserve and thereby arrive at an overall budget increase of 3.99 percent. The AFC consists of two representatives of each member town – one typically from the town's Board of Finance, the other a member of the ABOE.

The total number of students that this budget is based on is 2,166, a decrease of 68 students from this year. The budget document posted on the District website (<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1648047146/amityregion5org/ntmshdlmq2z-jzplsuoy/BoardofEducationApproved-Budget2022-2023.pdf>) provides an explanation for staff increases in spite of an overall smaller student body. Total staff went from 318.7 to 329 FTE positions, or a net increase of 10.3 over the past five-year period. The increase came primarily to increase security, pupil services, special education and technology.

In response to questions from the Board of Education members, the district spelled out considerations when it comes to staffing levels. Those factors include:

See "Budget" On Page 23



Housing Plan Is Taking Shape

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Some 25 interested residents were in attendance at an informational meeting on housing in town, a meeting conducted on Wednesday, March 30, by the Woodbridge Housing Opportunity Study Committee. It took place in the Vine Family Auditorium at the Woodbridge JCC. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the housing info the committee has collected over the past year or so and to engage the residents in a conversation about housing needs in Woodbridge, and, more specifically, the lack of affordable housing.

The Housing Opportunity Committee is tasked to come up with a plan which might help increase the availability of affordable housing at a time when home prices as well as rental prices are spiking. The state has mandated all towns to come up with a plan that gets them closer to the 10% goal of affordable housing.

In Woodbridge some 1.27% of homes are considered affordable. Kristine Sullivan, the town's Zoning Enforcement Officer, said in 2020, 44 properties were identified as affordable, mainly by way of government mortgage assistance provided to the

residents. The largest concentration is along Lucy Street.

The town is under pressure from several sides simultaneously when it comes to housing opportunities. In addition to the state requiring all towns to take an active role in working out a plan that will put them on the path of increased housing opportunities, Woodbridge in particular last year faced the Open Communities Alliance zoning application, which requested to allow multi-family housing at 2 Orchard Road, as well as suggested to open the whole town to multi-family housing.

The Zoning Commission at the time made watershed protection the guiding principle of its decision. Properties along water and/or sewer lines – now referred to as "the infrastructure" – are allowed to be developed with greater density than those that are not along those lines. That includes the Country Club of Woodbridge property, which has access to an existing sewer line running along Ansonia and Woodfield roads.

Zoning regs also changed in terms of accessory buildings, which are now allowed throughout the town. Sullivan

See "Housing Plan" On Page 9

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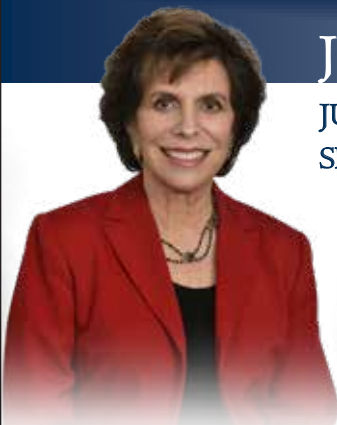
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This custom cape offers a versatile floor plan on an open & level 3.68-acre corner lot with woods & pond.

- ◆ 2,188 square feet
- ◆ 3 Beds, 2.5 Baths
- ◆ Open concept combination living & dining room w/ hardwood flooring was just painted
- ◆ Eat-in country kitchen w/ island, pantry, wood fireplace, & granite countertops
- ◆ Primary bedroom on main level w/ vaulted ceiling, slider to deck, & dressing room w/ access to share main level bathroom
- ◆ Large family room w/ cathedral skylit ceiling
- ◆ Walk-out, partially finished lower level with guest bedroom, office & half bathroom
- ◆ Rear deck overlooking large open yard & pond







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I encourage all residents to attend the Town’s Preliminary Budget Hearing on Monday, April 18 at 7:30 pm at the Firehouse (100 Center Road). At this hearing residents are invited to make comments or ask questions about the budget. Following the hearing the Board of Finance meets and may adjust the budget before it is presented to the Annual Town Meeting in May.

Under normal circumstances we would hold a meeting of this size in the Center Building Gym. However, there is no ventilation in that room and meeting in the Firehouse with the bay doors open is a much safer option.

Our annual budget reflects our shared values and is a balancing act of our commitments to provide excellent education for our children and show our respect to taxpayers by careful budgeting and responsible spending on essential Town services. You will receive a budget summary in the mail, but I encourage you to also visit our website where you can view the Town’s new interactive budget. This tool should help residents better understand our finances and budget.

The end of our fiscal year is a time when I reflect on what we’ve accomplished over the last year and what we are hoping for in the coming year.

This year’s budget process has been extremely challenging. Our budget crisis is caused by a long-term revenue problem. Expenses continue to grow, but our revenues remain stagnant. Our challenges stem from decisions made over many, many years to restrict residential and commercial zoning and to conserve open space, which has left us little room for any growth.

New and diverse revenue is critical to continue to fund our high-quality education and other important Town services.

Last year I created the “2030 Task Force”, which was charged with seeking ways to create a healthier, robust Grand List by 2030. Recently, this ad hoc committee presented a proposal to the Board of Selectmen to hire a planner to improve the business district. I am hopeful that a more attractive and pedestrian friendly business district will attract more businesses and consumers.

I have also created a subcommittee of the Board of Selectmen – both Selectmen Sheila McCreven and David Vogel agreed to serve – to create a Strategic Plan to help direct the Board’s

From the First Selectman BY BETH HELLER



priorities for the future. Financial stability is a major pillar of that plan, and we will soon have ideas on how to move us toward that goal. I anticipate sharing a draft plan at next month’s Annual Town Meeting.

Another way in which we are working toward a stronger financial future is by getting municipal waste costs under control. Currently we pay \$65.75 per ton to dispose of Town trash. Our contract with Wheelabrator runs through 2024. It is estimated that when our contract is due to be renewed, we could be paying twice that amount. We are working now to divert waste in preparation of these increases.

In the past few years, we have purchased and installed a scale at the Transfer Station and instituted a tip fee for private haulers. All our neighboring towns charge haulers to bring trash to their transfer station, but in the past Woodbridge did not. The tip fee covers the Town’s cost of transporting and disposing of our municipal waste.

Additionally, this year, the Board of Selectmen instituted a fee for disposal of bulky waste, such as furniture and appliances.

Just last month we also applied for a state grant that would help us institute a pilot program to further reduce household waste. If we are awarded the grant, the Town will invite interested residents to opt-in to a program that limits the number of trash bags residents can use and will include curbside food waste pickup. Other towns that have tried this program have seen significant savings due to a reduction in trash.

We have and always will place a high value on public education of our Town’s children, both at the Beecher Road School for grades pre-K through six, and in the Amity Regional District schools for grades 7 through 12.

Our budget continues to fund the resources that are necessary to ensure the outstanding quality of our school programs and support the teachers and staff members at Beecher. Furthermore, the Town and Beecher administration continue to collaborate, consolidate services, and find ways to share costs.

We are looking carefully at addi-

tional ways to save taxpayer money while maintaining top-quality, locally controlled educational services to all Woodbridge children. I am proud that, despite our sometimes-differing viewpoints, we always work together amicably. I thank both Boards of Education for working so hard to achieve what is best for our students and our taxpayers.

The State of Connecticut has mandated a benchmark which requires 10% of all housing in each municipality be “affordable.” Currently, only 1.18 percent of Woodbridge homes qualify as affordable. It is our Town’s obligation to provide housing which is not exclusionary and is affordable.

Our Ad Hoc Housing Opportunity Study Committee is hard at work on an Affordable Housing Plan due to the State by June 1. This plan should help us find ways to move toward that 10% benchmark.

In 2020 the Town’s zoning laws were challenged. A zoning application alleged that our regulations were exclusionary, resulting in a lack of diversity in our population. Last year, in response, our Town Plan and Zoning commissioners did a thoughtful and excellent job balancing the need to provide multi-family and affordable housing with environmental concerns. Woodbridge Zoning Regulations now allow multiple housing units in residential areas, and more density is now allowed in areas with sewer and public water.

I have been focusing on funding quality-of-life improvements without increasing the tax burden. This year I have secured more than \$3 million in State grant funding – \$2 million to renovate the Old Firehouse, \$425,000 total for the Senior Center renovations and \$600,000 for sidewalks and pedestrian improvements in the Town Center.

The Old Firehouse building was damaged in a fire in 2006. Using insurance proceeds and a STEAP grant we completed design-neutral but necessary upgrades to the building, including a new roof and upgraded mechanicals. These new \$2 million in State funds will finalize the project and convert the empty building in a community center for use by all residents

with recreation and leisure programs and room rental for community organizations and individuals.

I am also hopeful that construction will begin this summer on the renovations to the Woodbridge Senior Center. This project is a result of years of planning and will help our seniors to remain healthy and engaged, which is of course, a critical goal for our aging population.

This winter we earned a nearly \$600,000 Department of Transportation grant to install sidewalks connecting Amity Regional High School to the Town Center and to upgrade the asphalt sidewalk that goes around the library lawn.

These three projects together move the needle on our Town Center Campus Beautification Plan which envisions making our Town Center Campus a more beautiful, inviting, welcoming, safe and pedestrian-friendly space. Remaining projects in the Beautification Plan include additional outdoor seating, updated signage and improvements to the Center Gym.

This year we also finalized the Town’s first bike route, paid for by a campaign of private donations matched by a grant – thank you to all the donors!

Woodbridge has received \$2.6 million through the federal American Rescue Plan Act. This is once-in-a-generation funding opportunity, and I strongly believe it should be used for once-in-a-generation, transformational projects. The Board of Selectmen will come up with a list of suggested projects and then ask you, the public, for feedback. Following that feedback the Board will decide our funding priorities for Woodbridge.

Some ideas contemplate using these funds to make improvements to the business district, adding ventilation to the Center Building so we can safely return to holding meetings and events in the Gym. I would also like to add a pavilion to the library lawn so that outdoor events have a covered space. I would also like to upgrade our aging playgrounds and/or make investments to the aging irrigation systems at our ballfields. These are just some of the ideas that have been presented to the Board of Selectmen.

I want to express my gratitude to ALL the residents of Woodbridge who have taken the time to reach out to me by phone, text, or email these past few years.

“The willingness to sacrifice is the prelude to freedom. The first step in the struggle to lift the yoke of bondage must be marked with the blood of idealism— of idealistic men and women who are willing to make the sacrifice that the realization of freedom requires. Liberty is not achieved by complacency; it is not won without suffering the scars of battle. It is accomplished by selflessness and sacrifice; it is won by courageous action.” — ALFRED J. KOLATCH

Top Ten* Reasons Why Selling Public Land to Arbor Haven is a BAD DEAL for Woodbridge

*Part 2. Top Ten Reasons Part 1 appeared in the last edition of this paper.



Woodbridge's First Selectman persists in promoting a massive housing development at the former Country Club of Woodbridge (CCW) that will destroy irreplaceable open space and, long term, cost taxpayers millions of dollars for increased education and other town services. Arbor Haven's spin on the finances does not add up because:

- Revenue figures are inflated and not guaranteed
- School costs are under-estimated
- Other governmental costs are ignored
- Beecher Road School is already at its enrollment limit
- Taxes will not decrease

In case you need other reasons to oppose a sale to Arbor Haven, here are five more:

✓ **Woodbridge zoning now allows 15 homes per acre "by right" at CCW site:** Zoning regulations were radically changed last year in the wake of the multifamily housing application for 2 Orchard Road. If the Town relinquishes ownership of the CCW land, it also relinquishes the ability to control the future of that property. Arbor Haven has submitted a proposal for 145 homes, but if the Town sells the developer 100 acres, nothing could stop them from changing their proposal and building as many as 1500 homes under the new zoning rules or flipping the property to a new owner, who would be free to develop it in any way allowed by zoning.

✓ **Woodbridge's own analysis shows high cost of residential development:** Prior Town leaders have always understood that tax revenue from residential development will never exceed the expenses created by new homes. An analysis by consultants Milone & MacBroom commissioned by the town in 2014 to evaluate proposals by Toll Brothers estimated that 65 homes on the CCW would produce a \$500,000 annual deficit for the town. Why is this previously accepted fact being ignored now?

✓ **Open space produces proven economic benefits:** While the environmental, recreational, and quality of life benefits of open space preservation are obvious, the many economic benefits are less broadly understood. All the independent data show that open space creates a financial gain and residential development creates a financial loss for towns. This is one of the reasons that towns in Connecticut are purchasing open space, rather than selling it for development. (See Thomas DiNapoli, New York State Comptroller, "Economic Benefits of Open Space Preservation," and Highstead Foundation, Redding, CT., "The Economic Case for Conservation.")

✓ **Remaining "Open Space" not usable:** Arbor Haven has proposed purchasing the entire 155-acre parcel and "gifting" about 50 acres back to the town as "Open Space." This is no gift. Most of the 50 acres are unusable since they are adjacent to the parkway or the cell tower, or so steep and rocky as to be impractical for development or recreation. This "gift" provides a self-serving way for Arbor Haven to get a large tax deduction and avoid annual taxes on the "gifted" land.

✓ **Affordable housing goals not met:** The First Selectman tries to portray the Arbor Haven proposal as a cure-all for the town's affordable housing goals. In fact, it's not even a good start. Arbor Haven's proposal provides a very small number of legally affordable homes compared to a huge number of UNAFFORDABLE homes. It makes virtually no progress toward the 10% goal, since it increases the overall number of high-priced homes in town by so many. New zoning regulations enacted last year encourage increased density and permit multifamily units throughout the town. Thus, affordable housing can be integrated into existing neighborhoods without sacrificing public open space land.

Woodbridge, we can do better!

Residential growth creates profits for developers, it never has and never will be profitable for towns that must provide education, public safety, roads, library, recreational programs, and general government services for residents. Instead of chasing this fool's gold, the First Selectman should engage in a proactive, comprehensive planning process that incorporates the input of all town residents.

From the Democratic
Town Committee

BY ELLEN SCALETTAR

Hello, Woodbridge Residents!

I am the newly elected Chair of the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee, a role I am excited to fulfill, not only with my colleagues in the Democratic Party, but with all Woodbridge residents who share our values and our goals for our Town.

In this first column, I will focus on Democrats’ strong commitment to Civic participation, a cornerstone of our democracy, and one of our great strengths in Woodbridge. Civic participation, of course, includes voting. Our voters turn out in large numbers, especially in presidential elections. Civic participation also includes volunteer activities: we have hundreds of volunteers serving on Town boards and commissions, as well as on the Boards of local and national non-profit organizations.

An important opportunity for civic participation that is less widely recognized is provided for in our Town Charter: the Town’s Preliminary Budget Hearing. That hearing is coming up in just a few days. I encourage all Woodbridge residents to attend the Preliminary Budget Hearing on Monday, April 18th at 7PM at the Firehouse.

At the hearing, the Town’s Finance Director will provide an overview of our budget process and explain the Preliminary Budget that has been approved by the Woodbridge Board of Finance (of which I am a member). A summary of the Preliminary Budget is mailed to all Woodbridge residences prior to the hearing. Also, this year the Finance Director will demonstrate the new interactive budget tool that the Finance Department has adopted and can be found on the Town website: woodbridgect.org.

In addition to the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen, representatives of all Town departments will be available to answer questions about their department budgets, including any specific line item. Soon after the hearing, the Board of Finance will meet to determine whether or not changes

to the Preliminary Budget are warranted as a result of the issues raised and discussed at the hearing. The Board of Finance will then adopt a final budget for approval at the Annual Town Meeting, which will be on May 16th this year.

It is said that government budgets reflect our values and priorities. This is certainly true in Woodbridge where approximately 2/3 of our budget funds our schools: Beecher Road School and the Amity Regional Schools. The involvement of Woodbridge parents with the schools is another example of the high level of Civic participation in our Town.

Another upcoming opportunity for Civic participation is the celebration of Earth Day on Saturday, April 23 from 10 AM - 1 PM at The Grove and the Library Lawn. There will be a tag sale, book sale and more. Further details can be found on the Town’s website homepage: woodbridgect.org.

Woodbridge has been a leader in doing its part to create an environmentally sustainable planet for future generations to enjoy. Examples include, taking advantage of solar opportunities (including the solar array on Beecher Road School), restricting the use of pesticides on Town property, installing electric car charging stations, supporting the Massaro Community Organic Farm, converting all municipal street lights and lighting in many Town buildings to LED lighting, and more.

In celebrating Earth Day, we are part of what is “widely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world, marked by more than a billion people every year as a day of action to change human behavior and create global, national and local policy changes” (earthday.org).

If you are interested in learning more about the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee, please get in touch with us by email: woodbridgeCTdems@gmail.com or visit our website: woodbridgeCTdems.org.



