

Woodbridge Town News



Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper

Mailed Free To Every Home in Woodbridge
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FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2022

Amity Hires Assistant Superintendent

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Amity Regional School District will have a new leadership profile with the hiring of an assistant superintendent. The Board of Education voted unanimously on May 9 to hire Frank A. Purcaro to fill the new role at a salary of \$186,668.

The District, under the leadership of School Supt. Dr. Jennifer Byars, decided earlier this spring not to continue the position of Director of Curriculum and Staff Development after Dr. Marie McPadden retired. Instead, the new assistant superintendent will assume more responsibilities, including responsibilities for instruction and assessment, English Language Learners, school safety and “aspects of HR,” Dr. Byars wrote in an email.

The assistant superintendent will be more involved in interactions with the Board of Education, through both its Curriculum Committee and the Policy Committee. The new position also “creates a clear chain of command,” Dr. Byars wrote, “particularly if the superintendent is not available.”

She pointed out that comparable

districts in the District Reference Group (DRG) all have this leadership structure, with a superintendent and assistant superintendent, rather than a curriculum coordinator. The salary is in line with that of the high school principal, Dr. Byars said.

Frank Purcaro comes to Amity



Frank Purcaro

from his current position as director of Student Learning and Teaching at Newtown schools. He earned his Master's Degree in Education from the University of Bridgeport and also holds his Juris Doctorate from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

Purcaro has “extensive experience in all

facets of school system management, with a substantial focus in the area of classroom teaching, professional development, and student learning,” according to a press release sent out by the Amity District.

He began his career in education as a high school social studies teacher before becoming assistant principal and eventually, assistant superintendent in the Wolcott School District before moving to Newtown schools. Purcaro will join the Amity District on July 1.

Senior Center Plans Moving Forward

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The town's Human Services Department has been advocating for a renovation of the Senior Center for years, and this year it seems that the project is finally coming to fruition, thanks in part to two state grants that allow the town to move forward with the plans. “The seniors deserve a clean, appropriate center for their use,” said Human Services Commission Chairman Susan Davidson, when she and Human Services Director Jeanette Glicksman were giving this reporter a tour of the stripped premises.

The senior center is located in the basement of the Center Building, which was designed as the town's original elementary school. But seniors

have not been able to use at least parts of the facility off and on for years – first for construction of an accessible bathroom on the lower level of the building; then for construction of a ramp; then the pandemic closed its doors; followed by flooding last summer, when heavy rain found its way under the bottom of the new outside door.

And now the groups are again dispersed – using a variety of spaces either upstairs in the Center Building, in the library meeting room or en plein air – to be together, to paint; play cards; knit or exercise; take virtual trips and virtual classes. Demolition has started on the cafeteria, the kitchen, the lounge, to get ready for the new, bright,

See “Senior Center” On Page 2

Finance Board Sets Mill Rate for Fiscal Year '23

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Woodbridge Board of Finance at its May 19 meeting set a mill rate of 43.77 for real estate and personal property for the Fiscal Year starting on July 1, to pay for an expenditure package of \$53,824,129. The budget includes a 5.51% increase for the Woodbridge Board of Education, a 5.66% increase for the Amity Board of Education and a 2.42% increase in the town's expenses.

The state legislature meanwhile has capped the mill rate for motor vehicle

taxes statewide at 32.46 in an effort to equalize the charges among the different municipalities. It has promised the towns with a higher mill rate a transition grant to make up for the lost income. Woodbridge will receive \$1 million to at least partially make up for the difference of \$1.3million. Because of that shortfall the new mill rate is somewhat higher than what was first published (43.77 rather than 43.49)

For an average home assessed at

See “Mill Rate” On Page 28



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To keep track of it all, the Board of Selectmen has appointed a Building Committee, consisting of Board of Finance member Dwight Rowland, Finance Director Anthony Genovese, Human Services Commission Chairman Susan Davidson, Human Services Director Jeanette Glicksman, Senior Center Director Christy Moriarty and Building Maintenance Foreman Brad Parsons.

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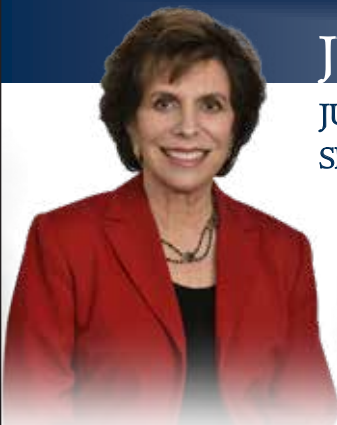
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Hello Woodbridge friends and neighbors! Happy Memorial Day – the holiday that begins summer ... In Woodbridge, we celebrate this holiday with a solemn ceremony that mourns and honors those who died while serving in the U.S. military. Each year this event is organized by local veteran Dr. Barry Josephs. Please take the time to join us on Monday, May 30th at 11 am outside on the lawn, at the VFW Monument in front of the Center Building (4 Newton Road). It is truly a very moving, poignant ceremony. Due to the rising COVID-19 positivity rate, the event will be canceled in the case of rain – our usual rain location is the Center Building Gym, but there is no ventilation in that space, and we want to respect each other, and continue to keep everyone as safe as possible.

New Haven County is in what the CDC calls a “high alert” area for COVID-19. That means you should wear masks indoors in public, stay up to date on vaccines and boosters, and test if you have any symptoms. We are also strongly encouraging staff and visitors to wear masks in our municipal buildings. As of this writing, the Connecticut daily positivity rate is over 14%.

Our Human Services department has a limited number of at-home COVID-19 test kits for Woodbridge residents by appointment only. Please call 203-389-3429 to make an appointment. The federal government is now offering an additional eight free COVID-19 test kits to residents via mail who request them at covid.gov/tests. No ID, insurance or payment is needed to order the kits.

Earlier this month we held the Annual Town Meeting to approve the Board of Finance’s recommended budget for the coming fiscal year. Countless hours were spent to create the budget – it is a collaborative effort that takes place over several months, with input from board and commission members, department heads, staff and the public. I thank everyone who worked so hard as we all strived to provide the Town’s necessary funding, while also being respectful of taxpayer dollars. You may view the Town’s budget, with our new, more transparent, interactive online budget tool, and also learn more about the budget process on the Finance Department page of Town’s website, www.woodbridgect.org.

This year’s budget was extremely

From the First Selectman BY BETH HELLER



challenging, in part, because although Town expenses continue to grow, our grand list remains relatively stagnant, which is what continues to contribute to the mill rate increase. There are a few ways to grow our grand list: we can add density to the business district; we can expand the business district; and/or we can allow and encourage more types of housing or more housing density.

The 2030 Task Force, created to find ways to help grow the grand list by 2030, has just started working with a consultant to look at ways to make the business district more attractive to businesses, customers and residents. This group of interested business and civic leaders are working to gather ideas and concepts as to how we might achieve growth and will present them to the public for feedback this summer.

A bipartisan Board of Selectmen Strategic Plan subcommittee is also focusing on financial stability, including growing our grand list, supporting local businesses, and continues to focus on increased financial transparency. Subcommittee members Sheila McCreven and David Vogel presented their draft plan at the Annual Town Meeting. If you were unable to attend the in-person meeting, you may view a draft on the Town’s website on the Board of Selectmen page. We continue to welcome your feedback.

The Board of Selectmen plans to use the Strategic Plan as a guide to identify projects to use for the Town’s \$2.6 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Once those priorities have been identified, the Board of Selectmen will seek feedback from residents and then make a final decision. I believe the ARPA funds present a once-in-a-generation opportunity and I think they should be used to fund once-in-a-generation projects. My ideas are to use these funds to make improvements to the business district, and add 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’d also like to upgrade our aging playgrounds and/or make investments to the irrigation systems

at our ballfields.

Another draft plan available to view on the Town website is our draft Affordable Housing Plan. The ad hoc Housing Opportunity Study Committee, created in 2020 to respond to the state’s required affordable housing goals, worked very hard on this plan, and incorporated public feedback from the surveys and forums they held. The draft can be viewed on the committee’s page on the Town website. Currently in Connecticut (and nationwide), there is a severe housing crisis. Each municipality is required to have a plan outlining how to reach the State goal of providing at least 10% affordable housing.

Working toward this goal is the right thing to do. In Woodbridge our housing stock is mostly large single-family homes. Sustainable communities are those with housing stock that accommodate first-time homebuyers who typically look for smaller homes, larger family homes, and homes for empty nesters or retirees. We do not have a lot of homes for people at the beginning and end of their home ownership cycle.

Related to housing, a recent full-page “paid for by” column in the Woodbridge Town News deserves some clarification:

A statement was made that Woodbridge Zoning now allows 15 homes per acre – if the town sells the property to a developer “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.”

A developer CANNOT change their proposal once Town Plan & Zoning approves the plan. If they want to make any change after approval, then they need to go back to P&Z. Most importantly, however, the Town will specifically spell out what is allowed on the property in the contract of sale with any developer and the developer will be contractually bound to build nothing more than what is in the contract. This is one of the benefits in selling Town-owned property: the Town controls what is built as opposed to when a homeowner/landowner sells to a developer. Accordingly, any project on Country Club property can be limited to what the

Town defines in the Contract of Sale which could be recorded on the land records. The restrictions in the contract will also bind any entity or individual that buys the land from the developer.

It was also stated that “Open space produces proven economic benefits” and “all the independent data show that open space creates a financial gain and residential development creates a financial loss for towns.”

Many open space parcels that are developed can create financial benefits to the Town. It depends on the particular characteristics of the parcel and transaction with the developer.

One size does not fit all. In addition, the Town needs to improve its affordable housing opportunities and we cannot ignore that imperative. Adding affordable housing and more diverse types of housing will have a positive financial impact as well as being the right thing to do in order to improve housing opportunities in Woodbridge.

Also, comment was made that “Affordable housing can be integrated into existing neighborhoods without sacrificing public open space land.”

This is simply not true. To be affordable, the property and price of the dwelling must be deed restricted for a number of years. Merely because a house is modestly priced does not make it affordable under the law.

Just to remind everyone about upcoming opportunities and events in Woodbridge, the Town’s ad hoc Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee has just launched an “Experiencing Woodbridge” survey, and I encourage everyone to participate. The survey asks about residents’ experience in town and their interactions with Town government and the schools. Your responses will help guide the committee’s priorities and work. The link can be found on the committee’s page on the Town’s website.

Lastly, I invite you all to join the Economic Development Commission at “Make Music Day” on Tuesday, June 21. They are coordinating simultaneous outdoor free concerts at several businesses: Coachman Square, Crest Lincoln, The Shops at 245 Amity Road, and The Willows. More details to follow soon!

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with questions or comments. I can be reached at 203-389-4300 or bheller@woodbridgect.org.

“On Memorial Day, I don’t want to only remember the combatants. There were also those who came out of the trenches as writers and poets, who started preaching peace, men and women who have made this world a kinder place to live.” — ERIC BURDON

Top Ten* Frequently Asked Questions About Conservation & Open Space in Woodbridge

*Part 1. Top Ten Reasons Part 2 will appear in the next edition of this paper.



"Woodbridge's natural resources include the quality of its air, the condition of its surface and groundwater supplies, the fertility and ecological functions of its soil, and its native plant and animal species. The character, sustainability, health, and quality of life of the Town will all be enhanced by the continued protection and conservation of these resources." (*Town of Woodbridge Plan of Conservation and Development*, p. 73)

1. The First Selectman claims that the Town's "budget crisis" is caused in part by past investments in open space that have inhibited growth. Is that true? NO! Past open space purchases, including the former Country Club of Woodbridge property, have been in residential areas, not in commercial areas. Thus, the only growth averted by these purchases has been residential growth, which in the long run costs towns much more in government services (education, public safety, roads, etc.) than the tax revenues brought in by new homes. In fact, the past investment in open space has saved many millions of dollars, it has not caused the town's budget woes.

2. The First Selectman seems to imply that Woodbridge has already protected 25% of the town as open space. Is that true? NOT REALLY! Most of Woodbridge's protected open space (15% of the town) is owned by the Regional Water Authority, to which access is restricted in order to protect a regional water resource. Nonprofit land trusts own 3% of the town's land, and the State owns 1% as part of West Rock State Park. Only 6% of the town's land area is fully protected open space actually owned by the town, mostly acquired with the assistance (and encouragement) of state grants.

3. Does the State of Connecticut promote the preservation of open space? YES! In 1997, the State of Connecticut created a "Green Plan" that calls for the preservation of 21% of Connecticut's lands as open space by 2023. The plan, as set forth in CT General Statute 23-8, calls for the State to protect 10% of Connecticut's land mass, and its partners (towns, non-profits, and water companies) to protect 11%. As summarized in the most recent Annual Report of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the Green Plan has only been 76% achieved. To reach the goal, another 163,000 acres must be protected.

4. Some people say Woodbridge already has enough open space. Is that true? NO! As a recent New Haven Register front page story asserted (*Enough Open Space? Not Even Close*, April 10, 2022), the State has fallen behind and is in danger of not achieving the goal. In particular, towns, non-profits, and water companies have only achieved 69% of their portion of the goal while the State has achieved 80% of its portion. As Woodbridge resident Robert Klee wrote in 2016 when he was the Commissioner of DEEP, the conservation goal is a statewide goal, that requires rural towns to preserve much more than 21% of their land.

