

Woodbridge Town News



Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper

Mailed Free To Every Home in Woodbridge
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2021



Third Grade Classroom at Beecher Road School

Return To 'New Normal' At Beecher Road School

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Monday, August 30 was scheduled to be the first day of school for Woodbridge students, with all the hopes and concerns that day carries with it. For many elementary students it is a

return to the new normal, for a second year of learning under pandemic conditions. Students (and teachers) will be masked, will be required to social distance as much as feasible,

See "Beecher" On Page 19



At left, Rotarians Dorothy Martino, Chris Lovejoy and Woodbridge Rotary President Neelima Kaushal flank scholarship recipients Madison Grieger and Rose Parady; to the right are Rotary Past President Anna Dickerson, Bethany First Selectwoman Paula Cofrancesco and Woodbridge First Selectwoman Beth Heller.

Rotary Rewards Those Who Find Meaning In Service

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Woodbridge Rotary Club recently awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to recent local high school graduates. Natasha von Beeden, Madison Grieger and Rose Parady were the 2021 recipients. The winning graduates were chosen from a pool of candidates who had submitted an essay on the Rotary motto, "One profits who serves best."

In her essay, Madison Grieger wrote that it took her a while to get

behind the meaning of that saying, but eventually she found the truth in it. "I kept reading it over and over," she said, until she understood how service to others enriches one's own life.

She remembered riding a tractor in the Bethany Memorial Day Parade, when the children would smile up to her. Madison, a graduate of Nonnewaug High School, also has been peer tutoring, and she wrote how the younger students appreciated the

See "Rotary" On Page 17



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Each member of the band is a seasoned, talented musician fully dedicated to recreating the sounds and vibe of a Linda Ronstadt live performance from back in the day. But of course, no Ronstadt tribute band can work without "that voice". And if you close your eyes, Gesenia will have you believing that Linda really is with us on the stage. Indeed, the group is so authentic and professional that it has been personally endorsed by three of Linda's own bandmates (two of whom are currently producing the band).

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AT WOODBRIDGE

From the Democratic Town Committee

BY LAURENCE GROTHEER



The WDTC is by definition a partisan political organization; its priorities and activities are meant to promote and advance Democratic ideals, principles, and candidates - as difficult as they are to agree upon, sometimes - to the best of its ability.

There are currently two public policy areas that have reached crisis proportions however, urgently demanding immediate action, that utterly defy partisan definition, bickering, or gamesmanship of any kind.

The first of these is containment of the ongoing, deadly, and disruptive coronavirus pandemic. This still-spiraling public health crisis has already had dire, unimaginably tragic consequences: the death of more than 600,000 Americans is attributed to the virus, wholesale economic upheaval has tossed asunder the livelihood, career, and retirement of countless others, and an entire generation of students has now lost irreplaceable classroom time and irretrievable rites of passage.

And yet many people continue resisting the two proven, repeatedly recommended, and common sense antidotes to the pandemic: getting a readily available, free, and effective vaccine, and wearing a mask while in proximity to others, to minimize the exchange of shared air.

Last century, the world rejoiced as one when vaccines were introduced to curb polio, and then measles. Just last year, the world clamored as one for an effective vaccine to ward off the coronavirus and COVID-19. This year there are several effective vaccines; it confounds me that so many people remain so resistant to promoting them and/or getting one.

Beyond that, I don't understand persistent refusal to protect others - and oneself - by wearing a simple facemask while indoors and in the presence of others.

The entire history of our culture can be described as an effort to protect and improve upon existing conditions to the benefit of one another. We support public safety efforts, public education, and public works projects with that goal in mind. We routinely abide by traffic laws to help ensure our own safety and the well-being of others. Why is there suddenly a line drawn when it comes to wearing a small, paper mask to protect public health?

At this writing parents, teachers, and boards of education in states with the highest infection rates are beginning to ignore the edict of government officials there who banned mask

requirements in schools. Courts are beginning to back them up, and more and more private sector employers are beginning to require mask use among employees as well. Here's hoping these common sense efforts toward the common good prevail.

A second public policy topic of grave concern is unmitigated global warming and its impact on destructive, now undeniable climate change. At the risk of stating the obvious, there is only one Earth. There should be wholesale, global efforts to protect and preserve it, absent political maneuvering.

Last month, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued what was described as 'the most thorough report on climate change ever compiled,' and its result is nothing less than a 'code red for humanity,' according to the U.N. secretary-general. The IPCC report was endorsed by 195 governments around the world.

Alarmingly, the report concludes that Earth will continue warming for at least the next 30 years, even if climate change becomes an immediate priority. In the context of wildfires raging not only in the American west, but in Russia, and Australia (last year), in light of recent flooding in Europe, ravaging tropical storms and hurricanes in both hemispheres, and in the face of high temperature extremes shrinking ice caps, melting glaciers, and literally baking wildlife to death, debate about whether we're killing the planet must end so plans to save the planet can move forward.

There is already widespread agreement that fossil fuels must no longer dominate long-range planning re: global energy reserves. Electricity, more of which can be generated using technology to harness wind and solar energy, must assume a far greater share of the burden. To use electricity more efficiently, resources must be invested in infrastructure - from the power grid itself to mass transit to electric vehicles - to benefit all who share the planet and the responsibility for preserving it.

In an increasingly polarized culture, in these two policy areas anyway, continuing dialogue happens at our collective peril about how serious the trouble is, who or what's to blame, and who's going to get credit for fixing it. Irrefutable numbers, undeniable trends, and other emerging evidence make an open-and-shut case: there simply isn't time enough for talk anymore.

Other Side of the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE
WRTC CHAIRMAN



So Many Issues, So Little Space

As we move past the dog days of August and near-normal routine reclaims our family calendars, there are several simmering town issues that deserve attention. But first, the column header was tongue-in-cheek - I thank the Woodbridge Town News publisher for providing this space in each issue for the Woodbridge Republicans to offer our views on local topics and suggest ways we can improve our town.

Over the summer a new proposal for Country Club of Woodbridge was received in Town Hall. Unsolicited, it is a new twist on an old theme - housing development. Entertaining one more proposal for the property is fine, but it does dig up many unresolved issues surrounding what is arguably the Town's greatest asset. How is it that after 12 years there is still no definitive plan for the property? It appears we have been passively waiting for "the next guy" to come along with a plan to which we react. That's not leadership, that's indecision. A town-wide survey conducted in 2018 yielded no consensus on what to do with the property. And, to cast a shadow on that survey, there were no hard facts presented to the residents regarding financial impacts of any option. Nor what effect different uses of the property would have on the quality of life for those living in that part of town. Would our zoning need to be modified, and what would the impact be on the school system, etc.? These are all questions that will undoubtedly rise again as the newest suitor attempts to make a case. There is also proposal for the property that would protect it as open space with an eye toward converting portions of the property to farming. That, too, deserves to be vetted. We look forward to a transparent, public review of all plans put forward.