Other Side of the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE
WRTC CHAIRMAN

Minority Representation Should Still Be Able to Represent

Since Selectmen David Lober (U) and David Vogel (R) took office in July 2021, there has been an extremely undemocratic methodology to how our Woodbridge government operates. I hesitate to use the phrase “cancel culture” because that would imply ideas have been considered, then dismissed. Many of the ideas “the Davids” have looked to bring before the Board of Selectmen (BOS) never saw the light of day due to the political tactics of the majority. Multiple times they tried to amend a meeting’s agenda so as to allow discussion of an important issue, and the majority selectmen refused even to allow discussion to proceed.

It’s important for all Woodbridge voters to know how the majority party has shut down the attempt to simply bring ideas for better governance to the table. Whether you were among the 48% who voted Republican last May or the 52% who voted Democratic, it’s important to realize that past collegiality toward the minority has been discarded in favor of a strict “it’s our way or the highway” approach to town affairs. Yes, we have a representative form of government and majority rules, but I think it fair to assume most residents prefer respectful and robust discussion to a Washington-D.C-style partisan political environment. Meaningful, collegial discussion at the Selectman level, with reliance upon the expertise of key Boards and Commissions and opportunity for public comment, is the most effective way to identify issues in their early stages when they can be more effectively managed. It would be great if Woodbridge was run that way.

In October of last year David Vogel tried to raise the issue of moving our elections from May to November. The change was to occur automatically as a result of a few paragraphs in a multi-hundred-page state bill unless our BOS voted to keep our elections in May. There were reasonable points to be publicly considered. The issue was summarily shut down – not even put on the agenda – and the option for Woodbridge to opt-out of the change was never vetted publicly, as it should have been. The change was enacted without any justification.

In November the minority representatives tried to promote the creation of a Build-Out Analysis showing the potential impacts of recent zoning changes on the town. The simple concept was to get an accurate assessment of the types of homes and highest density possible in town under the new

rules. This would be a sensible foundation for approaching the affordable housing challenges we face. Was there any discussion of this idea? No.

And who could forget the joint offer from the Woodbridge Land Trust and Woodbridge Park Association to purchase the development rights of the country club, aka Roger Sherman Farm? Almost everyone could forget, that’s who, because despite (or maybe in spite) of Lober and Vogel supporting the idea of a healthy, open discussion with fellow BOS members, a motion to “pause” consideration of any proposal concerning the property was made and without comment passed along party lines. Public discussion of the two volunteer groups’ joint proposal never got off the ground. In another example, Selectman Lober’s recommendation to move the town fleet to hybrid and electric vehicles, ignored for years, is finally gaining traction only because it’s part of the state environmental plan, not because the BOS majority allowed it on the table.

Representation strangulation has not been limited to the Republican and Unaffiliated Board of Selectmen members. Citizens with a variety of other issues have been stymied by Woodbridge’s clinging to quarantine policies long abandoned by our neighboring towns. Trying to “Zoom in” to make a public comment is laborious, even for the tech-savvy. Look at the anemic number of people who actually have made public comments at remote BOS meetings. It appears the door to in-person meetings will finally open in April – but the damage done over months of silence due to over-the-top quarantine policies is permanent. Yes, someone has to say it, the extension of virtual meetings even after Town Hall and the Library re-opened was a mistake.

Woodbridge is a small town. Our government should not be run by slick parliamentary procedures and automatic, party line votes to stifle ideas that can benefit the town. This applies to everything the BOS considers, from selling the Roger Sherman Farm to board and commission appointments. Every time a citizen has something to say to our government in a public forum, and is stymied by technology or process, there is another person who realizes there must be a better way. For now, Woodbridge Republicans, when the facts support it, will point out the emperor has no clothes and offer appropriate attire.

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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

May 6 | Mother's Day Issue April 29

May 27 | Memorial Day Issue May 20

June 24 | Independence Day Issue..... June 17

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

FROM OUR READERS

Arbor Haven Proposal Greatly Exaggerates Tax Revenues

The Arbor Haven proposal estimates net revenue to the town of \$1.28 million per year. A closer review shows this estimate exaggerates the expected tax revenues by \$825,000 per year. Comparing Arbor Haven's tax estimates to taxes paid for similar sized homes in Woodbridge shows huge discrepancies. As an example, the developer estimates \$19,247 in yearly tax revenues for a 2000 sq ft home and \$21,171 for a 3000 sq ft home! The average in Woodbridge is only \$11,000 and \$13,200 respectively! The developer bases its tax revenue calculations on sales price; however, that is not how tax assessments are calculated. The following details how I arrived at my estimates.

My calculation for tax revenues were approximated by sampling the town assessor's records for the size of homes proposed to be built and compared that to the estimates in the Arbor Haven proposal. Arbor Haven stated that 2-bedroom homes would be about 2,000 sq ft, 3 bedrooms about 3,000 sq ft and 4 bedrooms about 4000+ sq ft. I sampled the assessor's tax records for at least 30 homes in each of those size categories for a total of 95 homes to determine the average tax paid for each size category. The homes selected were from various areas of town on the most upscale streets in those areas. When applying my estimates to the quantity of houses specified in the Arbor Haven proposal, I found the tax revenues were overestimated by approximately \$825,000 per year. I could only find one home out of 95 sampled to match the average estimated by Arbor Haven! This correction alone reduces the estimated net revenue to the town to \$455,000 per year. I reviewed this process with our town assessor and she agreed that this was a reasonable approach to estimate

the expected taxes. Additionally, costs in the proposal are greatly underestimated. The proposal uses country wide averages for the number of additional children expected to be added to our schools. People are attracted to Woodbridge because of the schools, not the night life, restaurants or shopping...we have none! The number of expected school children should be based on recent demographic history for new residents to Woodbridge. We are also risking having to expand the Beecher Road school system. Having to expand the school and add staff would far exceed any excess dollars available from retiring the CCW debt. The Arbor Haven proposal also contains another major error as it does not include costs for Fire, Police, roads, library, and general administration. The Woodbridge Finance Director estimates this cost to be approximately \$2,000 per person per year. Even a minimum of 300 extra residents would add \$600,000 in yearly expenses. When cost estimates are adjusted to account for these additional expenses and a realistic number of school children, I believe the net deficit from this project could be as high as \$1million per year. Remember these are estimates. There is nothing to prevent the mix of housing to change. If the tax revenues were to go down and expenses go up even slightly. this project would generate an even larger annual deficit. The Selectwoman decided to support the Arbor Haven proposal because she received many calls and e-mails from residents in favor of this proposition; however, those opinions are ill informed. She also claims we need to expand the Grand List to combat rising costs. This project is not doing that. Before a proposal can be put to referendum, we need a complete and

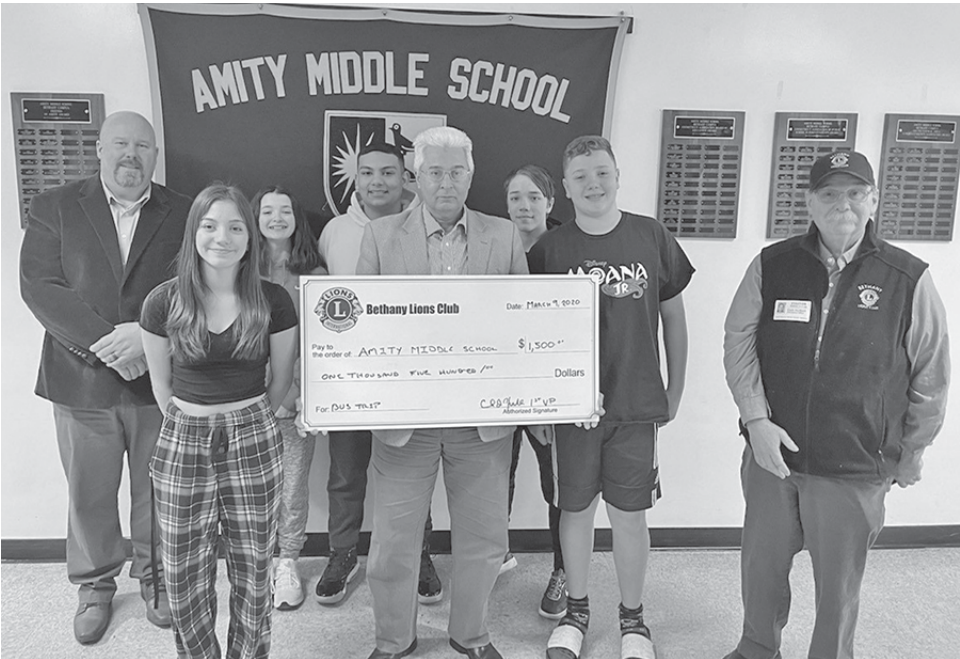
See "Letters" On Page 22

Woodbridge Town News

WTN LETTERS POLICY

Submit your letters for our "From Our Readers" section to:
Woodbridge Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477
or email: letters@woodbridgetownnews.com.
Please limit letters to 500 words and include a daytime phone number in case we have any questions. Letters must be exclusive to the Woodbridge Town News for publication. We reserve the right to reject any letter.

WOODBRIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Back row from L to R: Dr. Jason Tracy, Principal, Lily Warecke, Gerardo Castro-Smith, Mitchell Moen; Front row from L to R: Lia Colonna, Mr. Akbar Dar, Bethany Lions Club, Matthew Crisci, Mr. Clark Hurlburt, Bethany Lions Club

Lions Present Scholarship Fund for Field Trip Assistance

On Wednesday, March 9, 2022, Mr. Akbar Dar and Mr. Clark Hurlburt, representatives from the Bethany Lions Club, presented a check for \$1500 to the Amity Middle School 7th graders. The donation is part of a scholarship program established by Mr. Dar through the Bethany Lions Club and has been given annually to AMSB students to help provide field trip assistance. This year, the funds will be used to help offset the cost of transportation for the 7th grade field trip to The Discovery Zone Adventure Park in Bridgeport. This trip will encourage students to employ skills of

teamwork, cooperation, communication, and collaboration as they work through an interactive outdoor ropes course. The donation will also help to cover the cost of the trip for students who have financial need. During the presentation of the check, Mr. Dar and Mr. Hurlburt stressed the importance of community service and giving back to our community. They asked the students to consider “paying it forward” in the years ahead and practicing the skills of citizenship and service that are the cornerstone of our work with students in the Amity School District.

Beecher Road School’s PTO is Celebrating 50 Years

My name is Joi Prud’homme and I am the President of Beecher Road School’s PTO (Parent Teacher Organization). On behalf of the PTO Board, I would like to announce that Beecher Road School’s PTO is celebrating 50 Years as an organization this year! Beecher Road School’s PTO has a proud history and the school has long benefited from a well-established, large group of parents that support educational initiatives that enhance the quality of life and culture in our school. For 50 years, parents, often under the leadership of the PTO, have come forth to contribute ideas, organize programs, work on school committees, and donate funds to strengthen learning opportunities and build community. While the last couple of years have been difficult, the PTO is proud to

have been able to modify many of the programs and fundraisers to continue this long legacy of helping teachers, staff and students through fundraising efforts, purchasing books and bringing curriculum enrichment programs to the school. We would love it if the community would join us for a long overdue Ice Cream Social on May 5th from 6pm-8pm at Beecher Road School. We know many of our residents have been involved with the PTO when their children were at Beecher and we’d love it if you would join us too! Please contact me at seasidejoi@outlook.com for more information or to share your stories of your days with the PTO at Beecher Road School. We hope you can join the Beecher Road School Community for this wonderful celebration!



Students Excel in Wharton’s Investing Competition

Using newly acquired finance knowledge, strategic thinking, and creativity, local high school team beats out hundreds of other student teams from around the world

The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania has announced the Semifinalists for the Wharton Global High School Investment Competition, an annual contest for high school teachers and students run by the School’s Wharton Global Youth Program. Unlike other competitions, winners are selected on the strength and creativity of their team investment strategies, not on the growth of their stock portfolios. Recently, a team of students from Amity Regional High School were notified that they were among the 50 global semifinalists in the Wharton Global Investment Competition. The students who are representing Amity in this competition are co-captain Pi-yush Bahel ‘23, co-captain Aarav Patel ‘24, Eydan Lavi ‘24, Henry Ranani ‘24, and Edwin Sweeney ‘23. The Wharton Global High School Investment Competition, launched in 2012, is a 12-week challenge in which students compete in teams of four to seven, led by an advisor, to win the chance to manage the wealth of a potential client. Presented with a case study of this client, teams must create a compelling and creative long-term strategy that addresses the client’s investment goals. (This year’s case study features Nichole Jordan, Senior Vice President, Global Partner Success at Via, a TransitTech company that provides the digital infrastructure for public mobility systems to meet the needs of large cities and smaller communities around the world.) Along the way, students learn investing concepts with the help of Wharton Global Youth Program resources, conduct in-depth analysis, and buy stocks for their portfolio using an online simulator that is a tool for trading and portfolio-management education. Following the end of 10 weeks

of trading, each team is required to submit a report detailing its recommended investment strategy, analytical approach and competition journey. A unique aspect of this competition was that judging was not based on how much their portfolio grew, but rather their creativity. Judges review these final investment reports and select the top 50, which then compete against each other in the Semifinals round. The top 10 Semifinalists advance to the Global Finale, which will be held in person on April 23, 2022. This 12-week international competition consisted of teams from over 60 countries and close to 7,000 participants. The competition states that this is one step towards their “mission to connect high school students and educators around the world with the Wharton School’s many businesses, finance, and leadership opportunities.” By utilizing fundamental as well as technical investment strategies, the Amity Spartans were able to create a unique strategy tailored to the prospective client. Over the course of the competition, they utilized quantitative models alongside qualitative frameworks to systematically evaluate the top investments across all sectors. By integrating technology, this limited emotional risk while optimizing the portfolio to ensure mid-term and long-term success. This unique approach allowed the team to stand out and ultimately be chosen as part of the 50 teams to move on. Throughout the competition, the team gained numerous skills and learned valuable lessons, perhaps the most important being how to remain patient and emotionally controlled. The Amity Spartans explained, “Understanding how to properly handle

See “Students” On Page 9



Local Selected to Participate in The Who Was? Podcast

Local resident Paige Roberts, a 4th grader at Beecher Road School, was cast in the premier episode for the Who Was? Podcast. The Who Was? Podcast is a new kids’ comedy quiz show, from the team that produced the Emmy Award-winning Netflix series, The Who Was? Show and based on the #1 New York Times-bestselling Who Was? children’s history and biography series from Penguin Workshop, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers. Paige has enjoyed reading the books over the past few years and was excited to participate in the project.

Co-hosted by Elliot Kalan and Meghan O’Neill, each episode of the comedy quiz show podcast features games, fun facts, and sketches about trailblazing historical figures that will keep listeners laughing and learning. Each episode revolves around two his-

torical figures that have been paired together for obvious, and sometimes not so obvious, reasons. Contestants between the ages of 8-12 years old will join in a friendly competition for a chance to be rewarded with a selection of Who Was? books and a set for their school library.

About the premier episode, “Marie Curie and Milton Hershey”: Two fierce kid competitors test their knowledge of science rockstar Marie Curie and delish chocolate maker Milton Hershey! But the real winner was the host Elliott who walked away with a brand-new middle name!

The first series, consisting of 45 weekly 30-minute episodes, premiered on March 16, 2022. Listeners can hear the official show trailer on iHeartRadio and everywhere podcasts are heard.



Achievements
Amity Regional High School
Melinda Lu of Amity Regional High School was one of two juniors nominated for the U.S. Department of Education’s Presidential Scholar Award. Final selections will be made at the national level. Full story on UConn Today: <https://today.uconn.edu/2022/03/stem-symposium-sends-5-students-to-represent-state/>

Dean’s List
Loyola University Maryland
Baltimore, MD - Sadie Semrau, a member of the class of 2022 from Woodbridge, has been named to the fall 2021 Dean’s List at Loyola University Maryland. In order to qualify for the Dean’s List at Loyola, a student must achieve a minimum QPA of at least 3.500 for the term, provided that, in the term they have successfully completed courses totaling a minimum of 15 credits.

“Students” From Page 8

our emotions in times of unprecedented market volatility taught us how to stay patient and have faith in our disciplined strategy. This proved to be imperative in becoming a successful portfolio manager. At certain junctures, we felt compelled to close our positions at a loss, despite believing that the stock is a strong pick. But our conviction ultimately prevailed and prevented us from making such decisions. Experiencing this market volatility firsthand allowed us to clearly understand how patience and discipline are defining traits of successful investing.”

Through their participation in the

competition, the students started the Amity Investment Club at their school. To date there are around 100 members that are a part of the club. Meeting biweekly, they go over current market conditions and upcoming catalysts. They then move to a discussion of various strategies, provide examples, and analyze price action of the most traded and popular stocks each week.

Unfortunately, while the team was not able to move onto the Global Finals, the Amity Spartans hope to bounce back next year using their newfound knowledge. Still, the competition was a great experience, and the team hopes it can inspire others to start investing and taking hold of their financial futures early on.

“Housing Plan” From Page 1

said her office has received several inquiries regarding accessory buildings, which is considered one way to make it possible for seniors to stay in town.