"The State of Connecticut's goals for open space protection are divided between state-owned lands and lands held by our partners – municipalities, conservation organizations, and water utilities. That division of the goal, however is not further segmented by municipal boundaries. Collectively, the State of Connecticut and its partners should be protecting the most valuable open space that remains. There are certain municipalities that simply do not have sufficient open space land remaining. Further, open space priorities should take into consideration the ecosystem benefits of stitching together larger, continuous tracks of open space lands. While this does not lessen the importance of protecting land in our urban centers, open space values increase when protection is achieved at a landscape scale."

Towns like Woodbridge, then, are obligated to protect as much land as possible for the benefit of the greater community, especially for our urban neighbors who have little access to open space within the city limits.

5. Does Town of Woodbridge policy support the preservation of open space? YES! Every Connecticut town is required to have a Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and to update it every ten years. Note the title of this required plan: it indicates the importance placed on the conservation of each town's natural resources by state law. A POCD provides both a long-term vision for the community and a roadmap for short- and medium-term decision making. Among many statements in the Woodbridge POCD that support the conservation of the town's natural resources is the following: "Woodbridge's natural resources are vital to the Town's sustainable future and natural character" (p. 87).

Woodbridge, we can do better!

For background documentation and more information, visit our website: UnitedforWoodbridge.org

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Paid for by United for Woodbridge, Paul Harrigan, Treasurer

From the Democratic
Town Committee

BY ELLEN SCALETTAR
WDTC CHAIRMAN

Other Side of the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE
WRTC CHAIRMAN

More Action Needed on
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Young People Make the Case

Over the past few years, students at Amity High School have taken the lead in calling out incidents of racial and religious bias and an atmosphere that some students find uncomfortable and intimidating. In 2018, “The Amity community was stunned...when dozens of students, many of them Jewish, streamed to the podium at a Board of Education meeting with compelling testimony about a long-standing climate of anti-Semitism in the school.” (New Haven Register, “Anti-Semitism at Amity High School Leaves Many Wondering ‘How could it happen here?’” November 17, 2018)

The morning after the meeting, the Amity administration “went into quick action,” including an acknowledgement of the students’ experiences, bringing in the Anti-Defamation League, and more. (New Haven Register article above.)

The young people had made their case.

In the Summer of 2020, a group of recent Amity High School graduates organized a Black Lives Matter event on the Town Green. Among the speakers was the mother of recent graduate Ryan Rattley, who could not be there, but provided a letter that his mother read. Ryan wrote, in part, “I did not have a black teacher while in the Amity Regional School District until I was a junior in high school. The first time I was ever called the N-word was on the bus home from elementary school. When I was in middle school the police were called on me, my brother, and our father while we were sitting in our car outside of the house I had lived in for my entire life. What lesson does that teach a middle schooler about how welcome he is here?”

First Selectman Beth Heller was “greatly moved” by the words of Ryan and the other young people who spoke. She said, “It was apparent that the event was a great start, but a start only, on the work that Woodbridge should be doing to enhance and assure diversity and inclusion in all aspects of our Town life.” In order to “assure an ongoing, committed focus” on these issues, First Selectman Heller created The Woodbridge Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (Ad Hoc DEI Committee).

The young people had made their

case, again.

In 2021, NBC Connecticut reported on an Amity Board of Education meeting at which students described the atmosphere at school as “toxic and unsafe.” They described “intolerant and hostile environments in the middle and high schools.” (NBC Connecticut, “Parents, Students Speak Out About Racial Hostility in Amity High School at BOE Meeting, June 15, 2021.”)

Amity Superintendent Jennifer Byars responded, “I want to work with parents, students, and our faculty to address the reality that students do feel unwelcome in Amity. And while we have done work in this area, clearly more work needs to be done. And I am committed to that.” (NBC Connecticut article above.) Superintendent Byars demonstrated commitment this year, as did the Amity Board of Education. In bi-partisan vote of 12-1, the Amity Board of Education approved a budget that included funding for a half-time Diversity, Equity and Inclusion instructional coach. Despite the strong Board support, this budget was defeated in the first Amity referendum; the fate of the position is unknown at the time of writing this column.

The young people had made their case yet again; so much more still needs to be done.

Of course, young people are not alone in calling for greater attention to and action to address discrimination and exclusion, here in Woodbridge and across our state and our country. While some may disagree with specific actions or initiatives, there can be no serious disagreement as to the need for sustained and bold action.

As James Baldwin wrote, “Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

You can help by taking take 10 minutes to fill out the Experiencing Woodbridge Survey, created by the Ad Hoc DEI Committee. You can access the survey from the Town website or at: <https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/zhB3NB>.

To learn more about the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee, please get in touch by email: woodbridgeCTdems@gmail.com or visit our website: woodbridgeCTdems.org.

Another Message from
Woodbridge Voters

The May 3 Amity Regional School Budget referendum results spoke volumes. Here in Woodbridge voters sent a clear message that the Amity Board of Education (ABOE) needs to go back to the drawing board. The message was even more pronounced in Orange, with a rejection greater than 2:1, and Bethany rejected it as well. The majority of voters agreed this was a bad budget. The reasons varied: some saw the 3.99% budget increase as too much; some saw the recurring million-dollar plus surpluses coming from the ABOE as reason enough not to trust this budget. There was also considerable sentiment against the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) effort promoted by the Board and Superintendent.

Readers may remember another recent Amity-related referendum – the one focused on putting artificial turf on the football field. While the vote did pass across the three towns, it was defeated in Woodbridge. In that case the most noted concerns were the immediate and long-term costs, the effect such turf has on the student athletes and the environmental concerns about the turf materials themselves.

An obvious take-away from these votes is that referendums are the most democratic way for local residents to determine how we want our money spent – and how much of it. One could argue that neither defeat was financially motivated, but it is certainly the most democratic way for taxpayers to participate in budget decisions.

In Woodbridge, that’s where the true democratic process regarding our budget ends. Sure, there are sparsely attended public hearings on the budget, and good questions can arise that make a marginal impact on what the final budget looks like. But once the budget is ready for a vote – when it counts – the current Town Charter-prescribed process effectively precludes change. Our charter requires a vote on each line item of the budget, rather than the budget as a whole, at a Town Meeting with at least 250 voters present. Last year’s Town Meeting saw a chaos when the line-item vote process played out. There was more confusion than clarity in that meeting,

which was to be expected given the antiquated approval/rejection process we must follow. The cynic in me sees this as a way to assure the budget is finalized unchanged. Ironically, we could easily revise the Charter and so fix the problem, but the First Selectman and the Democrat majority have never lifted finger once to consider bringing this important democratic change to Woodbridge. It’s high time they did.

Woodbridge desperately needs the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to convene a Charter Revision Commission that will consider changing the way we govern ourselves in several important areas – or at least put possible changes to a town wide vote. The case for a town budget referendum has been made before in this column. And while such a Commission is in place – hopefully made up of a truly bi-partisan group of residents – it should examine how we put people on the Board of Finance. While our Board of Finance members are appointed, many other towns, including Bethany and Orange, have elected Boards of Finance, effectively giving voters another way to reject or support the Town’s financial decisions. Additionally, the vast majority of our boards and commissions are appointed by the BOS, and those appointments are made by a vote of the majority of the BOS (consensus is not required). It has become a process driven by nominees’ party registration, not experience or competency. Taking this a step further, on our six-person BOS where the First Selectman gets to cast a second vote to break a 3-3 tie, the First Selectman functions as a King or Queen. We see this representation strangulation play out in nearly every contentious vote by the BOS today, and to an even more appalling degree with Board and Commission appointments. There is no executive/legislative check and balance system in Woodbridge today. A Charter Revision Commission can and should be charged with evaluating all these points – and probably others – and offer alternatives to Woodbridge voters.

So, let’s get a Charter revision Commission going to create a more democratic local government. Odd request from a Republican, huh?

Woodbridge Town News

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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
June 24 Independence Day Issue.....	June 17
August 26 Labor Day + Back to School Issue	August 19
September 30 Halloween Issue	September 23

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

FROM OUR READERS

A Solution That Does No Harm is the Right Solution

Woodbridge’s celebrated rural character is not by accident. It’s the product of vigilant residents who’ve fought and prevailed against harmful land use efforts. That vigilance is needed now more than ever.

Imagine a hydrogen fuel cell facility covering half of the former golf course. It’d be a “green” facility. But does that “greenness” justify the loss of a tranquil recreation area, an important wildlife habitat, prime agricultural soils and scenic vistas? The solar “farm” proposed for half of the former golf course would be just as green and no less damaging. Every acre covered with steel and glass is one less acre serving the work of carbon cleansing (really, with thousands of rooftop acres available for solar panels, does it make sense to cover green space instead?). The only “green” in these proposals is that which goes into the pockets of a few profiteers.

And now another threat. It’s reported that the housing task force is zeroing in on the Fitzgerald Tract as the site for affordable housing. Imagine, the home of the community gardens and walking trails and hay fields taken for a housing development. Not since the Board of Selectmen endorsed the idea of a recreational complex for the Massaro Farm was a more bone-headed land use decision made by town leaders (thankfully, we reversed that Massaro endorsement).

The maxim in medicine –First, Do No Harm— is a rule to follow in all things, especially political ones. When we needed a new firehouse, the Fitzgerald Track was the favored location, on the hay field (then a corn field) at Center and Beecher Roads. When residents rejected that site, the corner of Pease and Center Roads (now the vibrant Off Center Farm) was the next target. That too was defeated. Only when the Conservation Commission recommended a lot on the margins of Fitzgerald – one that didn’t interfere

with the gardens or walking trails or farming, was a suitable site found. It was a win for the firehouse and a win for Fitzgerald, with no harm done to open space or to the town’s rural character. The housing task force could learn from that example. The site at Meetinghouse Lane and Center Roads, in between the tennis courts and Town Hall, for example, is on the margins, yet is part of the Town Center. Its use would not be at anyone’s expense. A good architect could plan a quaint village that would complement our historic town center and our town’s rural character. A win/win.

A solution that does no harm is the right solution – not Fitzgerald, not the golf course. A solution that reinforces our town’s rural character and beautifies our town center is the winning one.
Jim Urbano

Good Solutions Come Only After Facts are Laid Bare

Because I believe Woodbridge is a wonderful town – and because I admire greatly the residents and officials who have worked hard in the last two years to widen its array of housing options – I am writing to clarify a recent full-page ad in your newspaper that misstated a point I made at a public forum.

The ad, titled “Top Ten Frequently Asked Questions About Affordable Housing in Woodbridge,” is obviously authored by people who care deeply about the town. But several of their statements need modification.

Specifically, the authors:
Seem to have implied that I would oppose density and creation of income-restricted homes on the Country Club of Woodbridge property because I believe the best location for affordable housing is near shopping, services and transit. There are, to be sure, some locations that are better than others. But because Woodbridge has so little income-restricted housing, I think building affordable homes on

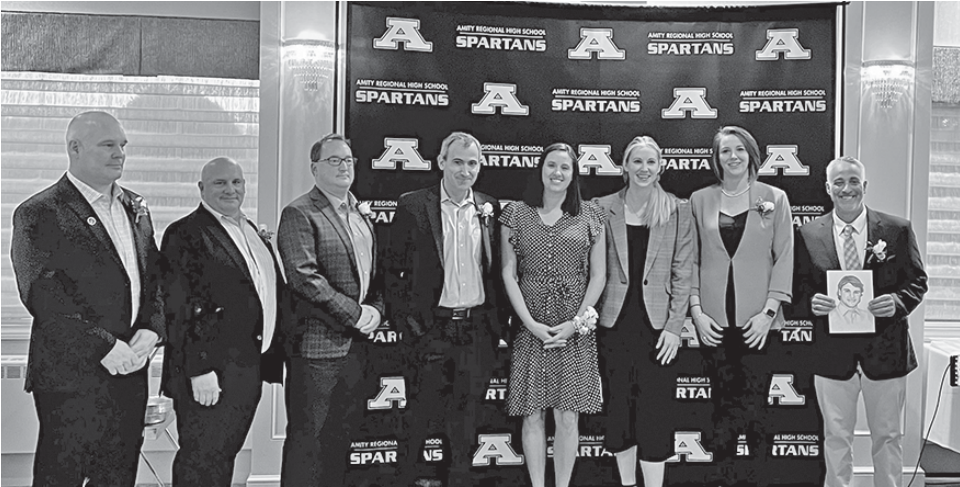
See “Letters” On Page 25

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



Left: Gilbert Jennings, Michael Slomsky, Rob Leonard, Mark A. Levine, Erin McLaughlin Guise, Allison Barwise, Janise Ehorn, Sal Coppola and the late Joey Ciancola (sketched drawing), not shown in the photo was Scott Klein

Hall of Honor Inducts New Members

Amity Regional School District inducted the new members into the Athletic Hall of Fame and Academic Hall of Honor on Thursday, April 28. The ceremony took place at the Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange. We would like to congratulate the inductees from left to right in the photo. The inductees inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame have exhibited excellence in athletic performance, leadership or

support associated with the Amity Regional High School interscholastic athletics program. For those inducted into the Academic Hall of Honor have exemplified excellence and honor and have consistently demonstrated leadership, innovation in his/her field, excellence in his/her vocation and/or avocation, integrity dedication and living out of the Amity District's Mission Statement.