The proposed bonding has taken a few twists over the past months. It started with the flawed premise that since we are paying off some bonds (read: getting out of debt), we are able to borrow again to get back into debt! Let's rethink the idea and only use bonding for capital projects for which there is a compelling need. Of the six proposed bonds, some have fallen off the table. The \$300k for the Senior Center is now being covered by

a State of Connecticut grant - but let's not get too excited about that. After all we are state taxpayers too, so it's basically our money coming back to us. The \$766k bond to demolish the CCW Clubhouse is now also scratched - good! Two others, the \$300k to build a sidewalk from Amity High School to the Woodbridge Library is still in play, as is the \$1.7M to finish renovations on the old fire house. Neither of these are compelling needs. Beyond the astronomical price tag for the side walk, does it actually provide a substantial improvement for students? In fact, the current "overland" route across the church green may be safer than walking next to periodically busy Newton Road. Regarding the old firehouse, plans for the Amity Regional School District to rent a portion of the building have dissolved, thus, the Town has no prospective tenants from which to collect rent to offset the investment in the bond. How can you justify spending \$1.7M to renovate a building when you have no tenant and no idea what a future tenant may want? It's not practical to bond this project with no idea what the future holds. And lest we forget, every one of these bonds winds up in our budget - which impacts our already high mill rate.

Speaking of budgets and mill rates, there has been zero movement, to my eye, on the issue of convening a Charter Revision Commission to recast how we approve our Town budget. No one could be satisfied with the disastrous virtual town meeting that was abruptly adjourned when it was pointed out that meeting did not have to be held on that date. Even worse was the way in which the subsequent in-person town meeting at the fire house was handled. The system prescribed in the Town Charter is archaic and seems to be designed to keep the power of the purse in the hands of a few, unelected individuals, known as the Board of Finance. No one argues they put in a lot of time and effort in the annual budget process, but the final say should be by the voters through simple referendum. The First Selectman cannot continue to be deaf on this issue. Hundreds of residents personally witnessed the dysfunction of our current process. The Charter needs to be fixed - and now is the time.

“Asking your children about their fears or worries about going back to school will help them share their burden.” — CHUCK NORRIS

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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
October 1 Fall Issue	September 24
October 29 Veterans Day Issue	October 22
November 19 Thanksgiving Issue.....	November 12

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

FROM OUR READERS



Kudos to the Woodbridge Transfer Station

Twenty years ago, when we moved into our home on Acorn Hill Road, we were not happy about living so close to the Woodbridge Transfer Station and having to deal with truck and car traffic and the 'fly-off' litter on the road. But the Transfer Station is a Woodbridge gem and the town employees who work there must be acknowledged. Craig Molsick and Anthony Esposito who manage and run the station, are friendly, very helpful and always willing to answer our questions about which dumpster is appropriate for our household and garden waste. They are committed to keeping the facility safe, clean and running efficiently.

But above and beyond being excellent Woodbridge employees, they have planted a beautiful border garden of zinnia and sunflowers hugging the road as you exit the Transfer Station. This profusion of colorful flowers in a space you don't expect to find such beauty, just makes us smile.

We have grown to really appreciate the Woodbridge Transfer Station and all the employees that work there. In many ways it is 'The Town Center', the place where you meet and chat with other Woodbridge residents and learn about local politics.

Pat and Rick Allen
Pictured are: Anthony Esposito and Craig Molsick [Photos By Rick Allen]

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS): Seat Belt Laws Increase Belt Use

With Connecticut set to expand its seat belt law to cover the back seat, I wanted to send a summary of research on this important topic. In states that require seat belt use in all seating positions, 84 percent of back-seat passengers were observed using seat belts in 2017, compared with 63 percent of back-seat passengers in states that require only front-seat belt use. And when more people buckle up, lives are saved. Seat belts saved an estimated 14,955 lives in 2017.

In a recent IIHS survey, nearly 40 percent of people surveyed said they sometimes don't buckle up in the rear seat because there is no law requiring it. If there were such a law, 60 percent of respondents said it would convince them to use belts in the back seat.

Although safety belts are proven to save lives, more than half of the people who die in passenger vehicle crashes in the U.S. each year are unbelted. One person's decision not to buckle up can have consequences for other people riding with them as well, as demonstrated in a recent IIHS crash test with an unbelted rear occupant. IIHS has a summary of research on this topic here: <https://www.iihs.org/topics/seat-belts>.

Joe Young
Director of Media Relations

Family Talk About Drinking

The upcoming school year brings new classes, activities and often new social opportunities that may include peer pressure to experiment with underage drinking. Though resistance can

See "Letters" On Page 6

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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.

EDUCATION

CT Braces Launches 2021 Scholarship Program

Local Orthodontist to Award \$1,000 Scholarship to Student

CT Braces, with 5 offices throughout Connecticut, has announced its 2021 Scholarship Contest for current and former patients of the practice. CT Braces will award a \$1,000 scholarship to the student who submits the winning essay response to “How has receiving orthodontic treatment positively impacted your life and plans for the future?” Entries will be accepted until September 6th. All CT Braces current and former patients entering college this fall are encouraged to enter. Winner will be announced by mid-September. Applications can be submitted online at www.ctbraces.com.

“We are proud to continue our annual scholarship contest to support our patients. We believe in giving back to the community and supporting our youth in achieving their dreams through education.” said Dr. Shyam Desai.

To qualify for the contest, all stu-

dent applicants must be enrolled in college for the fall in an accredited U.S. institution, and they must have completed, or be currently undergoing, orthodontic treatment at CT Braces. They must have a minimum high school Grade Point Average of 2.5. Entries will be reviewed by an independent panel and will be judged on overall relevancy to the topic, clarity of response, and originality.

CT Braces encourages all interested and eligible students to apply for this exciting opportunity. For more information about the contest, please visit www.ctbraces.com.

CT Braces, a myOrthos partner, has 5 offices throughout Connecticut, including Orange, Bridgeport, Stratford, Danbury and New Haven. Led by Dr. Shyam Desai, CT Braces provides outstanding orthodontic treatment and customer service to patients of all ages. For more information, visit www.ctbraces.com.



How To Support Students Interested In The Arts

Schools are diverse communities in which people from all walks of life gather to teach, learn and pursue an assortment of interests and passions. Students are perhaps the best reflection of that diversity, as even small schools are home to young people who excel in sports, music, theater, and, of course, academics.

Many young people harbor a strong interest in the arts, which can provide some surprising benefits. For example, the National Endowment for the Arts reports that students with high arts participation and low socioeconomic status have a 4 percent dropout rate. That's five times lower than their low socioeconomic status peers. In addition, a report from the Rice Kinder Institute for Urban Research found that arts education experiences reduce the proportion of students in school receiving disciplinary infractions by 3.6 percent.