Amey Marrella, a former First Selectman and attorney, took issue with the phrase “negative impact of 1.5-2 acre zoning,” a phrase that was used in the handouts. She said it was the DEEP that recommended 2-acre zoning to protect the watershed area. She also pointed out that there were a number of properties in town that are “naturally” affordable, in the sense that they would sell for half of the median home price, and she suspected that a number of others could be identified as well. But, because there is no deed restriction attached to them, they don’t count toward the official inventory.

Dominick Thomas, a land use attorney who chairs the Housing Study Committee, explained that affordable housing is housing that costs less than 30% of people’s income, whether for rental or home ownership. What the state is looking for is deed restrictions to make sure that a unit stays affordable for the foreseeable future. In Woodbridge, 63% of renters and 29% of home owners have housing costs that are higher than 30%, and are therefore considered “cost burdened.”

Another resident questioned whether those new units would be filled if every town has to provide 10% affordable units. For Attorney Thomas, that was a non-issue. The last few years have seen a marked decline in building permits, he said, which led to a lack in housing stock generally. “If you build 4-bedroom colonials, I am not sure how much of a demand there would be,” he said. “If you build condos, they would sell pretty quickly, but if you build 1-2-bedroom studios, they would be sold before they’re finished.”

Another concern that many residents expressed is in regards to a potential increase in school-aged children, which might require the elementary district to construct a new building. In response, Thomas referred to a study by Rutgers University, which shows that towns can control the influx of school-age children by limiting the number of bedrooms in each unit. In fact, it’s the 4- or 5-bedroom colonials that bring in families with larger numbers of children, he said.

“The goal of our...plan is to create a blueprint as to how Woodbridge can

comply with state and federal statutes and build a vibrant town,” the committee stated in one of its handouts. “In this manner, the town would have local control as to its developments...”

Kathy Hunter, a member of the Committee, pointed out the need for affordable units. “What we found through our research is a third of Woodbridge residents are cost-burdened,” she said. “That’s why we’re going through this exercise.”

Selectman David Vogel chose to look at it differently. “The reason we are going through this is because the state wants us to comply with their law,” he said, although he did agree that affordability and diversification are good goals for the town to have.

Matt McDermott thought their proposals are all “very mild, reasonable and incremental.” He referred to the changes enacted after the Open Communities Alliance challenges last year, and pointed out that the percentage of affordable housing had not budged since then. “That is extreme,” he said.

Even though the attendance at the info session seemed sparse, many residents did take the two surveys on the subject, one regional sponsored by the South Central Council of Governments (SCROG), the other sponsored by the town’s Housing Committee. The latter had some 619 responses, 80% of which were from local residents. Others said they worked in Woodbridge, but lived in other towns.

Results of both surveys are available on the town’s website, under the Housing Committee’s webpage, <https://www.woodbridgetown.org/536/Housing-Opportunity-Study-Committee>.

In addition to links to the survey, residents can also find responses to open-ended questions that were part of the survey. Responses ranged from “Woodbridge is fine just the way it is;” to “No section 8 housing. It will ruin the town;” to “I have many friends who were stay-at-home moms and found it impossible to stay in Woodbridge after the divorce. It was heartbreaking.”

The committee has received a list of suggested “strategies” as part of the SCROG report for Woodbridge. Housing Opportunity Committee members are going through those strategies to prioritize as they see them working best for local conditions. The finished product will be presented to the Board of Selectmen at the end of April, in time for the selectmen to discuss at their May 11 meeting.

WOODBIDGE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
Congratulations to the 2022 WEA Scholarship Recipients:
Parker Paragas (Kevin Kucinkas Scholarship)
Maggie Lui (Rick Wood Scholarship)
Taylor Dillon (Ann D’Addio Scholarship)

“I am no bird; and no net ensnares me: I am a free human being with an independent will.” — CHARLOTTE BRONTË

AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



Left: The Craft Group displayed their adorable, knitted bunnies to be gifted as a thank you for the beautiful crafts given to them by the Woodbridge Childcare's preschool class. Right: Members of the Life-style Change Program show their commitment by consistently attending the fitness portion of the program

BY KRISTY MORIARTY

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

Facebook: Follow us on Facebook (The Woodbridge Center, Woodbridge CT) for current updates and local information. Look for fun programming photos as well.

Email blasts: Things change quickly- please make sure you are on our email blast list to receive Woodbridge Center updates. Call The Center at 203-389-3430 to subscribe.

COVID Update at The Center: Masks will be required for all Center programs until the COVID positivity rate for Woodbridge is in the yellow zone for three consecutive weeks.

Renovation update: As the long-awaited Senior Center renovation begins, all programs that previously met in The Center café have been relocated to other Town building areas as noted under the description below.

Mother's Day Drive-thru Luncheon (for those over 60 years of age): Everyone is welcome to celebrate all mothers at the Mother's Day Drive-thru Luncheon on Thursday, May 5 from 12-1pm. Enjoy Quiche Lorraine, fresh fruit, and dessert sponsored by Visiting Angels of Woodbridge and Elim Park Health Care and Rehabilitation. Also enjoy a special treat provided by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. No charge.

Upcoming events/programs:
New! Cornhole: Sign-up today to participate in this part skill, part luck, all fun activity! Toss a beanbag onto the slanted board get 1 point, in the hole- you get 3 points. This is a game everyone can play! All levels are welcome. Every Monday and Friday, 10 am – 11:30 am in the Grove beginning April 1. Call to register: 203-389-3430.

Tag sale: It's time to gather your unwanted items and turn them into cash! On April 23, from 10 am to 1 pm, as part of the Town's Earth Day Celebration, The Center will host a tag sale in the Grove. There is a fee of \$10 (cash or check made payable to Town of Woodbridge) for each space

which includes one, six-foot table and two chairs. Call 203-389-3430 to reserve your spot or fill out an e-form under Woodbridge Earth Day on the town's website: www.woodbridget.org. Payment should be made ASAP to the Senior Center, room 13 in the Center Building.

Crime Prevention Presentation: Carjackings and other crimes have recently increased in number across the United States and our community. Despite the tireless work of the Woodbridge Police Department, Woodbridge is not immune. Officer Brian Pedalino from the Woodbridge Police Department will give an important presentation on how to stay safe when going out to eat, to appointments, shopping, and even when at home. Call 203-389-3430 to register. This program will be held on Friday, April 28, at 11am in the Center Building gymnasium. Free safety keychain to first 36 attendees provided by the Woodbridge Police Union.

The History of White House Entertainment with Alan DeValerio: Come to this interesting presentation, co-hosted with The Library, as former White House butler Alan DeValerio shares the inside details about all the preparations involved in White House entertaining, and how it has evolved over the years from FDR to the present. Q&A will follow. May 5, from 11 am – 12 pm in The Library meeting room. No charge.

Free In-person Virtual Art Tour Series viewing co-hosted with the Woodbridge Town Library: Experience art history via the oldest public art museum in the U.S. Come view the last Wadsworth Virtual Art Tour in the series focused on Impressionists on May 11, from 1-2pm, in the Library meeting room. Preregistration is required. Please call 203-389-3430 to register.

The American Armchair Adventure - National Park Series: This in-person monthly series, sponsored by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, will take you to 6 National Parks in 6 months. Each month you will "travel" to one of the most breathtaking parks in the United States. Enjoy simulated tours, interactive discussions, trivia, local cuisine, and more.

Preregistration is required. Adventures include: Glacier National Park - May 13, Grand Canyon - June 10, Zion - July 8, and Grand Teton - August 12. 11 am – 12 pm in The Library meeting room.

We are Celebrating YOU! All Woodbridge residents over 55 years of age are invited to come to this fun outdoor social! Play a game of BINGO with prizes! Have a free muffin (courtesy of Coachman Square at Woodbridge) and cup of coffee or tea in the Grove. Play a game of corn hole, bocce, or shuffleboard. All to celebrate Older American Month! May 11 from 10 am – 12 pm. Rain date will be May 18. Please call 203-389-3430 to register.

AAA Driver Improvement Class: Member and non-members may be able to lower their auto insurance costs while improving their driving skills when they enroll in AAA's Driver Improvement Program that teaches the basics of defensive driving and provides current driving practice updates. May 16 from 9 am – 1 pm in The Woodbridge Library's meeting room- space is limited. No cost. Pre-registration is required.

Exercise: Not sure if a class session is right for you? Try a complimentary class first!

Aerobics Class with Laura Richling: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 am, in the Center Building gym. Come enjoy a complete cardio and strength training workout to a variety of music. Bring your own 1- or 2-pound hand weights, if you have them, to use during the class. There is a \$3 fee paid at the beginning of each class.

Pickleball: Monday through Friday, 12:30-3:30 pm, in the Center Building gym. New players please call to register. All levels are welcome. Call for more information. There is an annual fee of \$20 for residents, \$25 for non-residents.

Zumba Gold with Amanda Aranzullo: Fridays, 9:30-10:15 am, in the Center Building gym. Who says exercise can't be fun? This fun "dance party" focuses on all elements of cardiovascular health, muscular conditioning, flexibility, and balance. No prior Zumba experience required. The fee is \$30 for a 6-week session. Please call to register- the next session will begin

after the mask requirement is lifted.

Hobbies/Social:

Bridge: Wednesdays and Fridays, 1-4 pm in the Library meeting room.

Computer lab is open Monday - Friday, 10 am - 2 pm. Two-person limit in computer lab. Printing is available (first 5 pages free). Preregistration is required.

Craft Group: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 am - 12 pm, in the Woodbridge room of the Library or outdoors on the lawn adjacent to Newton Road weather permitting. Bring your current knitting, crocheting, or needlepoint project to work on while enjoying a lovely time socializing.

Painting for Pleasure with Carole Abbate: Mondays, 10 am - 12 pm, in the Library meeting room. You will find joy in creating your own paintings as Carole helps inspire beginners to intermediates. Paint the subject of your choice with acrylics or watercolors - bring in a postcard or photo for inspiration. Join anytime for this 6-week, \$36 class, prorated for mid-session. Sessions run consecutively.

Pinochle: Mondays, Wednesdays, 1-4 pm and Thursdays, 1:30-4 pm, the Center Building, room 16.

Services offered (for Woodbridge residents only):

Tech Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:45-4:15 pm: Need some help navigating your computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone? Not sure where to start? Want to know more about what features you aren't using? Call 203-389-3430 to sign-up for a 1:1 session in The Center's computer lab with patient, knowledgeable, Amity High School student volunteers. No fee.

Transportation for medical appointments is available for those age 60+ or with a long-term or short-term disability, Monday - Friday from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm with limited exceptions. Transportation for grocery shopping, local banking, and pharmacy pick-up is also available. Call to arrange car or wheelchair accessible van transportation. Vehicles are cleaned between each use. Masks are required.

See "Woodbridge Center" On Page 11

“Woodbridge Center” From Page 10

Meals: Healthy, well balanced, flash frozen meals for \$5.25/meal are available. Order by noon on Monday for delivery to your home on Tuesday. Choose from a wide variety of options including chicken parmesan, lemon dill cod, eggplant rollatini, beef pot roast, vegetable frittata, and fresh Cobb salad with grilled chicken breast. Meals include a roll, fresh fruit, and dessert. Two meal minimum. See web-site (<https://woodbridge.org/541/Lunch-Meal-Programs>) for a complete list of offerings.

Frozen soups are available for \$1.50 per 10 oz. container. Varieties

include: Italian wedding, beef orzo, minestrone, harvest vegetable, chicken noodle, and many more. Call 203-389-3430 to place your order.

Friendly Visitor Program: Call Judi Young, Senior Social Worker, at 203-389-3429, to arrange for a friendly visitor.

Medical Loan Closet: Durable medical equipment is available for lending including walkers, wheelchairs, knee rollers, shower chairs, and more. Call for details.

Job Bank: Residents may call Nancy Pfund, Youth Services, at 203-389-3429, to hire a student worker. Schedule now for spring clean-up and more.



(L-R): Officer Brian Pedalino, Mr. Yuriy Faryna, Officer Joseph Kubik

Police Department Donates to Ukraine

Several weeks ago, Officer Joseph Kubik of the Woodbridge Police Department reached out to his Ukrainian friend, Yuriy Faryna, a Woodbridge resident, regarding the possibility of helping the people of Ukraine. Faryna, who was born in Ukraine, moved to the United States in 2001. He has many family members and friends that still reside there. Faryna advised Officer Kubik that the Ukrainians are in dire need of ballistic vests and medical supplies.

Members of the Woodbridge Police Department were able to donate numerous ballistic vests. In addition,

the Woodbridge Police Department provided medical supplies, including tourniquets.

The Woodbridge Police Department would like to show our support for the Ukrainian community. We hope that our small gesture encourages others to lend support to the Ukrainian people.

According to Faryna, Ukrainians need additional equipment, with a special emphasis on ballistic vests, level 4 ballistic vests and helmets. If you'd like to donate any of these items, please contact Officer Kubik at jkubik@woodbridgepd.com or Officer Brian Pedalino at bpedalino@woodbridgepd.com.

WILEY ETTER DOYON ATTORNEYS

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

April 16th is National Healthcare Decisions Day

There may come a time when you are unable to make medical decisions for yourself due to injury, illness, or disease. For that reason, it is important that you sign a document called “Healthcare Instructions”. Anyone over the age of eighteen (18) should have Health Care Instructions.

To recognize the 8th Annual National Healthcare 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 preserved 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 Annual National Healthcare 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.



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



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Summer is on its way, and probably your Spring Cleaning has already started. While you're at it, dig up those old dusty, and probably unusable, VHS & other tapes holding all your precious memories of days gone by. VideoLab can transfer them to DVD, or to files on flash drives, so they can finally be viewed again, and then, safely stored for future viewing.

If you should come across your Dad's (or Grandpa's) old 8mm home movie reels, they too should be transferred and preserved to today's format, especially because they fade with age.

Folks, this is our only, once-a year discount, to help support our slowest time of year! Please take advantage of it. Round up all your tapes and bring them on over! We'd love to see you again!

Ron & Ree

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Woodbridge Earth Day

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.

Town Hosts Earth Day

Clean out your closets this Earth Day – residents are invited to bring many recyclable and reusable items to the Library Lawn on Saturday April 23 from 10 am -1 pm. There is no rain date. This event is organized by the Woodbridge Ad Hoc Community Council. “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!”

Reduce

New this year is an electric vehicle car show. Local resident and car enthusiast Kent Golden will bring several styles of EV cars. Owners will be available to answer questions. The car show will be in the Center Building parking lot entrance.

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: scrcog.compostersale.com. Any resident who purchases a compost bin, rain barrel or other item must pick it up at the Earth Day event. Pre-purchased bins will be available for pickup in the Center Building parking lot.

Reuse

Residents are invited to participate in the Town’s second annual tag sale. Vendors may sign up on the Town website. For a \$10 fee, vendors will be granted a spot in the Grove (the area between the Old Firehouse and Library) and provided with one Town-owned table.

There will be a craft materials swap. Residents will be encouraged to bring

craft supplies in good condition. They will be made available for free to anyone who would like them. Leftover materials will be donated to Goodwill. The swap will take place on the library lawn.

The Beecher Road School Green Team will sponsor its first Buy No Clothing Swap. Drop off clean, gently used clothing and shoes April 11 - 22, then come back during the event to shop for free (No resellers please) in the Center Building Gym. Clothing donations should be neatly folded or on hangers. There will be boxes marked adult or child and a clothing rack for items that are on hangers at the Center Building Gym April 11 - 22, 7:30am - 4:30pm or at BRS north atrium April 18 - 22, 7:30am - 6pm. Please bring your own bag when shopping. Monetary donations will be gratefully accepted to help further Green Team initiatives. For further questions, contact bjahern@woodbridgeps.org.

Recycle

A bin will be available in the Center Building parking lot at the event for mattress recycling and the Lions Club will pick up and deliver mattresses to the bin for a \$20 donation. To register please text 203-668-9348.

Friends of the Library will sell used books in the Bookstore Alley, in the beautiful wood-paneled Woodbridge Room, as well on tables outside on the library lawn from 10 am – 3 pm. Through donations of community residents, the Friends have acquired an extensive inventory of books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles. There are children’s books, biographies, books of Jewish Interest, health and self-care books, a large selection of books in world languages, as well as many antiquarian books. Prices are low and all items have been checked and cleaned. Come help the Friends clear its inventory and help reduce waste by buying good used books, all while you support your

See “Earth Day” On Page 23

Celebrate National Bike Month

Celebrate National Bike Month with Woodbridge’s first Community Bike Fun Ride on Saturday, May 14. This non-competitive bike ride is organized by the Woodbridge Ad Hoc Community Council.

The free event will start and end on the library lawn. The bike ride will have two routes – a short ride that goes to Beecher Road School and back and a longer route that will follow the Town’s bike route from the Library along Center Road to Pease Road, Ansonia Road, Beecher Road and back to the Library.

The Town’s bike route was made possible by generous donations from residents and a matching grant from Sustainable CT. The route connects major destinations in the center of town including the high school, Town Center Campus, Fitzgerald Tract,

Beecher Road School, former Country Club of Woodbridge and Pease Place Playground.

