

Woodbridge Town News



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VOL. 10 – ISSUE 7

CIRCULATION 3654

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2021



Some 40 speakers came to speak to the Amity Board of Education June 14 about racism, sexism and what to do about it. Only 11 had time to speak, while the others followed from an overflow area.

'Acts Of Hate Have Defined My Amity Experience'

Students, Parents Urge Amity Board to Embrace Diversity

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A group of current and former Amity students and parents addressed the Amity Board of Education at its June 14 meeting to impress upon board members, the administration and the public at large how many students struggle with a lack of acceptance and acts of bullying at the school, and they generally described their Amity experience as being unwelcoming, to say the least.

"Amity is a place of peace and harmony, but right now, Amity does not feel like that," said one student when addressing the board during public comment.

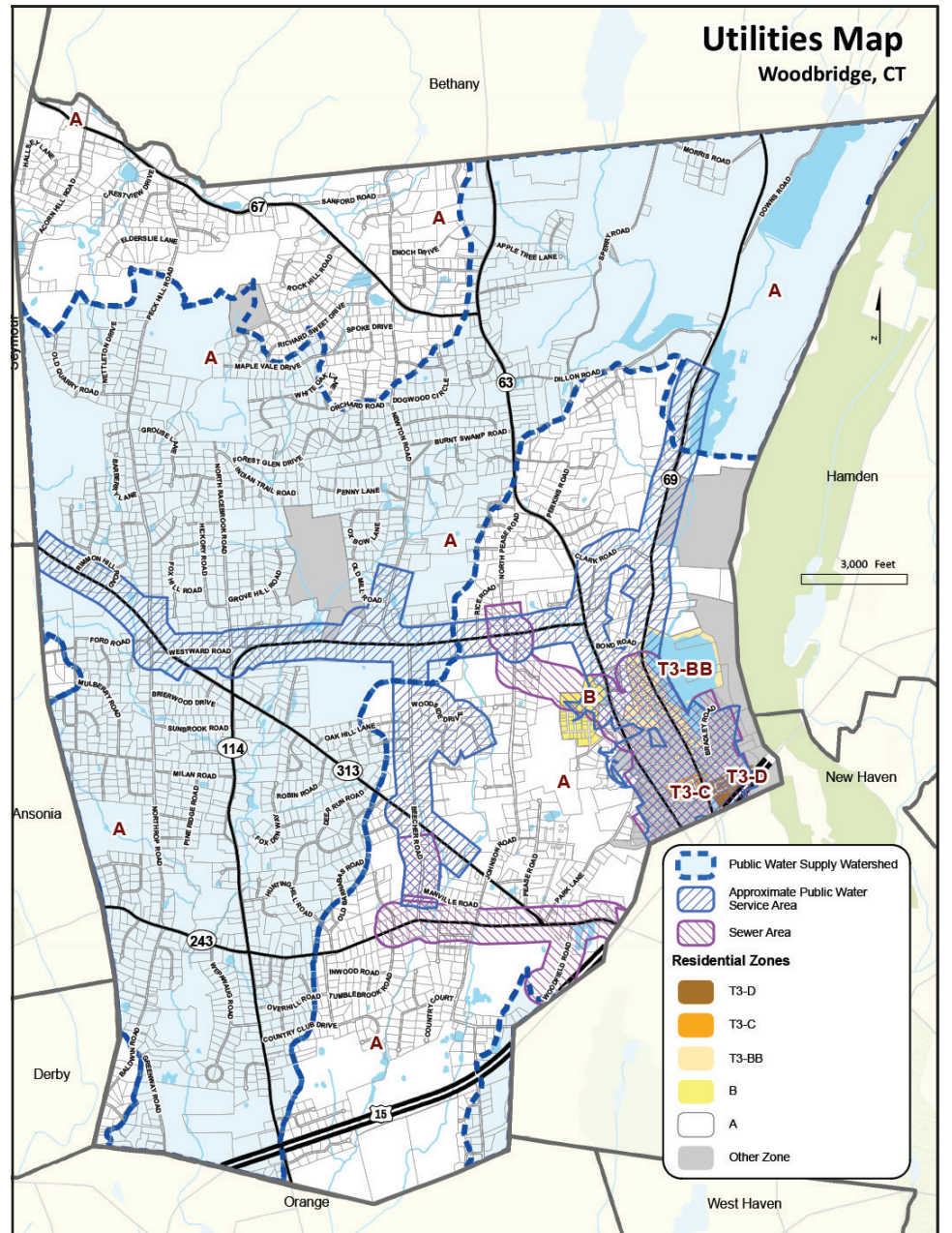
A student from Orange talked about the name calling he endured throughout his school years, including racial

and sexual slurs. "I feel unwanted and unsafe," he said, adding, "I want change for the better. I don't want an apology and I don't want pity. I want change."

One parent spoke up for his daughter currently enrolled at the school. He said when she reported repeated racist comments to the administration, she felt they did not believe her, not until she provided proof in the form of a screenshot.

Kim Franklin of Woodbridge read a letter from her sister Tatiana, a 2005 Amity graduate, and currently a public defender in California, talking about her Amity experience. While in high school she experienced daily micro-aggressions and insults, she wrote. Although she was the captain of the

See "Diversity" On Page 22



Zoning Opens Door to Affordability Concept

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Some nine months after having received a challenge to its zoning regulations to allow for more housing opportunities, the Town Plan and Zoning Commission (TPZ) voted 5 to 1 in

support of revisions to its regulations and to the Plan of Conservation and Development that would allow for accessory dwelling units throughout the town; as well as multi-family housing

See "Zoning" On Page 23



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From the Democratic Town Committee

BY LAURENCE GROTHEER



First, a word of gratitude for the dedicated community service of the hundreds of volunteer public officials – working in concert with town employees – who invested thousands of work hours these past many months preparing the town’s budget for next year. Please know those efforts are admired and appreciated by an overwhelming majority of Woodbridge residents and the entire membership of the WDTC.

With adopted budgets now at both the town and state level for the fiscal year beginning July 1, and with the town’s legislative delegation now finished with its Regular Session, it seems appropriate to hear from those who represent us in the Connecticut General Assembly.

From state Senator Jorge Cabrera: Although this was not a conventional regular legislative session, with much of our work handled over Zoom due to the pandemic, I am proud to say my colleagues and I did not allow those inconveniences to prevent us from doing the people’s business. We charged ahead and secured \$1.2 million for the town of Woodbridge, passed legislation to protect workers, increased funding for schools throughout the district by \$8.1 million, made college more affordable and did this all with zero tax increases, so you can keep your money in your pocket.

We also passed a groundbreaking “bottle bill” that improves solid waste management and helps reduce litter in our communities and banned PFAS in food packaging. For workers, we have ensured employees laid off due to the pandemic will be recalled if their jobs are rehiring and required employers to disclose salary wage ranges to job applicants and current employees to help close the gender wage gap.

Again, we have accomplished much, boosted funding for our towns and cities by millions and did so without raising taxes. If you would like to learn more about any laws, or have an idea for a bill, reach out to me

at Jorge.cabrera@cga.ct.gov or 203-726-0768. It is an honor to serve the towns of Woodbridge, Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Hamden, and Naugatuck.

From state Representative Mary Weland: While not the typical experience for a new legislator, this session was still successful. We passed a budget with strong bi-partisan support without raising taxes or cutting vital services.

Additionally, three of my proposals passed through the House and the Senate. As the Vice Chair of the Children’s Committee, I made student access to mental health services a priority and I am proud to say that my School-Based Mental Health Clinic proposal was incorporated into SB 1 and has been signed into law.

I also created legislation which will provide behavioral and mental health service information to families through Board of Education websites so when trusted information is needed, parents and educators can find it quickly.

Another concept, focused on Agricultural Education Programs, will connect local farms with surrounding communities through outreach opportunities. Created in partnership with UConn Extension with the hopes of providing a new layer of exposure for our local farms (like Massaro), I am proud that this legislation passed unanimously through the House and the Senate.

Finally, during budget negotiations, I, along with others, successfully advocated for additional funds for our schools. Despite going above and beyond during the pandemic, they were scheduled to receive less state education funding due to the budget passed in 2017, but we secured even funding for the next two years.

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

Other Side of the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE
WRTC CHAIRMAN



We Need A Better Way

The Town Meeting held on June 2 was, sadly, a disorganized repeat of the failed virtual town meeting of May 17 that adjourned to June 2. After the virtual meeting, one would have expected our town leaders to hold an organized, tightly controlled, by the book meeting. That didn’t happen. There were several missteps, some preventable, some a function of our Town Charter. We now know that our Charter requires serious review and change as soon as possible.

Per the Charter, at least 250 eligible voters must be present for votes to be cast. This was the first place the meeting went awry. Unfortunately, the Notice and Warning of the reconvened meeting made no mention of or allowance for the parking challenges residents would face. A long walk from the Amity High School parking lot delayed many people from arriving at the fire house by 6:30 pm, the noticed start time. The Moderator acknowledged the parking challenge and authorized more time for people to check in. Shockingly, the Town Attorney attempted to shut down the check-in process notwithstanding the Moderator’s decision. Only due to an outcry from people witnessing this attempt at voter suppression were those latecomers allowed to be counted and the minimum of 250 voters was reached.

There were other games played related to the magic 250 threshold. The most visible were those people who physically left the counting area as motions were raised so they would not be included in the vote total. This was an obvious effort to reduce the total voter count below the 250 minimum and invalidate any vote taken. To intentionally step out of the room to sabotage a vote count is insulting to our town’s democratic process and those who want to participate.

It is clear from these back-to-back town meeting failures that the current method of the townspeople giving our final blessing to the town budget is unworkable. The physical (or virtual) method of counting heads and votes clearly failed. The Charter-prescribed vote on each line item of the budget may have worked in the days of less-detailed budgets, but it does not work now. Further, the line-by-line approach, however unintentionally, potentially

pits one group in town against another (for example, advocating for funding for senior activities versus recreation for the youth or public works versus the Beecher budget). The whole process is so complicated that, by default, it nearly guarantees no changes to the budget at the only meeting where people can vote for or against it.

So where do we go from here? Seeing what has just transpired, town leaders would be wise to assemble a Charter Revision Commission to review the annual budgeting process, especially the process for approval. Some parts of the Charter lay out the obligations and timelines of the Board of Finance, including the preliminary budget hearing held in April. The last speaker at the June 2 meeting correctly pointed out that residents have not raised many concerns via the April hearing process in recent years. Perhaps the town should make a better effort to communicate the preliminary budget to the public and allow opportunity for emailed comments rather than limit comment to in-person statements on a specific date and time. For the Republican Town Committee’s part, we commit to sending out email blasts to alert residents to future budget hearings.

Whatever improvements are warranted on the budget comment process, the Charter’s prescribed process for approving the annual budget must be changed. Specifically, the budget approval process must be simplified. We are already voting by referendum for the Amity budget as a whole, so why not do the same for the Town budget? Requiring people to attend a single meeting at a specific time in the middle of the week to vote on the budget is very restrictive. It’s a throw-back to simpler times with a smaller town population, but it needs to be updated. A referendum vote opens the door for many more people to vote and allows for absentee voting.

The bottom line is that voters know their own budgets and how much they can afford to pay in taxes. A total budget vote is a simple way to tell Town leaders if the proposed town budget fits with their own. If we change the Charter in this way we can put the voters back in charge, where we should be.



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Woodbridge Town News

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

Upcoming Issue Date

Issue Deadline

September 3 | Labor Day & Back To School Issue..... August 20

October 1 | Fall Issue September 24

October 29 | Veterans Day Issue October 22

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

FROM OUR READERS

Newly Elected BOE Membership Presents Opportunities

The pre-election letter from the Democrat candidates for the Woodbridge Board of Education (BOE) documented their revisionist history, distortion of facts and deflection of their own bad behavior. The fact is the current Democrat Woodbridge BOE members caucus regularly, so they are “aligned” at BOE meetings. By definition, that’s a political activity. The Republicans don’t caucus – they are presented with issues, ask questions in a public forum and make up their own minds – no groupthink here. The Democrats claim they supported the re-opening of Beecher Road School with in-person learning is belied by the recordings of mid-summer 2020 BOE meetings where they, as a group, questioned the wisdom of the Governor’s directive to re-open schools.

They also attempt to take full credit for the reduction of a projected quarter-million-dollar deficit when it was the Republican BOE Chair and a Republican majority BOE Finance Committee that carefully monitored spending trends and savings efforts on multiple fronts. One might think that these statements from Democrat members of the Board of Education should result in the authors having to write “We will not spin the truth again” 250 times on the blackboard.

With the newly elected Woodbridge BOE members come opportunities for better behavior. Let’s hope the caucus practice ends, the spin cycle has been exhausted and the stress of educating our kids through a pandemic is behind us.

Matt Schwartz

What Has Happened To Civility

With all that has happened in this past year with Covid, one would think that we would be coming together- not

coming apart. We can agree to disagree with respect and I really saw little of that from those attending the Annual Town Meeting on June 2.

I write this letter not to challenge the rights of the voters in the Town of Woodbridge but to ask you all to look and see what has happened to civility in this town. I have lived here for 43 years and have never seen such behavior. Being an employee of the town, I would normally never write a letter to the newspaper but I was so saddened by the tone of those present that I felt I had to write.

Please know that each and every one of our wonderful departments in town (and they are wonderful) have been cut each year to ensure that our Boards of Education can provide the very best education for our children, while all of us in the Town Hall, Police, Fire, Public Works, Library and Human Services are trying very hard to keep the services of the town at the best level possible. This becomes more and more difficult each year. The Town has eliminated 10 full time positions over the last few years and departments have had their budgets cut hundreds of thousands of dollars.

So here is the question that I have for you: do you want to be the one to be responsible if there is no police or fire personnel or medic to come to your house if you have been robbed or a family member is having a heart attack or your house is on fire or you are in a serious car accident waiting for help. We can always call in another town – but would you want to have to wait for that? Our Finance Director, Board of Selectmen and Boards of Finance, with their expertise, have gone through our budgets with a fine tooth comb to do as much as possible for the townspeople. We have had our budgets cut, our staff cut, our health care cut while the state and federal governments keep adding

See “Letters” On Page 9

Woodbridge Town News

WTN LETTERS POLICY

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

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

WOODBIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Holy Infant Women’s Guild Awards Scholarships

Each year the Holy Infant Women’s Guild awards scholarships to well-rounded young ladies from the parish who have made a difference in their community through volunteering their time. This year’s winners of \$1,000.00 each are Annie Driscoll and Kiera Bova.