Despite the myriad benefits of participation in arts education, which can include improved performance in the classroom, Americans for the Arts notes that not all students have access to art-based educational experiences. Parents of students who are interested in the arts can try various approaches to nurture those interests.

Support school-based arts education programs. Funding for arts programs is perpetually in jeopardy. Each state and school district is different, but a 2013 report from the National Association of State Boards of Edu-

cation found that federal funding for arts and humanities programs totaled roughly \$250 million a year, while the National Science Foundation received around \$5 billion annually. Arts and sciences are both important, and parents can support legislation that directs more federal funding for the arts while urging local legislators to direct more money to arts education.

Make art a part of life at home. Americans for the Arts recommends that parents make the arts part of life at home. Participating alongside children as they sing, dance, draw, play music or pursue other arts-based interests is a great way to incorporate the arts into home life while showing kids how fun the arts can be.

Research local performing arts schools. Children who exhibit an especially strong interest in the arts may benefit from enrolling in a school that specializes in performing arts. Such schools may be open to kids as young as five and extend all the way through high school. Some performing arts schools require prospective students to audition or apply. Arts high schools still offer instruction in core academic subjects, but parents should explore each school's curriculum before deciding if a given school is right for their children.

Arts education can have a profound impact on the life of a young person. There are many ways for parents to nurture and encourage their children's interest in the arts.

Attention Teachers!

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

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

Woodbridge Town News

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“Letters” From Page 5

be difficult for teens, as a parent, your involvement has a significant impact on your child’s decisions. According to the 2008 GfK Roper Youth Report, 74 percent of 8- to 17-year-olds cite their parents as the No. 1 influence on whether they drink alcohol.

That’s why Dichello Distributors, Inc. offers Family Talk About Drinking, a free guide designed to encourage open and honest communication between parents and children to help prevent underage drinking. Strong

educational programs such as these, paired with effective law enforcement, are essential to make progress in the fight against underage drinking and teen drunk driving. According to the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, all measures of teen alcohol use have declined since 1998.

We must continue to guide and influence youth to ensure that progress persists. For a free parent guide, go to familytalkonline.com.

Tony Lota
Alcohol Awareness Coordinator
Dichello Distributors, Inc., Orange CT

Woodbridge Town News

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**Dean’s/President’s List
Bates College**

Lewiston, ME - The following Woodbridge students have been named to the dean’s list at Bates College for the winter semester ending in May 2021: Austin Gilbride, the son of Matthew T. Gilbride and Maria C. Asis, is a 2019 graduate of Amity Regional High School and majoring in biological chemistry and engineering and minoring in mathematics at Bates; and Alli Fischman, the daughter of Barry A. Fischman and Gila J. Fischman, is a 2019 graduate of Hamden Hall Country Day School and majoring in sociology at Bates. This is a distinction earned by students whose grade point average is 3.88 or higher.

Bryant University

Smithfield, RI - Bryant University is pleased to recognize the students who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement. Diego Rodriguez, class of 2023, from Woodbridge, CT, has been named to the Deans’ List for the spring 2021 semester. Congratulations to Diego on this outstanding achievement!

Bucknell University

Lewisburg, PA - Bucknell University has released the dean’s list for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2020-21 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean’s list recognition. The following Woodbridge students have achieved dean’s list status for spring 2021: Ellie Luciani, class of 2023; and Hannah Price, class of 2022.

College of the Holy Cross

Worcester, MA - Matteo Delsanto of Woodbridge, was named to the College of the Holy Cross Spring 2021 Deans List. A member of the Class of 2024, Delsanto is majoring in Political Science. Delsanto was among more than 1,451 students named to the Dean’s List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2020-21 academic year. To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Emerson College

Boston, MA - Gabrielle McGovern, a native of Woodbridge, CT has been named to Emerson College’s Dean’s List for the Spring 2021 semester. McGovern is majoring in Media Arts Production and is a member of the Class of 2024. The requirement to make Emerson’s Dean’s List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher.

Goodwin University

East Hartford, CT - Renee Pascarel-li has earned a spot on the Goodwin University Dean’s List for Spring 2021. Renee, a student from Woodbridge, CT, is one of 1,014 students to make the Dean’s List, reserved for those who demonstrate great academic performance. Dean’s List inclusion requires a student to earn a minimum 3.5 GPA, the equivalent of an A- average, during a given academic session. The student must also be enrolled in a minimum of six academic credits to qualify.

Goodwin University

East Hartford, CT - Renee Pascarel-li of Woodbridge, CT earned a place on Goodwin University’s President’s List for the Spring 2021 Session. The Spring 2021 President’s List includes 411 students, all of whom scored a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Hamilton College

Clinton, NY - The following Woodbridge residents were named to the Dean’s List at Hamilton College for the spring 2021 semester: Alexis Galinovsky, is a rising senior majoring in economics; and Brian Seiter, a rising junior majoring in history and public policy, is a graduate of Hopkins School. To be named to the Dean’s List, a student must have carried throughout the semester a course load of four or more graded credits with an average of 3.5 or above.

Purchase College

Purchase, NY - Daniel Kuriakose, who hails from Woodbridge, has been named to Purchase College’s Dean’s List for the Spring 2021 semester. Kuriakose is studying Philosophy. To be eligible for the Dean’s List, students must carry a semester GPA of 3.5 for Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science programs and 3.75 for Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Music Performance programs. They must take a minimum of 12 credits. Congratulations, Daniel!

Quinnipiac University

Hamden, CT - The following Woodbridge students were named to the dean’s list for the Spring 2021 semester at Quinnipiac University: Eric Duhl, Victoria Foster, William Hunter, Judah Immanuel, Karalyn Kachmar, Ayaan Malik, Ephemia Nicolakis, and Calvin Yeung. To qualify for the dean’s list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester.

Rochester Institute

of Technology

Rochester, NY - Jess Edwards of Woodbridge was named to the Dean’s List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the 2021 Spring Semester. Edwards is in the illustration program.

Siena College

Loudonville, NY - John Lumpinski was named to the Siena College President’s List for the Spring 2021 Semester. John is from Woodbridge, CT. The President’s List requires a 3.9 grade point average or higher.

Union College

Schenectady, NY - Comprised annually, students with at least a 3.50 grade point average for the entire academic year were honored with the academic achievement. Those students from Woodbridge honored with Dean’s List are: Beck DeYoung, Class of 2021 majoring in Organizing Theme, and Cory Sachs, Class of 2021 majoring in Political Science.