Interested cyclists should register on the Town website. Signing up will keep riders in the loop with event details, including any potential weather-related cancellations. It will also help with planning purposes.

Helmets will be required, and costumes and bike decorations are encouraged. The event will begin at 10 am with a bike decorating station and bike safety inspections.

Families participating in the short ride will be treated to a brief entertainment break at the school, thanks to the Beecher Road School Parent Teacher Organization. Following the ride, participants will be invited to stay for live music, lawn games and food trucks.

Town of Woodbridge Meetings for the Month of May 2022



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

5/2	Town Plan & Zoning Commission.....6:30 PM	Town Hall
	Human Services Commission7:00 PM	
	Emergency Medical Services Comm.....7:00 PM	Center Bldg.
5/4	Housing Opportunity Study Committee7:00 PM	Town Hall
5/9	Library Commission6:00 PM	Library
	Human Services Comm Special Mtg.....7:00 PM	
	Zoning Board of Appeals7:30 PM	Town Hall
5/11	Board of Selectmen5:00 PM	Town Hall
5/12	Community Council.....9:30 AM	Town Hall
5/16	Fire Commission6:00 PM	
	Police Commission.....6:15 PM	Police Dept
	Annual Town Meeting.....7:30 PM	Center Bldg.
5/17	2030 Task Force6:00 PM	Town Hall
5/18	Diversity & Inclusion Committee.....6:30 PM	Library
	Inland Wetlands Agency7:30 PM	Town Hall
5/19	Board of Finance (BOF).....6:00 PM	Town Hall
	Conservation Commission.....7:30 PM	Town Hall
5/23	CUPOP.....5:30 PM	Town Hall
	Recreation Commission7:00 PM	Beecher Rd School
5/24	Gov’t Access TV Commission7:30 PM	Town Hall

HEALTH & FITNESS

Do I Need Surgery for My Rotator Cuff Tear?

BY KYLE BRANDAY, MSPT

One of the most commonly injured areas of the body is the shoulder. It is a dynamic joint, allowing us the greatest mobility of any articulating joint. But with great mobility, comes great potential for injury.

If you're like most people, you have likely injured your shoulder a handful of times before. Tweaked it. Strained it. Slept on it the wrong way. Maybe it got better, or maybe, just maybe, it's still bothering you to this day.

When patients seek out physical therapy services for their injured shoulder, the most frequently impacted area is the rotator cuff. The rotator cuff is made up of four separate muscles (no, it is not one big muscle!): Supraspinatus, Infraspinatus, Teres Minor, and Subscapularis. Each of the four rotator cuff muscles has its own motion to create. However, the common responsibility is to support the humerus (long bone of the upper arm) while it articulates/moves on the glenoid fossa, creating stability. This joint looks much like if you put a golf ball on a tee and tipped it sideways. Without the rotator cuff, the joint would have little support to hold it in position or to create the tremendous motion we have become accustomed to.

While a teenager who injures their rotator cuff may end up dealing with a muscle strain or tendinitis, there is great concern among many adults who injure their shoulder that they may have torn their rotator cuff.

Typically, a rotator cuff tear is accompanied by substantial pain, weakness and limited movement. Most rotator cuff tears occur later in life as we age as a normal part of wear and tear on the shoulder. However, traumatic tears from falls or accidents, as well as repetitive overuse injuries can occur commonly.

Most rotator cuff tears do not require surgery and are much better treated conservatively with physical therapy. Strengthening the musculature around the torn tendon can reduce strain on the injured area and decrease pain while improving stability and mobility. Seeing your physical therapist in the early onset of injury can help expediate your healing and reduce medical expenses.

Surgery is looked at as a last resort to improve a rotator cuff tear. Typi-



Kyle Branday

cally, if conservative measures such as Physical Therapy, cortisone injections, and other medications have not allowed for substantial improvement to restore function and decrease pain, then surgery will be a likely next step. Imaging such as MRI will be performed to assess the tear and the Orthopedic Surgeon will create the best approach to correct the tear.

After surgery, most patients are sent home post-op with a sling they will wear for several weeks to allow the repaired tendon to fully heal. However, most patients begin PT shortly after surgery to restore range of motion and begin strengthening muscles that will support the repaired area. A protocol will be followed to maximize your results and protect the repair. Most patients regain full range of motion within 2-4 months after surgery. Strength and stability of the shoulder will progress over this time as well. Full return to sports and high-level activities typically occurs by 6-9 months following surgery.

If surgery is the preferred option, one should seriously consider "Pre-Hab" short for "Preoperative Rehabilitation". This allows a patient to maximize their range of motion and strength while reducing as much pain as possible before surgery. By going into a rotator cuff repair, as well as any other orthopedic or neurological procedure, with the best possible mobility, strength, and pain control, you will enhance your post operative results dramatically. Typically, PRE-HAB not only reduces post operative pain, but also improves the rate at which you achieve full range of motion and strength. For patients, friends, and family, PREHAB is a no-brainer

HDSA Connecticut Chapter to Host Team Hope Walk

The Huntington's Disease Society of America's (HDSA) Connecticut Chapter will be hosting the Connecticut Team Hope Walk on Saturday, May 22nd @ 9:00 AM at Chatfield Hollow State Park in Killingworth.

Team Hope is HDSA's largest national grassroots fundraising event, which takes place in over 100 cities across the U.S. and has raised more than \$20 million for Huntington's disease since its inception in 2007. Thousands of families, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and communities walk together each year to support HDSA's

mission to improve the lives of people affected by Huntington's disease and their families.

Huntington's disease is a fatal genetic disease that affects the nerve cells in the brain that is described as having ALS, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's disease all at once. Today, there are approximately 41,000 symptomatic Americans and more than 200,000 at-risk of inheriting the disease.

For more information about the event, go to <https://connecticut.hdsa.org/events/connecticut-team-hope-walk>.

before surgery.

The question of whether or not to have surgery is a complex one and should not be taken lightly. There are pros and cons as well as risks and benefits to both conservative and surgical treatment of a rotator cuff tear. The important thing is to consult with your team of experts to help you explore all your options and make the right choice for yourself.

If you need help determining what choice is best for you, our team is here to help. You can schedule an evaluation by reaching us at (203) 389-4593 or visit amitypt.com.

Kyle Branday MSPT, C-PS is a licensed Physical Therapist and is the supervisor of the Woodbridge office. He is a graduate of Quinnipiac University where he earned

his Master's degree in Physical Therapy. In addition, Kyle is Level 2 Certified by the Institute of Advanced Musculoskeletal Treatment for Dry Needling. He enjoys treating patients with a wide range of orthopedic and neurological conditions. Kyle has extensive training in the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic orthopedic and sports injuries, neurological rehabilitation, manual therapy, sports specific training, Selective Functional Movement Assessment (SFMA) and works with patients ranging from pediatrics to geriatrics. Recently, he has completed course work to earn designation as a Champion Performance Specialist (C-PS) to enhance his work with elite athletes and weekend warriors alike. Kyle is an avid sports fan and works with our patients in our Sports Performance Programs.

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Please join us for a demonstration of the LegendPro RF Microneedling at 6pm

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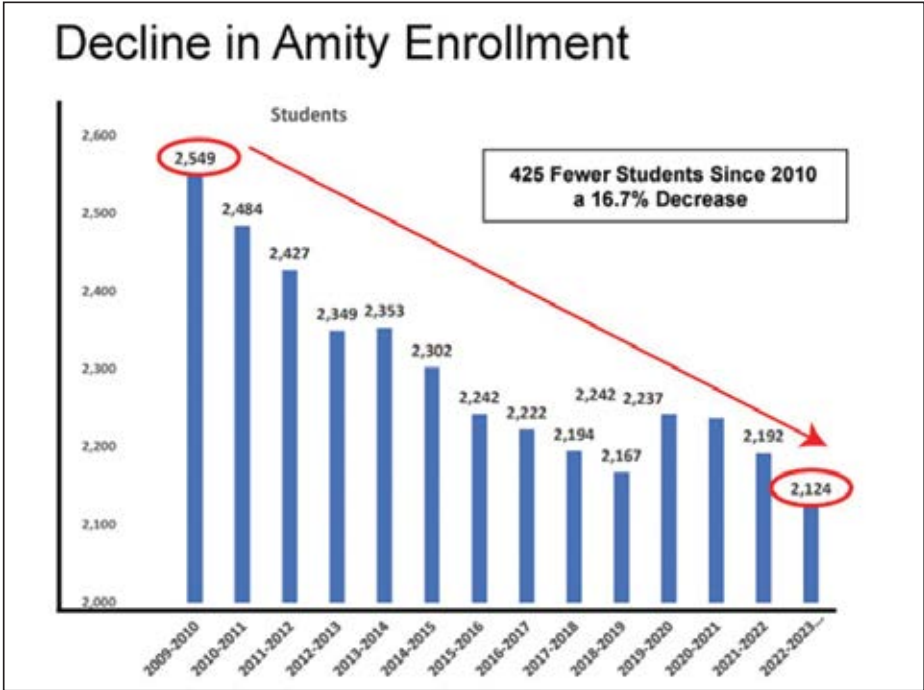
Phone (Call or Text): 203-848-9665

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Vote May 3 – Amity Budget Referendum

Facts to Consider regarding the Amity Budget Request

BY JIM LEAHY
VICE-CHAIRMAN, ORANGE BOARD OF FINANCE



Student Enrollment and Staffing

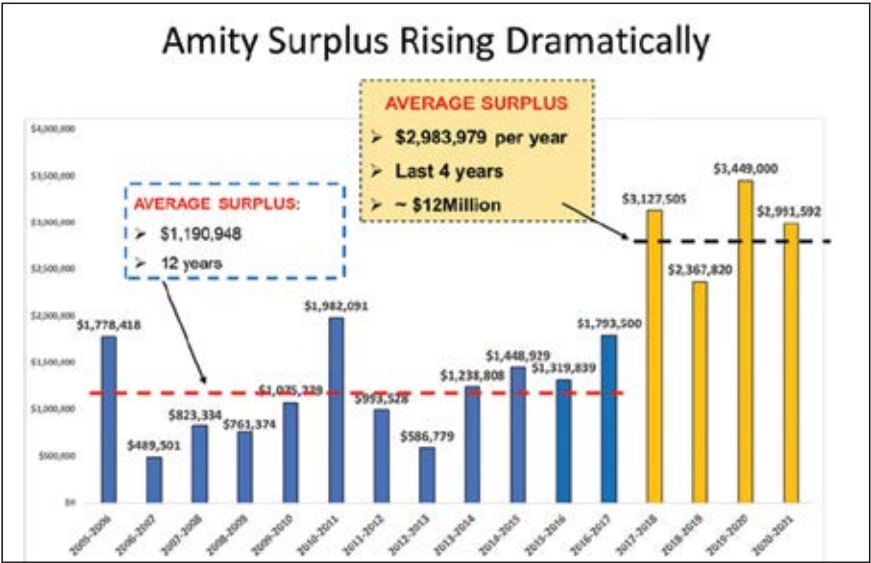
Student enrollment at Amity has in fact dropped by 425 students since 2009 - 2010.

Despite this fact staff has increased dramatically **over the past 4 years** by over 16 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs).

Over the past 5 years the Amity spending has increased by over **\$8.4 million**.

Impact of Repeated Surpluses

Amity has realized budget surpluses over the past 4 years averaging close to \$3 million per year. So why should you care? These large surpluses force our hand when it comes to overall spending & taxes.



Taxes in Orange may not have had to increase at all except to cover the Amity budget increase, which as it turns out Amity did not need. **In fact, in each of the last 4 years, the Amity school system provided excellent educational services for its students without a need for ANY INCREASE! The result of a 0% budget increase would just have been a smaller surplus.**

This inaccurate over-budgeting also robs resources from other needs like the Orange Elementary Schools or other town departments or projects.

ACTIONS TAKEN

The Orange Board of Finance unanimously – both Democrats & Republicans – supports a 0.41% increase, noting that a more modest increase, or in fact a ZERO increase, would not hurt Amity at all.

The Amity Board of Education REJECTED that recommendation opting for a 3.99% hike which results in an increase from estimated actual expenditures to budget of over **\$4-5 million**, even as **student enrollment declines rapidly**.

Your vote on MAY 3 counts

- ✓ With a YES vote: You Approve of the way Budgeting is being managed at Amity.
 - ✓ With a NO vote: You Disapprove of the way Budgeting is being managed at Amity.
- If the Amity budget is rejected, the budget would go back to Amity to be reduced. After that, there would be a new vote on a revised budget.

HUMAN SERVICES



Ellen McDonald of the Human Services Department distributes a COVID-19 home test kit, masks, and hand sanitizer to Woodbridge resident John Chen. For more information on accessing free kits, while supplies last, call 203-389-3429.

Local Masks and Test Kits: Friday, April 15 is both the beginning of Passover week, Good Friday, and Easter weekend and the start to our public schools’ spring break. The Town of Woodbridge will be distributing free COVID-19 at-home test kits and N95 masks for Woodbridge residents while supplies last. Residents in need of test kits, masks, or both may call 203-389-3429 to make an appointment. Proof of residency is required.

Pop-up COVID Booster Clinic: The Human Services Department will host two COVID-19 booster shot clinics in April. The clinics will be held for Woodbridge residents over the age of 50 on April 19 and 20 in the Center Gymnasium. Please call for available appointment times - 203-389-3429. Only Moderna and J&J vaccine will be available. Eligibility is dependent on 4 months since last COVID-19 vaccine or booster shot.

Living Treasure Committee Volunteer Sought: The Human Services Department will once again hold the Living Treasure event this fall. The event will honor a few residents age 60 or over, who have demonstrated positive actions to improve the quality of life in Woodbridge, has contributed and may continue to contribute their time to enhance our community, and has performed this work on a volunteer, unpaid basis. Members of the community are welcome to join the event planning committee which meets frequently during the months of June, July, August, and September. Please contact Jeanette Glicksman at 203-389-3429 to volunteer.

Food Pantry: The Food pantry is currently looking for donations of canola and olive oils, ground coffee, baking mixes/snacks, salad dressing, deodorants, and laundry detergent. Kindly check all expiration dates prior to drop-off.

Energy Assistance Program: Human Services will accept appointments for residents to apply for the 2021-2022 CT Energy Assistance

Program administered by TEAM, Inc. Income eligibility requirements must be met. For information, or to schedule an appointment, call Judi Young at 203-389-3429.

Emergency Preparedness: In the event of a weather emergency or power outage, elderly residents and those with disabilities are encouraged to register for the Emergency Call List by calling the Human Services Department at 203-389-3429. The Department will provide outreach to all on the list prior to anticipated emergencies.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month: According to the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the goal of Alcohol Awareness month is to increase public awareness and understanding, reduce stigma, and encourage local communities to focus on alcoholism and alcohol-related issues. Ten facts about alcohol you may not know:

1. 75% of esophageal cancers are attributable to chronic excessive alcohol consumption;
2. Nearly 50% of cancers of the mouth, pharynx, and larynx are associated with heavy drinking;
3. Chronic alcohol consumption is associated with 10% increase in a woman’s risk of breast cancer;
4. Heavy chronic drinking contributes to approximately 65% of all cases of pancreatitis;
5. Among emergency room patients admitted for injuries, 47% tested positive for alcohol and 35% were intoxicated; of those who were intoxicated, 75% showed signs of chronic alcoholism;
6. There are more deaths and disabilities each year in the U.S. from substance abuse than from any other cause;
7. As many as 35% of heavy drinkers develop alcoholic hepatitis;
8. As many as 36% of the cases of primary liver cancer are linked to heavy chronic drinking;

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FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH | TOURS BETWEEN 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Take a privately guided tour of our vibrant assisted living and memory care community and grab lunch for 2 to-go—including a soup du jour, entrée, and dessert.

RSVP

By April 26th to Caroline MacKinnel at OrangeCRD@MaplewoodSL.com or 203.513.1311.

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My wife Fran's health was declining and even with daily support, it got to be too much. Maplewood was the best community in the area and I don't say that lightly. I researched 12 other communities but they didn't measure up. Here, Fran and I are treated with the utmost respect and dignity. The people are amazing. The staff is very attentive and caring. We have everything we could possibly need – loving friends, diverse activities, and exceptional care. We couldn't be happier or more in love!

— Joe & Fran, Maplewood Senior Living Residents

ARTS & LEISURE

Poet Emanuel Xavier Visits Amity

Spoken-word artist and poet Emanuel Xavier visited Amity Regional High School on Friday, April 8th to speak to students in English Language Arts classes.

Mr. Xavier has published several collections of poetry, including *Pier Queen*, *Americano*, *Nefarious*, *Radiance*, and *Selected Poems of Emanuel Xavier*, as well as the novel *Christ Like*. He also edited and contributed to the poetry collection *Me No Habla With Acento*. He has been honored for his community activism on behalf of gay and homeless youth, and his writing has garnered praise and awards from several organizations. Two of his books were named to the American Library Association's "Over the Rainbow" book list.