Annie is an Amity graduate. She has been a reader for mass and has been very active with Midnight Run. She also developed a backpack project and found inexpensive ways to get essentials to fill the backpacks for the homeless. She was active with New Beginnings Club at Amity which held fundraisers in support of the women’s

shelter in New Haven. She has been involved with the Girl Scouts for 13 years doing various community service projects. Annie will attend Pace University in the fall.

Kiera is an amity graduate. She has been active with Midnight Run through Holy Infant making sandwiches for the homeless. At Amity she has been involved with the Summer Sidekicks program which pairs volunteer students with special needs students to work together on academic work, daily living skills and social activities. She was also a member of the Future Business Leaders of America Club and studies piano. She will attend Iona College in the fall.

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 1995-1997 and/or having graduated in 2015 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, 2021, they will be destroyed.

Welander Champions School-Based Mental Health Legislation

Representative Mary Welander (D-Orange/Derby/Woodbridge), Vice Chair of the Children’s Committee, has championed the passage of HB 6509, “An Act Concerning School-Based Mental Health Clinics.” The Connecticut House voted 143 to 4 in strong bipartisan support to pass this legislation.

“Providing access to mental health services for students is more important now than ever. Throughout the past few years, psychologists and physicians have noted a rise in anxiety and depression among youths, and the pandemic has only exacerbated this,” said Rep. Welander. “It is critical to the success and overall health of children across the state that we remove as many barriers as possible that prevent access to these services. When students receive access to early intervention services, we protect them from unnecessary trauma and create healthier school communities. I would like to thank the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Public Health, the Connecticut Association of School-Based Health Centers, Representative Linehan, Chair of the Children’s Committee, and Minority Leader Candelora for their support in the passage of this legislation. I am incredibly grateful that we are taking this step to address this issue”.

This bill will assess where student

access to mental health services isn’t readily available across the state, and will create a plan for school districts to follow if they choose to address any identified gaps in services by developing either a school-based mental health clinic or a full school-based health center. This legislation will also identify potential state and federal funding options, and allows clinic staff to participate in social-emotional learning professional development offered by the school districts to cultivate a comprehensive understanding of the school climate within that building.

According to the CDC, the proportion of children’s mental health-related Emergency Department visits increased 24% for children ages 5-11 and 31% for children ages 12-17 from April 2020 through October 2020. “Connecticut Children’s Hospital continues to see similar increases of behavioral health patients in their emergency department. With this rise in childhood depression and anxiety, creating clear pathways to these services is vitally important for the children and families of Connecticut,” said Rep. Welander.

Due to its importance, language from this legislation may also be incorporated in SB 1, “An Act Equalizing Comprehensive Access to Mental, Behavioral and Physical Health Care in Response to the Pandemic.”

2021 Howard Jacobson Scholarship Award

CAC Area 2 will bestow a scholarship in memory of former longtime Chairperson Howard Jacobson. One high school or college student studying film, mass communications, and television or media studies will receive \$500 to help further their studies.

The Cable Advisory Council of Area 2, which serves the towns of Fairfield, Bridgeport, Stratford, Milford, Orange and Woodbridge promotes quality Community Access Television. The Council is an ongoing asset for Cable Area 2 with the support of Altice/Cablevision.

Scholarship Qualifications & Criteria - Applicants must be able to prove:

They currently reside, and/or are students attending high school, community college, college, or university in one of the six CAC area towns: Fairfield, Bridgeport, Stratford, Milford, Orange

or Woodbridge.

They have a declared major in the mass communications, or media studies. Along with pursuing a career in this field, they are taking classes or engaged in independent studies.

They are in good standing with their academic institution.

They must submit a short essay under 500 words describing their creative coursework, portfolio or project and how it relates to this scholarship award. Supplemental links to media projects are welcome.

The winner will be selected on the basis of their overall academic performance, portfolio and their personal statement.

Deadline to apply is June 30, 2021. To apply, please email: info@ca-carea2.com.

Attention Teachers!

We want to know what’s going on in your classroom!
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EDUCATION



First row: Anna Dickerson (President of Woodbridge Rotary Club), Savannah Kusnitz, Wendy Zhang, Riku Korenaga, Saeed Karout, Neelima Kaushal (Rotary President-Elect); Second row: Jill LaPlante (Director of Counseling), Cameron Luciano, Lauren Ronai, Evan Gorelick, Jacob Silbert, Anna Mahon (ARHS Principal)

Woodbridge Rotary Club Amity Student of the Month

Woodbridge Rotary Club completed its 2020-2021 Student of the Month program in spite of the limitations of COVID. Meetings were held the last Friday of the month from January through May. All meetings were held via Zoom and well attended by Rotarians, Amity staff, students, and parents. Rotarian Neelima Kaushal was Program Chair

who interfaced with the high school staff and moderated the meetings. Students were selected by Amity staff based on academic and extra curriculum achievement. We are proud of the high level of education available at Amity Regional High School. We wish the best of luck to all students in their future endeavors.



Campsite Safety Tips

The appeal of camping is undeniable. According to The Business Research Company, a market research and intelligence company, the global camping and caravanning market is expected to grow from just under \$40 billion in 2020 to more than \$45 billion in 2021. Estimates suggest the market will grow even more in the coming years, reaching \$56.6 billion by 2025.

Camping has long been a popular pastime for outdoor enthusiasts, but it may have developed an entirely new group of devotees in 2020. Traditional vacations may not have been possible in 2020, when governments across the globe urged citizens to avoid conventional travel as the world found itself in the throes of a global pandemic. In an effort to overcome cabin fever, many people viewed camping as a safe way to get out of the house while still limiting contact with people from other households. That no doubt inspired new generations of camping fans, many of whom will continue to pitch their tents and sit around campfires long after the pandemic has ended.

The National Park Service recognizes the popularity of camping and urges people to stay safe. Veteran campers and novices alike can benefit from reviewing these safety tips, courtesy of the NPS.

Plan ahead. Camping trips may not require hours of scouring travel websites in an effort to find the best deals on flights and hotels. But camping trips still require ample planning. When planning a trip, take into account who's coming along. Assess their camping skills and physical fitness to determine the most appropriate place to camp. Campers with limited mobility may be best suited for accessible campsites. The NPS urges campers to consider if everyone in the group

will be able to make a long hike from the parking lot to the campsite. If not, choose a site that you can pull right up to or is just a short, easy walk from the parking lot.

Research the campsite and surrounding area. Know as much as possible about the campsite prior to embarking on your trip. Learn about everything from the local wildlife you may encounter while camping to the condition of surrounding areas, including the altitude, the difficulty of nearby hiking trails and where to go in case of emergency.

Develop an emergency plan. The NPS urges campers to develop an emergency plan, noting that it's always wise to expect the unexpected when camping. Bring a first aid kit along when leaving the campsite to engage in activities like hiking or fishing. Go over safety protocols before going on a hike, including the need to stay together and remain on the trail at all times. More information about what to do should anyone be injured during your trip is available at www.nps.gov.

Bring the right gear. The NPS notes that each camping trip will have its own equipment needs, which will be dictated by the setting, the time of year of the trip, the difficulty of the terrain, and the duration of the trip. Navigational supplies, sun and insect protection, insulation (i.e., extra clothing and blankets), shelter, flashlights and headlamps, first aid kits, extra food and water, firestarters, repair kits and tools, and a communication device like a smartphone or satellite phone are the essential necessities that should be brought along on all camping trips.

Camping is a great way to get away. Campers of all skill and experience levels can make the most of their trips by emphasizing safety at all times.



July 1 begins our new fiscal year, and there will be several new elected members of the Board of Selectmen. Additionally, this brings many new volunteers who have offered to serve on our many boards and commission. Please join me in welcoming these folks who help guide and advise our town. I also send a big thank you to those who are leaving after their terms are completed. We are so blessed in Woodbridge to have so many wonderful and talented residents who serve us all!

I am looking forward to serving another term as your First Selectman, and working together as we rebuild our community post-pandemic, continue to improve our Town Center, support the business district, grow our grand list, and cautiously re-open more services as the pandemic subsides. The kindness so many of you have shown me over the past four years has been so much appreciated.

One of my first goals is for the Board of Selectmen to present a list of projects to the public for a vote. The Town would need to borrow to accomplish these projects:

- ✓ Convert the Old Firehouse into a beautiful new Community Center and create a storage facility for the Fire Department to house materials that have been stored in two bays at the Old Firehouse since 2006
- ✓ Renovate and update the Senior Center so that our seniors will have a modern, fresh, welcoming and air-conditioned space
- ✓ Add a sidewalk to connect Amity

From the First Selectman BY BETH HELLER



Regional High School with the Library and Old Firehouse to better connect our Town Center

- ✓ Refurbish three roofs at Beecher Road School
- ✓ Remove the clubhouse and out-buildings at the former Country Club of Woodbridge

Borrowing rates are at historic lows so now is the time to take on a project of this magnitude. As prior projects are paid off, our debt service continues to decrease. Therefore, the debt service from these proposed projects will have minimal impact on our budget.

Just recently Moody's Investor Service renewed the Town's Aaa credit rating saying, "Woodbridge's credit position is superior and its Aaa rating far surpasses the median rating of Aa3 for cities nationwide."

Together these projects will transform the center of our Town into a more dynamic, active and attractive place that will help us create and sustain the sense of community that is sometimes hard to come by due to our geography. Coming out of an historic horrific pandemic, I believe that community building is even more important than ever.

Our community continues to come back! This season we have celebrated Earth Day, held a chalk art party and community tag sale as part of the Summer Second Saturday series, and the Library has held several out-

door concerts as part of Woodbridge Unplugged. In July, the Recreation Department is bringing back the very popular summer concerts, and the Friends of the Library will host a book sale. Sign up for the Town's enewsletter and emergency contact list on the Town's website – woodbridgect.org – to stay up to date on these, and many more events.

We are also working on improving the business district and attracting more people to shop and dine there. Thanks to a grant from United Illuminating, the Town is organizing an outdoor concert series on Coachman Square's lawn (21 Bradley Rd.) starting with klezmer big band Nu Haven Kapelye on Saturday June 26 at 1 pm. Local businesses will offer specials on these concert days so be sure to shop, dine, try Woodbridge!

The Town also applied for funding through the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program to add sidewalks on the western side of Amity Road to connect the Bradley Road area down to the border with New Haven.

Additionally, the Town's 2030 Task Force is looking at additional ways to improve the business district so that Woodbridge is more attractive to businesses and customers. They are also exploring ways to diversify and grow the Town's grand list.

Meanwhile, the Town's Housing Study Committee is examining how

to meet the State's affordable housing goals. After a long public hearing regarding an affordable housing application, the Town Plan & Zoning Commission agreed to allow multi-family housing in areas with sewer and public water supply. The housing committee is now working with the South Central Regional Council of Governments to come up with a State-mandated plan for affordable housing in our town.

Lastly, I have good news about the pandemic: According to the State Department of Public Health, more than 70% of Woodbridge residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine! That does not mean that we should let our guard down. It is important to remember that many cannot or choose not to get vaccinated and children under age 12 are not yet eligible. I am very optimistic about getting back to normal, but we are not out of the woods yet.

Currently the Governor's executive order regarding virtual meetings is set to expire June 30. If it is renewed, then I will ask that boards and commissions discuss among themselves if they prefer to meet in person or continue online. Those that wish to meet in person can do so beginning July 1. If the order is not renewed, then all meetings will begin in person on July 1. Masks and social distancing will be required, and meetings will be held in rooms that allow for social distancing and proper ventilation.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any ideas or concerns. I can be reached at bheller@woodbridgect.org or 203-389-3401.



New Resident Welcome Coffee

All new residents are invited to an outdoor in-person Welcome Coffee on Thursday July 1 at 9:30 a.m. at Arden's Garden on the Town Green, 11 Meetinghouse Lane, organized by the ad hoc Community Council.

First Selectman Beth Heller crated the Community Council to organize events and other opportunities for Woodbridge residents to interact, learn about each other's culture, create community and celebrate Woodbridge.

"We know it takes a while for people to feel part of a new community, and we'd like to help ease that transition," says Community Council co-chair Debbie Brander. "It must be especially hard during a pandemic. We hope this is the

first in a series of welcome coffees that will help new and new-ish residents feel more connected to Woodbridge."

New residents at the welcome coffee will take a walking tour of the Town Center Campus, get answers to their questions, and have a chance to visit the Town's new outdoor coffee vendor, Café Rebelde, in the Grove. Rain date for the event is July 2.

RSVP to Betsy Yagla at byagla@woodbridgect.org or Facebook.com/woodbridgect. Registrants will be contacted in case of weather cancellation. Residents are invited to review the "new resident" welcome guide on the Town's website under the "community" section.

new laws to make our jobs more difficult every year. We have all tried our best to streamline our offices to implement all the changes as our population grows. We all try to accommodate our townspeople’s requests if at all possible, but it was difficult to witness the raucous behavior at this town meeting. I was very embarrassed for our town and I am hoping this never happens again. Meetings should be civil and disagreements can be had – but with respect. The demand to remove the Selectman’s Department and the First Selectman’s salary (who by the way has refused the raise offered to her for the last 4 years since she has been in office- would you do that?) , or to remove the contingency, legal services, fire hydrants, youth services, library books, and medic was insulting. Do you really think we can run the town properly without these services?

Our Town Charter provides for an Annual Town Meeting in order to approve the Town Budget. A quorum of 250 voters must be present for a vote to be taken. The meeting was scheduled to start at 6:30, when only 181 voters had checked in, at 6:45 there were still only 220 voters and the Moderator extended the check in time again to 7:00 to allow in the latecomers, so that a quorum could be reached. Although people were given every opportunity to express their views, they demanded recounts when votes didn’t go their way and continued to be disrespectful to those conducting the meeting. The Charter was not created by the present administration-it was created in 1962 and after seeing this meeting I think it was done wisely, requiring the budget be reviewed line by line so that people understood what they were voting on, because it is apparent that people did not understand how the budget process works. The Charter may be confusing but it is very important to know the ramifications of the proposed actions.

And, by the way we did have several opportunities to lower our taxes with the condo proposals for part of the Country Club property, saving the majority of the property for open space. We could have paid off the debt, had money left over to pay off other parts of the budget and taken in ½ million to 1 million in extra monies each year to lower our taxes. You can’t have it both ways. Just so that you know – I voted for the proposal. We do not have a large business tax base in Woodbridge so we have to bear the brunt of the taxes to live in this beautiful town.