Frank Purcaro Named District's New Assistant Superintendent

On May 9, 2022, the Amity Region 5 Board of Education voted unanimously at its regularly scheduled meeting to appoint Mr. Frank A. Purcaro as the District's new Assistant Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Purcaro will assume his new leadership role effective July 1, 2022.

Mr. Purcaro has extensive experience in all facets of school system management with a substantial focus in the area of classroom teaching, professional development, and student learning. Mr. Purcaro began his career in education as a high school social studies teacher before becoming an assistant principal. For nearly the past decade, his experiences at the district level have included service as the Director of Student Learning and Teaching

followed by a promotion to Assistant Superintendent in the Wolcott School District. He currently is the Director of Teaching and Learning for the Newtown Public School District.

Guided by a passion for education, Mr. Purcaro earned his Master's Degree in Education from the University of Bridgeport and also holds his Juris Doctorate from the University of Connecticut School of Law. Mr. Purcaro's dedication to students and teachers is surpassed only by his love for his family – especially his children – who often provide the inspiration and motivation for his work.

We welcome Mr. Purcaro to the Amity Region 5 School District and wish him abundant success in his new role as Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

Amity Principal Moves On, Search Is Underway

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Amity Regional High School Principal Anna Mahon announced last week that she accepted the position of Assistant Superintendent in Brookfield, a K-12 district. Her last day at Amity is July 31. "Amity is a place that is and always will be near and dear to my heart. However, the time and opportunity have come for me to move to a new school district so I may continue to grow as an educational leader," she wrote in a May 18 e-mail to School Supt. Dr. Jennifer Byars.

Dr. Byars, in her own letter to parents, expressed her sense of loss, both personally and for the community, but also supported Dr. Mahon's decision to move on to new challenges. "While it is a loss for our three towns, she is going to be an incredible assistant superintendent and I look forward to seeing what she can accomplish in a district leadership position in a PreK-12 school district," she wrote to the parents.

Dr. Byars' goal is to have a new principal in place for the start of the next school year. She said there will be a search committee, and the search will

be coordinated by the superintendent. She asked all stakeholders from the district – parents, students and teachers – to take part in an online survey asking them about the attributes and qualifications they would find most important in a candidate for that position. "It is the District's intent to seek the best balance between work experiences, education and preparation, personal qualities, role expectations of the principal, and the ability to respond to the community's educational needs," the survey states. It is open for input until Friday, May 27.

Dr. Mahon started in 2000 as an English teacher, and quickly became department chair, then associate principal. In 2015 she was named principal, following the resignation of Dr. Charles Britton. Her husband, Sean Mahon, is the PE/Health department chair at the school. They live in Orange.

As for Dr. Mahon, she expressed her enduring commitment to the district, saying her role will now shift to that of a parent. "I love this community and am excited to continue to do anything I can to assist in my role as ARHS parent to support the continued growth and development of the district," she wrote.

Notice To Former Amity Students

Amity Regional School District #5, as per state guidelines, is properly disposing of student special education records. The records of any student who has received special services are maintained for six years after their class graduates.

Former Amity students who were born between 1996 -1998 and/or having graduated in 2016 who have received special services at the Amity Middle School, Orange; Amity Middle School, Bethany; or Amity Regional

High School may obtain their special education records.

You must call 203-397-4820 prior to claiming records in order to allow sufficient time to retrieve your records from our archives and schedule a time for pick up.

If you wish to obtain records, please call 203-397-4820 and leave a detailed message with student name, date of birth and a phone number.

If records are not claimed by June 30, 2022, they will be destroyed.

BRS Summer Enrichment Program

The Beecher Road School Summer Enrichment Program is back and better than before! This year we are excited to offer more sessions, morning from 9:00- 12:00, afternoon from 1:00 - 4:00, and a lunch and play option from 12:00 - 1:00! The program runs from July 5th to July 28th. For more infor-

mation, please visit the Woodbridge School District Website at <https://www.woodbridge.k12.ct.us> and search for Summer Enrichment to access the catalog of over 60 amazing offerings. You can also contact the program directors at sep@woodbridgeps.org for more information.

ATTENTION TEACHERS!

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

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

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

WOODBIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Bethany Resident Earns 4th Degree From SCSU

Bethany resident Linda Philie, age 79, was a freshman at Southern Connecticut State University in 1960, and she now prepares to graduate from Southern for the fourth time in her life. As she looks back over the years, she says, “Southern was there for me every step of the way.” Philie this month receives her post-master’s certificate in clinical mental health counseling, after earning a bachelor’s in elementary education and history from Southern in 1964, a master’s in counseling and

school psychology in 1984, and a 6th year certificate in counseling and school psychology in 1988. She also completed a master’s in government and international relations at Clark University in 1972. “It has been an extraordinary journey,” Philie says, “and I am so grateful to Southern for being there for me and my family at every step along the way.” Read the full story at <https://news.southernct.edu/2022/05/11/an-extraordinary-journey/>.

Dr. Budd Hands in Resignation

Board Appoints Interim

Woodbridge School Supt. Dr. Jonathan Budd officially handed in his resignation at the May 17 Board of Education meeting, after news reports had circulated in town that he was joining the Greenwich district as its Chief Human Resources Officer. His last day will be June 30. He praised the Beecher community, saying “One cannot have a good school system without excellent people,” and singled out the district’s administrative team, saying “every single person is a very, very hard worker, and we’re lucky to have them,” but most of all he said he will miss “the real joy of seeing children who love learning.” The board accepted the resignation, with regret, and subsequently moved

to re-appoint Christine Syriac as interim superintendent effective July 1. Ms. Syriac had served in that capacity for several months before the arrival of Dr. Budd in December 2020. This is the third change at the helm for the district leadership in two years. It comes at a difficult time, as the head of special services, Cheryl Kiesel, also handed in her resignation to join the Bethany schools starting July 1; and the district is operating with an interim business manager. Board Chairman Lynn Piascyk thanked Dr. Budd for his contributions to the school and said there will be an opportunity to wish him well at the June Board meeting. Piascyk was not available for further comment.

STUDENT NEWS

Achievements
Mayel Hubbard Initiated into Omicron Delta Kappa
Lexington, VA - Mayel Hubbard, a native of Woodbridge, was recently initiated into the Southern Connecticut State University Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. The Society welcomed 1,971 new initiates from 78 universities during April 2022. Students initiated into the Society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35% of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than five percent of students on a campus are invited to join each year.

Dean’s/Prsident’s List
Duke University
Durham, N.C. – Thomas Livesay, a junior (Pratt School of Engineering) from Woodbridge, CT, majoring in Mechanical Engineering (BSE) was named to the dean’s list with distinction at Duke University for the fall 2021 semester. Thomas was among 1,921 students who achieved the honor. At the Pratt School of Engineering, students must rank in the top 10th within their academic class to make the dean’s list with distinction.

Southern New Hampshire University
Manchester, NH - It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following Woodbridge students on being named to the Winter 2022 President’s List: Tucker Saley and James Lepore. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in the fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits over two consecutive terms.

Lasell University
Newton, MA - Caelan Watson, a Lasell University student from Bethany, presented at the institution’s annual Connected Learning Symposium. Watson presented the latest issue of Tarnished Magazine, a student publication that is devoted to building creative community, expanding opportunities for practical/educational experiences in the graphic arts, and offering a venue for student work. Tarnished is dedicated to discovering beauty through the arts in unexpected places. Since the inaugural event in 2002, the Connected Learning Symposium has, for the last 20 years, offered a community celebration of Lasell University’s intellectual and creative achievements. All student scholarship presented at Symposium aligns with National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) in-demand professional competencies.

Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, Mo. - Rhea Dey of Woodbridge, CT, was named to the dean’s list for the fall 2021 semester at Washington University in St. Louis. Dey is currently enrolled in the university’s College of Arts & Sciences. To qualify for the Dean’s List in the College of Arts & Sciences, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 14 graded units.



TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



Mitddle Schoolers had a festive evening at the Youth Services End of Year Party



First Selectman's Youth Award 2022: Winner Ava Shanbrom

First Selectman Beth Heller will present the annual First Selectman's Youth Award to Ava Shanbrom at the Human Services Volunteer Appreciation Event in June. Ava will also receive a check provided by Peoples United, a division of M&T Bank. Ava was nominated for aiding a widowed resident who was receiving medical treatments. Ava completed chores over a long period of time without accepting payment. Ms. Shanbrom brought kindness and friendship during a difficult and lonely time as Covid created so much isolation. Ava, daughter of Michael and Holli Shanbrom, is a sophomore at Amity High School. She enjoys fencing and recently worked with her scouting troop to complete a project helping seniors.

Job Bank – Woodbridge Teens Work for Residents

The Job Bank is a referral service for

teen residents to work in Woodbridge doing odd jobs for residents. Teen residents who want paid work should contact Youth Services to schedule an interview. Build your resume and gain skills. Parent permission is required. Residents are encouraged to call to hire teens to do odd jobs in Woodbridge like yardwork, babysitting, and animal care.

End of Year Party a Huge Success

Local seventh and eighth graders enjoyed their End of Year Party at Amity Middle School-Bethany on May 13th. The outdoor event hosted 119 teens with DJ Mike who had kids dancing all night and Big Daddy's Car Racing and Crazy Konez Game which created excitement for players and observers. Games including Cornhole, Giant Jenga, and Twister brought some laughs. Pizza, snacks, and great raffle prizes made the party a hit.

Many thanks to a great staff and dedicated volunteers who worked so hard to make this a safe and sensational event. Youth Evening Programs receive sponsorship from Woodbridge Youth Services and the Town of Bethany.

BOWDAAC-Let's Talk Prevention

BOWDAAC (Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge Drug/Alcohol Action Committee) is a grant-funded Local Prevention Council serving the communities of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge. Its mission is to reduce underage drinking and substance use by promoting awareness through educational programs and community collaborations. New members are welcome. For more information or to join our committee, email info.bowdaac@bowdaac.org

Recreation News



Chess Wizards has been teaching the game of chess since 2002. Join us this summer for tons of challenging chess lessons, exciting games, and cool prizes. You'll improve your chess skills, meet new friends, and work out your most powerful muscle - your brain! Our camps include fun team chess games (like Corner Chess), recess time (of course), snacks, tournaments, and puzzles. Each camper receives a T-shirt, trophy, and puzzle folder. We include all the materials necessary for your child to participate, but full-day kids should bring a lunch. Unleash your brain power and spend part of your vacation with Chess Wizards! Chess camp will be July 18 through 22, 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. The cost for the program is \$210. If you are in Woodbridge Rec Camp, a supervised lunch is available from 12:00 to 12:30 for \$15 for the week.

Join **Food Explorers** to explore new flavors, cooking techniques and recipes by delving into a new color each day, learning all about foods of that color. You'll also discover fun facts about food and nutrition through interactive games and activities between recipes. Each day will feature a snack and meal. All recipes are nut free and some will contain dairy and/or eggs.

August 15 through August 19 9am to 12 noon. This is an outdoor class at the Pease Road complex pavilion. It is open to grades 2 through 5 and the cost is \$155 per child. This class will meet rain or shine under the pavilion at the Pease Road Athletic Fields, 160 Pease Road.

Still time to register for **summer camp**. Camp begins on Monday, June 27 through August 5, for grades 1 through 8; 9am to 12 noon.

Volleyball League results: Congratulations to team Bump, Set, Spike for winning the Winter Indoor Volleyball League regular season and to Sunny's team for winning the playoffs. Volleyball court permits are available. Email recreation@woodbridgect.org to obtain a permit.

Adult Yoga programs: Yoga with Bill Summer session. June 1 through August 31, Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 9:45 am. Join for 1 day all the way up to 5 days per week. Tuesday evenings available 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm, June 7 through August 30. Call the Rec. Dept. Office at 203-389-3446 for pricing information.

Gentle Yoga with Diane King Monday and Wednesday mornings and Monday evenings already in progress. Prorated plans available.

Woodbridge Town News

THE WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS ONLINE

Online Version of the Woodbridge Town News

www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com

[gmail.com](mailto:info@bowdaac.org) or check out our website www.bowdaac.org

Free Mental Health First Aid Training for Adults

This training is open to all individuals that live or work within the towns of Milford, West Haven, Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge.

- › **May 25th**, Wednesday from 10am - 3pm (YOUTH MHFA)
- › **June 2nd & June 9th**, Thursday Evening(s) from 6pm - 9 pm (ADULT YMHFA)
- › **June 11th**, Saturday from 10am - 3pm (YOUTH MHFA)

Trainings will be held virtually on Zoom. (Trainings will be rescheduled if less than 5 participants register). REGISTER FOR A TRAINING NOW at <https://bit.ly/trainings-MHFA>. Youth

Mental Health First Aid teaches Adults how to identify, understand & respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children & adolescents ages 12-18. Participants must complete 2 hours of self-paced, pre-work before attending the interactive, instructor-led portion of the training. Participants must attend the entire virtual training to become certified and will also be required to complete a knowledge check and course evaluation. Course materials and fees are covered through a Mental Health Awareness Training grant and Bridges Healthcare.

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

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Important Reminders for Pet Owners

June is Dog License Month in Connecticut. Reminders will be mailed to Woodbridge dog license holders.

Fees remain at \$8 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$19 for dogs that are not spayed or neutered. Please remit payment via mail for dog licenses rather than making payment in person. Please mail the copy of the license, rabies certificate (if necessary) and check made payable to the Town Clerk; address envelopes to the Town Clerk's Office at 11 Meetinghouse Lane in Woodbridge.