Emanuel Xavier's poetry can be transgressive, gritty, and streetwise, yet remains lyrical, expressing both the pain of emotional and physical violence, as well as a hopefulness that life can still be beautiful. As writer and teacher Rigoberto Gonzalez observed in his forward to *Pier Queen*, Xavier



Emanuel Xavier

has "claimed his troubled past and crafted it into...art."

The event was hosted by Amity librarians Robert Musco and Victoria Hulse and is made possible by the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation. More information about the Foundation's mission of bringing professionals in the arts to work with young people can be found at jamiehulleyartsfund.org.

Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center Calendar – Spring 2022

10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT 06401
203-736-1053 • ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org

Please register for all programs at ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org. Dates and times are subject to change. Space is limited. Must register in advance - No walk-ins allowed.

April Full Moon Hike: Pink Moon

Saturday, April 16, 7:00 pm

Join our staff on a hike in our meadows to watch as this full moon rises. April's Full Moon is named after the early springtime blooms of a wildflower native to eastern North America commonly called creeping phlox or moss phlox—which also went by the name "moss pink." Each child must be accompanied by an adult. Limited space, so please pre-register at ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org. FEE: \$3 per person. Wear appropriate footwear.

Jr. Rangers: In-Person

Thursday, April 21– June 9, 3:30 –5:00 pm

Calling all teens 11 to 14 years

old who love nature! Has your child wanted to work with animals, garden, help maintain our trails, and help with conservation and community science projects? This is the opportunity to help the Nature Center in our 8 – week after-school program. Parental permission and registration are required. Class size is limited; this class fills up fast! FREE - Register in advance at ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org.

Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 23, 10 am – 3 pm

Every day is Earth Day at the Nature Center! We invite everyone to join us to honor Mother Earth. At this annual event, enjoy plantings, hikes, live animals, music, and environmental exhibitors. Food and unique items will be available for sale from local vendors. Bring some cash for our raffle! All ages are welcome for this family-friendly event. No park admission fee - No reg-

See "Nature Center" On Page 18

Woodbridge Memorial Day Ceremony

The annual Woodbridge Memorial Day ceremony will be held on Monday, May 30, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Monument in front of The Center building, 4 Meetinghouse Lane.

Memorial Day is a National Holiday to honor and remember all those men and women who gave their lives in the service of our Country. The ceremony will feature a history of the holiday, patriotic music, the Woodbridge Police Department Honor Guard, a wreath laying ceremony and remarks by local elected officials.



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Decorative Tree Donations Sought

The Town of Woodbridge is seeking donations of flowering trees to replace trees cut back in 2018. “One of my goals is to make the Town Center Campus a more attractive public gathering space,” says First Selectman Beth Heller. “This row of flowering trees will help us beautify the entryway to our Town Center Campus.”

The tree donation program came into being following United Illuminating’s removal of trees under power lines at Fitzgerald Tract along Center Road. Heller asked staff to look into the possibility of replanting the denuded area along Center Road with trees that would not interfere with the power lines and would add to the space’s natural beauty.

Since the program began, several residents have donated to the planting program at Fitzgerald and three others donated trees that were removed from

the Town Green.

Until local nurseries receive their tree stock for the season it is difficult to pinpoint a price, but the Town estimates that a donation of \$500 will cover the cost of a tree, delivery fee, installation and a plaque to thank donors. The plan is to line Fitzgerald Fitness Tract along Center Road with alternating groups of flowering dogwoods and crabapples. There are already five dogwoods and five crabapples. The next group purchased will be crabapples.

Anyone interested in the tree donation program should contact Betsy Yagla at byagla@woodbridgect.org or 203-389-3403 or fill out on the tree donation form which can be found on the Town website (woodbridgect.org) on the Town’s Public Works Department page and through the Recreation Department page.

“Nature Center” From Page 17

istration required.

Family Organic Garden

Tuesdays, April 26 – June 14, 3:30 – 5:00 pm

ANC will lead fun, family-friendly activities in our organic garden. Learn about growing a variety of fruits and vegetables. Dress appropriately; keep in mind you will get water and/or soil on your clothing. FREE, with the potential to take home fresh local produce! Class size is limited to 10. Please register in advance at ansnaturectr@ansoniac.org.

Birds on the Move

Saturday, April 30, 9 am

Spring is underway and many birds are busy migrating. Join Ranger Evelyn for a bird walk and learn about how and why birds migrate, as well as some of the challenges they face and what you can do to help our fine feathered friends! Binoculars provided or bring your own. This is a family program and

all children must be accompanied by an adult. FREE. Register in advance at ansnaturectr@ansoniac.org.

Registration begins April 18 for Summer Nature Days

Dates: July 11-15, July 18-22, August 1-5, and August 8-12

Choose one of our week-long sessions, held from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. For children 6 to 11 years old who love the outdoors and wildlife, these popular classes will be educational and children will also have a chance to explore the 156 acres our park offers. We will visit a variety of habitats in the park, such as wetlands, fields, and woodlands. Hikes, games, crafts, and cooking will be incorporated into our lessons. ANC is a great choice for a fun summer experience! TUITION PER WEEK: \$150 priority students (Ansonia residents and current family-level FANCI members); \$175 for all others. Please register on or after April 18th by emailing ansnaturectr@ansoniac.org. We do not hold spots.

“Human Services” From Page 15

- 9. Alcoholics are 10 times more likely to develop carcinoma than the general population;
- 10. Accidents related to alcohol use are among the leading causes of

death for teens.

Alcohol use may have increased during the pandemic. To check if you may have a problem, visit alcoholscreening.org and answer a few questions about your drinking habits or those of a friend or family member.

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CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Garden Club Participates in Holiday Tour

The Garden Club of Woodbridge participated, along with several other garden clubs, in the annual Osborne Homestead Museum's holiday tour in November/December 2021. Located in Derby, the museum was the former home of Frances Osborne Kellogg, conservationist and accomplished businesswoman, who lived from 1876 to 1956. Garden Club of Woodbridge members Mary Ann Tyma and Mary Leigh Sabshin led the club's effort to design Frances Osborne's childhood bedroom and rear bathroom to reflect the theme of this year's tour-the Centennial Anniversary of the 19th Amendment-U.S. Women Suffragists.

A Christmas luncheon was held at a Garden Club of Woodbridge member's home on December 7. Appointed members supplied a wonderful lunch, and four members designed Petite floral arrangements not to exceed 11" in height, width or depth based on the theme of "Rejoicing."

Garden Club of Woodbridge members won prizes at the 40th annual Federated Flower and Garden Show in Hartford in February. Awards were won by Cindy Marien, 1st place and Section Petite Award winner (Class

4); Leslie Martino, 1st place (Class 6); Barbara Bosco, 3rd place (Class 4) and Mary Ann Tyma, 3rd place (Class 11).

Members of the Garden Club of Woodbridge were guests of the Spring Glen Garden Club on March 14. Carol King Platt, guest

speaker, was voted one of "People, Places and Plants" top ten New England garden writers. Her theme for the meeting was "Spring Fling," fresh and original ways to enjoy spring flowers (see photo). Carol used flower chicken wire in some designs and Agra-wool in others to anchor several arrangements. Agra-wool is a natural floral

foam, which is an alternative to single use plastic foam. Several designs, consisting of a multitude of gorgeous flowers, were raffled.

The Garden Club of Woodbridge Civic Beautification group has commenced its spring gardening for 2022. In addition to cleanup, the group maintains and adds new plants and flowers to various gardens in Woodbridge for the benefit of the community. The group meets weekly from April through the first frost.

If interested in joining the garden club, please contact Judy at jsmam@aol.com.



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WOODBIDGE LIBRARY

All information accurate at press time. Be sure to check our website woodbridgetownlibrary.org or call us before your visit for any changes to our hours or events.

Library Announcements Our NEW Hours and Holiday Closings

We have returned to our pre-pandemic hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm; Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. We hope to see more of you soon. The Library will be closed on Good Friday, April 15 but will be open 10 to 5 on Saturday, April 16.

Library Information

Visit the Library website 24/7 to access digital resources - woodbridgetownlibrary.org. What's available at the Library:

- › In-person browsing: come see all of the new books, audiobooks, and DVDs;
- › Computers: no appointment needed;
- › Printing, copying, faxing, and scanning;
- › Periodicals: recent newspapers and magazines;
- › Reference help: including getting started/troubleshooting our digital library services (hoopla, Kanopy, Libby, Creativebug);
- › Ancestry Library Edition: use this popular resource to explore your family history. Use our computers or bring your own device to work anywhere in the building on our wi-fi.

The Woodbridge Room is NOW OPEN! The study room is available for two-hour reservations; please call the reference desk to book your time. Our puzzles and children's toys are back, and so is our seating!

Call or email to place holds, ask questions, find out information, and more. You may need to leave a message if calling; please do so, we WILL call you back!

Department phones and emails:

- › Adult Services/Reference: 203-389-3434; reference@woodbridgetownlibrary.org
- › Children's Department: 203-389-3439; childrens@woodbridgetownlibrary.org
- › Circulation/General info: 203-389-3433; circulation@woodbridgetownlibrary.org
- › Not sure who you need? Email askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Socialize with us!

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- › Instagram: [@woodbridgetownlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/woodbridgetownlibrary)
- › TikTok: [@woodbridge_town_library](https://www.tiktok.com/@woodbridge_town_library)

Library Events

As of April 1, 2022, the library is now FINE FREE! The Woodbridge



WOODBIDGE
TOWN LIBRARY

Town Library has gone fine free, which means patrons will no longer be charged fines for overdue items. The Library had been waiving all overdue fines since the start of the pandemic and the recognition that fines create barriers to access led the Woodbridge Library Commission to vote to permanently eliminate all fines for overdue books, movies and other library items at its March meeting. All existing overdue fines for Woodbridge Town Library items have been removed, but this policy change will not include replacement fees for missing or damaged items.

"We want people in the community to be excited about coming to the Library, rather than worried about whether or not they owe a fine," says Library Director Eric Werthmann. "We want to encourage the use of the Library's materials, facilities and services."

The Fine Free movement is growing in the library world and has been adopted by many local libraries. Currently there are almost 100 fine free libraries (52 percent) in Connecticut, including nearby libraries in Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Hamden, Madison, and New Haven.

Items will still have due dates, and patrons will still responsible for returning books, movies and other borrowed items. If there's no hold on an item for another patron, the item will be renewed automatically up to two times. Patrons are still responsible for lost or damaged materials; they will be charged the value of the item so that the library can buy a replacement copy. Overdue museum passes will have a \$5 per day late fee.

This new policy applies only to items owned by the Woodbridge Town Library; fees may be charged by other Connecticut libraries (including those in the LION consortium) and may be applied to the patron's library account. Please see the Circulation Department with any questions, or contact them: 203-389-3433 or askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Art Exhibits have returned to the Library's Meeting Room! The students of Palette Art School continue as our April exhibit. Stop by the library during open hours now through the end of the month to see the artwork—both in the meeting room and the Bookstore Alley. More information: <https://woodbridge.lioninc.org/events/art-exhibits/>.

We will be featuring a different artist every month; stop by and check out these talented artists. Interested in having your artwork displayed? Fill out the form here: <https://woodbridge.lioninc.org/events/art-exhibits/>.

[lioninc.org/events/art-exhibits/](https://woodbridge.lioninc.org/events/art-exhibits/). Contact Kira Edic at kedic@woodbridgetownlibrary.org for more information.

From Adult Services Come Vote for the Winners of the Peeps in the Library Diorama Contest

We're back once again with our seventh annual Peeps in the Library Diorama contest! Voting will take place at the library the week of April 18—grab a ballot when you're in and vote for your favorites!

Passports to Libraries Continues!

Over one hundred forty Connecticut libraries will participate in the Connecticut Library Association's Passport to Connecticut Libraries Program. To celebrate National Library Week during April, the Passport to Connecticut Libraries Program invites you to visit all of the participating Connecticut public libraries. Take the opportunity to explore each library's architecture, ambiance and collection. The program is open to adults and children, encouraging you to explore the many different libraries in Connecticut.

To participate, visit the library to pick up your Passport. Show us your library card and we will stamp the Passport to get you started. You will receive a free token gift. Then, take your Passport along as you visit other participating libraries. At each visit, you must show your library card, and then the library will stamp your passport.

Visit at least five participating libraries and return your passport by early May (exact date to be determined), to be entered into one statewide drawing for a chance to win a \$150 Visa gift card for adults (18 and up) and a \$100 Visa gift card for children (under 18). Visits must occur between April 2 and April 30. This is a statewide contest where four winners will be selected: one adult and one child from a random drawing from all who visited at least five libraries, and one adult and one child from a random drawing from all who visited the most libraries.

UNSTUCK Mini

April 21 at 6 pm in the meeting room

Has your lifestyle or the pandemic left you feeling depleted and stuck? Are your habits causing you to be unhealthy? Does your living space feel like it's been taken over by stuff? Cindy Kane and Lauren Hass return for another session of this popular, interactive program. Please register.

NEW! Writer's Workshop

Every fourth Tuesday of the month, 3 to 5 pm. April's meeting is on April 26

Are you a writer looking for inspiration, feedback, or support for your work? At the Woodbridge Writer's Workshop, you can share your writing and get feedback from a friendly, positive group. We can also help you find the resources to make your writing journey easier. All genres welcome—poetry, stories, memoirs, fiction, journalism, etc. Please register at the reference desk or via email: warmstrong@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Save the dates for these upcoming programs! More information available on our website:

- › Friday, May 6 at 11 am: The History of White House Entertainment with Alan DeValerio;
- › Tuesday, May 11 at 1 pm: Free In-Person Virtual Art Tour Series from the Wadsworth Athenaeum: Impressionists;
- › Thursday, June 2 at 7 pm: Celebrating the Music of Thelonious Monk with the Shoreline Jazz Quartet.

From The Children's Department April Eco Crafts

Every Monday at 5 pm throughout April come make a craft using biodegradable or recycled materials! Grades 3 and up. Online registration required.

Indoor Story Time Has Returned

Join us on the carpet in the children's room for fun stories, music, and props! Every Wednesday at 10:30 am, for infants to age 3 and their caregivers.

In-person Story Craft returns on Saturdays!

Every Saturday, promptly at 10:30 am, join us for a special story time session just for children ages 3-5. We will gather in the craft room for stories followed by a simple craft. No registration necessary; come every week or when you can!

Singer-Songwriter Steve Elci performs live at the Woodbridge town-wide bike event!

Saturday, May 14 at Noon. Fun for the whole family! Takes place on library grounds—bring chairs or a blanket. In the event of rain, concert will be in the meeting room.

Marble Run Building Challenge

Wednesday, May 18 at 4 pm

Use all kinds of materials to make and test your own marble run – "free-

See "Library" On Page 21

WOODBIDGE LIBRARY

“Library” From Page 20

build” style. For ages 5 and up.

Theater for kids with Ingrid Schaeffer
Saturday, May 21

Two participatory theater programs for kids to act out classic children’s stories, followed by a craft. The 1 pm program is for ages 3 to 5; the 2 pm program is for ages 5 to 10. More details on our website—registration is required.

May Graphic Novel Book Discussion
Wednesday, May 25 at 6:30 pm

For ages 9 and up. Read the Graphic Novel, The Tea Dragon Society before coming to the program (copies of the book will be available at the library). On the night of the program, we’ll chat about our favorite parts of the book while using paint-markers to design fancy tea mugs.

News From The Friends Of The Library
Shop our Inside & Outside Book Sale!*

Saturday, April 23 from 10 am to 3 pm. Part of the Earth Day Spring Clean Event. (*on the Library lawn, Woodbridge Room & Bookstore Alley). Start getting ready for summer reading on the beach, by the pool, or in the comfort of the AC! The Friends have books, puzzles, CDs, and more!

The Friends Bookstore Alley is open anytime the library is, with ever-changing displays and fresh inventory. We can’t wait to see you! We are also accepting donations of your gently used books, DVDs, CDs, etc. You can also lend support by shopping on Amazon via Amazon Smile, and selecting Friends of the Woodbridge Library as your designated charity. The Friends also accept donations via PayPal. Supporting the Friends supports the Library—thank you!

Book Discussion at the Library

The Woodbridge Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, in partnership with the Town Library, invites residents to a discussion of the New York Times bestseller, *Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning* on May 26 at 7 pm.

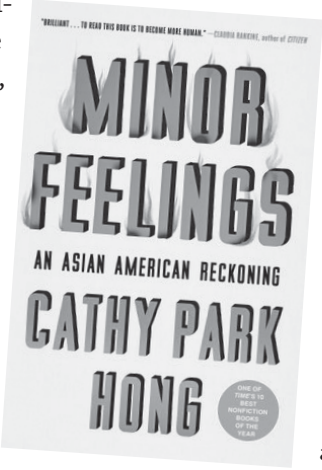
The event is a part of the “Mosaic: Woodbridge Reading in Community” discussion series facilitated by resident Reverend Antona Brent Smith. The goal of the series is to offer an opportunity for residents to have thought-provoking conversations with their neighbors that deepen our understanding of each other and the diversity of our community.