University of Maine

The University of Maine recognized Lilly Morrissey of Woodbridge for achieving Dean’s List honors in the spring 2021 semester. Due to the unusual and challenging circumstances faced this semester amid the global pandemic, the university has modified its Dean’s List policy for the spring 2021 term. The requirement that students earn 12 calculable credits to be eligible for Dean’s List has been waived. Instead, students will be eligible if they earned a minimum of nine letter-graded (A–F on the transcript) credits for full-time students in addition to the criteria in the catalog. For part-time students to be eligible, they must have earned at least six letter-graded credits across the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters, in addition to the criteria in the catalog for Part-time Dean’s List. Courses with P/F grades selected by the student will not count toward the total of nine (for full-time) or six (for part-time).

University of New Hampshire

Hannah Sosensky of Woodbridge, CT has been named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Hampshire for earning Highest Honors for the spring 2021 semester. Sosensky is majoring in Health Management & Policy. Students named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0.

University of Tampa

Tampa, FL - Mayel Hubbard, of

Woodbridge, Connecticut, earned dean’s list honors at The University of Tampa for the Spring 2021 semester. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean’s list.

Worcester Polytechnic

Worcester, MA - Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced that Frederick Miller of Woodbridge, CT, a member of the class of 23 majoring in Mathematical Sciences, was named to the university’s Dean’s List for academic excellence for the spring 2021 semester. The criteria for the WPI Dean’s List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean’s List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

**Graduations
Clark University**

Worcester, MA - Clark University awarded Woodbridge residents Nativ Eliahu Battat, graduated with a Master of Science in Finance; and Anna Lu, graduated with a Master of Health Science in Community and Global Health during the University’s 117th Commencement ceremonies.

**Rochester Institute
of Technology**

Rochester, NY - Aaron Reiner of Woodbridge graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) with a BS in applied arts and sciences. Some 4,000 degrees were conferred in the 2020-2021 academic year at all of RIT’s campuses. Due to New York state COVID-19 occupancy restrictions, commencement was celebrated May 14-15 in smaller ceremonies by college and were live-streamed for graduates’ family and friends.

Tufts University

Medford/Somerville, MA - Tufts University awarded approximately 1,500 undergraduate student degrees in disciplines ranging from the sciences and engineering to the humanities and fine arts during its online degree conferral ceremony commemorating the accomplishments of the Class of 2021. The graduates from the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering included Daniel Zackin of Woodbridge, CT, with a degree in International Relations (BA).

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI - The University of Rhode Island celebrated more than 4,000 of its newest alumni during the University’s 135th Commencement. Among the graduates was Anna Rae Schlegel of Woodbridge, who received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Management.

LOCAL BUSINESS ROUNDUP



Pictured (Left to right): Peter Geloso DPT Supervisor; Michael Dow MSPT/CEO; Milford Mayor Ben Blake; State Senator James Maroney and Ally Jaser, Office Manager.

Amity Physical Therapy Opens In Milford

Milford Mayor, Benjamin Blake, attended the ribbon cutting event for Amity Physical Therapy on July 15, welcoming the practice’s founder, Michael Dow MSPT, CEO /Clinical Director to the city.

Dow, who received his degree in Physical Therapy from Sacred Heart University, founded his practice 17 years ago, and with the addition of the new Milford facility, now has four area offices.

“Milford is ideal for our practice,” Dow noted. “The city has a population of active adults, hosts road races, and has in depth scholastic athletic programs – the precise collective that needs physical injury monitoring, prevention and treatment.

“Even with the onset of the pandemic, with more at-home sedentary occupations, lack of movement and exercise – all take a toll on vital joints, ligaments and muscles that require evaluation for potential injury after returning to normal activity.”

Dow concluded: “Our clinical staff is experienced and caring, many of them former athletes and now fitness enthusiasts. Our Milford Clinical Supervisor, Peter Geloso DPT is a competitive cyclist in New England racing competition and knows injury diagnostics and thorough treatment procedures for injuries.”

The Milford office is located at 135 Cherry Street. Peter Geloso DPT can be reached at 203-693-2350, or visit amitypt.com.



Bethany Farm & Nursery Blossoms

New Garden Center and Landscape Supply Destination

With four young, energetic nursery professionals at the helm, Bethany Farms & Nursery represents a new generation in garden center management, creative landscaping design and installation. With over 24 acres and 10 greenhouses on Route 67, on a site formerly owned by Ace Begonia, Bethany Farm and Nursery operates a full retail and wholesale nursery with every manageable species of trees, shrubs, and plants; many at special discounts.

What makes the company very different is the management style and supervision by graduate horticulturists. Both Kyle Smith, owner, and Andrew Konopka, operations manager, bring a high degree of science to the business together with their collective experience in landscaping design and installation.

Marketing Manager and Administrative Officer, Jamie Appelberg oversees everything from digital marketing to order fulfillment—disciplines that few horticultural firms employ. The trio offers an open management, friendly, informal style of business

acumen that appeals to both retail and wholesale customers.

Shopping here is a pleasure. Tucked away, off highway, the nursery and greenhouses are a private, casual, unpressured experience for plant and flower lovers looking for a refreshing destination for beautifying properties. They also offer “community bonding” and reach out to school and civic organizations as well as the general public to offer free advice from seeding to propagation.

Professional landscapers also shop here for all supplies from soil, mulches, various bulk products, to one of the area’s quality assortment of trees, shrubs and plants, annuals and perennials for year-round property beautification projects.

Nursery and greenhouses are located at 229 Seymour Road, Woodbridge (RT 67); Hours: Closed Monday. Tuesday-Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Phone: 203.877.9324
www.bethanyfarmandnursery.com



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LOCAL BUSINESS



Corinne Stoehr



Lisa Crosby

Real Living Wareck D'Ostilio Welcomes Two Realtors

Real Living Wareck D'Ostilio Real Estate proudly welcomes Realtors Lisa Crosby and Corinne Stoehr to the team.

Lisa Crosby is originally from Florida and has been a Broker-Associate for over 30 years. After relocating to Connecticut in 1991, she worked as a Sales Support/Marketing Administrator with area real estate firms for the past 20 years and is extremely knowledgeable in every aspect of real estate sales and transactions. She was previously affiliated with Coldwell Banker in Woodbridge. Lisa's areas of expertise include residential homes sales in New Haven County & the Valley. She has earned the Seniors Real Estate Specialist® (SRES®) designation and is certified in being able to meet the special needs of maturing Americans when selling, buying, relocating, or refinancing residential or investment properties.

"My goal is to help my clients navigate the process of homeownership as simply and seamlessly as possible. Whether they are buying or selling I'm passionate about making their dream a reality and guiding them every step of the way," said Lisa.

A resident of Seymour, Lisa can be reached at 203-906-8861 or lisa.crosby@wdsells.com. Lisa will work out of Real Living Wareck D'Ostilio's Red Barn Woodbridge office at 378 Amity Road.