The dog license, tag and clip will be mailed once payment is received. Licenses are valid for one year, from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. There will be a \$1 late fee per month for licenses requested after July 1.

A low-cost Rabies Clinic will be held Sunday, June 5, between 11 am - 1 pm at the Woodbridge Regional Animal Control located at 135 Bradley Road in Woodbridge. With proof of previous vaccinations, a three-year vaccine will be given to all eligible pets. Rabies vaccinations will cost \$20 per animal. Checks are to be made payable to One Big Dog. Cash is accepted—exact change is appreciated. Dogs must be leashed, and cats must be in carriers.

Please be reminded that dogs must be leashed at all times when in a public area. This town ordinance is in place for the safety of everyone in our community.

HUMAN SERVICES

Ask the Pharmacist: Human Services will partner with the Quinnipiac Valley Health District (QVHD) and the Connecticut Pharmacists Association (CPA) to host individual Medication Review Sessions with residents on Thursday, June 9, from 10 am to 3 pm at the Woodbridge library. Pharmacists will be available to answer questions and address concerns through a personal medication review. These recommendations can be further discussed with your doctor. All information will be kept confidential. To RSVP, please contact 203-389-3429.

Federal Home Test Kits Available: The Biden administration has once again opened CovidTests.gov to order free at-home COVID test kits. Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order a 3rd round of free tests. You may order up to 8 test kits per household through the website. For telephone assistance, call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489).

Local Masks and Test Kits: The Human Services Department will continue to distribute free COVID-19 at-home test kits and N95 masks to Woodbridge residents while supplies last. Residents in need of home test kits, masks, or both may call 203-389-3429 to make an appointment to pick up. Proof of residency is required.

gust, and September. The first committee meeting will be June 23 at 2 pm at Woodbridge Human Services. Please contact Jeanette Glicksman at 203-389-3429 to volunteer. Donations of gift certificates to local businesses are welcome!

Food Pantry: Residents in need may contact Human Services for access to non-perishable food each month. The food pantry is currently looking for donations of peanut butter, jelly, crackers, canola and olive oils, ground coffee, baking mixes, snack foods, salad dressing, cleaning sprays, and laundry detergent. Kindly check all expiration dates prior to drop-off.

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.

Volunteer Appreciation Event: The Human Services Dept. will honor over 100 volunteers at the 32nd Annual Volunteer Recognition celebration. Many thanks to all receiving this honor for their generous volunteer contributions. The Human Services Special Recognition Award will be presented to The Living Treasure Planning Committee, The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Volunteers, and the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association. Outstanding Volunteers this year are Susan Davidson, Cathy and Tim Austin, Alice Lippman, and Teena Arbo. The Community Organization and Business Award will be given to The Friends of the Woodbridge Library, Good Night Sleep Tight PJ Program, Inc., Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, and Coachman Square at Woodbridge. The Woodbridge Center Award will be given to Sandy Faggiana and Linda Caffalette. The First Selectman's Youth Award will be presented to Ava Shanbrom. Attendance at this event is by invitation only. Please call if you have not received your invitation and believe you should be on the list.

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

Town of Woodbridge Meetings for the Month of June 2022



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

6/1	Housing Opportunity Study Cmte	7:00 PM	Town Hall
6/6	Town Plan & Zoning Commission.....	6:30 PM	Town Hall
	Human Services Commission	7:00 PM	
6/8	Board of Selectmen	5:00 PM	Town Hall
6/9	Community Council.....	9:30 AM	Town Hall
	Economic Development Commission.....	7:00 PM	Town Hall
6/13	Library Commission	6:00 PM	Library
	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:30 PM	Town Hall
6/15	Diversity & Inclusion Committee.....	6:30 PM	Library
	Inland Wetlands Agency	7:30 PM	Town Hall
6/16	Board of Finance (BOF).....	6:00 PM	Town Hall
	Conservation Commission.....	7:30 PM	Town Hall
6/20	Fire Commission	6:00 PM	
	Police Commission	6:15 PM	Police Dept
6/21	2030 Task Force	6:00 PM	Town Hall
6/27	CUPOP	5:30 PM	Town Hall
	Recreation Commission	7:00 PM	Beecher Rd School

Woodbridge Town News

ATTENTION WOODBRIDGE RESIDENTS!

Have an Upcoming Birth Announcement,
Anniversary, Engagement or Wedding?
Send it to us with a photo and we will publish it FREE.

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

AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



Left: Deb Urso of Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, and Kelsey Lang of Elim Park, help distribute 95 meals at the Mother's Day drive-thru. This drive-thru was generously sponsored by Elim Park and Visiting Angels of Woodbridge with a special treat provided by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. Right: Participants of the Glacier Park Armchair Adventure Series provided by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care enjoy park-themed BINGO with prizes after taking a virtual tour of the park.

Are you over 55 years old? Contact The Woodbridge Center: Call 203-389-3430 or email kmoriarty@woodbridgect.org for information on all programming. Preregistration 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 New Haven County's community level is at the low level for three consecutive weeks.

Drive-thru luncheon: Father's Day Drive-thru Luncheon (for Woodbridge residents over 60 years of age): Everyone is welcome to celebrate all fathers at the Father's Day Drive-thru Luncheon on Thursday, June 16 from 12-1 pm. Enjoy choice of sandwich: BBQ pulled beef or chicken Caesar wrap, macaroni salad, and cannolis for dessert. This drive-thru is generously sponsored by Coachman Square at Woodbridge and Amity Physical Therapy. Also enjoy a traditional root beer float provided by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. No charge. Please RSVP by June 9.

Upcoming Events/Programs

New! Cornhole: Sign-up today to participate in this part skill, part luck, all fun activity! This is a game everyone can play! All levels are welcome. Every Monday and Friday, 10-11:30 am in the Grove, weather permitting. Call to register: 203-389-3430.

FREE Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance (TJQ: MBB): TJQ: MBB is a research-based fall preven-

tion exercise program which uses Tai Ji Quan based movements to improve strength, mobility, balance, and daily function to prevent falls. It is designed for older adults and people with balance difficulties. Classes are taught by trained local instructor, Bill Bannick, in a supportive environment. This program can accommodate individuals who need some assistance with walking, such as with a cane. No prior experience with Tai Chi is needed. This 24-week (48 class) program is offered in partnership with the CT Healthy Living Collective and funded by the State of CT Department of Aging and Disability Services, State Unit on Aging. The program begins June 6 and will meet Mondays and Fridays, from 10-11 am in the Center Building gymnasium. Call 203-389-3430 to register.

3 months remain! American Armchair Adventure - National Park Series: This in-person monthly series, provided by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, explores six National Parks in six months. Enjoy simulated tours, interactive discussions, trivia, and more. Remaining adventures include: Grand Canyon - June 10, Zion - July 8, and Grand Teton - August 12. The program meets 11 am - 12 pm in the Library's Meeting Room. Call 203-389-3430 to sign-up.

Joint Replacement Presentation: This hybrid presentation by Kyle Brandy, MSPT, of Amity Physical Therapy will be offered in-person and on Zoom. Kyle will cover how to prepare for knee or hip replacement surgery to shorten recovery time and mitigate complications, as well as provide instruction for how to get the most out of your replaced joint if you have had replacement surgery. June 17 from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm in the Library's Meeting Room.

AAA Driver Improvement Class: Members 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 which teaches the basics of defensive driving and provides current driving practice updates. This class is offered, free of charge, on June 27 from 9 am - 1 pm in the Woodbridge Library's Meeting Room. Space is limited; pre-registration is required.

Rolling start-date! FREE Lifestyle Change (Diabetes Prevention) Program - offered in-person and on Zoom: Concerned about your health risks as you age? Want to live healthier but don't know where to start? Join this evidence-based Lifestyle Change Program led by a certified lifestyle coach. The program includes 26 weekly sessions on healthy eating, type 2 diabetes prevention, weight loss, stress management, physical activity, and more. A weekly 45 minute exercise class with Laura Richling is included as well as 6 private sessions with a Registered Dietician.

This program will be provided AT NO COST to everyone 60+ years of age. It is co-sponsored by the South Central CT Agency on Aging and non-profit Monitor My Health, in an effort to promote good health. Weekly lecture/discussion every Tuesday 1-2 pm in the Center Building room 16, fitness class Tuesdays 12-12:45 pm in the Center Building gym. Join anytime. Call to register.

Exercise

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

New! Hybrid Aerobics Class with Laura Richling: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 am in the Center Building gym and beginning June 7 on Zoom. Enjoy a complete aerobic, cardio, and strength training work-out 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 payable at the start of class, or invoiced

monthly for Zoom participants. Please call for link.

Pickleball: Monday through Friday, 12:30-3:30 pm, in the Center Building gym and enjoy the new nets outside 7 days/week. 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.

Hobbies/Social

Bridge: Wednesdays and Fridays, 1-4 pm in the Library's Meeting Room.

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's 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 midsession. 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? Call to sign-up for a 1:1 session in The Center's computer lab with patient, knowledgeable, Amity High School student volunteers. No charge.

See "Woodbridge Center" On Page 13

“Woodbridge Center” From Page 12

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.

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, pharmacy pick-up, and social engagements are also available. Call to arrange car or wheelchair accessible van transportation. Vehicles are cleaned between each use. Masks are required.

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 stuffed flounder, eggplant rollatini, chicken piccata, and fresh Cobb salad with grilled chick-

en breast. Meals include a roll, fresh fruit, and dessert. Two meal minimum order with a ten-meal limit. See website (<https://woodbridgect.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, including walkers, wheelchairs, knee rollers, shower chairs, and more, is available for lending. Donations of wheelchairs and transport chairs are needed. 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 cleanup and more.

WILEY ETTER DOYON ATTORNEYS Connecticut Executor’s Deed

One of the most important and largest assets of a decedent’s estate is typically real estate, often the residential home. While a decedent’s will directs what should happen to the real estate, a very specific legal process must be followed to accomplish the decedent’s wishes and legally transfer the real estate.

If the decedent left a valid will, the executor appointed by the Probate Court will have the legal authority to transfer the real estate to the intended beneficiary/ies or to sell the real estate to a third party. The legal document utilized to accomplish the transfer is called an “Executor’s Deed”. To be legally valid, an Executor’s Deed must include:

- The name of the executor and stating their authority to act as executor of the decedent’s estate
- The name of the beneficiary/ies of the real estate, or, the name of the purchaser of the real estate
- Statement that the real estate is being transferred in accordance with a legally valid will
- Executor’s signature
- Signatures of two witnesses
- Either the signature of a notary public or a commissioner of the Superior Court (attorney)
- Date that the real estate is being transferred and date that the document is being signed by all parties.
- The legal description of the real property, often included either within the executor’s deed or as a “Schedule A” attachment

It is strongly recommended that the executor consult with a probate and/or real attorney to properly execute an Executor’s Deed and ensure that the legal requirements are sufficiently met. Additionally, the real estate attorney can assist with the proper recording of the executor’s deed on the appropriate land records.

If you are interested in learning more about Executor’s Deeds 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 Drozd 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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WHERE: Woodbridge Town Library Meeting Room
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Call in information can be found at woodbridgelandtrust.org