Minor Feelings: an Asian American Reckoning by Cathy Park Hong is a

blend of memoir, cultural criticism, and history that focuses on identity and racial consciousness. Copies of the book are available for check-out at the Woodbridge Town Library.

While *Minor Feelings* will be the starting point for discussion, participants are encouraged to attend even if they have not had a chance to read the book.

The event, which coincides with Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, will be held outdoors on the Center Building Lawn (4 Meetinghouse Lane) or, in case of rain, in the Woodbridge Town Library meeting room. RSVP to Betsy Yagla at byagla@woodbridgect.org for event updates.





Apartments For Rent

Woodbridge:

Thank you! We’re accepting names for our waiting list. Applicants must be 62 or older or disabled. One Bdrm-\$1,150/mo; Two Bdrm-\$1,230/mo incl utilities. On-site laundry, patios with garden area, off-street parking, handicapped accessible. CHFA Financed. EHO. Gibson Assoc., Inc. 175 East Mitchell Ave, Cheshire, CT 06410. Ph: 203-272-3781. TDD 1-800-545-1833 Ext 165

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“Letters” From Page 7

accurate financial impact assessment performed by an independent, non biased source. Arbor Haven is not that source. It is not fair to expect the town residents to make such an impactful decision based on such an imprecise financial analysis.
Lou Ruotolo

Decades of Inattention, Delay, and Inaction Have Brought us to this Point

I have read Woodbridge First Selectman Beth Heller’s columns about why town residents should consider selling the Country Club of Woodbridge property. What I have noticed is a stunning lack of leadership, vision, and accountability.

Affordable housing options are necessary, but Ms. Heller’s single-minded mad dash to sell the Country Club is short-sighted, ill-conceived, and based on a misunderstanding of state law. She wrongly believes that the town is under an urgent legal obligation to provide affordable housing. No law requires any town to build or devote public land to housing. She says that 10% of Woodbridge’s housing must be affordable; again, that is an incorrect reading of General Statute section 8-30g (the affordable housing appeals procedure.) Enacted in 1989, section 8-30g provides that when a town in which less than 10% of the housing stock is affordable denies an affordable housing application, the town must have significant public health, safety, and welfare reasons to defend its decision in court successfully. The purpose of 8-30g is not and never has been to get all towns to the 10% threshold. Meeting the town’s housing needs is important, but the larger question is why our leaders have not done more to meet this need in the 30 years since section 8-30 g’s passage? The one-time sale of a public asset to address our housing needs is no substitute for inspired and inspirational leadership.

Our leaders have been slow to take the initiative and implement change. In 2017, the State required towns to create and adopt affordable housing plans by 2022. Woodbridge waited until late May 2021 to create a Housing Opportunity Study Committee to help meet this obligation. In June 2021, the town amended its zoning regulations to provide more multi-family and affordable housing options, but only after being threatened with legal action. New state laws require towns to enact zoning regulations to facilitate housing choice but allow them to opt-out of some of the requirements before January 1, 2023. Let’s hope that the Town Plan and Zoning Commission took a more thoughtful and proactive approach when it revised our zoning regulations than the Board of Selectmen is taking to the Country Club property.

Ms. Heller tells us that selling the Country Club will stabilize our tax base, keep the mill rate in check, and

help fund town services. The town’s reliance on residential and motor vehicle taxes to fund its operations and the inadequacies of that approach are well-known. A land sale may provide some quick cash, but will create more town expenses in the long term. Selling the Country Club is an imperfect and temporary fix that cannot compensate for the lack of past, present and future economic planning.

Decades of inattention, delay, and inaction have brought us to this point. Ms. Heller says that she is committed to controlling the development of the property and letting voters decide. That may be, but her reasons for wanting to sell the Country Club are poor substitutes for comprehensive and well-thought-out land use and economic development planning.
Jeff Hellman

Arbor Haven Development Makes No Financial Sense for Taxpayers

I’m concerned that the Board of Selectmen has not done basic due diligence on the proposed Arbor Haven development at the former Country Club of Woodbridge (CCW). The First Selectman has promoted the project as a windfall to taxpayers, but nothing could be further from the truth. Town officials have not questioned the developer’s inflated estimate of tax revenue to the town and the developer’s blatantly inaccurate assessment of educational costs that will result. The developer’s financial analysis is riddled with errors and inappropriate assumptions.

Arbor Haven uses generic national averages to estimate the number of school age children who will be added to our school system if its subdivision is built. Seeking data that is specific to Woodbridge, I surveyed the top Real Estate Brokers at the two largest real estate agencies in town. The Brokers described their typical Woodbridge buyer as “someone seeking a home with a large yard for their kids to play in and to be in the Woodbridge school system.” They all said that their typical Woodbridge home buyer on average has 2 young children. We all know, based on our own neighborhoods, that most Woodbridge homebuyers are young families with school age children. On one street near me, a third of the homes have been sold in the past two years, and all of the new families have at least two children. It’s interesting to note that the developer originally estimated 153 students in their initial presentation, but after being told that our cost per student is much higher than their estimated cost, they simply reduced their estimated number of students by half seemingly to solve for their desired answer.

The cost to taxpayers will be over \$3million in additional school costs for these new families. Also omitted from Arbor Haven’s analysis are the costs for other town services such as police, fire, roads, etc. which, according to the Town Finance Director’s for-

mula, will add at least \$600,000 in annual expenses, bringing the costs up over \$3.6million per year. This number exceeds even the overly optimistic revenue estimates by Arbor Haven (\$2.7million), guaranteeing a deficit to the Town of nearly \$1million per year if this proposal is built.

A project that “grows” the grand list does not benefit taxpayers if the expenses exceed the tax revenue generated from the project. This is similar to the conclusion that consultants Milone and MacBroom made in a study the Town of Woodbridge commissioned in 2014. In that study they estimated that a smaller 65-unit residential development at the CCW would net the town a \$554,000 deficit per year in 2014 dollars. It is abundantly obvious the expenses to the town exceed the potential tax revenue and will increase the mill rate long term. This development proposal only benefits the developer and not Woodbridge taxpayers. I implore the Board of Selectmen to go back and do its due diligence on this project before wasting more taxpayers’ money promoting a bad idea.
Paul Harrigan CPA

Will The Supporters of the Arbor Haven Proposals Please Tell Me I’m Wrong?

The lead developer of Arbor Haven is Harvey Shapiro. The presentation indicates he has developed 2000 residential units, yet the only mention of any development experience listed on the Arbor Haven website refers to a seven-lot development of multi-million-dollar homes in the Hamptons for which I can find no evidence of his involvement. My research revealed only one other project developed by a Harvey Shapiro that was a failed project in New York called Riverwoods Chappaqua, that was foreclosed and was later involved in a Rico lawsuit. I’m sure the folks pushing for this proposal can show me I’ve just done a bad job researching Mr. Shapiro.

But what of Joseph Amico who is listed as the Co-GP? He lists strong experience as the developer of a 122-unit condominium project identified as Salina Crossings that was breaking ground last summer. What I find is that the Salina Crossing project was killed back in 2020 and that the development entity was dissolved in August 2021. Again, somebody should correct me on this if I am wrong.

Or how about their General Counsel Bruce F. Caputo? The only info I could find on him was when he was a congressman in NY, he was referred to as “...the scourge of the ethics committee...”. He later dropped out of politics as on numerous occurrences he claimed to be a lieutenant in the Vietnam war, but later admitted, oops, I never was in the military.

I’m sure I must be wrong on all of this as the folks running our town and pushing for this developer are certain to have been assured that we would be working with an experienced team of high ethical standards. After all, I only

spent fifteen minutes on the internet to find this info.
Kevin Tatro

Amity Board of Education Budget... Just say NO!

For months I felt uncomfortable speaking with respect to the Amity Board of Education. My thoughts were that without children in the school system, I did not have a right to speak. I kept my thoughts to myself. However, in listening to other parents I realized I was not helping the situation. More so, I wondered how many more people are silent for the same reasons? It doesn’t matter if we have children or not, our voices should be heard.

For Amity to ask for an increase of more than \$2,000,000, when their annual budget has reflected a surplus of nearly 3 million dollars per year over the past 4 years is insane. Over the years, our schools have seen a major decrease in the number of students. The Amity school board, however, is not only asking for a huge increase in the budget, but they are also asking for additional central office employees.

To be honest, every taxpayer – not only in Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge, but also in the surrounding towns/cities in the region – are seeing daily life costs increase almost overnight. Essentially, Amity High School is asking for a budget increase that would raise spending significantly. In a normal year, this increase might be reasonable. However, this year it’s anything but reasonable. Now is not the time.

Saying no to a school board budget that is over-budgeting does not hurt the students. I ask each resident to vote. Moms, dads, grandparents, or empty nesters, our votes are important, our voices must be heard.

All our votes matter. So, please get out. Vote “NO” to turn down this unacceptable budget increase.
Jude Toohey

Former Bethany Leader No Longer Supports Amity Budget

I have lived most of my life in the Amity Regional School District and graduated from the original building. As former First Selectman of Bethany, I, along with other taxpayers, have supported the Amity District. In fact, my current home in Orange has not had a student at Amity since 1967, while paying taxes each year to support it.

I have two reasons to vote NO for the current Amity budget.

Reason #1: Amity has on-going large surpluses of about \$3,000,000. I wonder how much fluff is buried in the details of the budget? How much was spent in the last 90 days of the fiscal years to bring the surplus down to 5%? Is there still a 10% surplus built into the budget we are faced with voting on?

Reason #2: Included in the curriculum and the training of staff is one

See “Letters” On Page 23

“Letters” From Page 22

new line item that includes: “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Instructional Coach.” This is just another name for “Critical Race Theory” or CRT. CRT is a philosophy founded by law professors who used Marxist analysis to claim that America is “systemically racist.”

Why should we be spending our tax dollars to support the teaching of racism and that America is bad to our

“Earth Day” From Page 12

library! Teachers shop free so come find some goodies for your classrooms!

Take 2 Recycling, a certified electronics recycler, will be in the Center Building parking lot to accept electronic items, such as printers, TVs, DVD players, fax machines, phones, microwaves and other small appliances.

Goodwill will have a truck in the Center Building parking lot to accept donations of household items.

Bay State Textiles will collect old clothing and other textiles for recycling including shoes, stuffed animals, linens and accessories like belts, ties, pocketbooks and hats. This will be in the Center Building parking lot.

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, hydro-

children and grandchildren? As Martin Luther King said, Success should be based on our individual abilities not by the color of your skin. I will NEVER support an Amity Budget that includes CRT and ask that it be removed from any curriculum and training.

For both reasons, I urge the taxpayers of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge to Vote NO to the Amity budget on May 3rd.

Craig A Stahl

gen peroxide or medications discarded from businesses or clinics.

Other

Residents are encouraged 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.

Also, during Earth Day, the Community Council will host a New Resident Meetup at 10 am at the VFW Memorial flagpole in front of the Center Building (4 Meetinghouse Lane). This is an opportunity for new residents to meet each other, tour the Town Center Campus and ask questions.

The library will host recycled craft activities for kids, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee will host an information table and Woodbridge’s new 4H Club will also host an information table.

Woodbridge-based Café Rebelde will be at the event selling coffee, tea and pastries and Woodbridge-based Street ‘n’ Savory will sell lunch items.

“Budget” From Page 1

1. The courses students need to fulfill the state graduation requirements;
2. Electives - The eight-period schedule provides students with the opportunity to take more courses;
3. Class sizes are specified in teachers’ contracts. A drop of 30 students will be spread between the three schools, and does not mean a teacher position can be eliminated;
4. Program enhancements - The District has added Acting and Directing for Film; Advanced Technical Theater, pottery and ceramics, Expository Writing changed to Writing College, and Career Readiness;
5. Security - The District has added 2 full-time guards and 3 part-time guards to cover evenings and increase middle school coverage;
6. Special Education/Pupil Services - Students may need one-on-one learning assistance to meet their special needs. The District has added social workers to all the schools since 2020-21, two positions at the high school and one at each middle school.

Capital Plan: At the high school: asphalt sealing and crack repair (\$15,000); sidewalk repair (\$10,000); replace pipe insulation (\$5,000); and install protective window film (\$5,000). replace chilled underground water lines (\$45,000) for a total of \$80,000.

At the Bethany Middle School: asphalt sealing and crack repair (\$14,000); replace pipe insulation (\$2,000); concrete repair (\$5,000); protective window film (\$5,000); and repair the courtyard (\$30,000).

At the Orange Middle School: install protective window film (\$2,000), concrete repair (\$5,000) and asphalt sealing (\$10,000); also, a contingency fund of \$100,000.

In a separate chart, the document shows additional building-related capital items, some of which have separate funding sources, and some of which are already underway.

At the High School the capital plan includes a remodel of the Lecture Hall (\$110,000), and two items related to the new stadium field, namely a culvert cleanout at \$35,000 and “chiller refurbishes-adaptive frequency drive” (\$97,000) which could be paid for with money left over from the installation

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Celebrating The 71st National Day of Prayer

“Exalt the Lord Who Has Established Us”, based on Colossians 2:6-7

Woodbridge residents are invited to join together in person for prayer on Thursday, May 5, 2022, 6:30 PM at Trinity Church, 33 Center Road in Woodbridge in celebration of the annual National Day of Prayer. This is the Judeo-Christian expression of the National Day of Prayer, and all are welcome!

The National Day of Prayer gives us the opportunity to come together as one unified body of believers to pray for America’s leaders, our town, and our families. Our Nation’s founding fathers sought the wisdom of God when facing difficult days and critical decisions, and we are called to do the same. During the gathering, church leaders and others will lead in prayers for the needs and concerns of our Government, Military, First Responders, Media, Business/Workplace, Education, Church, and Family.

The theme for 2022 is “Exalt the Lord Who Has Established Us”, based on the New Testament scripture Colossians 2:6-7. Prayer has been the key to the establishment and success America has experienced from her beginning, and by God’s grace and our diligence to follow truth, our country will continue to thrive.

President Harry Truman designat-

ed the first National Day of Prayer in 1952. The event was then set for the first Thursday in May each year by President Reagan. On the occasion of the 1982 National Day of Prayer, President Reagan remarked that “prayer has sustained our people in crisis, strengthened us in times of challenge, and guided us through our daily lives since the first settlers came to this continent. Our forbearers came not for gold, but mainly in search of God and the freedom to worship in their own way.” President Reagan also stated, “If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a Nation gone under”.

Let’s take some time out of our busy lives to come together to acknowledge God’s goodness, forgiveness, and protection over our Nation and seek Him for the days ahead.

To join virtually from home, you can tune in on the Trinity Church YouTube Channel. To do this visit trinityefc.com and click on the “Watch live on YouTube” link on the front page, or you can visit YouTube and search for Trinity Church Woodbridge CT, visit the page, and look for the live event.

To read more about the National Day of Prayer go to www.nationalday-ofprayer.org.

of the new track and field installation.

The relocation of the record room from the District offices to the Orange Middle School basement was scheduled to take place during April Break. The records include personnel files, special ed files and general documents such as meeting minutes and more. The space in the Middle School is available, it is big enough to accommodate the file cabinets and has room to grow, Dr. Byars said at the March 28 Facilities meeting.

Capital items also include security cameras, for which they hope to get a grant (\$69,075).

Surplus: The Amity Board of Education has been getting a lot of push-back for its large budget surpluses. James Leahy, Vice Chairman of the Orange Board of Finance, has taken every opportunity to bring his message to the voting public, including addressing the Amity Board of Education directly before it was slated to vote on the budget; and, most recently, at the March Orange Board of Selectmen meeting, which is broadcast via OGAT on YouTube.

“Over the past five years, the sources of unspent fund balance at year-end

have been from financial management (i.e. efficiencies); special education (e.g., previously outplaced students returning to the District); and other circumstances (e.g., higher staff turnover than projected; more unpaid leaves-of-absence than anticipated; lower medical and dental claims than expected). We have used aggressive negotiations, energy conservation measures, refinanced existing debt, and many other initiatives to find and implement cost savings and efficiencies over the years,” the budget document states.

Savings in medical costs often contributed to the surpluses. “The District switched to a self-insured plan in fiscal year 2012-2013. We saved about one-half million dollars each year in administration costs and over 3 million lower than expected claims. Actual claims were lower than expected claims by almost 1 million dollars in fiscal year 2019 and 2020. The claims in 2020 and 2021 were significantly reduced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Routine medical treatments, procedures and hospitalizations were deferred for pa-

See “Budget” On Page 26

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Or Shalom Happenings

“Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Door”

Staying Connected

Attend religious services and most other events in person or by Zoom.
To register for a Zoom link, please see the information below.