Corinne Stoehr is originally from

Basel, Switzerland and a resident of Hamden. A Realtor since 2012, she speaks fluent German and Swiss-German. Covering all areas of New Haven County and Hartford County, Corinne has a degree in business and specializes in foreclosures as well as working with buyers and landlords. She holds the Short Sales and Foreclosure Resource (SFR®) designation and is certified in the skills that will allow her to help buyers and sellers of distressed properties. "Every sale and transaction is different, and that's what makes real estate so interesting and enjoyable to me," said Corinne.

Married with two daughters, Corinne is also involved with the Hearing Loss Association of America organization.

Previously affiliated with Coldwell Banker in Woodbridge, Corinne can be reached at 860-502-4702 or corinne.stoehr@wdsells.com. She works out of Real Living Wareck D'Ostilio's Red Barn Woodbridge office at 378 Amity Road.

"Our company's continued growth over the past years, coupled with innovation, strategic planning, business integrity, and a demonstrated commitment to our clients, is why Lisa and Corinne joined our team," said John Wareck, Managing broker/owner.

"We are delighted to welcome them to Real Living Wareck D'Ostilio and look forward to a great future together."

From the First Selectman

BY BETH HELLER



Summer has certainly flown by. Before long the weather will be cooler, the days will get shorter, and the leaves will turn.

Despite the pandemic, we continue to move forward with two of my major goals – to make our Town Center more active and attractive and to find a final use for the former Country Club of Woodbridge.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 Delta variant has increased the spread of the virus, especially among those not vaccinated. It has been relentless, highly contagious and unfortunately, there is now a dramatic rise in cases among children. Given the new CDC guidelines strongly suggesting wearing masks indoors, we now require masks inside Town buildings regardless of vaccination status to protect the public and staff.

Additionally, there will be no more in-person board and commission meetings until further notice. Getting vaccinated and wearing a mask is the best way to get out of this pandemic and to keep our community safe. The State maintains a list of COVID-19 vaccination sites at covidvaccinefinder.ct.gov and 211 maintains a list of testing sites – visit 211ct.org/covidtesting.

Last month we celebrated the State Bond Council's \$300,000 award to the Town of Woodbridge to complete the renovations of the Senior Center with a visit from Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, our State Legislators, Senators Cabrera and Maroney, and Representative Weland, and Bond Commission member State Representative Dorinda Borer. I'm so pleased that our seniors will now have the fresh, modern, safe, welcoming air-conditioned space they deserve. The building will finally be as nice as the programs! I thank everyone who helped to move this forward.

The Board of Selectmen agreed to table the bonding referendum for the renovation of the Old Firehouse and new shed and refurbishment of roofs at Beecher Road School. I proposed this pause on the project because I want to see the direction of the Covid numbers before we schedule any non-emergency special town meeting and/or referendum. It is most important to me that we keep our residents safe.

I hope in the near future we will ask residents to vote to convert the empty (since 2006!) Old Firehouse into a community center and create a storage facility for the Fire Department's additional equipment. That will make our Town Center a much more active space for all to use and help us create the sense of community that so many residents desire.

At our August meeting, the Board of Selectmen heard from developers interested in purchasing the former Country Club of Woodbridge land for \$9 million and building approximately 145 homes – a mixture of large sin-

gle-family homes, market-rate homes, affordable homes and age-restricted, all for purchase. They also plan to demolish the clubhouse, create a Town pool, a playground or park, walk/bike paths and rehabilitate the tennis and volleyball courts all for town use. They also propose to deed back 50 acres of open space to the Town and protect existing trees. You can see the power point on the Board of Selectmen page on the Town website.

In addition to this proposal, there are two other developers interested in purchasing some land at the former club. Both have been encouraged to give us a proposal, and as soon as we have something in writing from either or both groups, I will bring them to the Board for discussion.

Please be on the lookout for two housing surveys in the near future. All towns are required to have an Affordable Housing Plan by June 2022 and South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) is writing the plan for our region. SCRCOG is releasing a regional housing survey and the Woodbridge Ad Hoc Housing Opportunity Study Committee also plans to do a Woodbridge-focused survey to provide more Woodbridge-specific information for the plan.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Town of Woodbridge for our comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020! This means we have met the program's high standards, which include demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure." Congratulations to our Finance Department and our Board of Finance!

The Finance Department is currently hard at work creating a new, more user-friendly, transparent and interactive budget document. I anticipate this document will be on our website later this month or by October. I believe this new format will help residents more easily see how their tax dollars are used. I encourage everyone to read the budget and the audit to learn more about the Town. I also strongly encourage residents to get involved in the budget process. The budget is discussed and debated at public meetings for months before it is presented to the public at the Preliminary Budget Hearing in April and the Annual Town Meeting in May. There are many opportunities to make your voice heard and get answers to your questions. Town department's capital budget requests are due in November and the operating budget requests are due in January. The Boards of Finance and Selectmen discuss them shortly after they are submitted.

As always, my door remains open to you. If you need to reach me, please call 203-389-3401 or email me at bheller@woodbridgetownnews.com. Please stay safe!

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Email: edit@woodbridgetownnews.com

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



Teens wanted: Youth Services plans to create a student group to help develop better middle school afternoon and evening programs. Call 203-389-3449 or email youthone@woodbridgett.org to attend meetings and use your creativity to design new events and activities with your interests in mind.

Prevention Programs: In an effort to prevent our youth from obtaining alcohol, Youth Services, in conjunction with the Bethany-Orange-Woodbridge Drug/Alcohol Action Committee, (BOWDAAC) will be involved in a local campaign to share information and training opportunities with local business owners who sell or serve alcohol. BOWDAAC promotes healthy lifestyles and applies for an annual Local Prevention Council Grant to support prevention programs in the tri-town area. Interested residents may call for more information.

Job Bank: Now accepting new students! Weeding and yardwork jobs are currently available. To join the Woodbridge Job Bank and build commu-

nication skills, gain experience, and earn some cash, call for an interview 203-389-3429. Town residents: may call the Job Bank to hire Woodbridge teens matched to fit job requirements.

Red Cross Babysitting instructor Anna Mauhs shared valuable information with the eleven students who attended the recent Babysitter Training hosted by Youth Services. Students learned about leadership, feeding, diapering, and basic first aid. Teens are always excited to learn how to prevent and respond when a child or adult is choking. The Red Cross Babysitting handbook offers questionnaires for the parents to complete and information on how to build a babysitting business. Call 203-389-3464 to be notified of the next class. Various Red Cross trained students are enrolled in the Woodbridge Job Bank and will be available to babysit.

Call Youth Services for information: 203-389-3429. Email npfund@woodbridgett.org.