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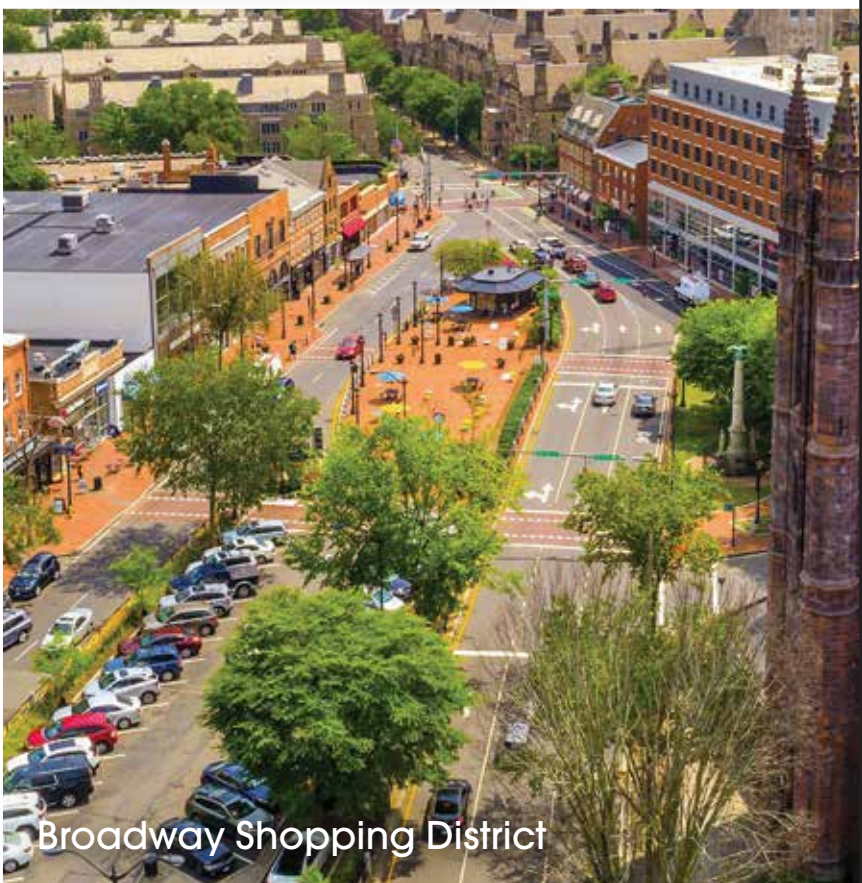
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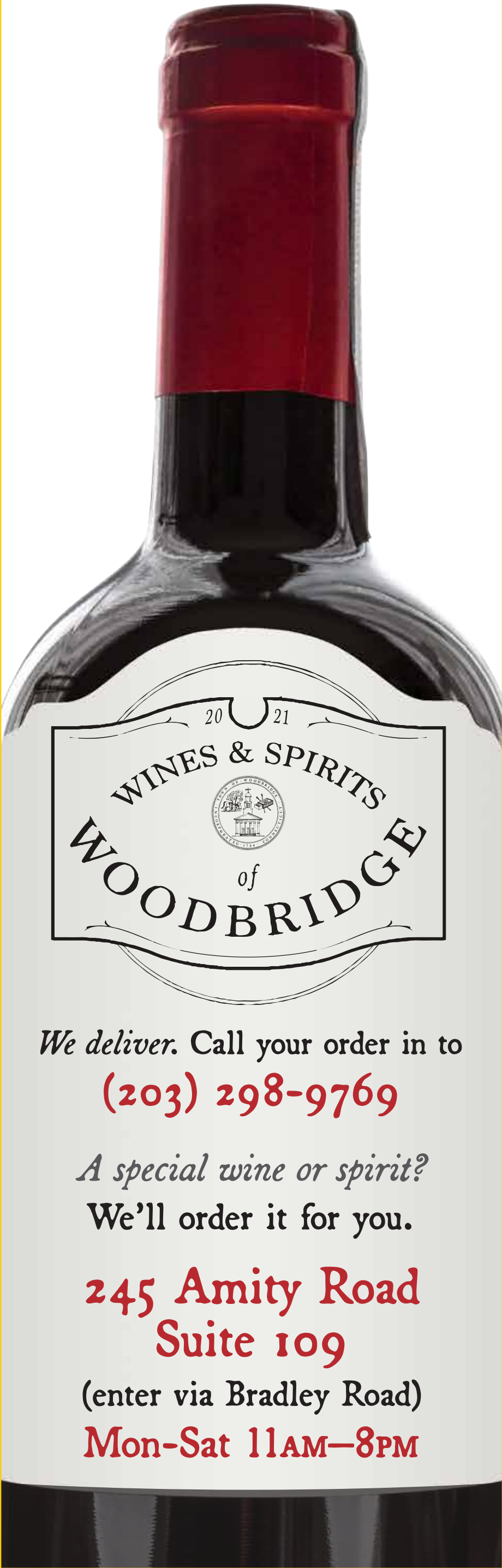
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ARTS & LEISURE



Peter Berganross, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, Amanda Koola

Beecher Road School Celebrates Artsweek

Beecher Road School celebrates Artsweek each year in May and this year, in our 15th Year, our theme is TREES.

Richard Lewis from Woodbridge Estate Care helped make this year extra special generously donating his time by removing a dead White Oak on the South End of the school and repurposing the trunk by making it into a bench! He also planted a Weeping Purple Fountain Beech tree (*Fagus sylvatica*) and used the wood chips from the Oak as mulch under the new tree. Additionally, he removed another dead tree near the North Entrance of the school and planted a second Weeping Purple Fountain Beech Tree there.

Our kindergarten students excitedly watched the installation of the

trees while learning about caring for them. Along with their teachers and families they will help “care” for the new trees by making sure they have plenty of water over the hot summer months as they become established.

We will take another class picture when these children are 6th Graders to show how much they and the trees have grown.

Please visit the school campus to see these newly planted trees and this one-of-a-kind bench as well as the school wide art installation of Beecher Family Tree Leaves.

Please join the PTO and Beecher Road School in recognizing the generosity of this incredible gift from Richard Lewis and his wonderful Woodbridge Estate Care Team!



Amanda Koola Receives Honorable Mention

Congratulations to Amanda Koola of Woodbridge, for her honorable mention at the May 5th Congressional Art Competition for her work titled Three Little Jelly Fish. Amity entered five student works this year.

“Each spring, the Congressional Institute sponsors a nationwide high school visual art competition to recognize and encourage artistic talent in the nation and in each congressional district. Since the Artistic Discovery competition began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students have participated.

Students submit entries to their representative’s office, and panels of district artists select the winning entries. Winners are recognized both in their district and at an annual awards ceremony in Washington, DC. The winning works are displayed for one year at the U.S. Capitol.”

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How To Calm Prom Night Nerves

Prom night is a much-anticipated event for most teenagers. Prom has been billed as a rite of passage for generations, and millions of people have fond memories of this unique tradition.

Hollywood productions about prom night could be a catalyst for unrealistic expectations for high schoolers. Teens may put undue pressure on themselves to live out the "perfect" prom experiences. Prom is supposed to be about letting loose and having fun with fellow students, and the following are some ways to tame prom night jitters.

Plan your look ahead of time. Prom night itself is not the time to try a wholly new look, hairstyle or even skin care product that you haven't used in the past. Figure out how you want to look that night and do a few trial runs in advance to master the look. Have someone take some photos so you can ensure you look your best even under the lights of camera flashes.

Take a social media break. Social media can contribute to even the most confident teen feeling a little less secure, particularly during high-profile times like prom and graduation. Remember, what is posted on social media isn't always reality. Filters can make photos look flawless, and most people like to embellish the "best" and "greatest" on social. Taking a pause from posting and scrolling can be a welcome stress-buster.

Establish expectations early. If you

are going to the prom with a group of friends and/or dates, map out what is expected of each person so you're not caught off guard. This can include responsibilities like who is booking transportation and which costs will be incurred and shared by the group. In addition, determine collectively if an after-party will be part of the night and how everyone will get home safely.

Practice breathing exercises. Everyone experiences nervousness at times, particularly during public events or when there are a lot of people in attendance. Deep breathing can get you on track. The American Institute of Stress says 20 to 30 minutes each day of abdominal breathing can reduce anxiety by increasing the supply of oxygen to the brain and stimulating the parasympathetic nervous system to induce calmness.

Don't sweat the small stuff. What may seem like a disaster now at prom likely won't matter later. Mental health therapists often ask their patients, "Will this matter in five years, or even in five weeks?" By refocusing priorities, you can put your energy where it counts.

Get enough rest. It's easier to have a more positive, calmer outlook when you're well rested. Aim for ample sleep during prom season so fatigue won't exacerbate any anxiety you may feel.

Prom night is important to teens. Some helpful pointers can ensure prom is memorable for all the right reasons.

Communities Can Work Together To Make Prom Night Safer

Spring is in the air and that means high school juniors and seniors across the country are getting ready to party the night away at their respective school proms.

Even though these rites of passage are well-known as opportunities to make lasting memories, prom also is associated with several risky behaviors. Underage alcohol use is among the poor choices that teens may face on prom night. However, parents and community members can work collectively to keep promgoers happy and safe this season.

Liquor lock down: Merchants who sell alcoholic beverages can be especially diligent around prom season to check identification and fail to sell alcohol to anyone who is underage. This includes wait staff at area restaurants. Parents and guardians can make sure their own alcohol at home is locked away so it cannot be borrowed for prom celebrations.

Beef up police patrols. Community leaders can work with local police departments to increase patrols around schools and locations that are frequent meeting spots for teenagers following prom festivities. Law enforcement can respond quickly to parties and other concerns if they devote specialized underage drinking details for prom night.

Keep parties age-appropriate. Parents in the community can keep prom nights safer by not serving or allowing alcohol at any party they are hosting.

Safe after-party fun: Recreational centers, churches and other businesses can offer to host after-parties that are monitored and/or chaperoned. This enables teens to gather at safe locations and continue to celebrate in ways that are age-appropriate, without feeling the pressure to attend less trustworthy events.

Talk about risky behaviors. Parents, teachers and community leaders can talk to teens about the potentially dangerous behaviors present on prom night. Remind teens they always can come to an adult without the risk of being punished if they find themselves in an uncomfortable situation. Parents can continue to establish trust so their kids can come to them when they need help or advice.

Change prom timing. While "prom night" is the standard, prom dances can occur at any time of the day. Schools concerned about after-hours shenanigans can schedule their events earlier in the day when the potential for drinking or other risky behaviors may be less significant.

Community residents can work together to help make prom season safe for all students.

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7 Gift Ideas For Soon-To-Be Graduates

It would be an understatement to say that it has been an interesting few years for the Class of 2022. Due to the pandemic, many soon-to-be grads spent a significant portion of their school years adapting to a changing landscape, both at school and at home. While it is an accomplishment to reach graduation in a "normal" situation, students who have succeeded and thrived in the face of pandemic-related adversity are worthy of extra celebration.

Graduation gifts are a great way to show grads how proud you are that they stayed the course in the face of significant challenges. Here are seven gift ideas for graduates.

1. Journal: Graduates are about to start new chapters in their lives. Either a blank journal or one with writing prompts can help grads get their thoughts on paper to document both the many moments that will shape the next few years.
2. Mascot- or school-themed offerings: If a high school graduate will be going on to higher education, then visit the college or university's spirit shop to purchase anything from sweatshirts to blankets to coffee mugs featuring a school logo or mascot. On the first day of classes, the new student will already feel part of the team.
3. New wardrobe: Graduating means forging new paths, whether in a career or through additional schooling. Grads can look the part with several items from a favorite retailer. Those who are unsure of the graduate's style can purchase a gift card and let the grad go on a spending spree.
4. Framed school photo or map: A

piece of artwork can evoke strong emotions of time spent on campus. Frame a black-and-white or sepia-tone print of the aerial view of campus, or opt for an official school tour map, which indicates buildings and other points of interest. This could become a cherished keepsake.

5. Bedside organizational pouch: Dorm life requires maximizing a small amount of space. An organizational pouch or pocket can keep essentials such as a tablet, book, reading glasses, and remote control close by and organized without taking up a lot of room. Some are designed to rest over a couch cushion or slide between a mattress and bed frame.
 6. Automotive essentials: Graduates will be facing all sorts of new expenses, so easing any sort of financial burden can help them in a big way. Vehicles tend to be major financial drains for teens and young adults. Prepaid cash cards, gas station gift cards, vouchers for car washes, and even gift cards to an automotive supply store can help graduates direct their funds elsewhere.
 7. Personal coffeemaker: Many people feel coffee is essential to make it through the day. Graduates who will soon be studying for college exams or those waking up early for their first forays into the workforce may appreciate an on-demand pick-me-up. Coffeemakers are much more streamlined these days, and there are pots designed to use loose grounds or special pods to produce cups quickly.
- Shoppers can explore many interesting options to commemorate the accomplishments of the class of 2022.

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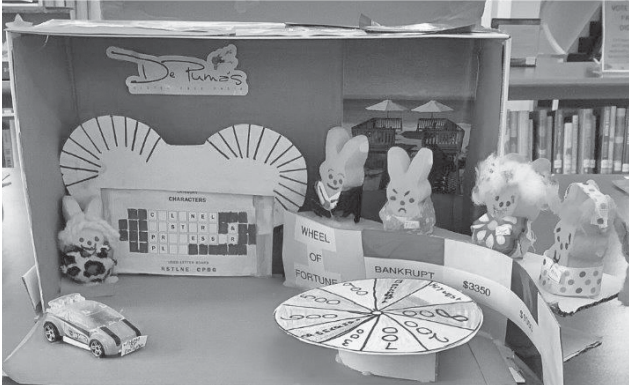


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All information accurate at press time. Be sure to check our website woodbridgetownlibrary.org or call us before your visit for any changes to our hours or events.

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 Memorial Day (Monday, May 30) but will be open 10 to 5 on Saturday, May 28.

Library Information

Visit the Library website 24/7 to access digital resources - woodbridgetownlibrary.org

- What's available at the Library:
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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



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Library News

Congratulations to the winners of our SEVENTH annual Peeps in the Library Diorama Contest! Also, thank you to all of those who entered this year's contest.

Friends' Treasurer Wins Award! Congratulations to Donna Lehman, Treasurer of the Friends of the Woodbridge Library. Donna was recently awarded the Edith B. Nettleton Award from the Connecticut Library Association at its annual conference. The award, named for longtime Guilford Free Library director and later volunteer, recognizes an individual who has demonstrated an outstanding record of volunteer service to their library. Donna's nomination was supported by several letters from library staff as well from others around town, highlighting her generosity in all of the time and energy she puts into the Friends' efforts, including the Bookstore Alley and all of the book sales, not to mention TWO library mini-golf fundraisers.

We need you! And your art! Summer exhibition spaces are available for any and all 2D media. Fill out the form here: <https://woodbridge.lioninc.org/events/art-exhibits/>. Contact Kira Edic at kedic@woodbridgetownlibrary.org for more information.

As of April 1, 2022, the library is now FINE FREE! The Woodbridge Town Library has gone fine free,

which means patrons will no longer be charged fines for overdue items. 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. Please see the Circulation Department with any questions, or contact them: 203-389-3433 or askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

The Friends of the Library are again accepting donations! Drop off your gently loved, no longer wanted books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles at the library during our open hours. Please, nothing in bad condition, stained, moldy, etc. Thank you!