I invite you all to come to the town hall and see our offices and meet the department heads and staff and see what we do and I think you will come away with a better understanding of how our town works. Our town employees are kind, helpful and really do try to do the very best we can for the town.

And another thing, you can go on line and you can see that many townspeople’s taxes were lowered last year-

not increased -when the revaluation was done. Unfortunately my house wasn’t one of these, my taxes went up – but I chose to live here – for the school system, for the open space, the wonderful trails, the lot size of the properties and the beauty of the town. This really was a special place. We were lucky enough to bring up our family here and have had many wonderful years here. I could move to another town with less taxes, but I do love it here and hope to stay here the rest of my life if I can. There are some things that I have to give up to live here, but I feel our town is well worth it.

Stephanie Ciarleglio
Woodbridge Town Clerk

Vast Majority of Taxpayers Are Pleased with Town Operations

When it became apparent that there would be a quorum at the annual Woodbridge Town Meeting on June 2, I was hoping that it would result in meaningful dialogue and ideas about the 2021-2022 town budget. Unfortunately, what evolved was a small group of attendees who seemed intent on causing a raucous, rude and condescending tone and no interest in a constructive exchange of ideas with town officials there to discuss the budget.

A dozen or so of the attendees began yelling and accusing the town of trying to suppress their voices and ideas. What followed was a series of motions which clearly showed they had no plan nor idea of the operation of the town budget. The motions put forward were aimed at dismantling several departments and defunding certain town officials. It also showed that they had no idea what the purpose of the town meeting was. Their intent was to decrease areas of the budget with the ultimate result being no tax increase. Claims were made that the mill rate is too high, expenditures were too high and the result is lower home values, which is really not the case as one examines recent home sales at multiples above asking price. Ironically, the very same people who make these claims are the first to oppose any attempts by the town to grow the grand list.

The population in Woodbridge has grown to close to ten thousand residents. I estimate approximately 180 residents were there to vote down the budget by looking to cut \$1.6 million of expenditures, which is what it would take to have no tax increase. The town budget comprises 38 departments and commissions. Four departments account for 75% of total expenditures, those being Amity, Beecher, debt service and contractual fringe benefits. The group made it clear that education would not be cut and the remaining two cannot be cut. That leaves 25% of the budget or \$12.6 million to be split among the remaining 34 departments that provide all townspeople with all of the services they require and utilize. In fact, over

the past 5 years the remaining departments have seen their expenditures reduced through careful budgeting and eliminating and combining positions. To reduce these departments by \$1.6 million would devastate the town and result in catastrophic reductions in services.

As chairman of the Board of Finance for the past 32 years and a town resident for 47 years, I can assure the thousands of residents who chose not to attend the town meeting, that the town budget is sound and the result of hundreds of hours of review and compromise. Woodbridge is blessed with an amazing group of employees who provide exemplary service to residents and oversee a long list of programs for all. We have kept education at the forefront of the budget while maintaining all services that taxpayers expect. And we have done this with virtually no growth in the grand list, yet have increased expenditures by a less than 1.5% average over the past two years.

I urge all residents to be involved in the budget preparation process during the many months of meetings and discussions. Attending the town meeting with the purpose of proposing drastic cuts is disrespectful to the countless hours spent formulating the budget. For that reason, I can’t be concerned with a dozen people yelling and disregarding the process, when thousands of residents choose not to attend or make known their dissatisfaction with the budget. I believe the vast majority of taxpayers are pleased with town operations and more importantly the tremendous services provided by our outstanding department staffs.

Matthew T. Giglietti

Have a Safe and Festive Fourth of July

This Fourth of July, we have so much to celebrate. After more than a year spent apart, Americans everywhere are looking forward to finally gathering with loved ones to celebrate Independence Day at parades, cookouts and fireworks shows. As vaccination rates increase and bars and restaurants begin to reopen, now – more than ever – we’re looking forward to brighter days ahead.

If you’re planning to toast this pivotal moment for our country by cracking open a cold one, we hope that you’ll join us in our pledge to keep our celebrations safe by hydrating between Buds and planning ahead for safe rides home. We know that drunk driving accidents increase during holiday weekends, but we also know drunk driving is 100 percent preventable. Whether you call a cab, a rideshare service, use public transportation or designate a driver to get home, make sure you do your part to keep our roads – and loved ones – safe this weekend.

For more than 35 years, Anheuser-Busch and its wholesaler partners have invested more than \$1 billion in responsible drinking initiatives and

community-based programs to prevent underage drinking, impaired driving and other harmful uses of alcohol. At Dichello Distributors, we’re proud to work alongside Anheuser-Busch to ensure that we all can enjoy America’s birthday with those closest to them. As we reflect on the meaning of this holiday after a tough year, we hope you’ll join us in resolving to Drink Wiser.

Wishing you a safe and festive Fourth of July,
Tony Lota
Alcohol Awareness Coordinator
Dichello Distributors Inc.

On the Woodbridge Budget

Last year, Covid restrictions prevented in-person budget voting by eligible Woodbridge voters. Our budget was decided, instead, by the Board of Finance.

This year, an attempt to have a “virtual” budget vote failed due to numerous procedural and privacy problems. The town meeting was recessed and continued to June 2 at the Woodbridge Firehouse, with a large garage to accommodate a minimum of 250 eligible voters, with breezy, open bay doors, and unfortunately poor acoustics.

More problems followed that night with only brief moments of order. Frequent, time-consuming head counting was required to verify attendance and vote tallies. With many voters wandering in and out of the firehouse, with little control from the moderator, counting grew increasingly difficult. Audience talking was constant. Speakers’ voices were garbled/muffled due to required mask-wearing. Shouts of “Can’t hear you!” were common. Frustration and shouting increased.

Added to this was confusion about legal procedures. At times, the moderator and town counsel seemed unsure about them. More frustration, shouting and, now, anger. At one point, a voter got so angry I truly feared a fight would break out. Soon thereafter a police officer appeared.’ at the bay doors.

The firehouse siren went off during the meeting. A fussing baby could be heard during the meeting, too.

In two hours time, I witnessed many voters who either sneaked out or walked out during voting. Once attendance fell below 250, voting was no longer permitted by the Woodbridge Charter. A mass exodus immediately followed. The \$51,566,481 town budget, described in its 171page guide book, was handed once again to the Board of Finance to decide.

Don’t you think it’s time that Woodbridge voted our budget by referendum? No more late night voting, endless head counts, distractions, voting chaos, no 250 minimums, no virtual meeting problems, no having the Board of Finance decide how much taxpayers will spend.

It’s time to get the ball rolling.
Joan Dekas

LOCAL BUSINESS ROUNDUP



Regional Properties Group Honored

Coldwell Banker Realty in Connecticut and Westchester County, New York is proud to announce that Regional Properties Group, a sales team affiliated with the company’s Orange Post Road office, has earned a prestigious spot on the 2021 REAL Trends The Thousand list as published in The Wall Street Journal. This ranking places Regional Properties Group within “the top one-tenth of 1% of more than 1.4 million licensed Realtors® nationwide,” per REAL Trends.

REAL Trends ranked Regional Properties Group No. 62 on the list of the top small-sized real estate teams in the U.S. based on achieving 223.7 transaction sides totaling \$57,193,066 in 2020. Regional Properties Group was also named Connecticut’s No. 1 real estate team on the Real Trends America’s Best list based on closed transaction sides and ranked No. 9 in closed sales volume.

Regional Properties Group is led by Nick Mastrangelo and includes Mike Sirochman, Toni Ross and Cindy Sloan. “I am excited to congratulate Regional Properties Group on this impressive recognition. Nick and his team have proven themselves to be among the top tier of real estate professionals throughout the New Haven County area and the entire nation. This honor is a result of the hard work and expertise that Regional Properties Group brings to every transaction,” said Joe Valvano, president of Coldwell Banker Realty in Connecticut and Westchester

County, New York. The REAL Trends The Thousand ranking consists of all real estate agents and teams throughout the United States who took part in residential real estate transactions in 2020. The individual rankings are divided into two top 250 categories, based on closed transaction sides and closed sales volume. To qualify, an individual agent had to close at least 50 transaction sides or \$20 million in sales volume in 2020. For real estate teams, the minimum was 75 transaction sides or \$30 million in closed sales volume. Teams are ranked by closed transaction sides and closed sales volume, divided by the sizes small, medium, large and mega. Regional Properties Group was the No. 1 sales team at Coldwell Banker Realty in Connecticut and Westchester County, New York for 2020 based on total units sold, and ranked No. 3 in gross commission income. The team was honored with the Coldwell Banker International President’s Elite Award for 2020, placing them within the top 10% of approximately 3,200 Coldwell Banker Realty sales teams in the U.S. and Canada.

For more information about buying or selling a home, contact Regional Properties Group at 203-641-2100 (mobile), 203-795-6000 (office) or Nick. Mastrangelo@cbmoves.com. Coldwell Banker Realty is located at 236 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT 06477.



Rogue Fencing Academy Opens in Woodbridge

Rogue Fencing Academy opened in Woodbridge this spring at 14 Selden St., between Woodbridge Social and Thai Stories restaurants.

Co-founder and head coach Sandra Marchant has been a multiple time national medalist, Vet 40 National Champion, and 2020 Vet 50 World Team member. She is currently a member of Team USA, meaning she is ranked among the top three in the country. In July, if she requalifies at that level she will compete in the World Championship in October.

Most of her students, however, don’t know their coach is an elite athlete. “They just know me as coach,” Marchant says with a smile.

At age 25 her parents’ accountant, who happened to be a fencing teacher, encouraged her to join a class noting that she was interested in Star Wars and swordplay. Marchant has always been a fan of superheroes, particularly Wonder Woman and Xena. She grew up playing cops and robbers and using sticks as swords with her male cousins.

Fencing, for her, is an extension of that childhood fantasy play. “When you pull down your fencing mask, you

can be anybody,” she says. There are three types of fencing – foil, sabre and epee. The types differ based on the blades and how points are earned. Marchant focuses on epee, she says, because there are fewer rules. Epee is derived from battle. Fencing is a cerebral sport –battle-field chess – and tends to attract gamers and people more suited to individual sports as opposed to team sports. Marchant never wanted to run her own business and enjoyed teaching through the Town of Prospect’s Park and Recreation department. When the pandemic hit all recreation programs ended and her students asked her to find a way to continue training. One Woodbridge-based student’s parent found her an empty studio space where she opened Rogue Fencing Academy. Some of her students train for fun; others compete internationally. The company offers a youth program for ages 7-12; a competitive program for ages 13 and up and an elite program for athletes who want to compete nationally and internationally. For more information visit <https://www.roguefencingacademy.com/>





Local Beecher Road School 5th grader, Sarah Hofstatter, wanted to stand out in opposition to the proposed tower in her neighborhood. She designed and distributed this lawn sign to her neighbors to help raise awareness of the cause.

Proposed Cell Tower at 118 Newton Road

AWARENESS & COMMUNITY CALL TO ACTION

Dear Residents & Neighbors:

We are writing today to bring your attention to the threat of a Verizon cell tower being erected at 118 Newton Road in the middle of a quiet residential neighborhood. We are deeply concerned about the disastrous effect it will have on our children's health, property values, the surrounding environment, and aesthetic of our neighborhood. If it can happen in our quiet cul-de-sac, it can happen in your own backyard as well.

For those that may not be familiar with this issue, a private landowner contracted a land lease with Verizon for the tower to be built at 118 Newton Road which is in the middle of a residential neighborhood. Their land abuts residential homes on Newton, Soundview, Forest Glen Drive and Penny Lane. Verizon notified the town and the abutting neighbors of the proposal last year in the midst of the coronavirus crisis. At that time, we learned that the town zoning has no jurisdiction over the decision, the CT Siting Council, a state agency based in New Britain, makes the final decision. Verizon filed a formal application with the CT Siting Council (CSC) in May and the hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 13, 2021. The Town of Woodbridge has retained counsel and so have we as residents of the immediate neighborhood. We have also contracted with various technical experts to assess the viability of proposed alternative sites and the impact of this tower on property values in our neighborhood.

Many people stand with us in opposition of this tower. Over 350+ individuals signed a petition opposing construction at this site (www.nocell-towerplease.com). Woodbridge town representatives and our state senators have also spoken out in clear opposition to the tower at this particular residen-

tial site. Fourteen different alternate sites have been proposed to Verizon including a town-owned property with very attractive lease terms. It is our belief that Verizon has not seriously considered these other options.

While this is a difficult battle to fight, we are up for the challenge and now we are asking for immediate help from our fellow residents. With only one month to go before the hearing, there are two very important things that you can do to help. First, donate to the cause. We developed a "GoFundMe" page to help cover the attorney and technical expert costs, which are quite substantial. Every donation makes a difference, and we encourage you to share the link below with your friends and family members: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/stop-the-newton-road-neighborhood-cell-tower>. Second, please write our state representatives and ask them to oppose the tower, protect their constituents, and speak out against the tower publicly during the July 13th hearing. The best way to let them know how we feel is to send emails to back up the testimony we will provide at the hearings. It is truly the volume of emails that makes the biggest impact. Please also share their email addresses below with as many people as possible:

- › Senator Jorge Cabrera: jorge.cabrera@cga.ct.gov;
- › Senator James Maroney: james.maroney@cga.ct.gov;
- › Representative Mary Welander: mary.welander@cga.ct.gov.

Thank you for helping us protect our town. Please speak out in opposition to the tower! If you would like to get involved in our campaign and/or order a sign for your lawn, please contact nowoodbridgecelltower@aol.com.

Gratefully,
The Woodbridge Newton Neighborhood Team

DID YOU KNOW? Independence Day

You may be surprised to learn that Independence Day and estate planning have a lot in common.

Independence

- July 4 is the day we declared our independence from what felt like the tyrannical and arbitrary rules created by Great Britain.
- An estate plan also is a declaration of independence. It allows you to direct where your wealth goes after you die. It allows you to name the people in charge of making sure that happens. If you don't have an estate plan, those decisions are made by Connecticut statutes and a Probate Court Judge.

Evolution over time

- Our nation has evolved over time. The Mayflower Compact preceded the Declaration of Independence. The Constitution and Bill of Rights came after the Declaration of Independence.
- An estate plan also evolves over time. What works for a single person changes with marriage. What works for a couple without children changes when children are born or adopted. What works for a young person/couple changes as they age.

Rules to follow

- Our Constitution has rules that we all agree to follow.
- An estate plan also has rules that must be followed. The provisions in your Will or Revocable Trust are legally enforceable. They must be followed.