Recreation News



Pool Hours Expand: Pool hours for general swim returns Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 4:45-6 pm, and Monday and Wednesday evenings, 7:45-9 pm. Saturday and Sunday hours continue from noon to 4 pm. Contact the Recreation Office at 203-389-3446 to re-serve your swim time—appointments are needed.

39th Annual Woodbridge Road Race: Remember to join the Recreation Dept. for its 39th annual 5K Road Race/Children's Fun Run on Saturday, October 2. The Fun Run will begin 9 am at the Fitzgerald Tract, the Cornfield on Beecher Road. Fun Run registration is \$20. The 5K Road Race will begin at 10:30 am at the Town Center on Meetinghouse Lane. Race day registration will begin at 8 am and the registration fee is \$40. If you preregister before September 17, the fee is \$30. Event proceeds will benefit both the Woodbridge Food & Fuel Fund and Recreation Programs for the Woodbridge community. Immediately following the race will be the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity & Inclusion's community event, Woodbridge Like Me.

Fall Programs: It is time to register for Woodbridge Rec. Fall youth

programs including Arts with Abby, basketball, bowling, flag foot-ball, gymnastics, swim lessons, Little Scientist, Hip Hop Dance, Running Club, stickball, tennis, Massaro Farm, and Taekwondo. Call 203-389-3446 for registration information or visit our website at www.woodbridgett.org. Click the online registration link to register.

Adult Programming: The Adult Badminton Program returns Wednesday evenings, 7-9 pm. The twelve-week session begins September 15 and runs through December 8. The cost is \$100 for a membership or a \$10 drop-in fee.

In-person yoga has returned with Instructor Bill Banick. Classes take place Monday through Friday, 8:30-9:45 am. Tuesday night sessions are 5:30-6:45 pm. Classes will take place in the Center Building, Room 16 or outside weather permitting. Yoga with Diane King will continue with Monday and Wednesday morning and evening classes.

New Recreation Office Location! Visit us at our new office, enter through the Beecher South School side entrance. We relocated to our former office in the building.



AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



Photo 1: The craft group enjoys each other's company over a delicious lunch in July; **Photo 2:** Some of the Zumba Gold members enjoy a fun workout; **Photo 3:** The Luau drive-thru luncheon once again provided an enjoyable time for everyone who participated!

Are you over 55 years old? Contact The Woodbridge Center: Call 203-389-3430 or email kmoriarty@woodbridge.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.

The Woodbridge Center's members enjoyed several luncheons recently thanks to the generosity of the Woodbridge Police Department, Coachman Square of Woodbridge, and Hamden Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center. From the craft group enjoying a group luncheon to celebrate their instructor, Aline Waldmann, to the monthly drive-thrus in July and August, The Center staff thoroughly enjoyed each of these occasions to exchange smiles and brief conversations with everyone who takes part in these events. If you are over 55, be sure to sign-up for these wonderful opportunities to still come together over a delicious meal!

New Activities and Events:

Walk to End Alzheimer's, September 2 at 12 pm & September 26 at 10 am: Join The Center's Team, Motrin in Motion-Woodbridge, for the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Show your support with a donation and/or choose 1 or both opportunities to walk with The Center's team. The first walk will meet locally on Sept. 2 at 12 noon, at the Town Hall for a short 15 minute walk around the Town Center. Meet on Sunday, September 26 at 10 am (9 am registration) at Ken Strong Stadium in West Haven to take part in the Greater New Haven walk. Call for details including how to register to receive a free t-shirt.

Coachman Square of Woodbridge's Annual Town-wide Picnic: Join us on September 9 (rain date September 10) from 12-2 pm as Coachman Square of Woodbridge, in partnership with The Center, gives back to the community they call home. Woodbridge town residents, employees and first responders are welcome to enjoy a full outdoor BBQ fare, refreshments,

bocce, shuffleboard, and live entertainment provided by Paula Pettinella at no charge. RSVP by September 2 by calling The Center at 203-389-3430.

Diabetes Prevention Zoom Program, September 15 from 6-7 pm: Learn how to change your lifestyle to prevent T2 diabetes. Join Rachel Gordon, MS of Griffin Health for 16 weekly sessions and 6 monthly follow-up sessions to make a change for life. To register for this no-cost class, call 203-732-1369 or rgordon@griffinhealth.org.

2021-22 Lecture Series Kickoff: Cooking Demo with Chef Heff, September 20 from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm: Hamden Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center presents Street N' Savory's Chef Heff in The Center café and on Zoom as he prepares his favorite Italian culinary classic Rigatoni Rustica. Learn to make a simple yet delicious meal during this entertaining cooking demo. Samples will be available to bring home. No charge. RSVP by September 13.

The next lecture in the series will be on October 15 at 11:30 am on Zoom with Kyle Brandy of Amity Physical Therapy giving a presentation on back pain. Call to register: 203-389-3430.

Living Treasure Event, September 23 at 5:30-8 pm - see Human Services section for details.

Learn to Play Bridge Class, October 13 at 1 pm. Interested in a refresher or learning to play bridge? Call for more about this 6-week course.

Flu Clinics, October 14 & 21 - See Human Services section for details.

AARP Smart Drivers Course, October 18 at 9 am - 1 pm: Review defensive driving and other important skills in this course. Completion may provide a discount on your car insurance. \$20 for members, \$25 non-member.

Ongoing Activities at The Center:

Bridge: Wednesdays 1-4 pm in The Center café.

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

Craft Group: Tuesdays and Thurs-

days, 10 am - 12 pm in The Center lounge. Bring your current knitting or crocheting project to work on while enjoying a lovely time socializing.

Mahjongg: Mondays and Fridays 10 am - noon in room 13 of the Center Building.

Pinochle: Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, 1:30-4 pm in The Center lounge.

Bocce, shuffleboard, pool, and ping pong: Call The Center to arrange for use or to put your name on a list with others of like interest.

Exercise: Not sure if it's a good fit? Try a complimentary class first.

NEW Aerobic Class: Come enjoy a complete workout to a variety of music. Highly recommended instructor, Laura Richling, comes with over 15 years of experience teaching fitness classes along with a master's degree in music that results in an enjoyably choreographed aerobic, cardio and strength training workout. Preregistration is required for this class offered Tuesdays and Thursdays, outdoors in the Grove (The Center café during inclement weather), 10-11 am. Bring your own 1 or 2 pound hand weights, if you have them, to use during the class. There is a \$3 fee paid at the beginning of each class.

Pickleball 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. All levels welcome. Call for more information.

Targeted Strength Training is offered on Mondays outdoors in the Grove (The Center café 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.

Zumba Gold: Who says exercise can't be fun? Join instructor Amanda Aranzullo for this fun "dance party" as she introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on all elements of cardiovascular health,

muscular conditioning, flexibility and balance. No prior Zumba experience required. Classes are held Fridays, 9-9:45 am in the Grove (The Center café during inclement weather). The fee for an 8-week session is \$40. Next session begins September 10; prorated as needed.