Museum Passes Available: We have museum passes to area attractions, everything from The Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport to the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford, providing you with free or discounted admission. Reserve your passes online then print out at home (when allowed) or pick up at the library. We can also print them here for you. Visit <https://woodbridge.lioninc.org/museum-passes/> for more info. Please note that every attraction has its own policies for pass usage and availability may be limited.

Starting June 1, the check-out limit of hoopla items will return to our pre-pandemic limit of 7 per month. We increased the limit to 10 at the start of the pandemic to make life easier when we were closed to the public or had very limited hours.

From Adult Services

Tuesday, May 31 at 6:30: RE-SCHEDULED! Transcendent Kingdom book discussion: Join us as we have an open discussion of Transcendent Kingdom, Yaa Gyasi's novel of the search for love, family, and God amidst the rational halls of science. This novel has been selected by the Connecticut Library Association for this year's statewide, All CT Reads program.

Thursday, June 2 at 7 pm: Cel-

celebrating the Music of Thelonious Monk with the Shoreline Jazz Quartet: A classic jazz quartet featuring saxophone, guitar/piano, bass, and drums. Held in the meeting room; space will be limited!

Tuesday, June 14 at 7 pm: How to be a Supportive Ally: Want to learn how to be a more supportive ally to the LGBTQIA+ community? Join us for a fun, interactive lecture presented by Ace Ricker from the New Haven Pride Center. Bring questions! Registration required.

Wednesday, June 22 from 6 pm to 7 pm: Pride Book Discussion: Drop by to discuss LGBTQIA+ literature, checkout some books, and have some snacks! This is a teen and adult program. No registration required.

Adult Summer Reading: Starts June 18 and ends August 25. Pick up a packet starting June 18! Read books and complete challenges to receive raffle tickets and win free books! Questions should be directed to Kira, kedic@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Tuesday, June 28, from 3 to 5 pm: Woodbridge Writers Workshop: Join area writers as we read and critique our works in a friendly atmosphere. Register at the Reference Desk or online. Contact Bill with questions, warmstrong@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

From The Children's Department

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 on Saturdays is back! 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!

Summer Reading Kickoff! Saturday, June 18 - Featuring storyteller

See "Library" On Page 23

LOCAL BUSINESS

Woodbridge to Participate in Make Music Day

Make Music Day is an international movement which brings free, community-wide, musical celebrations to hundreds of cities worldwide. Every year, the celebration is held on June 21, the summer solstice, in more than 800 communities around the world. Make Music Day events are organized with, for, and by the community.

In Woodbridge, the Economic Development Commission is organizing businesses that will host free, informal concerts in the early evening. There will also be art shows, wine tastings and other events happening simultaneously. More details will be available closer to the date on the Town website.

Currently, Coachman Square, Crest Lincoln of Woodbridge, The Shops at 245 Amity Road, and The Willows are scheduled to host concerts that evening. 10Selden (formerly the Teen Center) is helping to find local musicians to perform at the venues.

COACHMAN (21 Bradley Road): 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

- › In addition to live music there will be an outdoor health fair on the lawn.

245 AMITY ROAD SHOPS (245 Amity Road): 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

- › Progression Salon, Red Barn and Write Approach are all holding sidewalk sales.
- › Wine and Spirits of Woodbridge are holding a wine tasting.
- › Simon Donato will display historical

- photos and artifacts in an exhibit.
- › Brown Fitness will hold a free outdoor bootcamp at 6:00 pm in the parking lot.
- › Café Rebelde, a mobile coffee, tea, and snacks vendor, will also be on hand.

CREST LINCOLN (185 Amity Road): 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

- › Moxanne and the Band will be playing.
- › Beth Klingher will display her mosaics at the art show being held in the building and snacks will be provided.

THE WILLOWS (225 Amity Road): 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

- › In addition to live music there will be a happy hour.
- ›

“I’m excited and very pleased that our Economic Development Commission is taking advantage of this international movement, which is a wonderful opportunity to attract more foot traffic and customers to the business district, and to provide free family fun for our residents at the same time,” said First Selectman Beth Heller.

“Our business district hosts high-quality specialty shops, terrific services and great restaurants,” said EDC Chair Robert Sharrer. “The EDC hopes these free concerts will lead more residents and area employees to discover what’s here and to shop, dine, try Woodbridge!”

“Library” From Page 22

Rona Leventhal at 2 pm. More information to come! All ages welcome, online registration required.

Graphic Novel Club: Calling all graphic novel fans in Grades 4-6! Join us at the library on Tuesday, June 28 at 6:30pm to talk about Ryan An-

draws’ graphic novel This Was Our Pact. While we chat, we’ll make a glow jar you can use to light up your room. Please register.

Save the Date! Grammy Nominated Judy Pancoast will perform a concert on July 7 at 4:30 pm. More info to come! All ages welcome, online registration required.



Creative Promposals For Party Season

Each year, millions of high school juniors and seniors attend their proms. Prom couples run the gamut from the traditional, romantically involved pairing to two friends going together. One commonality typically shared among all prom couples is that one person asked and the other person accepted

In the not-so-distant past, if a high schooler wanted to take someone to prom, he or she would just walk up and ask. Today’s teens recognize that they’re more likely to get an enthusiastic “yes” when planning a creative proposal. This has given rise to the elaborate “promposal.” It’s like a clever wedding proposal, but without an ensuing trip down the aisle. Many students feel it is worth the extra effort to impress their prospective dates, and these ideas can get the creative juices flowing.

Become an internet sensation. Create a short video on YouTube or TikTok asking your friend or significant other to go to prom. For privacy protection, use the person’s initials, a nickname or set the video to “private,” then send a link to your desired date. Include a favorite song in the video.

Act out a movie scene. Who can forget the pivotal scene between Andrew Lincoln and Kiera Knightley in “Love Actually” when he’s sharing his feelings via held-up signs outside her door? Recreate this moment or pick another meme-worthy movie moment to reenact for your proposal.

Utilize a stuffed animal. Place a stuffed animal with a note tied to it inside a potential date’s locker. For an

even more effective message, include a pun that coordinates with your ask, such as gifting a cow stuffie with the message: “Forget the moo-vies, let’s go to prom. I hope this message won’t go in one ear and out the udder.”

Get some help from Fido. Who can resist an adorable puppy? Enlist the help of your dog when asking a date to prom. A message such as, “Pawlease be my prom partner” should do the trick.

Tap into TV. Use your potential prom date’s favorite TV show as inspiration to ask him or her to prom. You can dress up as a favorite character or quote a well-known line. “Stranger Things” fans may appreciate a quote like, “Friends don’t lie ... you’d be a great prom date.”

Create a mock parking ticket. Place a fake parking ticket on your dream date’s car in the school parking lot or elsewhere, with a sentiment that says, “You’ll be in violation of prom fun if you don’t attend with me.” Sign it Your Name, Prom Date Police.

Make a meal out of it. It’s often said that the way to the heart is through the stomach. Stop by a favorite Tex-Mex joint for some tacos, and then say to your date “Let’s taco ‘bout prom.” Similar ideas include sushi and “Let’s roll together to prom,” or a pizza place with the sentiment, “We’ll have a pizza prom fun if we go together.”

Get foreign: If you share a foreign language class in school, ask the person to go to prom in that language.

Clever strategies can make asking a date to the prom memorable and fun.



HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

The First Church of Christ, Woodbridge

The First Church of Christ 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 townwide 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 few 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 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.*

Music at First Church: The Music Committee was thrilled to host our first concert since the start of COVID. The concert was held on Saturday, May 14 in our lovely, renovated sanctuary. Our own Nenad Iovic was accompanied by guest cellist Hans Emil Sollesnes and violinist Michael Ferri, both from Yale School of



The First Church of Christ

Music. Also playing was Nenad's 7th grade student, Jason Chen, who played a four-hand piano piece with Nenad. The music was incredible, and we are blessed to have an internationally renowned pianist as part of our church, as well as these accomplished musicians. The concert was well attended, and the Music Committee hosted a reception afterwards in the Parish House. Nenad expressed an interest in having another concert in the Fall and possibly in the Spring, hoping to get these musicians back to join him. We asked for donations which went towards Doctors Without Borders for Ukraine Relief.

We are pleased to announce that even though Nenad's time at Yale has come to an end, he very much wanted to continue on in his position with us which we are thrilled about. He will be studying to get his Doctorate of Music at the City University of New York. Over this summer he will be performing many concerts throughout Europe and other adventurous places.

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!



Bethany First Church Nominated for CFAF Award

Bethany First Church

Bethany First Church Strawberry Festival

June 4th 2022, 10am-4pm

511 Amity Road Bethany CT 06524

Mark your calendars rain or shine for our annual Strawberry Festival!

Christ Church June Concert

Jeff Burnham & guest Dan Pilver

Christ Church Bethany Social Hall

526 Amity Road -Bethany, CT

Saturday, June 18th

Doors 6:30 PM • Show 7:00 PM

Tickets and Info at:

www.christchurchbethany.org/concert-series

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5214846>

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
edit@woodbridgetownnews.com

HEALTH & FITNESS

Low Back and Knee Pain Prevention for the Cyclist

It's that time of the year again, the birds are chirping and the bees are bumping. It's time to take that bike out of the garage and start logging some miles on the road or trails. Being an avid cyclist myself, I know from personal experience that it is very common to suffer from a variety of ailments secondary to cycling. Now I'm not just talking about from crashing, but many sources of pain stem from an improper fit on the bike. Two of the most common cycling related injuries we see as physical therapists are low back pain and knee pain. Now for the competitive cyclist, proper bike fitting is extremely specific and down to the millimeter. This type of fitting should be done by a certified bike fitting specialist at your local bike shop. But for the casual rider just a few simple do it yourself adjustments can lead to a world of difference. Trust me, I know from experience.

The first place to start is the seat, aka the saddle. There are three primary adjustments that can be made to the seat on most bikes: the height, tilt angle, and distance from the handlebars. When adjusting the seat height, you want it to be at a height where when you're at the bottom of your pedal stroke you still have approximately 25-30 degrees of knee flexion. Too high and you will be over extending, and too low and you will be under extending putting increased compression forces on the knee or friction on the iliotibial band which can result in patellofemoral syndrome or IT band syndrome.

When adjusting the seat tilt, you want the seat to be level. If the seat is tilted slightly downward it will make your weight slide forward in the seat causing you to put increased pressure on your hands/wrists which could cause carpal tunnel syndrome. It also causes your pelvis to rotate forward which can lead to low back pain or sacroiliac joint (SIJ) dysfunction. Having the seat tilted backwards would cause the pelvis to rotate backwards which could also result in low back or SIJ pain. This adjustment can be simply made by placing a firm flat object on top of the seat such as a clipboard, and then placing a small level on top.

When adjusting the forward/backward position of the seat you want it to be not so far back that you have to lean excessively forward to reach the handle bars, as this can cause back pain; and not so far forward that when at



Peter Geloso

the top of your pedal stroke your knee is not passing excessively over your toes, which would result in increased compression forces on the knee and could again cause patellofemoral syndrome or ITB syndrome.

If you are experiencing any of the symptoms mentioned above, making adjustments to the bike can help reduce your pain. However, there are likely musculoskeletal or biomechanical issues that may be contributing to your pain. As physical therapists we are skilled at screening each individual patient to locate their specific impairments which may be causing pain. These include muscle flexibility and tightness, joint hypomobility, pelvic rotation, and muscle weakness or imbalance. We can help create an individualized stretching and strengthening program to help correct muscle imbalances and improve your body mechanics on the bicycle to help prevent low back and knee pain, in addition to proper bike fitting.

Finally, remember to take short test rides after making even the smallest bike adjustment before taking it out for a long ride. If you still aren't happy with your bike's set up, seek help from your local professional.

Peter Geloso DPT received his doctorate degree in physical therapy from Elon University in Elon, NC. He is a competitive racing cyclist and competes in races throughout New England. As a practicing physical therapist, he has wide experience in many athletic injuries. Amity Physical Therapy was founded seventeen years ago by Michael Dow MSPT, CEO/Clinical Director. The practice has three offices in Woodbridge, Hamden, Branford and Milford. Peter Geloso can be reached in the Milford office, at 203/ 693/2350 or visit www.amitypt.com

"Letters" From Page 7

the Country Club property would be better than not. An apt analogy: if someone is starving, any additional nourishment is vital.

Asserted that Woodbridge is not "an outlier in having relatively little legally affordable housing." According to the state Department of Housing, only 1.18% of Woodbridge's housing stock is income-restricted so workers, young families, the elderly and others who need it could potentially afford to live there. Of Connecticut's 169 municipalities, just 10 have a lower percentage.

Suggested homes valued at up to \$250,000 are "naturally" affordable. A home priced at \$250,000 is unfortunately not affordable for many. Based on currently rising interest rates, that \$250,000 home would require a monthly mortgage payment of more \$1,500 so a buyer would have to earn at least \$60,000 a year to afford it (i.e., not spend more than 30% of his or her income). According to the state Department of Labor, scores of needed Connecticut occupations pay less. Just a few: credit counselors, architectural drafters, archeologists, occupational safety and health technicians, survey researchers, clergy, religious education directors, marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, pre-school teachers. The authors say 2021 town data indicates 300-plus homes were valued at \$250,000 or less. That total is less than 10% of Woodbridge's housing stock and, given the sizeable run-up in home costs in the last year, likely to be lower now.