Join Us For Weekly Services Morning Minyan

- › Sunday 9:00 AM – In person and Zoom’d
- › Monday 8:30 AM – Zoom’d
- › Thursday 8:30 AM – Zoom’d

Shabbat Services

- › Friday 7:30 PM – In person and Zoom’d
- › Saturday 9:30 AM – In person and Zoom’d

Please call the synagogue office at 203-799-2341 or email coshalom@sbcglobal.net for more information).

Virtual Learning This Month COFFEE &..LEARN! (And Zoom)

There will be no class in April. Class will return May 4,11 &18.

JOIN A NEW BOOK GROUP IN 2022!

Thursday April 28th from 7-8 pm

The Last Watchman of Old Cairo by Michael David Lukas

Discussion led by Fern Tausig

In this “wonderfully rich” (San Francisco Chronicle) novel from the author of the internationally bestselling The Oracle of Stamboul, a young man journeys from California to Cairo to unravel centuries-old family secrets. Joseph, a literature student at Berkeley, is the son of a Jewish mother and a Muslim father. One day, a mysterious package arrives on his doorstep, pulling him into a mesmerizing adventure to uncover the centuries-old history that binds the two sides of his family. Moving and richly textured, The Last Watchman of Old Cairo is a poignant portrait of the intricate relationship between fathers and sons, and an unforgettable testament to the stories we inherit and the places we are from.



Congregation Or Shalom

Please call the office for Zoom information. 203.799.2341.

Passover Services In-Person and Zoom

- › Fri. morning, April 15th, Annual Fast of Firstborn, service 8:30 a.m.
- › Fri. evening, April 15th Passover begins (1st Seder night, no service)
- › Sat. morning, April 16th service 9:30 a.m.
- › Sun. morning, April 17th service 9:30 a.m.
- › Thurs. evening, April 21st, Latter days of Passover 7:00 p.m.
- › Fri. morning, April 22nd, service 9:30 a.m.
- › Fri. evening, April 22nd, service 7:30 p.m.
- › Sat. morning, April 23rd, service 9:30 a.m. YIZKOR at APPROX. 10:30a.m.

Social Action

For April we are collecting toiletries and will donate them to the Downtown Soup Kitchen for distribution. If you would like to donate, please contact the office 203-799-2341.

Entertainment

Milford Performance Center at Or Shalom hosts, Destination Motown, featuring the Sensational Soul Cruisers. Sunday, April 10th @ 7:00 pm 203.723.3672 Tickets available at MilfordPerformanceCenter.org or at the door.

Golf Tournament

Save the date, August 1, 2022, for our annual Golf Tournament at Orange Hills. Please call the office for more details at 203.799.2341.

Book Group Talk Led by Author Rachel Kaufman

Wednesday, April 27 at 7:30 pm on Zoom

Rachel Kaufman’s first poetry collection, *Many to Remember*, enters the archive’s unconscious to reveal the melodies hidden within the language of the past. The collection unravels Kaufman’s historical research of New Mexican crypto-Jews and the Mexican Inquisition alongside the poet’s own family histories. The book navigates questions of memory, transmission, media, and translation and asks, “How can poetry translate history and the rhythms and form of the archive?”

Rachel Kaufman is currently pursuing a PhD in Latin American and Jewish History at UCLA. Her poetry has appeared on poets.org and in the Harvard Review, Southwestern American Literature, Western Humanities Review, Juxtapose, and elsewhere, and her prose has appeared in the Yale Historical Review and Rethinking History. She received a BA in English and History from Yale University.

In the archive, the poet calls to the past, and the past responds. Her family narrative intertwines with remote

chapters of her people’s chronicle; the struggles of grandparents and great-grandparents are juxtaposed with the struggles of the Marranos in the southwest of the seventeenth century which she devotedly studies. Histories overlap, life stories resonate, unexpected parallels emerge. Translation is the key: “At the edge of words,”

she tells her ghosts, “I accompany you, seeing.” From poem to poem in this deeply moving first book, Rachel Kaufman keeps the commandment: Zakhor! Remember! - Norman Finkelstein

History’s pieces do not arrive to us whole. But in poems, they are set afloat, as the poet puts it in “Me’am Lo’ez”, “We’re told/our souls will grow/accustomed to hearing echoes/of our

customs—these chantings/set apart from myth to keep/some holiness adrift.” To receive these pieces is to experience some of this holiness. - Jake Marmer in Tablet Magazine

For more information, please contact Congregation B’nai Jacob at 203-389-2111, info@bnaijacob.org or BnaiJacob.org.



Woodbridge Town News

ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

Send us your organizations events listings and items of interest. We will publish them for free.

Woodbridge Town News – P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477
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Woodbridge Town News

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

Passover Services

On the night of the First Seder, April 15, BEKI will have no evening service. Yizkor will be included at Shabbat festival services on Saturday morning, April 23, which is the final day of Passover. For the full schedule of Passover services, consult beki.org.

Yom HaShoah

Janet R. Kirchheimer, a Teaching Fellow at Clal-The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, will speak at BEKI's Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) program on Wednesday, April 27 at 7:30 pm. The author of *How to Spot One of Us*, a collection of poems about her family, being the daughter of survivors, and the nature of memory, Kirchheimer currently is producing "AFTER: Bringing the Dead Back to Life," in which contemporary poets perform and discuss the responsibility of art to respond to the Shoah. She will talk about her family, read from her book, and show an excerpt of AFTER. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.



Artist Talk

Suzanne Neusner, whose Fiber Arts exhibition is on display in the upstairs BEKI gallery, will speak about her work Thursday, May 12 at 7:30 pm. For over 35 years, Neusner has focused on abstract imagery through a variety of weaving and quilting techniques. Her work includes playful reinventions of traditional Jewish themes such as matzah covers. For inspiration, she draws from her natural surroundings in the Hudson Valley as well as from her prior explorations in other media. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org. Her exhibition will run through June 4, and some of her work is on sale at the BEKI Gift Shop.

Courtyard Campfire

Wednesday evening, May 18 is Lag BaOmer, the 33rd day of the Omer. The folk-custom is to sing around a camp-



Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

fire at a "kumsitz," meaning "come" and "sit." BEKI's program in the courtyard will feature niggunim—which have no words—as well as traditional American songs and Hebrew songs, all led by Max DuBoff. Song sheets will be provided. In case of rain, the event will be postponed until May 19. Details at beki.org.



Social Action

BEKI's Social Action Tikkun Olam Committee is collecting medical and non-medical supplies for Ukraine. Everyone is invited to help fill the donation box in the coatroom with over-the-counter cold and flu remedies, acetaminophen, aspirin, allergy medications, and digestion medicines. Please donate only tablets, capsules, or gel tablets—no bottled liquids. Band aids, bandages, diapers, menstrual pads or tampons are also welcome. To arrange a time to leave off donations, call the office at 203.389.2108 x114.

Children's Programs

Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, and Junior Congregation meet in person each Saturday mornings. On the First Friday of the month, May 6, the Kabbalat Shabbat service is moved to an earlier time for a kid-friendly, though not specifically kids' service. To receive her weekly newsletter, email Youth and Family Programming Director Annie Norman-Schiff at anorman-schiff@beki.org.



In Person and Online

BEKI offers In-Person services twice daily. Details at beki.org. Weekday morning and evening services also are available on Zoom. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

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

Weekly Services at Temple Beth Sholom

Temple Beth Sholom offers daily morning and evening minyans, and Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services. All services are in-person and on Zoom.

Morning Minyan is held Monday-Friday at 7:15 a.m. and Sunday at 9:00 a.m. On Rosh Chodesh, Minyan begins at 7:15 a.m., and on Yom Tov Minyan begins at 9:30 a.m. Evening (and afternoon, when appropriate) Minyan is held Monday-Friday at 6:45 p.m.

Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service begins at 7:30 p.m. Shabbat morning service begins at 9:30 a.m. More information can be found on [https://](https://tbshamden.com/worship)



Temple Beth Shalom

tbshamden.com/worship.

Temple Beth Shalom is an egalitarian conservative synagogue with over 350 member families and singles from the Greater New Haven community.

Orange Congregational Church Events

Orange Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, invites you to join us at 205 Meeting House Lane in Orange for worship, or on YouTube at Orange Congregational Church, UCC for our livestreamed services. Our regular in-person Sunday worship is at 10:00am in our Sanctuary.

On April 17, 2022 we will offer three Easter services: 6am sunrise worship on Hannah's Hill near the church; 9am worship in-person in the Sanctuary; and 11am worship in-person in the Sanctuary and online.

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation. Anyone interested in joining our church school, youth group, faith formation groups, choirs, or other events can email occhurch@snet.net or visit our website at orange-congregationalchurch.org for more information. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are



Orange Congregational Church

welcome here!

Orange Congregational Church's annual Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, May 14th from 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on the Orange Town Green. This tag sale is a fundraiser which benefits our Pilgrim Fellowship youth program. Spaces are available to rent for \$25 (table and chairs provided upon request). Please email or call the church office (occhurch@snet.net or 203-795-9749) to rent a space.

Holy Infant Church Scholarships

The Holy Infant Church Women's Guild is offering two \$1,000 scholarships this year. The scholarships are open to female high school students who are active parishioners of Holy Infant parish. The applicant must provide proof that she has been accepted to a 4-year college/university for Septem-

ber immediately following this year's graduation. Applications are available on the Holy Infant Church website, www.holyinfantorangect.com and at the doors of the church. The deadline for the application is April 18 by 1:30 pm. For more information contact Sue D'Orso at 203-874-1739.

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

The First Church of Christ, Woodbridge Happenings

The First Church of Christ (FCCW) welcomes you to our Worship Service every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Meetinghouse.

Zoom Option: The option to attend Sunday Service via Zoom continues to be available. To receive an invite, please email the office or log onto our website and add your name to our church email list. All people in the community are welcome in person or via Zoom.

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

Office Hours: The Church office in the Parish House is open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Our 65th Annual Strawberry Festival: First Church of Christ Woodbridge and Boy Scout Troop # 907 (who has been meeting at the church since October 31, 1968) will be sponsoring our town-wide 65th Strawberry Festival to be held on the Church Green on Friday, June 17 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We invite Woodbridge and our neighboring towns to enjoy a picnic dinner and homemade strawberry shortcake. There will be a lively musical group to entertain you and our sanctuary will be open to show our community what a beautiful historic church we have! The menu includes hamburgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs, chips, and drinks. Dessert will be our famous homemade strawberry shortcake. Bring a blanket for an old-fashioned picnic dinner on the Green! All profits will be donated to Ukrainian Relief.

Sanctuary Décor Restoration: The John Canning Company has completed the Phase One sanctuary restoration. Please attend a Sunday service and see the restored ceiling, rosette, cornices, and the north wall. The new décor is glorious.

Interim Minister: The Rev. Susan Murtha has been the new Interim Minister at FCCW for just a couple of months now, and already has made quite an impact. Worship has been filled with God's Holy Spirit in music and prayer, in God's Word and sacrament. Plan a visit to see what is "happening." You can also read about



The First Church of Christ

her on our website. We are honored to welcome such an extraordinary individual!

*The Rev. Janice Touloukian has graciously offered to provide Pastoral Care, helping with visitations and congregational needs when Rev. Murtha is not available.

Weekly Bible Study: Bible Study meets at the Parish House each Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. All are invited!

Join the FCCW Choir! New members are always welcome. Join us for rehearsals each Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop #907: Regular scout meetings are held every Thursday, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish House. Stop by with the young man in your family (ages 11-17 years old) and meet our great scouts! New members are always welcome. For more information go to www.troop907.org.

Pre-school space is available: Pre-school/day care space is available in the Parish House at 5 Meetinghouse Lane. Three rooms, 1,200 sq. ft., and an outside fenced playground.

For More Information: Visit our website at www.uccw.org for resources such as our calendar of events, monthly newsletter, ministry and volunteer opportunities, photo galleries, scout info, and much more! Follow us on Facebook and stay up to date with parish happenings, including memorials and baptism announcements.

Feel free to email us or call the office with all your questions. We are happy to hear from you!

First Church of Christ; 5 Meetinghouse Lane; Woodbridge, CT 06525; Phone: 203-389-2119; Email: office@uccw.org; Website: www.uccw.org; Facebook: www.facebook.com/uccwoodbridge



SPRING CONCERT

Featuring prizewinning pianist Nenad Iovic, along with guest accompanists, on Saturday, May 14th at 4:00 p.m. at the First Church of Christ, 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge. Reception to follow. There will be a free will offering. For more information, please contact 203-389-2119.

Document Shredding Event at Temple Beth Sholom

Date: Sunday, May 22, 2022

Time: 9am-12pm

Location: Temple Beth Sholom, 1809 Whitney Avenue, Hamden (in the parking lot)

Cost: Small Copy Boxes (18 x 12 x 12 inches or smaller) - \$10 per box

Large Banker Boxes (18 x 18 x 24 inches or larger) - \$20 per box **Also Available:**

Hard Drive Destruction & Computer Recycling - \$20 each

CRT Computer Monitors - \$20 each

Hard Drive Only - \$10 each

All items should be in a box that can easily be picked up. Paper items only.

No trash bags, paper bags, etc. No trash or non-paper items.

No CDs, X-Rays, etc. Paper clips and staples CAN be shredded.

On-site shredding truck provided by Affordable Solutions, LLC. Questions? Email fundraising@tbshamden.com.

Temple Beth Sholom is an egalitarian conservative synagogue with over 350 member families and singles from the Greater New Haven community.

“Budget” From Page 23

tients to limit exposure to COVID-19 and to reserve medical resources to those infected with the virus.”

The five-year average unspent fund balance was \$2,489,893, most of which the board has returned to the member

towns. Despite the legal authority to spend all of the budgeted expenditures, the Amity Board of Education has returned to the member towns, or designated for the subsequent budget (thus, reducing the member towns’ allocations) 82.8 percent, or a five-year average of \$1,929,181.

The money that was not returned to the towns has been used to pay for large facility repairs, to build-up the reserves in the Self-Insurance Reserve Fund, as well as capital reserve and technology purchases.

At the end of the 2018-19 year the district returned over \$2 million to

the three member towns; in 2019-20 it was just under \$2 million; and in 2020-21 it returned \$2.4 million. “This is savings of taxpayer dollars, and were returned to the member towns,” it states. “This is savings of taxpayer dollars, and were returned to the member towns,” it states.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

James M. Shure to be Honored at Spring Celebration Event

Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven (JFSGNH) will honor James M. (Jimmy) Shure at its 2022 Spring Celebration fundraiser being held on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at Congregation B’nai Jacob, 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut, 6:30 pm. – 8:00 pm. The tented event, providing wine, dinner, coffee & dessert, will recognize Mr. Shure’s invaluable contributions to JFSGNH and the Greater New Haven community. Funds raised will benefit social service programs provided by Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven Programs.

Music at the event will be provided by New Haven’s Cooperative Arts & Humanities High School Music Messengers, along with music by the Nu Haven Kapelye All Stars. Additional details, along with Ticket and Sponsorship information may be found at <https://conta.cc/3KdkJez> or by contacting Robbin Seipold, Director of Development, at rseipold@jfsnh.org or 203-389-5599 ext. 105.

James “Jimmy” Shure was born and raised in the Westville section of New Haven and currently lives in the Arts District. After graduating with advanced degrees in the Literature of England, Jimmy decided that he wanted to serve a community rather than a classroom. Joined by a caring and supportive staff, Jimmy has been in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Robert E. Shure Funeral home since 1975. More importantly, our community has been blessed to have someone who exemplifies compassion, understanding and humility in such a vital role for so long.

Jimmy has always tried to put the needs of our community first. With boundless generosity, he has participated in, and has led, many philanthropic initiatives. He has a profound understanding of the life-affirming work not-for-profit agencies, like JFS, do for the people they serve. And he’s made it a personal mission to ensure they have the resources necessary to do this work.

Jimmy once said, “JFS is the quiet relative that works diligently with great understanding and compassion – that goes about its work without fan-



James M. Shure

fare, that doesn’t look for headlines in Shalom New Haven, that takes each client and works with them to make them better, healthier, and able to enter the real world.” We couldn’t agree more. And we couldn’t be more appreciative of his support.

For Jimmy, soliciting a gift for a charity is only the beginning. His ultimate goal is to inspire others to become actively involved, to become a difference-maker like him in the lives of those in need and to begin creating a legacy of meaningful deeds.

JFSGNH programs include the JFS Food Pantry offering food assistance to those who face hunger; Counseling/ Mental Health Services for families and individuals; Food4Kids which provides weekend snacks for elementary school students in several New Haven Public Schools; Aging Adult Services, which just launched its Care Navigators program providing assistance to elderly members of our community; Holocaust Survivors Services which helps survivors in the Greater New Haven area and Fairfield County who needs support services to continue to live at home; and/or need help to meet basic needs; Social Work Outreach Services (SOS) for individuals and families in crisis struggling to meet their own basic needs by providing short term case management and referrals; and The Shalom Group, which provides support through educational enrichment and social activities to those with developmental disabilities.