Checks and balances

- Our Constitution has checks and balances. As an example, the judicial branch has the authority to tell the executive or legislative branch that it has exceeded its Constitutional authority.
- An estate plan also has checks and balances. If the person in charge of your Will does not follow your instructions, a beneficiary can ask a Probate Court to tell the person in charge that your Will must be followed as written.

If you are interested in learning more about estate planning, please visit our website and read our blog for recent posts. For advice specific to you or your family, please contact the office. We would be glad to meet with you for a no hassle, no charge initial consultation, no matter how long it lasts.



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ARTS & LEISURE

Residents Invited to Participate in Community Art Project

Residents are invited to participate in a community art project and open mic event as part of the Town’s “Second Saturday” series this summer.

The Second Saturday series runs through September and will be hosted jointly by the Human Services, Library, and Recreation Departments.

July 10 the Friends of the Woodbridge Library will hold a mini book sale from 9-11 am; on August 14 the Town will host “Celebrate Art!” a community art event from 10-12 and on Saturday September 11 there will be a makers’ market and craft fair from 10-1. Interested vendors must fill out a form on the Town website. Questions may be directed to Jennifer Sullivan, Head of Adult Services at the Woodbridge Town Library (jsullivan@woodbridgetownlibrary.org) or Betsy Yagla, Assistant Administrative Officer (byagla@woodbridgetown.org). A community tag sale was held in June and a chalk art party was in May.

“These free, family friendly events are such an important opportunity to bring our residents together as we emerge from the pandemic,” said First Selectman Beth Heller. The events are

part of the First Selectman’s Town Center Beautification Plan to make the Town Center Campus a more active and attractive place.

Celebrate Art! will showcase local artists from the Woodbridge Arts Guild, an arts and craft supply swap, plein air painting, an open mic event and a community art project. As with all Second Saturday events there will be lawn games and food trucks available.

The community art project will form a positive message on the fence surrounding the Woodbridge Town Library’s air conditioning unit. The letters will be created from decorated index cards. Residents are asked to depict something on the card that they love about Woodbridge.

Residents may begin participating in July in the Town’s community art project by picking up an index card to decorate. Cards can be picked up and returned to the Woodbridge Town Library, the Woodbridge Center or Town Hall. Cards will be laminated and added to the fence at the event. Residents may also decorate a card during the event.

For additional information contact Betsy Yagla (byagla@woodbridgetown.org).



Live Music in the Business District

Free outdoor concerts are coming to the Woodbridge business district this summer and fall! On the fourth Saturday of June, July, September and October at 1 pm there will be live music on the lawn at Coachman Square, 21 Bradley Road.

The concert series is possible thanks to a grant the Town of Woodbridge received from United Illuminating, an Avangrid Company. Rain dates are Sunday for all concerts.

“These concerts are a clever partnership between the Town, Coachman Square and United Illuminating and should bring in additional traffic to discover our wonderful local businesses,” said First Selectman Beth Heller. “We thank United Illuminating for this wonderful grant opportunity and also thank Coachman Square for use of their facility.”

“Coachman Square is excited to host this concert series to bring free entertainment to support our residents and our business neighbors,” said Sarah Malaspina, Coachman Square Executive Director.

“The concerts will provide a great environment in the business district and should serve as another reason for residents and visitors to patronize all of our local shops, restaurants and businesses,” said Economic Development Chair Jeremy Rosner.

- › Sat. June 26 Nu Haven Kape-lye, klezmer
- › Sat. July 24 Tuxedo Junction, swing; opening act Simply Dance Studio performs at 12:30
- › Sat. Sept. 25 Washboard Slim, roots/blues
- › Sat. Oct. 23 Isabella Mendes, bossa nova

Parking is available at 245 Amity Road and Red Barn of Woodbridge, The Write Approach and Progressions Salon and Wig Boutique will host sidewalk sales, plus Solun Tapas Bar is offering \$5 off purchases of \$25 and \$10 off \$50. Additional local businesses will offer specials on the day of the concerts and residents are encouraged to “shop, dine and try Woodbridge” before and after the concerts.

MASSARO COMMUNITY FARM

Something For Everyone on The Farm This Summer

Our vegetable CSA is sold out! Thanks to everyone who chose to support local food with the purchase of a subscription. We do still have egg shares available: one dozen eggs per week for the full 20-week CSA season (\$120) or for the 10-week flexible/half CSA season (\$70). Available both on farm and for New Haven pickup, www.Massarofarm.org/join-our-csa. The farm continues to allocate at least 10% of its harvest together with produce grown in community gardens to hunger relief.

Summer Ent’ertainment

Join us for a night of country fun live on the farm! Saturday, June 26th at 7pm The Mike Collins Band brings modern country music to life in this outdoor concert. Picnics and coolers

welcome. Bring blankets or low chairs for lawn seating. All concert tickets (\$10-30 each) can be purchased at www.Eventbrite.com.

On Saturday, July 9, starting at 7pm, come to the farm for our next installment of Family Night. Join us for animal visits, a self-guided nature hike, and a screening of “Field of Dreams.” Movie starts at approximately 8pm. This event is free, but we do have a limited capacity; please sign up on our website to reserve your spot. Food available for purchase from The Mason Jar Exchange.

Also on July 17, starting at 7pm, local band Out the Boxx will perform a mix of old school, funk, R&B and rock. If you’re in the mood to get up

See “Massaro Farm” On Page 18



AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



Photo 1: Ellen McDonald (Human Services), left, Jessica Esposito (Senior Center), right, and Kristy Moriarty (Senior Center), not pictured, thoroughly enjoyed seeing everyone at the Fathers' Day Drive-thru and wish all the Dads a Happy Fathers' Day!



Photo 2: Members of The Center's craft group, Ruta Majumdar, Alice Lippman, and Vivian Pittman-Latham, model some of the beautiful, handmade items for sale at the Summer Second Saturdays' Tag Sale on June 12.



Photo 3: Mahjong players, Lucille Palmucci, Susan Hoffman, and Marlene Klein, enjoy a long awaited game together.

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

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

Email blasts: Please be sure you are on our email blast list to receive Center updates.

Summer Second Saturdays' Tag Sale: Despite the drizzly start, everyone who came to the Summer Second Saturdays' Tag Sale had plenty of diverse items to choose from for purchase, along with fun activities for all ages in the Grove. Delicious food and beverages from Silver Sands Pizza and Café Rebelde were also enjoyed. Many thanks to Youth Services' student volunteers, Silver Sands Pizza for pizza donations, and vendors for helping to make this a wonderful community event! The next Summer Second Saturday event is The Friends' Mini-Book Sale, July 10, 9-11 am. Lawn games and food trucks will be a part of this event.

Drive-thrus: The weather was perfect for our **Fathers' Day Drive-thru** with Larry Batter providing entertainment, especially for those staying to eat in the Grove area. A BIG thank you to Hamden Health & Rehab for providing such a fun rendition of our traditional root beer floats!

Annual "Indoor" Picnic: Our Annual "Indoor" Picnic, generously co-sponsored by the Woodbridge Police Department, will be a drive-thru this year on Thursday, July 29. Come pick up your food hot off the grill by PD grill masters, Chief Cappiello and other department members. Meal includes a choice of two: (cheese)burger, hot dog, or chicken thigh. Also included are macaroni salad, potato salad, baked beans, a watermelon wedge and dessert. Tables and chairs will be set-up in the Grove area if you would like to enjoy your meal outside with music by Pierce Campbell. A summer goody bag

will be generously donated by Hamden Health & Rehabilitation. Please RSVP by July 21; \$5 per person. Payment collected at drive-thru.

New and Resuming Activities Starting at The Woodbridge Center

Bridge: Wednesdays, 1-3:30 pm in The Center café;

Pinocle: Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, 1:30-4 pm in The Center lounge;

Mahjong: Mondays & Fridays, 9:30 am-noon in Center Building Room 13.

Computer lab opens July 6: Monday- Friday, 10am - 2 pm. One hour use per day/person. Two-person limit in computer lab. Printing is available (first 5 pages are free). Preregistration is required.

Zumba Gold kicks off July 9 with Amanda Aranzullo. Classes will be held Fridays, 9-9:45 am in the Grove area (Center Building gym during inclement weather). This fun "dance party" will introduce easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on all elements of cardiovascular, muscular conditioning, flexibility and balance. The results may include improved balance, range of motion and/or coordination. No prior Zumba experience required. The \$40 fee is for an 8-week session.

Yoga for All begins July 14 with Bill Banick. Meet in the Grove area (Center Building Room 16 during inclement weather) on Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30 pm. This all-level yoga class consists of seated warm up exercises, breathing techniques, standing and seated yoga postures using a chair as a prop, relaxation and meditation. There is an 8-week session fee of \$40. Preregistration is required.

Ongoing Programs at The Center

Hobbies/Social: Craft Group meets Tuesdays and Thursdays outdoors in the Newton Canopy area (The Center café during inclement weather), 10 am - 12 pm. Bring your current knitting or crocheting project to work on

while enjoying a lovely time socializing.

Men's Coffee Corner at the Grove meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 10-11:30 am. Bring your own coffee or favorite morning beverage, play a game of bocce, shuffleboard, or just enjoy sitting and socializing with some new or old friends. The Grove, as always, is open to all.

Painting for Pleasure with Graham Dale: All levels are welcome to join this class in The Center café on Wednesdays, 10 am - 12 pm. Come paint your choice of subject with acrylics or watercolors. Next session begins July 14. There is a \$60 fee for the full 10-week session. A material list will be provided upon registering.

Shoot some pool in The Center café every Tuesday and Thursday, 1-3 pm. Masks and preregistration are required.

Exercise

Exercise with Laurie continues Tuesdays and Thursdays outdoors in the Grove area (Center Building gym during inclement weather), 10-11 am. Enjoy an aerobic, cardio and strength training workout to music. Bring your own 1-to-2-pound hand weights to use during the class. Preregistration is required. There is a \$2 per class fee through the end of July. The fee will increase to \$3 per class beginning August 3. This fee is paid at the beginning of each class.

Pickleball takes place Monday through Friday, 12:30- 3:30 pm in the Center Building gym as well as 7 days/week on the outdoor courts. Advance court sign-up is required for indoor and outdoor play. Call for more information.

Targeted Strength Training is offered on Mondays outdoors in the Grove area (Center Building gym during inclement weather), 9-10 am. Led by Michele Tenney, this exercise class uses exercise bands to focus on strengthening specific muscle groups to help increase balance, stability, and flexibility. Bands are available for purchase through the instructor. The class

fee is \$40 for an 8-week session and will be prorated as needed. The next session will begin July 19.

Virtual programs

AAA Defensive Driving Course is offered virtually every Tuesday from 10 am - 2 pm. This free class for members and non-members, taken from the comfort of your own home, may qualify you for an auto insurance discount upon completion. Register at www.AAA.COM/DEFENSIVEDRIVING.

Services offered

Transportation for medical appointments is available for those 60+ or with disabilities, Monday- Friday from 9 am - 2:30 pm with limited exceptions. Transportation for grocery shopping and pharmacy pick-up is also available. Call to arrange car or wheelchair accessible van transportation. Vehicles are cleaned between each use. Masks are required for safety reasons.

Meals: Seniors may reserve healthy, well balanced, flash frozen meals complete with a protein, starch, vegetables and fresh fruit for \$5/meal. Order by noon on Monday for delivery to your home on Tuesday. Choose from a wide variety of options including turkey pot pie, Shepherd's pie, chicken and pasta with fresh mozzarella, vegetable lasagna, and fresh Cobb salad with grilled chicken breast. Meals include a roll and dessert. There is a minimum order of two meals please.

New meal options! Frozen soups are now available for \$1 per 10 oz. container. Varieties include Italian wedding, beef orzo, carrot apple, sweet potato bisque, and more. Call 203-389-3430 to place your order. Soup must be ordered with meals or a minimum of five soups must be ordered at a time.

Looking for company? Call Judi Young, senior social worker to arrange for a friendly visitor, 203-389-3429.

Medical Loan Closet: Durable medical equipment is available for lending including walkers, wheel-



Torch Run

Members of the Woodbridge Police Department, together with some New Haven officers participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run Friday, June 18, as it passed through Woodbridge. The Law Enforcement Torch Run is a 3-day run taking place throughout Connecticut leading up to the Special Olympics Summer Games. Local officers received the torch at the New Haven town line on Rte 69 and carried it up Bond Road to Rte 63; along Rte 114 (Center/Racebrook Rd) and finally up Route 243 (Ansonia Rd) where they handed it off at the Ansonia town line. Anyone wishing to support the cause may do so by donating at: <https://give.soct.org/team/359107>

Woodbridge Town News

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“Center” From Page 13

chairs, shower chairs and more. Call for details.
Staff recipe pick: Each month a favorite recipe from the Human Services staff will be featured. This month, Ellen McDonald, shares a healthy, recipe favorite of hers from RecipeGirl.com (The Silver Palate Cookbook).

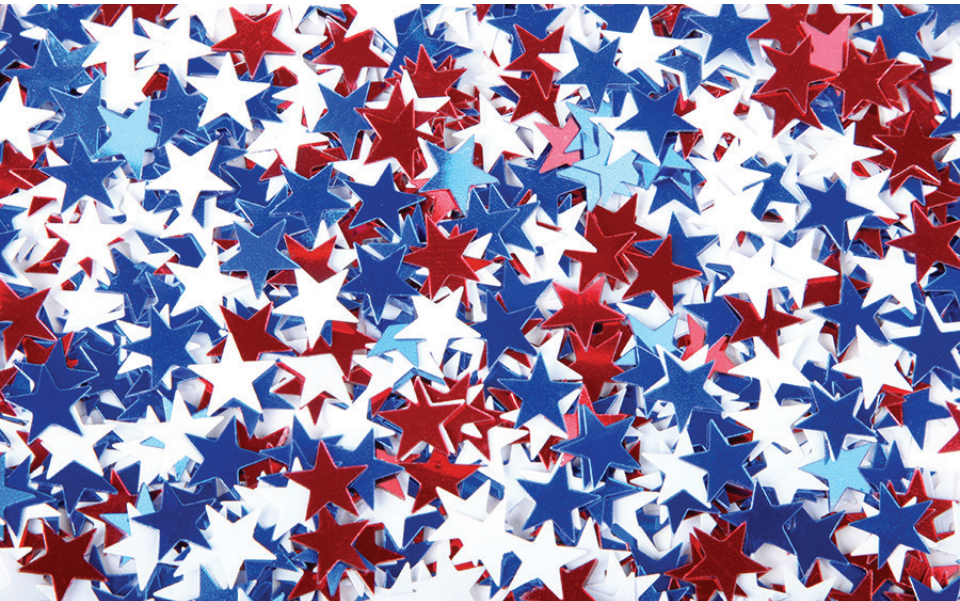
Linguine with Tomatoes, Basil and Brie

A lovely summer dinner recipe!
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 12 minutes
Resting time: 2 hours
Total time: 32 minutes
Servings: 4 servings

Ingredients:
› 5 large ripe tomatoes

- › 16 ounces brie, torn into small pieces
- › 1 cup fresh basil leaves, cut into thin strips
- › 3 cloves garlic, finely minced
- › ½ cup extra- virgin olive oil
- › several pinches crushed red pepper
- › ½ teaspoon salt
- › ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- › 24 ounces linguine

Instructions:
Combine all ingredients (except pasta) in a serving bowl large enough to hold the cooked pasta and sauce. Stir gently to combine. Set aside at room temperature for at least two hours.
Cook linguine in salted water until al dente. Drain and add to the tomato mixture. Toss gently to distribute sauce. Serve immediately.