As I said above, I am certain the ad's authors believe they have Woodbridge's best interests in mind. And I commend them for their advocacy. Housing is a vital need and all residents should be encouraged to take part in discussing the town's housing needs. To that end, the South Central Region Council of Governments – of which Woodbridge is a member and I am a consultant – is shaping a 4th year of housing efforts to facilitate communication, education and discussion about housing needs. Every resident's ideas and perspective are relevant and worthy of considering. It's important for all residents to not only listen to each other, but hear what they are saying. Adding new housing options in a town can be – and has been – done successfully. Good solutions can result, but only after the facts are laid bare, the opinions heard, the perspec-

tives understood, and a common vision agreed upon. I believe the thoughtful, open-minded residents of Woodbridge will, like those in others towns, succeed in that effort.

David Fink

Family Talk About Drinking: Prom And Graduation

Prom and graduation season is important for many high school students. Both events serve as memorable celebrations and the next step in their journey to create their own futures. But these events can also come with a lot of pressure and feelings of anxiety for many teenagers. That's why Anheuser-Busch and Dichello Distributors Inc. are building on their longstanding commitment to promoting responsible drinking by encouraging parents to talk with their kids on how to create memories with friends safely.

Before this season arrives, it's always a good idea to sit down with your teen to talk about a plan of action if they are confronted with underage drinking, establish expectations, and answer any questions so that they can have a safe and fun night with their friends. Parents are the biggest influence on their teens' decisions about underage drinking, and special occasions like prom and graduation are great opportunities to build confidence and trust.

For more information and resources on how you can devote quality time to talk with your teenagers about underage drinking, Anheuser-Busch and Dichello Distributors, Inc. encourage you to learn more through the Family Talk About Drinking program. This essential resource for parents can help you connect with your teen through honest and open-ended conversations while providing tips for talking with children and teenagers through every stage of life.

Here's where you can find Family Talk About Drinking resources online to help start these important conversations:

- › www.familytalkaboutdrinking.com;
- › www.facebook.com/ABFamilyTalk;
- › www.twitter.com/ABFamilyTalk.

As prom and graduation season approaches, make sure you talk with your teen, so they are prepared to celebrate safely.

Tony Lota

Alcohol Awareness Coordinator
Dichello Distributors, Inc.



CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Troop 907 News

Scouts from Troop 907 wrapped up their annual plant and fertilizer sale the weekend of April 23-24 and want to thank everyone who participated and patronized the troop’s fundraiser. The annual flower sale spans three weeks each spring, and proceeds are used to offset the costs of campouts and other troop activities. 100% of the proceeds go directly to the troop’s needs.

It has been a very busy few months for the scouts as they welcomed three new youth members from Orange. The troop currently has three Eagle Scout projects underway that will benefit both Woodbridge and Orange. In addition to multiple campouts throughout the past year, scouts have been working on merit badges and are looking forward to an active spring.

Recently scouts went go-karting and have camped every month over the past year. Troop activities occur year-round and has members from Woodbridge, Orange, Bethany, New Haven, North Haven, Milford and West Haven. Recent events have had the troop visiting Sleeping Giant and camping at Scout Camp WaWahTaysee in Hamden where they created and ran the orienteering course near Sleeping Giant. Also, the troop camped and learned rifle shoot-

ing at the Strang Scout Reservation in Goshen.

In May, the troop will be replacing the flags at the graves of the veterans in the three Woodbridge cemeteries and also participating presenting a color guard at the Woodbridge Memorial Day event. On May 20-22, the troop is kayaking in Boston Harbor to Fort Andrews/Peddock’s Island, Boston Harbor Islands State Park in Hull, Massachusetts. They will be camping at Camp Sequassen this summer and also taking the ferry and biking around Block Island on another upcoming campout in September.

The troop will be camping outside the First Church of Christ Parish House the weekend of June 17 – 19 and both scout adults and youth will be assisting with the annual community Strawberry Festival. Come by and say hi to all and get to know them! The year ending Court of Honor will also occur on Saturday, June 18th.

Troop 907 meets every Thursday night at the First Church of Christ Parish House (rear entrance) on Meetinghouse Lane in the center of Woodbridge. If you’re interested in scouting, please come check out this active troop, or visit www.Troop907.org.

Residents Invited to Take Survey

Residents are invited to take the ad hoc Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee’s “Experiencing Woodbridge Survey.”

This anonymous survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and asks residents to share some of their experiences living in Woodbridge. Findings from the survey will help the committee to understand how well Woodbridge is living up to our ideals and understand where there may be opportunities to better engage and serve all members of our increasingly diverse community.

The Experiencing Woodbridge Survey seeks to capture how Woodbridge households experience key aspects of life in Woodbridge now and invite perspectives on how we can continue to benefit from our community’s growing diversity in the future.

A link to the survey can be found on the committee’s page on the Town website and on the website homepage. Results will be published on the committee’s page later this summer.

Residents are asked to submit one response to the survey on behalf of their household by June 10.

Drinking Water Comes to Fitzgerald Property

Directors of the Woodbridge Dog Park Cooperative (WDPC) announced a successful collaboration with the Regional Water Authority (RWA) to bring a new source of drinking water to the Fitzgerald Property – often referred to as the cornfield – near the town center. The new water supply was installed – at no cost to the Town or the WDPC – as part of a RWA service program that assists non-profit community groups; the two-day installation was completed earlier this month.

The Woodbridge Town Plan and Zoning Commission and Board of Selectmen had each previously approved plans for this improvement to the property. Under provisions of a formal agreement with the Town, the dog park is open daily where there was formerly an asphalt pad and seasonal skating rink.

WDPC operations and finances are completely independent from town government; going forward, the WDPC has accepted responsibility for the monthly water usage fees. “On behalf of WDPC directors, members, and guests, I’m grateful to both RWA

and town officials for their part in this welcome enhancement to the property we’re so pleased to share with other community members,” said Mary Beth Womer, WDPC board president. “This drinking water is now available for dog park users as well as Fitzgerald Property walkers, joggers, and nature lovers, and as a goodwill gesture by good neighbors, the WDPC will foot the bill.”

It must be noted however, that the potable water now available on the Fitzgerald Property is strictly intended for pets and humans, and not meant for agricultural or gardening purposes. The WDPC withholds the right to restrict access to the potable water should usage exceed anticipated volume due to abuse of privileges, unauthorized use, or vandalism.

The WDPC is in its third year of operations. It now has well over 100 member families.

Those who seek additional information about the WDPC are encouraged to visit its website at www.woodbridgedogpark.org or send an inquiry to woodbridgedogpark@gmail.com.

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

“These fallen heroes represent the character of a nation who has a long history of patriotism and honor - and a nation who has fought many battles to keep our country free from threats of terror.” — MICHAEL N. CASTLE

New Haven-area Lifelong Learning Program Brings Fun, New Skills and Health to Area Adults

When you're a grown-up, school is fun. Even the tests.

Take Hilary Fried, for instance. He's focused on a test and it's decision time. That tile his classmate and wife just put down on the table...should he pick it up, or not? He goes for it, eliciting a groan from his wife, Laurie, and the two other players as he comes a step closer to making mah jongg, which wins the game.

Win or lose, the Woodmont couple is having fun...and that's the highest passing grade. And while it's not their reason for participating, the Frieds and other lifelong learners are staying healthy, better able to participate in the community and saving health-care dollars.

Hilary and Laurie learned mah jongg in a class offered by the Institute for Learning in Retirement of Greater New Haven (ILR), a 30-year-old non-profit lifelong learning organization that offers classes in topics ranging from the arts to zoology. Its roughly 400 students, most of whom are older, meet via Zoom or at venues around the area. Dr. Joel Feimer, a retired professor, is president of ILR and teaches literature classes for the program. He says a curriculum that includes literature and mah jongg, along with 46 other classes this semester, is exactly what members are looking for.

"There are people who are interested in expanding their understanding of literature and people who are into the arts, birdwatching, history, travel and what not," he says. "It's kind of neat because we do have those kinds of choices. Our people are intellectually curious."

That describes Hilary and Laurie. They got involved in ILR the same way many others do – a friend told them about a class. They had dabbled with mah jongg with another couple. They enjoyed the social aspect, but when the pandemic hit, they stopped playing. Their friends discovered the ILR class and suggested that the couple join.

"I jumped on that," said Hilary, who adds that he has seen some other classes he wants to take this semester.

For Laurie, the ILR class was something to help her keep busy and a new interest to explore. Laurie has a jewelry business that keeps her engaged,



Laurie Fried looks at her mah jongg tiles while instructor Karen Fenichel talks with Laurie's husband, Hilary, during a practice game

but like many retired people, she likes staying active and exploring new fields. "I'm happier when I'm doing something and not sitting around," she said. "If there's something that interests me, I seek out how to do it."

Like all ILR classes, mah jongg is taught by an expert. Dr. Karen Fenichel, of Orange, enjoys the game and has learned everything she could about it. A retired dentist, she is experienced at teaching adults, including dental assistants and dental hygienists at colleges in New Jersey. She also taught mah jongg at adult education programs there.

"You need to be able to react quickly, be good at sorting and be flexible with your strategy," she says. "That keeps you thinking and exercises your mind. Equally important, the social aspects of games like mah jongg help you make new friends."

That social aspect is important to all ILR classes. People enjoy the variety of classes because they can find things that are important to them while meeting new people with similar interests.

Feimer's literature classes, for in-

stance, never lack enrollment. His students follow him from semester to semester as he explores different works. Feimer takes his classes step by step through the literature.

A recent class on Dante had 15 people enrolled and he anticipates strong enrollment in this semester's Reading the Mabinogion: An Introduction to Celtic Myth. That class runs on six Thursdays, starting May 5.

The Mabinogion is filled with stories written centuries ago in Wales and Ireland by people who resisted the Roman invasion and subsequent occupations. They tell of the interactions between humans and gods, and is credited with giving birth to the legends of King Arthur.

"It's what literature would have been like just after the Romans left," says Feimer. "The stories go back to the 11th Century. Students are interested in exploring the literature. It's exciting stuff and it's a lot of fun. It's like fairy tales." He adds that fairy tales mean more after some life experience.

Like Fenichel, Feimer is an experienced teacher. He taught English literature to undergrads and graduate

students for many years, has published essays on medieval and modern literature and co-edited a text on composition. Most importantly, he teaches his passions.

"The classes I teach, I teach from my heart," he says. "These are things I love and I'm ready to share them."

Whether teaching or learning, lifelong learning is all about what appeals to the heart. No longer are students checking off classes for graduation. That's important because these classes do more than teach new skills. They keep minds intellectually active and help students develop social contacts. New Haven County is home to 155,000 people over 65 whose minds could benefit from being kept active. And, like the doctors and scientists who study lifelong learners, the people in the classes know what they are doing beyond having fun.

"I'm into doing what's good for me," says Laurie Fried, "including keeping my brain sharp."

Those who study aging agree that older adults who participate in lifelong learning stay healthier. A University of Texas study, for instance, shows increased memory skills for lifelong learners. A Case Western study demonstrated that Alzheimer's Disease is less likely among those who participate in lifelong learning. Other studies show that a person with a positive perception of their own aging lives 7.5 years longer. And an article in Ageing and Society, a peer-reviewed journal covering gerontology, cited benefits of lifelong learning, saying it helped "sustain their psychological wellbeing" in later life. Even among those with "chronic conditions and other challenges," lifelong learning helped people focus on wellness rather than illness.

Scientists and doctors haven't put a dollar figure on the benefits of staying active through learning, but it's clear that society benefits from maintaining the health of its older adults. Fenichel, however, may have landed on another strong motivation for involvement. "When you stop learning, you become stagnant," says Fenichel. "The world is changing around you. Even if you're getting older, it doesn't mean you don't want to keep up."

“Memorial Day isn't just about honoring veterans, its honoring those who lost their lives. Veterans had the fortune of coming home. For us, that's a reminder of when we come home we still have a responsibility to serve. It's a continuation of service that honors our country and those who fell defending it.” — PETE HEGSETH

DEATH NOTICES



William R. Russo

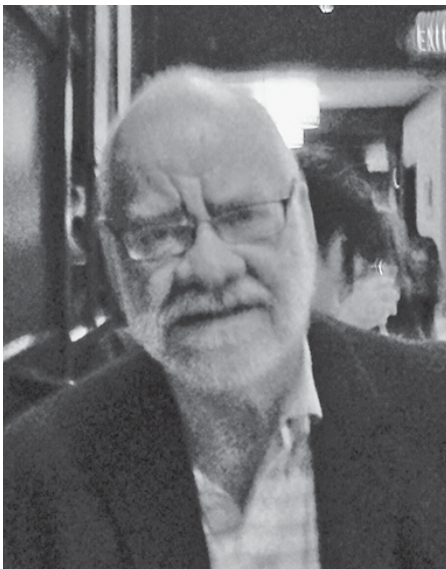
William R. “Billy” Russo, age 78, of Woodbridge entered into rest on Thursday, April 28, 2022 at Yale New Haven Hospital after a courageous battle with leukemia. He was the devoted husband of Patricia (Alanskas) Russo for over 53 years. Bill was born on August 25, 1943 in New Haven, son of the late Michael and Madeline (DeBiase) Russo.