Congregation B’nai Jacob Events

Weekly Services & Classes
Daily Minyan Services

- › Monday - Friday: 7:45am
- › Monday – Thursday:6:00pm (on ZOOM only)
- › Sunday: 9:00am, 6:00pm
- › National Holidays: Times vary

Weekly Shabbat Services
Friday

- › Schmooze 6:00pm
- › Services6:30pm

Saturday- › Bread & Torah9:00am
- › Services10:00am

Passover 2022 Service Schedule
Friday, April 15
No evening service - 1st seder
Saturday, April 16
1st Day of Pesach; No evening service – 2nd seder
10:00 am Service
Sunday, April 17
2nd Day of Pesach
9:30 am Service
Thursday, April 21
6:00 pm Service
Friday, April 22
7th Day of Pesach
9:30 am Service
6:30 pm Service
Saturday, April 23
8th Day of Pesach
10:00 am Service w/ Yizkor

Bread & Torah
Saturday Mornings 9:00am-9:45am
- Meet in the B’nai Jacob Library (or join us on Zoom) to explore the weekly Torah portion and the way in which its story relates to our own. Be prepared for a lively discussion over bagels and coffee. No experience necessary. Taught by Rabbi Rona Shapiro.

Shir Hadash
April 23 at 9:00am - Join us for a songful, prayerful, soulful service led by the Rabbi and the Cantor. Our intent is to use the power of our music and the kavanah of our words and hearts to make God’s presence manifest.



Congregation B'nai Jacob

Shabbat Lunch & Learn
Saturday, April 23 at 1:00 pm - Jewish Pluralism in Action: A Conversation with Rabbinic Intern Sara Blumenthal. Pluralism is being explored in a variety of ways in today’s Jewish world. How does it work at rabbinical school? What are the opportunities, challenges, and implications of a pluralistic approach to training clergy? Join this conversation about Hebrew College in Newton, MA, as well as about the larger place of pluralism in today’s Jewish community.

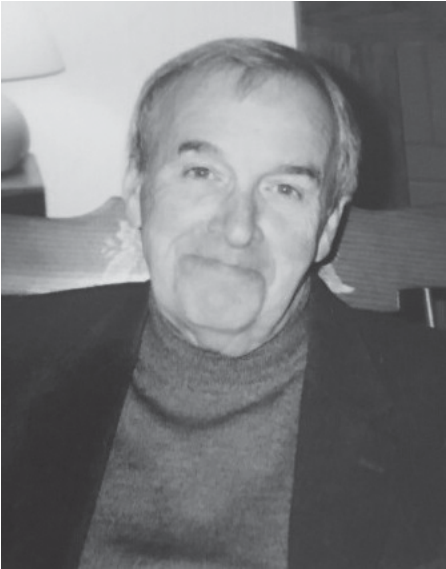


Upcoming Family Programming
SAVE THESE DATES! VISIT OUR WEBSITE for more details and information.
Sunday, May 15 - Special Family Fun Event - BBQ, w/ outdoor games and activities.
Sunday, June 5 - Family Shavuot Program and ice cream social.
Sunday, June 12 – BJ Players presents:
After two postponements, three times the charm for B’nai Jacob Players: Sunday, June 12, is our new performance date for the production of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. The Players are so excited to return to live theatre! Ticket Information coming soon.
For more information about any of these events, or becoming a member of B’nai Jacob: Call 203-389-2111, Email office@bnaijacob.org, Visit our website, bnaijacob.org. ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

“This is true freedom: Our ability to shape reality. We have the power to initiate, create and change reality rather than only react and survive it. How can we all educate our children to true freedom? Teach them not to look at reality as defining their acts but to look at their acts as defining reality.” — YAACOV COHEN

DEATH NOTICES



Daniel J. Holland

Daniel J. Holland, 83, of Orange, beloved husband of Liv Holland, passed away peacefully on March 9, 2022. Born on October 6, 1938, a life-long resident of Orange, he was the son of the late Herbert and Edith (Hannon) Holland.

Dan lived a wonderful life. A graduate of Hopkins, he went into the family tack business in Shelton and worked many years selling fasteners. Dan met the love of his life, Liv at a neighborhood party, while she was here on a visa from Norway. He was a leader in the Church of the Good Shepard and enjoyed singing in the choir for many years. He made many close friends there, many of which he kept in close contact with for most of his life. The simplest pleasures in life brought the greatest joy to Dan. He loved a family dinner with a glass of wine in his hand or a lunch with ‘the guys’. He had a way with people, he was funny, had the worst Dad jokes but people adored him. He always had time for his family. Family get togethers were always at Nana and Papa’s house. He was an avid chess player and went to tournaments with his son Dan. He spent a few years working with his son Eric in his contractor business where he picked up the nickname Rambo. His last years were devoted to the care of his beloved wife Liv; with much help from his daughter Lisa; and spending time with his kids. We will all miss him dearly.

In addition to his loving wife of 61 years Liv, survivors include three loving children, Dan R. Holland and wife Roberta of Woodbridge, Lisa Holland and fiancé Mark Coppolella of West Haven, and Eric Holland and

fiancé Kris DePalma of West Haven, and his brother David Holland and wife Susan; 3 cherished grandchildren, Michael, Steven and wife Zoe, Alexander; and great granddaughter, Olivia. He was predeceased by his brother, John Holland.

The Family is being compassionately cared for by the staff of the Cody-White Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St Jude’s hospital or the Alzheimer’s Association.



Robert J. McKay

Robert James McKay PE, of Orange, beloved husband of Bettyejane Esposito McKay, passed away peacefully on March 6, 2022. Born on August 29, 1923 in Tillicoultry, Scotland, he was the son of the late David and Millicent (Geary) McKay.

Mr. McKay was attached to an Elite Army Engineering Training Program. He served as a Corporal in the Army 104th Infantry, 103rd Combat Army Corp of Engineers. He landed in France prior to the invasion of Normandy, clearing the way for the troops. He made his way through Belgium and Luxembourg into Germany where he liberated a concentration camp.

Upon returning from WWII, he finished his education at night while working for a firm in the Financial District of New York. Mr. McKay finished his degree in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering from NYU and Princeton.

He contracted with Pan-American Airlines as an Engineer doing their Hotels in European and Middle Eastern countries in the cities where the airline flew. In 1967, Robert and Mary McKay moved their family from Seaford, Long Island to Orange Connecticut. A

year later, he started his own firm, Mechanical Associates and worked until receiving his last 1099 from the Town of Orange when he was 91 years old. By the end of his career, Mr. McKay had traveled to every continent and over 52 countries doing the work he loved. In his spare time, Mr. McKay loved the game of golf, but his number one interest was the theater. He enjoyed Broadway or local productions and was a proud member of the Orange Players for 45 years. He also played for the farm team of the New York Giants.

In addition to his wife, Robert is survived by his children, Douglas (Roxane) McKay, and Donna McKay (John Bird) O’Connor; step-daughter, Cindy Breen; grandchildren, Sheehan, Kyle, Adam, Alexander; step-grandchildren, Cathy, Sheri, Brian, and Samantha; great-grandchild Kennedy O’Connor; nieces Maureen, Colleen, Teashe, and Kathleen, nephew Thomas, and extended family members. Robert was predeceased by his wife, Mary Sheehan McKay; his son Dennis McKay; his brother, David McKay; and his stepson-in-law, Donald Breen.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 14, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. at Holy Infant Church, Orange, CT. Military Honors followed immediately after the church service. Interment was private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Veterans Connecticut Fallen Hero’s foundation @ www.ctfallenheroes.org/donate.html. To leave online condolences, please visit www.cody-whitefuneralservice.com.



Ronald F. Burghart

On March 25th 2022, Ronald Francis Burghart, a resident of Woodbridge and Murphy N.C, passed away after a fight with cancer. He was deceased by his wife MaryAnne Doyle of Branford, CT. He was the father of five. He leaves behind Kathy Stevens Burghart, Ronald Junior, Doreen, Brian (Barbara Haskell Burghart) and was predeceased by Joseph. He also leaves behind three Grandsons: Edward Stevens of N. C., Michael Delibero of N. C. and Brian Burghart of CT. Ron also leaves behind his sister Joyce Corcoran of The Villages in Florida and was predeceased by

his sister Jean of WA. Ron worked for many years as a tool maker, short order cook and as a landscaping manager. His largest pleasures in life included coaching for the Fathers and Sons baseball teams in Woodbridge, helping his sons with Boy Scouts, volunteer work for Muscular Dystrophy and spending time with his grandsons. He was also a great fan of ice hockey, long walks and cats.



Anna DeVito Adamovich

Anna DeVito Adamovich (98) of Woodbridge, CT, died peacefully on March 24th, 2022 surrounded by her loving family. She was also known as Nina, Gram, Aunt T’Anna, and Mrs. A.

She was born July 27, 1923, to Clorinda Mastroianni and Gelsomino “James” DeVito. She was the fifth of ten children and one of the beloved DeVito sisters of Woodbridge. She attended WH Warner, Hill House High and graduated from Boardman Trade School.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband John, and all nine of her siblings and their spouses – Regalina DeVito DeRosa (Bill), Rosario “Ray” DeVito (Betty), Libby DeVito Signore (Ralph), Frank DeVito (Clara), Joseph DeVito (Evelyn), Carmela DeVito, Anthony “Chick” DeVito (Evie), Dorothy “Dottie” DeVito Malerba (Bob), and Dolores “Babe” DeVito Pavlovich (Billy).

Anna married the love of her life, John Adamovich (August 1918 – December 1980) in October 1946 and they loved to travel. Anna would always accompany John across the country and to Canada for his many bowling tournaments. She was a loving mother to and is survived by her two children – Carolyn Rae Bernardo (Richard) of Marlborough, CT, and John Tychon Adamovich (Kathy Smith) of Woodbridge, CT.

She is also survived by her 3 grandchildren – Kimberly Adamovich Nunes (Telmo), John Michael Adamovich (Danielle Norris) and Kevin D. Anthony Adamovich, her three great-grandchildren – Dillon, Sarah, and Emma as well as 24 nieces and nephews.

After John’s death Anna continued

See “Obituaries” On Page 29

DEATH NOTICES

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

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“The truth is, no one of us can be free until everybody is free.” — MAYA ANGELOU

“Obituaries” From Page 28

her love of travel, visiting relatives in California, Ohio, South Carolina, Florida, New Orleans, Rhode Island, New York and Italy. Every summer she and her best friend Eleanor would travel the eastern seacoast from Cape Cod to Bar Harbor Maine to enjoy their favorite lobster dish. Anna was the first Teacher Assistant in the State of Connecticut working in the Woodbridge school system for over thirty years and had many of her nieces, nephews, and grandchildren in her classes. Her grandchildren were the third generation going through the Woodbridge

School system. She was awarded many certificates of appreciation from the Town of Woodbridge and the RSVP of Southern Central Connecticut in recognition of her exemplary volunteer service and valuable contributions benefiting the community.

An avid Yankee and UConn Huskies women’s basketball fan, she loved to watch her favorite team play. She was known to hush anyone talking during the games. She also loved to go on the family bus trips to Yankee Stadium every summer.

Anna was a life-long parishioner of Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Woodbridge and the Lady’s Guild.

She was a member of the Woodbridge Gazebo Committee, former President of the Woodbridge Parent Teachers Association, member of the Women of Woodbridge and a longtime member of the Woodbridge Senior Center where she served on the Advisory Board. She loved participating in the lunch program collecting money at the door and monthly restaurant lunches as well as the Thursday craft group.

Anna will always be remembered for her beautiful smile, loving heart and waving hand.

The family would like to give a special thank you to her niece Joan for her compassion, comforting nature and

care during her illness.

A visitation was held March 27th in the Celentano Funeral Home, 424 Elm St., New Haven. A Mass of Christian Burial in Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Center Rd., Woodbridge, was held with Interment following in East Side Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Anna’s memory to the Anna Maria Adamovich Scholarship Fund, C/O Amity Regional High School, 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525, Attn: Finance Department. This scholarship will be awarded annually to an Amity Senior pursuing a career in elementary education.

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND

Call 203-389-3429 or email npfund@woodbridgect.org or youthone@woodbridgect.org for information or to sign up for programs. Like us on Facebook Woodbridge, CT Youth Services

Job Bank

Spring arrives with the need for yard cleanup and garden prep. Residents are encouraged to call to hire teens to do odd jobs in Woodbridge.

Woodbridge Teens Wanted

Teens who want paid work should contact Youth Services to schedule an interview. The Job Bank is a referral service for residents who offer odd jobs to resident teens ages 13 – 18. Build your resume and gain skills.

Paint Party

Seventh and eighth grade residents of Woodbridge and Bethany can sign up now for a paint party at the Amity Middle School-Bethany cafeteria from 2:30 to 4:30 pm on April 29. Instructor Samantha Woodruff is patient and knowledgeable and will guide students to paint a spring scene. Create a masterpiece to keep or gift. Cost is \$20 and includes all materials and snack. Permission form and advance payment required. Call or email now. Space is limited.

After-School Create Class – May 6

Students at Amity Middle School-Bethany will be invited to a small class after school to make some-

thing special. Check out our website or Facebook page for more information.

Youth Evening Programs

Volunteers are needed: Chaperone or help with registration or food. Adults, college students, or high school juniors or seniors are asked to help. We approve community service for students.

BOW 8th Grade Party

Eighth grade residents from Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge are invited to a party at Amity High School at 25 Newton Road on April 22nd from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Non-residents who attend Amity Middle School-Bethany 8th grade are also invited. A DJ will play tunes for dancing and students can hit the selfie station to pose for photos with friends. Pizza, snacks and games are planned to help make it a great night. Free raffle tickets provided. Cost is \$7 to be paid at the door. Bethany and Woodbridge residents should call 203-389-3429 or email youthone@woodbridgect.org to register. Orange students should email to register at jsimone@orange-ct.gov

Bethwood Party – May 13

Seventh and eighth grade residents of Woodbridge and Bethany will have a ball at this bash. Non-residents who attend Amity Middle School-Bethany 7th or 8th grade are also invited. Enjoy a party with a DJ and surprise games on the field behind Amity Middle School-Bethany from 6:30 to 8:30



Sixth graders from Woodbridge and Bethany had a great party recently at Amity Middle School-Bethany which was sponsored by Woodbridge Youth Services and the Town of Bethany.

pm. Rain brings program into the gym. Snacks and a free raffle are included for a \$7 fee. Check our Town’s website or our Facebook for any additional information.

Awareness Week at Amity Middle School-Donations Needed

Students at Amity Middle School-Bethany will celebrate Awareness Week from 4/25 – 4/29 sponsored by Woodbridge Youth Services. Donations are needed for craft projects. If anyone wishes to donate items like birdseed, potting soil flower seeds, and pinecones please contact Youth Services.

BOWDAAC

BOWDAAC is the Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge Drug/Alcohol Action Committee. BOWDAAC is a grant-funded Local Prevention Council serving the communities of Bethany,

Orange, and Woodbridge. Our mission is to reduce underage drinking and substance use by promoting awareness through educational programs and community collaborations. For more information or to join our committee, email info.bowdaac@gmail.com or check out our website www.bowdaac.org

BOWDAAC’s National Drug Take Back Day

Drug Take Back Day will be held on Saturday, April 30th at High Plains Community Center from 10:00am-2:00pm (525 Orange Center Rd, Orange CT). This event aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. Unused medications may also be dropped off at the Woodbridge Police Department at 4 Meetinghouse Lane.



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Recreation News



Second Annual Logan Testa Memorial Triathlon

The Woodbridge Recreation Dept. will hold its second Annual Logan Testa Memorial Kid's Triathlon on Saturday, June 11, 2022, 9 am. Join this family event where children compete in three athletic timed events: swimming, biking and running.

Logan was a longtime participant of the Woodbridge Recreation programs. We are excited to be honoring Logan's life and his family's commitment to our programming.

Awards will be given to all participants. It is recognized that all athletes are winners for their stamina and spirit to compete regardless of time!

Registration deadline (online or in person at the Woodbridge Recreation Dept.) is Friday, May 20, noon. Due to the amount of preparation for this event, registrations will not be accepted after May 20.

2022 Summer Concert Series

They will be held on Tuesday Evenings in July, from 6 to 8 pm, at the Woodbridge Town Green. July 5 is the Beatles tribute band "Britishmania",

featuring music from the Beatles. July 12 features "Boogie Chillun" (History of music featuring: Country, Blues, Jazz, Rock and Soul music). July 19 features "Abe Ovadia trio" – Jazz music. July 26 is the "Rumrunners" (Classic Rock). In case of inclement weather, check the Town website woodbridgect.org for rain date information.

Tennis Permits

For use of all Town public tennis courts for the playing of pickleball or tennis, please contact the Woodbridge Recreation Department for a no-cost permit to reserve your times. (Multiple times and days can be reserved for up to three weeks.) Permits are available from April 15th to November 1st - three weeks in advance. Permits for court times can be reserved by Woodbridge residents and registered nonresident pickleball players only. Contact our department at (203) 389-3446, Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm. Pickleball and tennis permits will be emailed to you. Once reserved you must have your permit with you while you are playing. This will be proof you have reserved that court for that specific time period.

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