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District Governor Ron Webb, Neelima Kaushal, Buddy DeGennaro, Karen Bellamy, Anna Dickerson, Chris Lovejoy, Tom Shernow, Bill DeRosa

Rotary Club Of Woodbridge Celebrates 50 Years!

On June 17th, Woodbridge Rotary held their 50th annual installation dinner at Carmine’s Di Vega Restaurant. The new 2021-2022 officers were sworn in by District Governor Ron Webb. The new officers are President Neelima Kaushal, Past President Anna Dickerson, President-Elect Chris Lovejoy, Secretary Karen Bellamy, Treasurer Tom Shernow, Sgt at Arms Bill DeRosa, and Executive Secretary Buddy DeGennaro.

Woodbridge Rotary’s area of service includes Woodbridge, Bethany, and Westville.

Current President Anna Dickerson described the projects that were accomplished this past year despite the pandemic restrictions. The projects included distribution of over 4000 masks, donations to local food banks, Amity

Students of the Month (via zoom), support of Beecher Road School’s DARE program, Senior Holiday lunch, “Cheer Up” bags to rehab patients at The Wil-lows, and a virtual Pet Show fundraiser.

The objective of Rotary is service to the community which can be local, national or international. On an international level, Woodbridge Rotary donated 2000 masks for India and several tablets to a school in India for virtual education.

Honored at the dinner was Business of the Year New England Brewing Company, Paul Harris Fellows Chris Lovejoy and Dorothy Martino, and Special Friend of Rotary Christina Burland.

Anyone interested in learning more about Rotary membership can contact Anna Dickerson at woodbridgerotary@yahoo.com.



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

Kale, Kohlrabi & Climate Change:
a LIVE interactive workshop on food waste reduction

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SAVE THE PLANET

JULY 8TH 2021
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Saturday 12:00 Noon to 12:00 Midnight • Sunday 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM

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4th Prize - \$2,500 Gift Certificate - Anytime Fitness, 560 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT • **5th Prize** - \$1,200 Gift Certificate - Diamond Designs, 500 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT

6th Prize - \$500 Apple iPad WiFi, 128GB - Best Buy, 53 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT • **7th Prize** - \$400 Gift Card - ShopRite, 935 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT

8th Prize - \$400 Gift Card - The Orange Ale House, 517 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT • **9th Prize** - \$250 Gift Card - Knights, Inc., 286 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT

10th Prize - \$200 Gift Card - Home Depot, 440 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT • **11th Prize** - \$150 Gift Card - Outback Steakhouse, 132 Marsh Hill Road, Orange, CT

LOCATIONS TO PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS

People's Bank
653 Orange Center Road,
Orange, CT

First Selectman's Office
Orange Town Hall
M-F 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Knight's Power Equipment
286 Boston Post Road
M-F 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM;
Saturday 8:30 AM - 12 Noon

Chip's Family Restaurant
321 Boston Post Road
7 days a week, 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Orange Firemen's Carnival
Orange Fairgrounds
during Carnival Hours

Drawing to be held on Sunday,
August 8th, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
at the Orange Fairgrounds, 525
Orange Center Road, Orange, CT

Ticket holders need not be
present to win.

Alcoholic beverages not included

Tickets \$5.00/each



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Boy Scout Troop 907 Court of Honor

Woodbridge Boy Scout Troop 907 held its Court of Honor outside on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at the First Church of Christ in Woodbridge with nearly 50 in attendance. Bryan Brown received his Scout badge and Daniel Del Prete became a Second Class Scout. Troop 907 recently provided a color guard for the Woodbridge Memorial Day Service outside Woodbridge Center. They also had an eventful year, with a bicycling/fishing campout in Jamaica, Vermont, as well as Camp Pomperaug, Camp Sequassen, Deer Lake and Camp Whiting. There will be a canoe/kayak campout the weekend of June 25-27 also at Camp Pomper-

aug in Union, CT and this summer they will be attending Camp Sequassen the first week of August. A family cookout will be planned for the late summer. This is an active and cohesive troop. We are always inviting prospective scouts and their families to join us on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM in the First Church of Christ Parish House. The last regular scout meeting of the '20-'21 year will be this Thursday, June 24. For more information visit <http://www.troop907.org> or contact Scoutmaster Tom Luciani at luciani33@sb-cglobal.net or Committee Chair Rich Forselius at forselius@snet.net.

Goodman Performing Arts Center

Open House Event

Open House

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21st
1:00 - 4:00pm

Please join us for a fun and relaxing day of dance exploration.

The day will include:

- Dance demonstrations held every half hour
- Prize Wheel
- Cooling summer refreshments
- And much more!

Open House Special
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Registration Required

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Inquire About Summer Offerings!

- Summer Dance Camps July 12th-16th, 19th-23rd, 26th-30th
- Extended August Session August 2nd-21st
- August Weekly Ballet Intensives

Fall Session Starts Monday, September 13th

Event will be held outdoors to accommodate all guests. We kindly ask that all attendees wear a mask inside for the performances.
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www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com

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93 Boston Post Road Orange, CT 06477
203-678-8359

856 Boston Post Rd. Shoreline Big Y Plaza Guilford, CT 06437
203-780-0671

Old Saybrook Ctr. – 105 Elm St. (Stop & Shop Side, Unit 15) Old Saybrook, CT 06472
860-390-5686

Some exclusions apply. May not be combined with insurance or other discounts.

“Massaro Farm” From Page 12

and dance, you won’t want to miss this performance. Bring blankets or low chairs for lawn seating. Tickets (\$10-30 each) available on www.Eventbrite.com.

Workshops

Join us for a LIVE interactive workshop on reshaping the environment through food waste. Kale, Kohlrabi & Climate Change will take place Thursday, July 8 at 6pm on the farm. Farm co-founder and green energy entrepreneur, Jon Gorham, will lead a lively discussion of reducing your food waste while lowering your grocery bills, restoring your health, and creating a more sustainable planet. \$5-\$15/pp, www.Eventbrite.com.
The next class in our beekeeping se-

ries, conducted by the CT Beekeeper’s Association, will occur Saturday, July 17 at 9am. We will focus on planning ahead to get your hive ready for fall. These workshops will continue to be held via Zoom to provide wide access and allow us to record for future reference. Register at www.ctbees.org/workshops.

Our Farm Staff and Volunteers

As we head into the peak of the season, you may see quite a few people moving about the farm and wonder what they are all doing. As Massaro Farm has grown in production and programs, so have our staff and partnerships. We now count these additional staff and volunteers as essential to our operation.
Our core farm crew of 6-8 staff-

ers are skilled in all aspects of farm production. They work with us year-round – though less in winter - and have chosen farming for a love of the land and commitment to our mission. They come from a wide variety of backgrounds including education, dancing, horticulture, quilting and social work;
Our summer youth employment program began several years ago with a handful of teenagers working alongside the farm crew. This year, with funding from The Werth Family Foundation, summer youth crew consists of six youth and two supervisors overseeing dedicated projects;
Camp instructors will total six as we expand our half-day summer program to a full day, hosting 40 students each week from July 12 through August 13; and finally
Students from both Nonnewaug

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



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"... and the most important too! My wife Fran's health was declining and even with daily support from a caregiver, it all got to be too much for me to handle. We realized we needed to make a change.

Maplewood was the best community in the area and I don't say that lightly. Before coming here, I researched 12 other communities but they just didn't measure up. Here, Fran and I are treated with the utmost respect and dignity.

The people are amazing. The staff is very attentive and caring. We have everything we could possibly need – loving friends, diverse activities and exceptional care. We couldn't be happier or more in love!"

— Joe, Resident

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events



Welcome New Rabbi

Rabbi Eric Woodward, who most recently served as the senior rabbi of Tiferet Bet Israel in Blue Bell, Pa., and previously as assistant rabbi at Congregation Tifereth Israel in Columbus, Ohio, is BEKI's new rabbi.

Named by the Forward in 2015 as one of America's Most Inspiring Rabbis, he was raised in an interfaith, mixed-race (Mexican and Ashkenazic Jewish) home in Los Angeles. He attended Williams College, where he wrote his undergraduate thesis on the theology of Rav Joseph Soloveitchik. Ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2013, Rabbi Woodward also studied at Mechon Schechter in Jerusalem and as a fellow at Yeshivat Hadar in New York.

Rabbi Woodward, who is relocating to Westville with his wife, Katharine Baker, the publications director at the Rabbinical Assembly, and their daughters, Ayelet and Tamar, can be reached at rabbi@beki.org.

All Services In-person

Starting Thursday, July 1, all services at BEKI will return to in-person, though Zoom still will be available on weekdays. The Sunday morning minyan remains outside in the courtyard, weather permitting, as will one Friday night service each month.

Children's Services

Each Saturday, Children's Havura still meets outdoors in the courtyard, when the weather permits. K-2 Kehila and Junior Congregation meet indoors. All three start at 10:45 am and end outdoors with the congregation's kiddush lunch. To receive her weekly newsletter, email Youth and Family Programming Director Annie Norman-Schiff at anormanschiff@beki.org.

Tisha BeAv July 17-18

BEKI will hold Tisha BeAv Maariv with kinnot (dirges) & Eikhah (The

Book of Lamentations) at 9:20 pm on Saturday night, July 17. On Sunday, the 9:00 am service will include Torah reading and the book of Eikhah.

Campfire Songs

The community is welcome to a kumsitz on Wednesday, July 21 at 7:00 pm in the BEKI courtyard (rain date Thursday, July 22). Kumsitz means to "come" and "sit" around a campfire. All ages are welcome. Songs will be niggunim—which have no words—as well as traditional American songs and Jewish songs. Song sheets, also posted at beki.org, will be provided.



Elm City Winds

Elm City Winds will perform in the BEKI courtyard on Wednesday, July 28 at 7:00 pm. Composed of Jennifer Sidney Silva, flute; Caesar Storlazzi, oboe; Laura Caruthers, clarinet; Adrienne Gallagher, bassoon; and Emily Fine, French horn, this woodwind quintet performs both classical and popular music. Reservations at office@beki.org. The rain date will be Thursday, August 5 at 7:00 pm.

Garden of Healing

BEKI is planning a Saturday afternoon tour of the new Botanical Garden of Healing. Dedicated to victims of gun violence in New Haven, the garden was designed by Svigals + Partners and includes thousands of flowers planted by volunteers with Urban Resources Initiative. Conceived by Marlene Pratt and other mothers who lost children to gun violence, the garden includes a brick walkway inscribed with the names of over 600 victims. Email office@beki.org for details about the tour.

High Holy Days

Arriving so early this year that Erev Rosh HaShanah falls on Labor Day, the High Holy Days at BEKI should be back to normal in the main sanctuary. Consult office@beki.org for ticket information. During August, BEKI will offer a series of programs to prepare the heart, mind, and soul for the high holy days.

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

The First Church of Christ Woodbridge

The First Church of Christ is eager to welcome you to our on-site Worship Services taking place every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. inside the Meetinghouse.

The Zoom Option remains available for the time being. To receive an invite, please email the office or log on to our website and add your name to our church email list. All people in the community are welcome in person or via Zoom.

Live Stream Services can be viewed on our website every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. A video recording of the live stream is featured for the entire week following the service. To view previous Sunday Services, visit us on YouTube using the link provided on all pages of our website. (Links, contact info, and a schedule of upcoming Services are listed at the bottom of this article.)

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

The Church Office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Please adhere to CDC safety regulations upon visiting.

Weekly Bible Study sessions are being held in-person at the Parish House. Join us for meetings each



The First Church of Christ

Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

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

Events Update: We are excited to announce a new event which will be held this fall - A Pumpkin and Apple Festival. We will be having all sorts of events: yard games, face painting, pumpkin carving, music, apple and pumpkins desserts. Stay tuned for more information!

More Information regarding First Church activities and/or events is always available on our website, www.uccw.org, including a newly updated calendar of weekly meetings and special events. An archive of our monthly newsletter, "The Parishioner", is also available for viewing on our website.

Woodbridge Town News

ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

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

Woodbridge Town News – P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477
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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Or Shalom Happenings

Join Us At Weekly Services Morning Minyan

- Sunday 9:00 AM – In person and Zoomed
- Monday 8:30 AM – Zoomed
- Thursday 8:30 AM – Zoomed
- Shabbat Services
- Friday 7:30 PM – In person and Zoomed
- Saturday 9:30 AM – In person and Zoomed

“...The sand and the sea, the rush of the waters...”

Friday evening service, July 23rd, 7 PM, Gulf Beach, Milford

Drive to the corner of Cherry St & Gulf St in Milford...turn left onto Gulf St...proceed till you arrive at the beach! (Set your GPS for #460, Gulf St) Look for us immediately on the right, alongside the inlet. Men’s Club members will welcome you and point to our makeshift “sanctuary” on the sand!

Please dress casually, the Rabbi will be shoeless! IMPORTANT: PLEASE BRING A BLANKET OR BEACH CHAIR, AND PLEASE BRING HATS! (yarmulkas fly away!) Lastly, snacks will be available but feel free to come early with a picnic supper.

Virtual Learning This Month JOIN OUR BOOK GROUP! “Strangers In Their Own Land” by Arlie Russell Hochschild

Thursday, July 15th @ 7pm.

Led by Rachel Ranis. Email coshalom@sbcglobal.net or call the synagogue office at 203-799-2341 to register.

A finalist for the National Book Award, and New York Times Best Seller!