Bill was raised in New Haven and attended local schools, and earned his Bachelor’s degree from Quinnipiac University. He and Patricia were residents of Woodbridge for many years, raising their own family there. Bill worked as an auditor and accountant for Singer and Perkin Elmer before joining Subway as a site selector and eventually operating several stores throughout Connecticut. He was very active, enjoying softball and racketball with his friends and most recently golf. Bill was a Boston Red Sox and NY Giants fan. Together with his family he made many memories at their homes in Florida and New Hampshire.

He is the beloved father of Caryann Russo of North Branford, William M. Russo of Woodbridge, Richard P. Russo of Scottsdale, AZ and Loreen M. Russo of West Palm Beach, FL. Bill also leaves his 8 cherished grandchildren; his sister, Sandra Donato and her husband, Louis of CO; his sister-in-law, Lillian Smith of Beacon Falls and his loving niece and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother-in-law, Theodore Smith.

His Funeral Mass was celebrated on May 6, 2022 at St. Patrick Oratory,

50 Charles Street, Waterbury, CT 06708. Burial will be private and at the convenience of his family. Memorial contributions may be made to the “CLOSER TO FREE FUND”, Yale New Haven Hospital, Office of Development, P.O. Box 1849, New Haven, CT 06508-9979. The Alderson-Ford Funeral Home of Naugatuck is assisting his family with the arrangements. To leave online condolences for his family or to share a story of Bill, please visit www.fordfh.com.



Dean A. McLean

Dean Arken McLean passed away on February 21st, 2022 at age 70 in the nursing home he had been at for several years in Providence. Dean was a longtime resident in Woodbridge and attended Amity High School where he was a three-sport letterman. His ashes will be buried at a family plot in East Lawn cemetery in Williamstown, MA on Saturday, May 28th; the graveside ceremony is at 11am and we will gather at the chapel first. Dean is survived by his nephew Michael Campbell, Lana Deym Campbell and Dean her younger brother were very close growing up in Venezuela and Woodbridge, Connecticut. Dean was an outstanding scholar athlete, was captain of the golf team at UCONN and won a youth golf championship of Venezuela. He even got a hole in one as a teenager, and an article was written about it. He was a kind soul and loved animals. Before she passed, Lana was his caretaker after his sister Sharon McLean passed, and Sharon also a longtime Woodbridge resident. May they Rest in Peace together.

“Mill Rate” From Page 1

\$287,000, the 43.77 mill rate would result in an increase in real estate taxes, but a decrease in motor vehicle taxes, said Town Finance Director Anthony Genovese. He calculated the total tax burden to be approximately \$13,489 for the real estate and motor vehicle taxes combined.

The operating budget also includes just over \$1 million in capital projects, including, among other projects, funds for the renovation of the former Boy Scout Room in the Center Building (\$11,000) ; folding chair replacement (\$5,000); also \$130K for dispatch renovations and \$35,000 for removal of an underground oil tank; for the Fire Department \$175,528 towards Engine 3 replacement; \$19,000 for a thermal imaging camera; \$50K for network upgrades at the police station; \$46,124 for a sidewalk snow removal machine; \$331K for road construction/paving (combined with LOCIP funds and added funds from the capital reserve the town plans to spend a total of \$680,000 on road construction).

During the Annual Town Meeting First Selectman Beth Heller also pointed out that the town has received over \$3 million in grant funding for projects that have been planned for a long time. In particular she mentioned \$425,000 in grants for the Senior Center renovation; \$2 million in state bonding to convert the old firehouse into a community center; and \$600,000 to construct a sidewalk from the high school to the town center and to repair the walkway around the library lawn.

These projects “go a long way” towards implementing the town center beautification plan, she said. Other projects that remain to be tackled are additional outdoor seating, updated signage and improvements to police department quarters and the rest of the Center Building.

She said the town had received \$2.3 million through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the town has yet to determine where those funds will be best spent. She named five projects that have come to the fore, namely improvements to the business district, additional ventilation at the Center Building; a pavilion on the library lawn for outdoor programming; upgrades to ageing playgrounds and an irrigation system for the ballfields.

Heller said once the Board of Selectmen has adopted a strategic plan, it will investigate whether any of the suggested projects can be accomplished with ARPA funds, and at that point ask the public for feedback.

Strategic plan: At the Annual Meeting, Selectmen Sheila McCreven and David Vogel jointly introduced a draft strategic plan which a subcommittee of the Board of Selectmen had been working on, in conjunction with Town Finance Director Anthony Genovese and Administrative Assistant Betsy Yagla. The plan pinpoints the “most important and pressing issues facing the town in coming years,” with their

focus on the 2022-23 fiscal year. At the top of the list is the task to “ensure the financial stability of the town,” said David Vogel. “That is our top priority.” To do so will require new ideas to diversify the Grand List, by finding ways to support local businesses and attract new ones. He also said the town needs to do a better job at educating taxpayers about the town’s finances.

Determining the future of the former Country Club of Woodbridge property also was part of that strategic plan, but as a priority under the goal of “investing in and maintaining infrastructure and facilities.” The speakers did not suggest how that should be accomplished.

The plan also includes renovations of municipal buildings and grounds, including the Senior Center and Old Firehouse. It also suggests to begin discussion regarding the renovations of the center building, which would include the police station; and to think about the Town Hall building, which is over 100 years old and has its own needs.

Another category the plan touches on is how to “enhance the quality of life” – challenging the town to think about “services and resources that allow people to thrive,” and to explore potential efficiencies, such as between the Human Services Department, the Town Library, the Recreation Department, etc. The plan encourages the town to think about ways to improve parks and playgrounds; create pathways to allow residents to enjoy the outdoors safely (such as walking and biking); and to coordinate community events for people to come together and opportunities to embrace diversity.

McCreven encouraged those in the audience to provide feedback on these points. “We’re keen to hear from everyone,” she said.

Former First Selectman Amey Marrella did step to the podium and encouraged town leaders to get a lot more input from town residents. “For at least 21 years since I’ve been first selectman it’s been the goal of the town to diversify the Grand List,” she said. “The big question is how?”

“You need to have more opportunities and an invitation for public discussion,” she said. “You can have a SWOT analysis opportunity (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats), a tool often used to build a business strategy. “If you build it up (with input from the public) you might do a better job of figuring out how to actually achieve those goals,” she said.

Bob McSherry, who had moved to Woodbridge eight years ago from Bethany, noted that houses in his neighborhood had been flipped repeatedly since he moved here. “What makes Bethany special is that the old-timers are still there, because they can afford to stay there,” he said.

That prompted Dr. Alan Davidson to speak up for his town. “I’m 85 and I am still here,” he said. “And I love this town.”

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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TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE • LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING – 2022 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT APPLICATIONS – MATERIALS FOR THIS PUBLIC HEARING MAY BE VIEWED ONLINE:
<https://woodbridgect.org/232/boardofselectmen>

Pursuant to Section 12-632 of the Connecticut General Statutes the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Woodbridge will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 6:30 p.m. via teleconference to receive comments regarding the 2022 Neighborhood Assistance Applications. There will be no in-person participation. Audio and video of this Public Hearing will be simultaneously televised on Channel 79 and youtube@wgatv79 to allow the public to view and listen to the hearing. The applications are on file in the Selectmen's Office and may be reviewed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Written comments may be e-mailed to gshaw@woodbridgect.org by 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 8, 2022.

Dated at Woodbridge, CT this 12 day of May 2022.

Board of Selectmen
Town of Woodbridge



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Beecher 6th Grader Heading to Fencing National Championships

Written by Adam Liu and Kun Liu

Beecher Road School 6th grader and Woodbridge resident Adam Liu, age 11, recently qualified for the 2022 USA Fencing National Championships & July Challenge. Adam has been trained as an epee fencer since September 2021 at Rogue Fencing Academy, the best epee-fencing club in CT located in Woodbridge.

Coached by head coach Sandra Marchant, a national golden medalist and a 3-time USA World Team member, Adam has won silver, bronze, and several top 8 medals in Youth 12 Men’s Epee (Y12ME) in Regional Youth Circuit (RYC) tournaments. The RYC tournaments usually are joined by a few hundred fencers from 9 northeast states including ME, NH, VT, MA, NY, RI, CT, NJ, and PA. Adam ranks 67th on the USA Official National Standings in Y12ME. He is the highest ranked epee fencer under 12 from CT.

Adam has also challenged himself in Youth 14 Men’s Epee (Y14ME) and is advancing his rank step by step. He has been qualified to join the USA Fencing National Championships & July Challenge, which is scheduled to take place July 2-11, 2022 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Many other fencers aged 4 years to 80 years from Woodbridge, Cheshire, Bethany, Orange, New Haven and other counties in CT are enjoying the training in the Rogue Fencing Academy. Most of them are trained with incredible patience, self-regulation, courage, dignity, strategy, and flexible thinking in the Rogue Fencing Academy. Many youth fencers are not only achieving their success on strips of tournament, but also on their academic development.

Anybody interested in fencing is welcome to schedule a trial lesson at roguefencingacademy.com.

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ARTS & LEISURE



Top row: Amanda Koola and Oliva Frankiewicz. Bottom row: Sophia Faryna

Congratulations Amity Regional School District Artists

We would like to congratulate the following Amity Regional School District high school students who placed in this year's SCC Art Show: 1st place Sophia Faryna (Ivy) of Woodbridge, 3rd place Olivia Frankiewicz (The Stran-

gulation of Grief) of Bethany and Amanda Koola (Three Little Jellyfish) of Woodbridge who did not place but her artwork sold. Amity was only allowed three entries in the competition and all 3 were recognized in some way.

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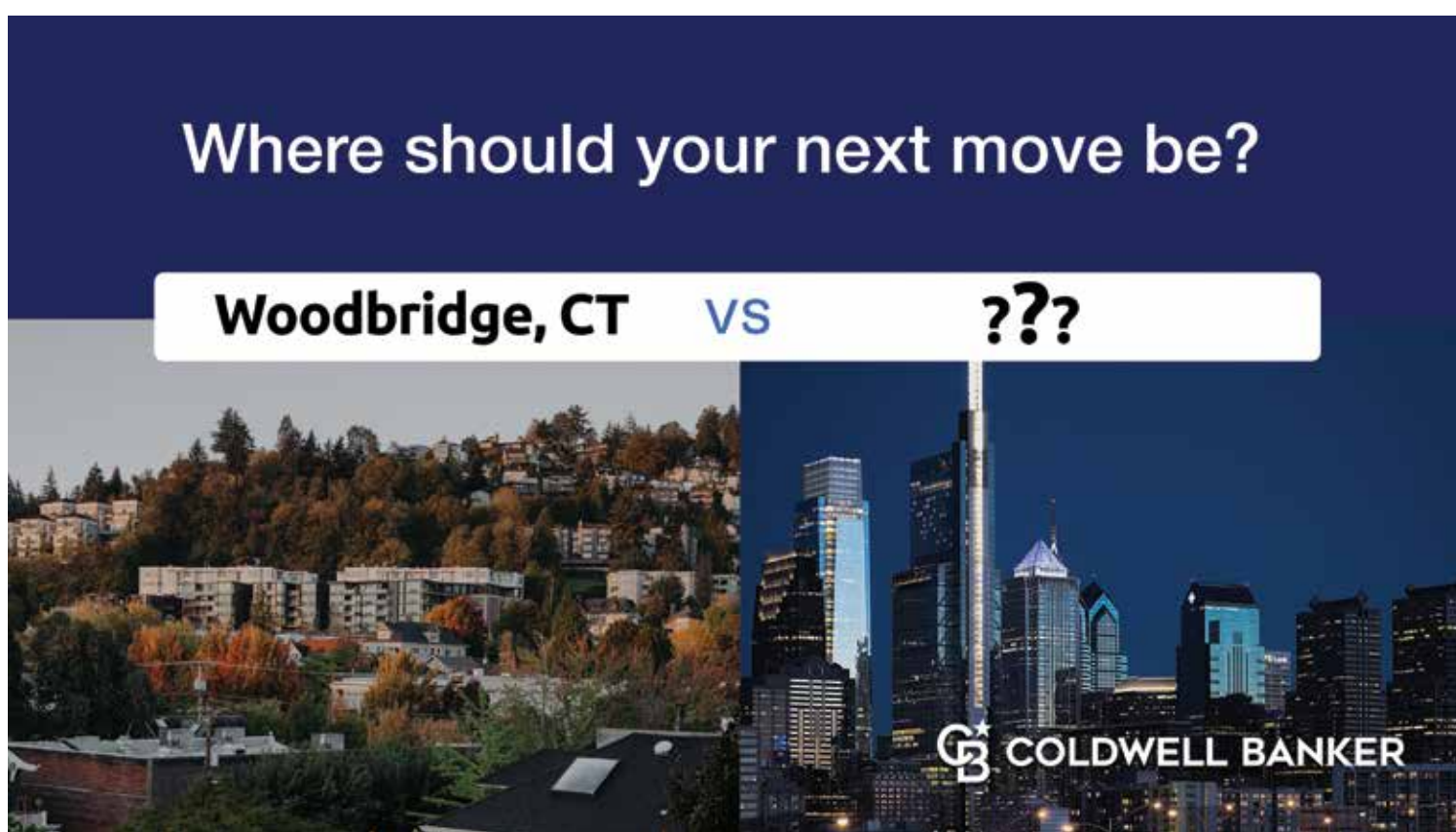


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