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.

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, wheelchairs, knee rollers, shower chairs and more. Call for details.



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HUMAN SERVICES



Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, left, State Representative Mary Weland, State Senators Jorge Cabrera and James Maroney, and Representative Dorinda Borer, member of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, recently toured The Woodbridge Center with Jeanette Glicksman, Human Services Director. The tour follows the State Bond Commission's announcement of \$300,000 awarded to The Woodbridge Center for renovations. Thanks to Governor Lamont, Lt. Governor Bysiewicz, the Woodbridge Delegation and Representative Borer, Beth Heller and her team for their efforts on behalf of the residents of Town of Woodbridge.

Living Treasure Award: The winners of the 2021 Living Treasure Award are Andy Esposito Jr., Nate Case and Lorenzina "Lor" Ferrante Fernandez. Congratulations to these three outstanding community members who embody the spirit of volunteerism. The winners represent years of public service within the town from serving on boards and commissions and ad hoc committees, at local churches, with the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts, the Park Association, the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association, at Beecher Road School, Amity High School, The Woodbridge Child Care Center, Woodbridge Father's Baseball League to quietly helping their neighbors.

If you would like to honor their contributions to the town by attending the event on Thursday, September

23, please contact the Human Services Department to purchase tickets. Congratulatory ads, business ads and memorial contributions in the program book are welcome. Please visit the website at woodridgect.org/05/living-treasure-awards for an ad form or contact the department at 203-389-3429.

Energy Assistance Program: Human Services will accept appointments starting September 13 for residents to apply for the 2021-2022 CT Energy Assistance Program administered by TEAM, INC. Income eligibility requirements must be met. For information, or to schedule an appointment, call Judi Young at 203-389-3429.

Adopt-A-Family Program: Human Services seeks sponsors for the Adopt-A-Family program. The program provides food baskets for the Decem-



Woodbridge Human Services Social Worker Judi Young left, joined the Rotary Club of Woodbridge, the local club of Rotary International. Shown here at the club's membership event with current President, Dr. Nileema Kushal, center left, member Bill DeRosa, center right and Dr. Jonathan Budd, Superintendent of Beecher Road School.

ber Holidays to Woodbridge families in need. Basket distribution will take place early December. If interested in sponsoring a family, call by October 29. Gift cards are always welcome.

Two Flu Clinics: Woodbridge flu clinics are for those residents 60 years of age and older, town employees and volunteer Fire Fighters. Flu clinics are scheduled for October 14, 11 am - 1 pm and October 21, 11 am - 3 pm in the Center Gym. Both quadrivalent and regular doses will be available as supplies last. Preregistration for October 14 clinic is required through Orange VNA at 203-891-4752. Participating insurance is Aetna, Anthem BC/BS and traditional Medicare programs. Non-participating insurance is United Healthcare and Connecticut. No self-pay at this clinic. For the October 21 clinic, preregistration is

required through VNA Community Healthcare & Hospice at www.vna-communityhealthcare.org/flu or 203-458-4348 (for additional assistance). Participating insurance for those over 65 is Medicare plans including Aetna Medicare, Anthem BC/BS Medicare, and Connecticare VIP. For those under 65 participating insurance is Aetna, Anthem BC/BS, Connecticare, and Harvard Pilgrim Health. Non-participating insurance is Cigna and United Healthcare. A self-pay option is available at this clinic for \$46.00 per vaccine and \$55.00 per quadrivalent vaccine.

Emergency Preparedness: In the event of a weather emergency or power outage, elderly residents and those with disabilities are encouraged to register for the Emergency Call list by calling the Human Services Department.



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ARTS & LEISURE



craft fair & makers market

Sep. 11, 2021; 10-1 pm
4 Meetinghouse Ln., Woodbridge

Vendors: sign up on Town website, woodbridgect.org
Questions? Call 203-389-3487 or 203-389-3403

Local Craft Fair and Art Event

Shop local at the Town’s first outdoor craft fair and makers market in the Town Library parking lot on Saturday, September 11 from 10-1. Interested vendors may sign up at a link on the Town’s website.

The craft fair is the last in the Town’s Second Saturday Series, designed to offer free family fun in the center of Town. The series was hosted jointly by the Human Services, Library, and Recreation Departments.

“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.

In May there was a chalk art party, followed by a tag sale in June and the Friends of the Library book sale

in July. In August, the Celebrate Art! event was canceled due to weather.

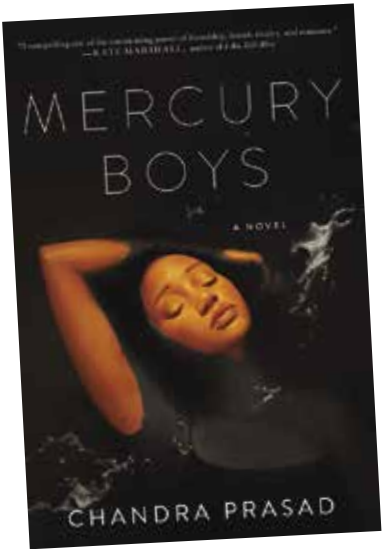
In addition to the fair vendors, parts of the Celebrate Art! – a free craft supply swap and community art project – will be available at the craft fair along with lawn games, Silver Sands pizza truck and coffee and pastries from Café Rebelde.

The community art project will form a positive message on the fence surrounding the Woodbridge Town Library’s air conditioning unit. The message will be created from decorated and laminated index cards. Residents are asked to depict something on the card that they love about Woodbridge. Cards may be picked up at the Senior Center, Library or Town Hall and dropped off once completed. Cards will also be available for decoration at the event. During the event they will be laminated and added to the fence.

Woodbridge Author Publishes Young Adult Books

BY BETTINA THIEL
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Woodbridge author Chandra Prasad, an author of young adult fiction, has published a new book, *Mercury Boys*, about a group of high school girls who discover that when they handle liquid mercury and the old photographs known as daguerreotypes, they gain access to the people in the pictures. The story is one-part edgy thriller, one-part historical exploration, and one-part low fantasy. It was due out earlier this month and is being published by SohoTeen.



Her first young adult novel, *Damselfly*, was published by Scholastic to critical acclaim. School Library Journal called it a “compelling modern-day adventure,” while Booklist pronounced it “a compulsive read.” Across the country educators in Grades 6-12 teach *Damselfly* in their curricula, often as a modern, female-centric parallel text with *Lord of the Flies*.

Previously, she wrote general fiction, including the novel *On Borrowed Wings*, which was a Connecticut Book Award finalist. Other novels include *Death of a Circus*, which Booklist called “richly textured [and] packed with glamour and grit,” and *Breathe the Sky*, a fictionalized account of Amelia Earhart’s last days. Wally Lamb wrote, “*Breathe*

the Sky brings us into Amelia Earhart’s cockpit and her psyche. From lift-off to landing, [this] is a novel that soars.”