“In Strangers in Their Own Land,” the renowned sociologist Arlie Hochschild embarks on a thought-provoking journey from her liberal hometown of Berkeley, California, deep into Louisiana bayou country - a stronghold of the conservative right. As she gets to know people who strongly oppose many of the ideas she famously champions, Hochschild nevertheless finds common ground and quickly warms to the people she meets, among them a Tea Party activist whose town has been swallowed by a sinkhole caused by a drilling accident - people whose concerns are actually ones that all Americans share: the desire for community, the embrace of family, and hopes for their children.

“Strangers in Their Own Land” goes beyond the commonplace liberal idea that these are people who have been duped into voting against their own interests. Instead Hochschild finds lives ripped apart by stagnant wages, a loss of home, an elusive American dream - and political choices and views that make sense in the context of their lives. Hochschild draws on her expert knowledge of the sociology of emotion

to help us understand what it feels like to live in “red” America. Along the way she finds answers to one of the crucial questions of contemporary American politics: Why do the people who would seem to benefit most from “liberal” government intervention abhor the very idea?

Social Action

Our Social Action Committee is continuing to collect non-perishable food items. Some suggestions: dried black beans, rice, Canola or olive oil, garlic, potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions, pasta, whole grains, oatmeal, low sodium soup or broth. You can drop off these items at the synagogue. Please call the synagogue office at 203-799-2341 for further information.

Blood Drive

Tuesday, July 20th, 9 am – 2 pm

The Red Cross encourages eligible donors to become hometown heroes and answer the call of patients in need by donating blood.

Please help ensure blood is available for patients in need this summer. To donate, download the Blood Donor App (3cu.be/blood), visit redcross-blood.org, or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

Even if you have recently received a COVID-19 vaccination, you can still give blood.

Activities ZUMBA GOLD AT OR

SHALOM – Zoomed

ZUMBA Gold is an easy-to-follow dance movement program that incorporates music from every decade to create an upbeat and fun exercise class. Burn lots of calories, meet new friends, and have a blast. It’s perfect for active older adults who are looking to dance and have a good workout while increasing balance, range of motion, and coordination.

Tuesday nights at 7 PM. Contact Robin at zumbarobin@gmail.com or call 203-314-8176 or the synagogue office at 203-799-2341. No experience needed and classes are on a drop-in basis.

Tuesdays and Fridays at 10:15 AM with Danielle Pettit. 10 class punch card: \$70, drop-in class: \$8. Email daniellepettit@yahoo.com or call 203-509-3683 (cell).

SAVE THE DATE!! The 27th Annual Or Shalom Golf Tournament

Monday, August 2nd, 8:00 am, Orange Hills CC, Orange, CT

Breakfast and a BBQ lunch are included in the entry fee (Kosher dietary laws observed).

Please call the synagogue office at 203-799-2341 for further information and registration form.

YACHAD Religious School enrollment is now OPEN for the coming school year. Please call the synagogue office at 203-799-2341 for details.

Gear To Simplify Your Next Beach Trip

Days at the beach are tailor-made for anyone looking for a little rest and relaxation. If there was a recipe for calmness, it would no doubt include the sounds of waves crashing on the shoreline and seagulls flying overhead.

Beach days are even more relaxing when beach-goers load up on the right gear. As beach season begins anew, people who can’t wait to dip their toes in the water can load up on these items to make their trips even more relaxing.

- Beach wagon: Beach wagons make it easy to transport beach chairs, umbrellas, toys, and other must-have beach items, all in one convenient trip. There are many varieties of beach wagon, and consumers should look for ones with all-terrain wheels that can easily navigate sandy beaches. Load capacity is another factor to consider before buying a beach wagon, as beach-goers will want to make sure their wagons can tote everything they typically take to the beach in a single trip.
- Beach coolers: A great beach cooler



can make all the difference in regard to refreshment on hot days at the beach. Rolling coolers may or may not be able to take on the sand at the beach, but it doesn’t hurt to look for one with sturdy, all-terrain wheels. But cooling capacity with enough insulation to keep food and beverages cool during a long day at the beach should be shoppers’ biggest priority.

- Beach bags: Water-repellent beach bags can protect devices like smartphones, tablets and e-readers from sand and surf. Separate such devices and other electronics, like a portable speaker or radio, in their own bags to reduce the risk of getting sand on them. Store items that will inevitably gather sand, like towels, clothing and beach toys, in their own designated

- beach bags.
- Backpack chairs: Many beach-goers have a favorite beach. If it’s a long walk from the parking lot of your favorite beach to your preferred spot on the sand, bring along a backpack chair for each person in your group. Such chairs can free up space on your beach wagon, and chairs strapped over your shoulders like a backpack won’t be a nuisance to carry, even if it’s a long walk from the car to the sand.
- Quick-dry beach towels: Soggy beach towels can take a while to dry, especially as the day wears on and the sun begins to set. Quick-dry beach towels typically employ microfiber technology that allows them to dry more quickly than traditional cotton towels. That saves beach-goers the trouble of lugging around heavy, wet beach towels and also ensures items like beach bags and chairs are dry by the time you go home.
- Beach days are the epitome of relaxation, especially when beach-goers stock up on certain essentials designed to make such days more enjoyable.

“Diversity” From Page 1

track team and counted many friends among her classmates, she still felt lonely and isolated. When she had a falling-out with a friend, that friend used skin color to hurt her. “When she became mad at me, she used my blackness against me,” she wrote. “I was told I was ‘undatable’ because I was black. I grew up believing I wasn’t as smart as my classmates.” When she was accepted at the University of Michigan – a prestigious academic institution - she felt she had to immediately back up that information by listing all her achievements as if to justify the admission. “It left me in an identity crisis,” she wrote.

Parent Joseph Ross said his children’s school career started happily at Beecher Road School’s Multi-Age Program, where teachers and parents emphasize the value of diversity. But as they entered the Amity system, “each successive year resemble less this ideal school environment,” he said, saying they experienced racism, sexism, anti-semitism and the frequent use of the N word, even in the presence of teachers. He said that bullying happens not only against black students, but female students as well.

Erin Williamson, a Beecher School parent and member of the Beecher Diversity Committee, said what the Amity board heard that night was just the tip of the iceberg. “For every student that talked tonight there are 20 who didn’t,” she said.

The reason was not for a lack of interest. About 40 people attended the meeting, which took place at the Orange campus, but the group received a note from the superintendent ahead of the meeting that they would have 20 minutes of public comment, with each speaker allotted 3 minutes. In the end, about 11 went to the podium to speak. The others were seated in an overflow room.

“You heard today that these issues happen on a daily basis,” Williamson said to the board. “This is a pervasive problem, a systemic problem.

“[Reading] a book is great. Having a plaque is great,” she said, referring to initiatives the district has taken recently to increase awareness of equity, diversity and inclusion at the school. “But that’s not what we need. What we need is professional development for our superintendent, for our principal, our teachers. What we need is a board that clearly states what their expectations are for our superintendent and our teachers. We need accountability.”

As a Beecher parent, she said she has experienced what can happen when a board communicates clearly to the superintendent that this is an area of interest. For the new Wood-

bridge superintendent, who joined the district last December, this issue will be a strategic priority, she said.

Several TV news organizations were present, Channel 12, Eyewitness News, Fox 61, and the local NBC affiliate, and reported on the concerns expressed by the students. With the television cameras trimmed on her, Amity School Supt. Dr. Jennifer Byars welcomed their suggestions and expressed openness to change. “I see tonight as pivotal, she said, as it gave her the chance to hear students’ concerns. “Outside of this meeting, no one has yet reached out to my office to speak to me, but I am ready to keep listening, as are all administrators,” she said. “I want to work with parents, students and faculty to address the reality that students do feel unwelcome at Amity,” she said.

She mentioned a number of measures the district has implemented in the last few months, including adopting a policy for minority recruitment. She said the administration participated in a book study this year and engaged in Courageous Conversations, a protocol devised specifically to support interracial dialogue and thereby affecting change. One outcome of those conversations was the choice of the social justice theme for the One-Book-One Amity read this summer. Explaining and defending the choice of that theme became in itself a Courageous Conversation, she said.

Sage Paglia, who represents the Black Student Union, had very concrete suggestions for the administration to improve the situation. “I’d like to see more collaboration with students of color,” he said. “I’d like to see teachers sticking up for students of colors.” Sage also challenged the board to spur changes in curriculum and programming. “You need to...teach history other than from a white perspective.”

The group of students and parents present that night grew out of protest earlier this year over the decision to use a Kanye West video calling for the abolition of Black History Month to celebrate just that month. It seems that the video was shown during Spartan Seminar, but then not discussed any further, for lack of time. The story was picked up by Channel 12 and later by NPR and shone an unflattering light on an otherwise highly regarded school district.

Emily Melnick, one of the organizers, said the group has been meeting weekly since March and has heard from about 60 adults. In addition, the students have organized their own group, which has about 30 members. So far, most of the members are Woodbridge residents, but folks from Orange and Bethany have expressed an interest in starting their own groups in their town.

This is not the first time Amity



Amity students Nina Carmeli and Sophia McDermott spoke to TV news reporters.

students protested incidents of discrimination and intolerance. In the fall of 2018, a group of students and parents addressed the Board of Education about rampant antisemitism, a swastika drawn on bathroom walls, even vandalism on private property.

Judy Alpern, CEO of the Jewish Federation, was one of the speakers last week, reminding the board that there is a history of students who feel bullied and unsafe. “We had such great hope that change would come,” she said. She urged the school administration to take steps that are lasting. “Take back the future of this community, so people of all backgrounds, all ethnicities can feel safe and see a bright future – so that kids never have to confront this again,” she urged the district.

The group of parents had prepared a two-page memo for board members, which outlined not only where they were coming from, but also concrete actions they are hoping to see. These included, for the start of next school year:

1. To designate a safe space for students to go when they need to, with designated/trained/trusted faculty and staff to support students on call / as needed;
2. A new trusted Black Student Union advisor;
3. Work with community leaders to procure or prepare additional professional development programming for faculty/staff regard-

ing racial/cultural sensitivity and competence;

4. To review all disciplinary policies and procedures and faculty/staff training to ensure a safer environment for students of color where racial epithets and harassment are not brushed off.

Further, they would like the district to continue this work during the next school year by:

1. Hiring a consultant to work with the whole school to improve the school climate and culture and identify key areas for systemic change;
2. Forming an Amity Diversity Committee;
3. Planning a robust, positive Black History Month program for all students in consultation with the Black Student Union and Amity Diversity Committee.

And finally, more long-term, to develop and implement a robust plan for recruitment and hiring of teachers of color that includes tracking data of applicants, interviewees, offers, hires and retention; and to hire a new administrator focused on diversity, equity and inclusion.

Dr. Byars did not disagree with the suggestions for change that were presented. “We are fully committed to taking the steps to create the positive, tolerant, and supportive environment that is sought,” she said.

“I have an independent streak. You know, it’s kind of hard to tell a independent woman what to do.” — BETTY FORD

“Zoning” From Page 1

with some affordable units with certain limitations. The application was presented by the Open Communities Alliance (OCA) and 2 Orchard Road LLC to permit multi-family and affordable housing in all residential districts and to allow such developments with a simple permit rather than a Zoning Commission review or public hearing.

In rendering its decision, the commissioners distinguished between two-family housing, which will be allowed in all residential districts, and multi-family housing of three or more units, which will be allowed only by special exception in areas that have both public water and sewer access. Multi-family units, whether two or more, are to be housed in one building on each lot.

Watershed protection, and access to public water and sewer became the determining factors as to how much public scrutiny any particular two-family proposal will get.

Two-family developments in the watershed area — which encompasses the majority of Woodbridge’s Residential A zone — will require a special exception from the TPZ with a public hearing; developments that are not in the watershed area only require a site plan review by the commission; and developments that are connected to public water and sewer can be approved by zoning permit from the land-use offices.

The question of density — how many units per acre — created some unease among the zoners. Chairman Robert Klee suggested to allow 15 units across the board as long as they have access to public water and sewer

rather than differentiate between the Village and other residential areas. As an example, for 15 units per acre he mentioned the senior development off Lucy Street.

Commissioner Paul Schatz did not agree. “Fifteen is an awful lot in Residential A,” he responded. “That’s an enormous change. Imagine that on Tumblebrook Road, or on North Racebrook.” But neither of those would have access to public water and sewer, and would therefore not be eligible.

In terms of density, both commissioners Andrew Skolnik and Jeff Kennedy would have preferred lesser density for residential areas, but in the end voted for the 15 units per acre. Commissioner Yonatan Zamir pointed out that it’s only in two places that the regulations are allowing more than 2 units, “it doesn’t bother me as much as it’s bothering [others],” he said.

Summing up the proposed changes, at the commission’s May 24 special meeting, Chairman Klee was positive about the work they had accomplished. “This is a strong step in the right direction,” he said.

Commissioner Schatz did not join the majority in this vote, registering his overall objection. “Six people are making decisions for the town without public hearing and public comment,” he said. “I think its fundamentally wrong making major changes [without public input].”

Chairman Klee said during seven months of public hearing, the public had extensive opportunity for comment, which many took advantage of. The message he got from many people was that the town does need to do more, but in a way, that’s coming from within — “that’s what I see us doing,” Klee said.

“It builds on what was put forward.”

Commissioner Lawrence Greenberg supported Klee’s approach. The application brought deficiencies in the town’s zoning laws to light, he said, which requires the commission to act and address housing opportunities. He called this a “balanced approach,” and felt that the public had ample opportunity to express their views during the course of the public hearing.

Affordability: The revised Plan of Conservation and Development also introduces “affordability” as a concept related to housing choice. “Affordable” refers to a home or housing unit for which families pay no more than 30 percent of their annual income, and where that income is less than or equal to a prescribed percentage of median income.”

“At a minimum, 20% of the units in a multi-family Opportunity Housing development shall be deed restricted for at least 40 years, and at least half of those units shall be...for sale or rental to a household earning 60% of the median income or less. Any other affordable units shall be deed-restricted for sale or rental to a household earning 80% of median income or less.”

The steps taken were in response to the OCA application, and does not preclude the commission to add provisions as needed going forward, according to Board Attorney Marianne Dubuque. She repeatedly cautioned commissioners during their deliberation not to “stray” from the record set during the hearing. For example, the application didn’t include reference to mixed-use districts, which the commission will update in the future.

The commission therefore set an effective date of September 7, which

will allow it to enact updates and incorporate them into the already approved revisions.

The Open Communities Alliance reaction was not favorable. On Facebook, Attorney Erin Boggs posted, “The Commission’s decision to revise their zoning regulations falls far short of real change and continues the irrational, discriminatory single-family dominance that has been the Town’s defining characteristic for decades.”

In a statement on its website, she added, in boldface, “What a disappointment. What a missed opportunity!”

“The Commission rejected all multifamily housing except in 1.6% of the town. Even in that “tiny sliver of town,” as one Commissioner described it, multifamily property owners will be subject to more onerous restrictions than those that apply to single-family homes. “The Commission adopted impervious coverage ratios, for example, that apply only to multifamily housing and not to single-family homes. Multifamily developments will be subjected to discretionary review by the Commission and a public hearing.”

In her statement, Boggs further points out how the new regulation continues to discriminate between single-family and multifamily housing, as it requires for the latter a public hearing with public comments and consideration of the “harmony and appropriateness of the use;” and gives the commission complete discretion as to how to interpret that provision. “These procedures are well known to discourage housing production by creating cost and uncertainty.”

As for next steps, “we are considering our options,” she wrote. “But know this: We are not giving up.”

Can I Travel After Getting The Covid-19 Vaccine?

It is that time of year when many people are looking forward to their summer vacation plans. However, people may be wondering if this is finally a time when they can travel with minimal health risks, or if they may have to postpone adventures once again, just as they did last summer, when the global pandemic was still raging?

Though social distancing, sanitation and crowd limits press on this year, a few things have changed since last summer. After a year of living in a pandemic, doctors and the public in general have learned what is working and what is not in regard to managing surges and avoiding a rush on hospitals and health centers. In addition, at press time, various effective COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to millions of people, and another is potentially on the horizon. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, these vaccines are effective at protecting people from getting seriously sick. People who have been fully vaccinated can start to do some things they ceased doing because of the pandemic. Many may wonder if



that means traveling.

Experts say that those who have been fully vaccinated (receiving both shots for the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines or one for the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine) it is likely safe to travel again. But caution is still needed. The vaccines do not immediately provide full protection. The Pfizer or Moderna vaccines provide full vaccination two weeks after the second dose, while the J&J vaccine provides protection two weeks after the single dose is administered.

The CDC offers that those who have been fully vaccinated can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing masks, and gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

However, some things have not changed even for people who have been vaccinated. Gathering with unvaccinated people (or if you cannot confirm they’ve been vaccinated, such

as on an airplane or in other public settings) still requires wearing a mask, staying at least six feet apart from others, avoiding crowds, and avoiding poorly ventilated spaces.

“Getting vaccinated does not say you have a free pass to travel, nor does it say you have a free pass to put aside all the public health measures,” said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Experts, like Dr. Chris Beyrer, a professor of epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health notes, “We also do not know the answer to the question, ‘Are people who have been immunized still infectious to others?’”

There also is concern about how well vaccines will protect against all the COVID variants.

Until more is known about long-term vaccine efficacy and until more people receive their full doses, it may be wise to avoid normal travel patterns this summer, and standard precautions should still be implemented for those who choose to get away.

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND





Youth Services Director Nancy Pfund, Winner Christina Burland, First Selectman Beth Heller, Human Services Director Jeanette Glicksman, and Peoples Bank V.P., Woodbridge Office Scott Zimmerman

First Selectman’s Youth Award Presented To Christina Burland

First Selectman Beth Heller presented winner Cristina (Tina) Burland with a plaque for her service to the community. Tina, daughter of Brian Burland and Joanna (LaSala) Burland, also accepted a \$200 check from Scott Zimmerman of Peoples Bank.

Ms. Heller’s speech honored Tina for her civic mindedness and kind heart. Ms. Burland founded the Woodbridge Together group who developed the Luminaria Project which commemorated the closures due to the pandemic and raised \$3,000 for the Woodbridge Rotary COVID projects. This along with card writing to relieve feelings of isolation for nursing home residents created hope and a sense of togetherness.

Students are nominated for the award each year for their commitment and volunteerism within the community. These students who earned nominations deserve to be recognized for their willingness to share of them-

selves, which is the best gift of all.

This year’s nominees also include Alison Su, Abigail Ressler, Emma Ressler, Paul Canaleri, Jonathan Speranzini, and Riley Numberg. These teens have worked hard to make a difference in the community and are to be commended. They have spent countless hours to create a better Woodbridge.

Woodbridge Teens Weeding/Yardwork Available

Teen residents may join the Woodbridge Job Bank to work for residents and earn money. Most jobs are outdoors and include yardwork, watering, and animal care. Call 203-389-3429 for application and interview. Residents may call the Job Bank to hire teens for odd jobs.

Red Cross Babysitter Training

Youth Services is planning a summer training for teens to be announced on our website soon. Call Youth Services at 203-389-3429 or e-mail npfund@woodbridgect.org if interested.

Recreation News





The Summer Concert series is back. Tuesday Evenings in July, with distance seating areas, from 6 to 8 pm, at the Woodbridge Town Green. July 6 is “Shaded Soul Band”, featuring soul music. July 13 features “Boogie Chillun” (Country, Blues, Jazz, Rock and Soul music). July 20 features “Center Line Band” – Rock n’ Roll Music. July 27 is the “West Rock Band” (Classic Rock). If it rains, the rain date is Wednesday. Thanks to all our sponsors that made these concerts possible.

Woodbridge Rec announces **Summer Tennis** Program by Marcy’s Tennis Academy. Mondays and Wednesdays \$280 per child. Grades K-2 will meet 12:30—1:30pm. Grades 3-6 will meet 1:45-2:45 pm. June 30 through August 6.

Pool Hours to expand. The Town Pool will expand its hours beginning on Monday June 28. Monday-Wednesday-Friday swim times will be 1:00-1:40, 1:45-2:25, 2:30-3:10, and 3:15-3:55 pm. Tuesday and Thursday swim times will be 7:45 pm-8:30 pm and 8:30 pm-9:15 pm. Saturday and Sundays

will remain 12-12:45. 1-1:45, 2-2:45, and 3-3:45. By appointment only. Call the Rec Dept. Office at 203-389-3446 during its normal hours of operation Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm.

Woodbridge Road Race date set. Mark your calendars, the 39th Annual Woodbridge Road race will be held on Saturday, October 2, 2021. The 5k Road Race will begin at 10:30am. The children’s Fun Run will be held at 9 am. For those interested in becoming a Road Race sponsor, contact the Recreation Dept. Office at 203-389-3446 before July 16.

Yoga: Indoor yoga has returned with Instructor Bill Banick. Still spots remaining. Classes take place Monday through Friday, 8:30- 9:45 am. Masks are required. Tuesday night sessions resume June 1- August 31 from 5:30-6:45pm. All classes are live in Center Building, Room 16 or outside weather permitting.

Yoga with Diane King will have classes remaining July 12, 26, and 29. She will be off in August. Check back for her fall session in September.



HUMAN SERVICES



Homebound Coronavirus vaccines were delivered in early May. AMR ENT Troyanna Hie, Public Health Nurse Jennifer Bobok and AMR Paramedic Rachel Rodriguez visited homes of those Woodbridge residents who utilized the Department of Public Health's Homebound Vaccination program. Many thanks to the Woodbridge Police Department and the Quinnipiac Valley Health District for their assistance.

Living Treasure Awards Return- Save the Date, September 14. Here's a chance to get involved with the 3rd Living Treasure Awards event. The event is a fundraiser for The Woodbridge Center which honors community-minded Woodbridge residents for their dedication to the Town and for their years of community service. This year's event will be modified in scale but still will include a silent auction, an ad book and a delicious outdoor dinner (eat-in or take-to-go). Don't miss this chance to advertise your business with a wide cross section of Woodbridge residents; this event brings all groups

of Woodbridge residents together for a great night to honor the backbone of the community while raising money for The Woodbridge Center! Donations of silent auction items, purchase of ads in the program book and table sponsorships are available. Two deserving Woodbridge residents will be chosen for this honor. Nomination forms are available as are ad book submission forms at the Human Services page of the Town's website. Volunteers are needed! To volunteer please contact Jeanette Glicksman at 203-389-3415 or jglicksman@woodbridgect.org.
The Woodbridge Food Pantry



Woodbridge Human Services staff and other Town employees were certified in CPR, AED and First Aid in a recent hybrid American Heart Association class. Half of the class was offered remotely, and half of the class was offered with in-person, hands-on training. The class was taught by Rene Cordova.

is available to seniors and families in need with non-perishable food items as well as gift cards to Stop & Shop for perishable items for qualifying families. Items needed for donation to the Food Pantry include coffee, tea, jam or jelly, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and gift cards.

FEMA Coronavirus Funeral Assistance is available to qualifying individuals who have lost a loved one to COVID-19 since January 2020. For more information, please call the help-line at 1-844-6333 or online at [FEMA.gov/funeral-assistance/faq](https://www.fema.gov/funeral-assistance/faq).
Limited durable **medical equipment** is available for loan to Woodbridge residents. Contact the depart-

ment to borrow wheelchairs, walkers, knee scooters, crutches, canes, commodes and more.
Congratulations to Human Services staff social worker Judi Young. Judi received her recertification as a **CHOICES counselor**. CHOICES is Connecticut's program for Health insurance assistance, Outreach, Information and referral, Counseling, and Eligibility Screening. CHOICES counselors provide Medicare recipients with non-biased, free health insurance counseling and outreach. The Medicare program can be challenging to navigate. If you have questions and need information, please call Human Services.

The Dos and Don'ts of Fire Pits

Many homeowners relish any opportunity to retreat to their back yards, where they can put up their feet and relax in the great outdoors. That retreat-like escape is made even more relaxing when sitting around a fire pit.
Fire pits can be found in millions of suburban backyards across the globe. Fire pits have become so popular that a 2016 survey of landscape architects conducted by the American Society of Landscape Architects revealed they were the most sought after outdoor design element. Fire pits remain wildly popular a half decade after that survey.
Homeowners who are only now joining the fire pit revolution can keep these dos and don'ts in mind as they plan their summer s'mores sessions.
DO keep the fire pit a safe distance away from the home. Fire pits should be located a safe distance from the home at all times, but especially when they're in use. Home design experts recommend keeping fire pits a minimum of 10 to 20 feet away from a house or other structure, such as a shed or a detached garage. The further away the fire is from houses and other structures, the less likely



those structures are to catch on fire.
DON'T place the fire pit beneath trees or next to shrubs. Though fire pits should be kept safe distances away from a house and other structures, it's important that they're not placed beneath trees or next to shrubs. Shrubs and low hanging branches can easily catch embers and be lit ablaze, so make sure fire pits are not placed in locations that increase that risk.
DO clean out seasonal debris. It can be tempting to let seasonal debris resting inside the fire pit burn away during the season's first s'mores session. But burning debris poses a serious safety

risk, as embers can easily be blown out of the fire pit and catch nearby trees or shrubs or even a home on fire. The National Fire Protection Association advises homeowners that embers blowing from a backyard fire pose the same threat to homes as if they are from a wildfire.
DON'T let fire pits burn near flammable materials. Store firewood piles a safe distance away from the fire pit while it's in operation. It may be convenient to keep firewood right next to the fire pit while the fire is burning, but that increases the risk that embers will land on firewood and start a fire outside

of the pit.
DO check the weather report prior to starting the fire. Windy weather increases the risk of embers blowing around and potentially landing on the house, other structures around the property or trees. If the weather report is calling for gusting winds, burn a fire on another night.
DON'T leave a fire pit fire burning. Unattended recreational fires are illegal and incredibly dangerous. Homeowners should never leave fire pit fires burning unattended or allow fires to slowly die out overnight. Always extinguish the fire before going inside and stop adding wood to the fire roughly one hour before you plan to go inside. Water or sand can be poured on ashes to extinguish the fire. Once homeowners are confident a fire has been extinguished, ashes can be spread around to ensure there are no hot spots still burning. If there are, start the extinguishing process over again.
A night around the fire pit is a summertime tradition in many households. Safety must be as much a part of such traditions as s'mores.

WOODBRIDGE LIBRARY

Library Information

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

Our public hours are changing starting July 6: Monday and Thursday, 1 pm to 7 pm; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 am to 4 pm. Park & Pickup hours: Monday and Thursday, 10 am to 7 pm; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 am to 5 pm. Please wait for your email or phone call to alert you about your items. Visit us anytime: woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

What's available

- › In-person browsing: come see all of the new books, audio-books, and DVDs!
- › Computers: one hour per user; no appointment needed.
- › Printing, copying, faxing, and scanning.
- › Periodicals: recent newspapers, plus catch up on the past year's magazines!
- › Reference help: including getting started/troubleshooting our digital library services (hoopla, Kanopy, Libby)

At this time, the study room and the Woodbridge Room are closed. The meeting room cannot be used for any events or programs. Seating throughout the Library is extremely limited and no puzzles or children's toys are in use.

Not ready to come inside? Call or email to place holds, ask questions, find out information, and more. Due to current staffing levels, you may need to leave a message if calling. Please leave a message, we WILL call you back!

Department phones and emails

- › Adult Services/Reference: 203-389-3434; reference@woodbridgetownlibrary.org;
- › Children's Department: 203-389-3439; childrens@woodbridgetownlibrary.org;
- › Circulation/General info: 203-389-3433; circulation@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Not sure who you need? Email ask-us@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Library Announcements

Calling all crafters and mak-



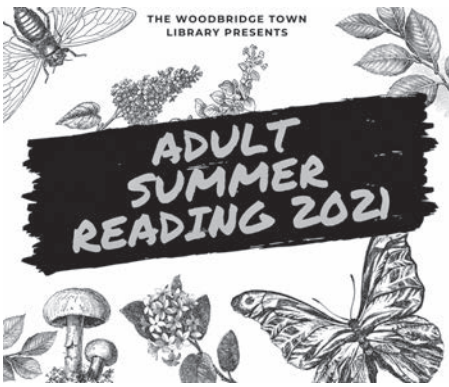
WOODBRIDGE TOWN LIBRARY

ers! On September 11 there will be a makers' market and craft fair from 10 am-1 pm. Interested vendors must fill out a form on the Town website. For questions, contact Jennifer Sullivan, Woodbridge Town Library Head of Adult Services (jsullivan@woodbridgetownlibrary.org) or Betsy Yagla, Assistant Administrative Officer (byagla@woodbridgetownlibrary.org).

Take the library with you on vacation! Finally getting away over the summer? You can take the library with you, using our digital services. Ebooks and digital magazines for the beach, movies and TV shows for rainy days at the lake, and more! Save space and reduce your bag weight - all you need is your library card and your favorite device. Just check to make sure your card hasn't expired before you leave town. Our website outlines all of our FREE services. Need help or want to know more? Call or stop by the reference desk.

Adult Programs and Events

Registration required only where noted



Adult Summer Reading now through August 18. Stop by the Reference Desk to pick up your Adult Summer Reading packet! You will get a raffle ticket for every book or challenge you complete. Tickets can be used to enter drawings for themed gift baskets, which will be raffled off every two weeks. Themes include movie night, beach day, and more! Baskets will be displayed in the library throughout the summer so feel free to stop by and check them out!

Starting July 19 - **Take and Make Terrarium Kits.** Most materials included. While supplies last; one kit

per household. Reserve yours: 203-389-3434 or reference@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Save The Dates For Later This Summer

August 12 at 6 pm - **The Joe Carter - Jeff Fuller Brazilian Jazz Duo.** A celebration of the music of Brazil - Samba, Bossa Nova, Choro, Baiao and more. Held on the Library Lawn.

August 19 at 6 pm - **Rhonda Denet and the Silver Fox Trio** performs "From Jazz to Soul" (aka Ella to Aretha). Held at the Town's Gazebo on the Green.

Thursdays in September - **Movies on the Green.** Starting September 9; culminating in a screening of Green Book on September 30. Films begin at sunset.

Children's Programs And Events

Registration required only where noted

This year's summer reading theme is "Tails and Tales." Stop by the Children's Desk to get your reading log and be sure to check our website for new programs and activities during the summer.



Tails With Tales Contest - Between July 1 - 9, submit a picture of your pet posing with your favorite book! Don't have a pet? Help us pick a winner by voting for your favorite picture! Photos will be displayed in the library for a month. Please email your submission to childrens@woodbridgetownlibrary.org. Make sure to include your pet's name and the title of the book!

On Thursday, July 15 at 4 pm, White Memorial Conservation Center will be presenting **"Rumplesnakeskin" and His Live Legless Friends.** Come hear a story and meet some slithery friends! Registration required.

End of Summer Reading Event

is on Tuesday, August 24 from 2 - 4 pm. Featuring the magic of Ed Popielarczyk, ice cream, raffles, and more! Registration required.

Outdoor Storytime Continues into the Summer! Every Wednesday, 10:30 - 11 am. Meet at the picnic tables; no registration required. Some chairs provided, feel free to bring your own or a blanket. Suitable for babies through Pre-K.

Animal Tails - Every Thursday, 4 - 4:30 pm. Make a different animal craft each week, outside at the picnic tables. Ages 3 and up. Registration is required.

News From The Friends Of The Library

Thank you to all who came to the Literature and Life lecture by Mark Schenker, sponsored by the Friends on Sunday, June 6. The well-attended program honored Barbara Rader, a past president and longtime Friend of the Library; the event also contributed to the Library's efforts to do more programs. Special thanks go to musicians Alice, Anna, and Nora Youtz who played beautiful string arrangements before and after the lecture.



Be sure to shop the Friends of the Library's Mini Pop-Up Sale on Saturday, July 10 from 9 to 11 am (part of the Town of Woodbridge's Second Summer Saturday Series). We will also accept donations.

The Friends' Bookstore Alley re-opened in June. Payments will continue to be made on the honor system with Honor Boxes in the Alley. We appreciate the many shoppers who have visited our Tiny Bookstore located in the Friends' Meeting Room, which we share with the Library's Park & Pick Up. The Tiny Bookstore will continue in the Meeting Room for a while longer. Like-new items at bargain prices: books for all ages in all genres, puzzles, CDs, and more. Bookstore Alley is open whenever the library is open—thank you for your support!



Town of Woodbridge Meetings for the Month of July 2021



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

7/6	Town Plan & Zoning Commission.....6:30 PM	Town Hall
7/8	Community Council.....9:30 AM	
	Economic Development Commission.....6:00 PM	Town Hall
7/12	Library Commission6:30 PM	Library
	Zoning Board of Appeals7:30 PM	Town Hall
7/14	Board of Selectmen.....5:00 PM	
7/15	Board of Finance.....6:00 PM	Town Hall
	Conservation Commission.....7:30 PM	Town Hall
7/19	Fire Commission6:00 PM	
	Police Commission6:15 PM	
7/20	2030 Task Force6:00 PM	
7/21	Diversity & Inclusion Committee.....6:30 PM	
	Inland/Wetlands Agency7:30 PM	Town Hall
7/26	CUPOP5:30 PM	Town Hall
7/27	Gov't Access TV Commission7:30 PM	Town Hall



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 relating 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



Peter Geloso DPT

not so far forward that when at 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. He can be reached at the Milford office at 203.693.2350, or in Woodbridge at 203.389.4593, or visit amitypt.com.

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TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE LEGAL NOTICE TO ALL WOODBRIDGE TAXPAYERS

All persons liable to pay real estate, motor vehicle or personal property taxes in the Town of Woodbridge are hereby notified that the Tax Collector has received the warrant levied by the Board of Finance to collect taxes on the Grand List of October 1st, 2020, which become due and payable on July 1st, 2021.

Real estate and personal property taxes over one hundred dollars (\$100.00) are due in two installments. The first one-half shall be due on July 1st, 2021 and become delinquent on August 3rd, 2021. The second one-half shall be due on January 1st, 2022 and delinquent on February 2nd, 2022. Any tax in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or less and all taxes on motor vehicles shall be due and payable in one single installment on July 1st, 2021 and become delinquent on August 3rd, 2021. If the installment payment due becomes delinquent, interest will be charged on the installment payment at the rate of 1½ % per month from the due date. Minimum interest charge is \$2.00.

The Tax Office will be open at the window on the front porch of Town Hall to the right of the front doors, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Town Hall will be closed on July 5th, 2021. For your convenience we will be open on Saturday, July 31st from 9:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon and on Tuesday, August 2nd the last day to pay without penalty, from 8:30 a.m. till 7:00 p.m. If you wish to pay in person, you must bring your entire bill with you so we may stamp your receipt. All mailed bills must be postmarked by the UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE prior to the delinquent date to be considered on time. You must enclose your check, the entire bill and a self-addressed stamped envelope for a return receipt. Credit card payments may be made online (only) at woodbridgect.org under Online Payments. There is a fee charged for this service, please read all information carefully.

Failure to receive a bill does not exempt you from payment of tax or penalty, per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130, 12-146.

Pat Crisco, CCMC
Tax Collector

DEATH NOTICES



Virginia Butler Calistro

Virginia Butler Calistro, 96, passed away peacefully at home in Woodbridge June 9, 2021, leaving behind a large and loving family and a legion of friends and admirers. Virginia was born January 8, 1925 in New Haven. She was the daughter of the late Jessie McDaniel and James Bruce Butler of West Haven, and, along with her sister, the late Jessie Butler Throm and her brother, the late James Butler, attended West Haven public schools, graduating as valedictorian of West Haven High School in 1943. Virginia attended the University of Connecticut, where she lettered in women's basketball and, more importantly, met her late husband, Joseph Roger Calistro, a dashing airman newly returned from England. Virginia graduated summa cum laude in 1947, and immediately threw herself into what was to become an exceptionally long and successful career in education.

Virginia and Joe were married in West Haven in 1949, and they spent most of their 65 years together as residents of Woodbridge, which they grew to love dearly. Along with "Papa Joe," Virginia raised and is survived by three children: Virginia "Debbie" Culligan (Patrick) of Woodbridge, Roger Calistro (Kathleen Foster) of Meriden, and Cara Calistro (Ollen Dupree) of Bowie, MD, as well as eight grandchildren: Rachel Acevedo (Victor), JP Culligan (Andi Crist), Daniel Culligan, Dominic Calistro (Emily), Virginia Calistro, Casey Culligan, Mya Dupree, and Elijah Dupree, four great grandchildren, and many beloved Butler and Calistro nieces and nephews. At the end of her life, Miss Ginny received special care and

attention from Murley Barnaby and Nancy Sanca, both of whom became very dear to her and to the family.

Early in her teaching career Virginia became known as "Miss Ginny" to one and all. In the early sixties she ran a precursor to Head Start, a Neighborhood Improvement Project in Fair Haven. Recognizing her true calling as a preschool teacher Virginia then went on to establish Cabbage Hill Country School in 1963, a uniquely charming place that she operated for 46 years in the little red schoolhouse located behind her home. Cabbage Hill became the great passion of Miss Ginny's life, and through it she imbued generations of children with a love of learning.

"Miss Ginny" was a true extrovert, and in her inimitable and stylish way, was thoroughly involved in all of life around her. She was a devoted communicant of the First Church of Christ Woodbridge, where she served as a deacon, sang in the choir, and chaired many committees. She was active in the League of Women Voters for many years and supported her husband's distinguished career in local government. She was chair of the Woodbridge Library Commission and served on the Mental Health Board. Having successfully lost weight as an early adherent to the Weight Watchers program, Miss Ginny went on to become a popular Weight Watchers lecturer. One of her great joys was marrying couples as "Judge Ginny", a Justice of the Peace. At the age of 85, she began participating in a Yale gerontological research program. In conjunction with Joe's career in international engineering project management, the couple travelled extensively, particularly in Africa. Of course, the effervescent Miss Ginny was a sports fan, cheering for the Yankees and the UConn Huskies, and never missed a party or an event. In 2019 the Town of Woodbridge named Miss Ginny one of its Living Treasures. Right up until the outbreak of Covid, Miss Ginny was an engaged participant in activities at the Woodbridge Senior Center and the Clelian Center in Hamden.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the First Church of Christ Sanctuary Fund, 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge or online at www.uccw.org.

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@orangetownnews.com

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Gear To Simplify Your Next Beach Trip

Days at the beach are tailor-made for anyone looking for a little rest and relaxation. If there was a recipe for calmness, it would no doubt include the sounds of waves crashing on the shoreline and seagulls flying overhead.

Beach days are even more relaxing when beach-goers load up on the right gear. As beach season begins anew, people who can't wait to dip their toes in the water can load up on these items to make their trips even more relaxing.

Beach wagon: Beach wagons make it easy to transport beach chairs, umbrellas, toys, and other must-have beach items, all in one convenient trip. There are many varieties of beach wagon, and consumers should look for ones with all-terrain wheels that can easily navigate sandy beaches. Load capacity is another factor to consider before buying a beach wagon, as beach-goers will want to make sure their wagons can tote everything they typically take to the beach in a single trip.

Beach coolers: A great beach cooler



can make all the difference in regard to refreshment on hot days at the beach. Rolling coolers may or may not be able to take on the sand at the beach, but it doesn't hurt to look for one with sturdy, all-terrain wheels. But cooling capacity with enough insulation to keep food and beverages cool during a long day at the beach should be shoppers' biggest priority.

Beach bags: Water-repellent beach bags can protect devices like smartphones, tablets and e-readers from sand and surf. Separate such devices and other electronics, like a portable speaker or radio, in their own bags to reduce the risk of getting sand on them. Store items that will inevitably gather sand, like towels, clothing and beach toys, in their own designated

beach bags.

Backpack chairs: Many beach-goers have a favorite beach. If it's a long walk from the parking lot of your favorite beach to your preferred spot on the sand, bring along a backpack chair for each person in your group. Such chairs can free up space on your beach wagon, and chairs strapped over your shoulders like a backpack won't be a nuisance to carry, even if it's a long walk from the car to the sand.

Quick-dry beach towels: Soggy beach towels can take a while to dry, especially as the day wears on and the sun begins to set. Quick-dry beach towels typically employ microfiber technology that allows them to dry more quickly than traditional cotton towels. That saves beach-goers the trouble of lugging around heavy, wet beach towels and also ensures items like beach bags and chairs are dry by the time you go home.

Beach days are the epitome of relaxation, especially when beach-goers stock up on certain essentials designed to make such days more enjoyable.

“True freedom is the capacity for acting according to one’s true character, to be altogether one’s self, to be self-determined and not subject to outside coercion.” — CORLISS LAMONT

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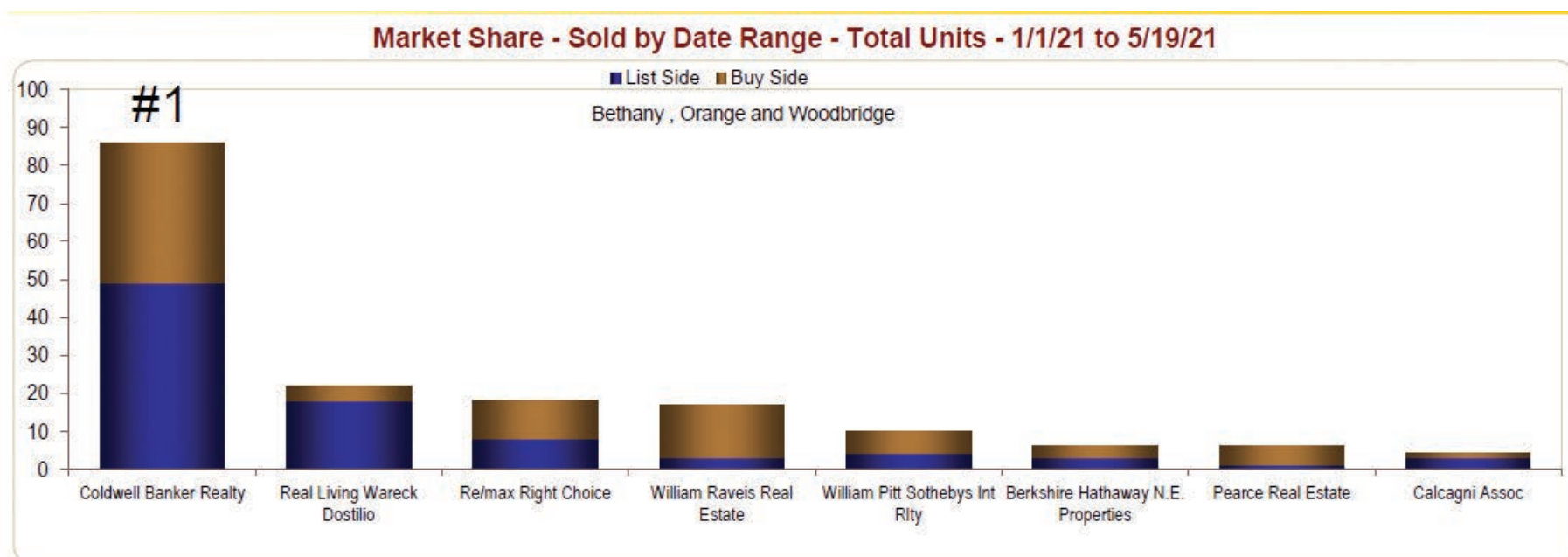


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