Prasad also is the originator and editor of—and a contributor to—*Mixed*, the first ever anthology of short stories on the multiracial experience, which was published by W.W. Norton.

Being multiracial (Asian and White), she expressed concern about the dearth of significant multiracial characters in literature, especially for teens and children. While multiracial kids now comprise anywhere between 7 and 14% of this country’s youth population, the Cooperative Children’s Book Center says that less than 1% of children’s books currently feature a significant multiracial character.

“To buck this trend, I’ve positioned multiracial protagonists at the heart of both *Damselfly* and *Mercury Boys* and will continue to place multiracial characters front and center in my writing.”

Her shorter works have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Week*, the official magazine of The U.S. Department of State, *Teen Voices*, and numerous literary, arts, and poetry journals. She is a contributor to *New Haven Noir*, a short story anthology edited by Amy Bloom.

Local Author Releases New Title

The Elderslie Press is pleased to announce that Woodbridge architect and author Harwood Loomis has released his new book, *The Right To Keep And Bear Arms: A Collection Of Historical Documents Relating To The Second Amendment*, which is now available for purchase on Amazon as a paperback book and from Barnes & Noble’s website in paperback and hardcover.

Mr. Loomis took note of the vigorous and often bitter debate regarding gun control and the Second Amendment, and he recognized that many

participants on both sides of the question do not understand either the origins or the original meaning of the Second Amendment. This comprehensive book explores, through a presentation of the texts of historical documents from the Magna Carta through the 2010 Supreme Court decision in *McDonald et al. v. City of Chicago*, where the right to keep and bear arms originated; whether the National Guard is really the Militia referred to in the Second Amendment; whether the right to keep and bear arms is an individual right or

a collective right; and more.

Attorney Matthew H. Lucas said about the book, “Why are the documentary foundations on which the legal protection of our rights rest interesting to a layman? (FWIW, one of the big advantages an attorney has in presenting a legal argument isn’t knowledge of the law, but the knowledge of how to locate authorities on any given topic.) Access to the pertinent authorities is one of the divides between laymen and attorneys; the mission of this kind of collection is to bridge that

divide for anyone seeking to get to the foundations of the issue rather than attempt to navigate secondary sources. Whether you cherish the right or wish to see it extinguished, a grasp of the documentary landscape is a necessary element of an informed opinion on it.”

The Right To Keep And Bear Arms: A Collection Of Historical Documents Relating To The Second Amendment delivers the documentary landscape necessary to understand and discuss the Second Amendment and the right to keep and bear arms.

“As we celebrate Labor Day, we honor the men and women who fought tirelessly for workers’ rights, which are so critical to our strong and successful labor force.” — ELIZABETH ESTY

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Garden Club Holds In-Person Luncheon

June 8 dawned as a hot, sunny day for the first in-person Garden Club of Woodbridge meeting/luncheon in over a year. Members congregated on the lawn at the home of a member who is a master gardener, and the park-like setting added to the special day. Board members provided a variety of tea sandwiches and delectable desserts for the group. Socializing with friends, a plant

exchange, and a tour of the extensive and impressive gardens of the host were highlights. Joanne D'Angelo, president of the Garden Club of Woodbridge, introduced the club's new Board members. The Garden Club plans to resume its regular program schedule in the fall. If you have an interest in joining the Garden Club of Woodbridge, please contact Judy at jismam@aol.com.



Rotary Club Holds Annual Installation Dinner

The Rotary Club of Woodbridge celebrated its 50th anniversary at its annual installation dinner on June 17th. District Governor Ron Webb oversaw the swearing in, and also presented a 50th anniversary certificate from Rotary International.

New 2021-2022 Board members 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.

President Anna Dickerson gave a Year in Review highlighting projects that were done this past year, includ-

ing participation in the Rotary New England Million Mask Challenge. Over 8000 masks were distributed to local businesses and facilities by Woodbridge Rotary which included 2000 to India and 500 children's masks to local recreation departments.

New President Kaushal is planning a very active year now that COVID is getting behind us. If you are interested in helping with our projects or in membership, please contact us by email at woodbridgerotary@yahoo.com.

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



Woodbridge Rotary Club Names Business Of The Year

The Rotary Club of Woodbridge presented its Business of the Year 2020-2021 award to New England Brewing Company. Owner Rob Leonard accepted the award at the club's annual banquet on June 17th.

The New England Brewing Company is recognized throughout the community for helping with local activities. Rob says, "The social and cultural events around the New Haven area (and throughout the state) have given us a lot of support over the years. We invest and donate to these events and happenings, showing gratitude and offering a hand...and beer."

In 2001, Rob Leonard purchased

the South Norwalk company and started the journey to the success it is today. He began brewing in Woodbridge on Selden Street but soon outgrew the premises and moved to the current location on Amity Road. He has expanded several times and set up a pandemic friendly outside venue last year which is still popular as customers enjoy the outside areas. Rotary presents this award to a business in the club area that follows the four-way test principles: Is it the Truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Is it beneficial to all concerned?

Local Girl Scout Earns Girl Scout Gold Award

Local Girl Scout Ephemelia Nicolakis has earned the Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. The title of her Gold Award project is "Eco-Orthodox:



Where Orthodoxy Meets Sustainability." She was recognized on Sunday, June 6 at the organization's Gold Award Celebration.

The Girl Scout Gold Award requires Girl Scouts in grades 9-12 to spend at least 80 hours researching issues, assessing community needs and resources, building a team, and making a sustainable impact in the community. A Gold Award Girl Scout's accomplishments reflect leadership and citizenship skills that set her apart as a community leader. Nationally, only 6 percent of older Girl Scouts earn the Gold Award.

Ephemelia created Eco-Orthodox to provide a set of sustainability suggestions and steps that houses of worship can follow and easily implement to transform their communities from harmful to healthy. While EcoOr-

thodox is geared towards Orthodox churches, Ephemelia says this plan can be implemented within any home or organization across the globe.

"The Gold Award process and Girl Scouts as a whole taught me the importance of a well-thought out plan and preparation. I have already begun to apply my work and experiences from my Gold Award in my college education!" said Ephemelia.

"I am so proud of Ephemelia and all of our Gold Award Girl Scouts for taking the lead and spending over 80+ hours solving real problems in their communities," said Diana Mahoney, CEO, Girl Scouts of Connecticut. "Nationally, less than 6 percent of girls earn the highest award in Girl Scouting. By earning this award, Girl Scouts set themselves apart as leaders in their community and true examples of go-getters, innovators, risk-takers, and leaders."

Ephemelia was also a recipient of a 2021 Gold Award Scholarship, awarded to only eight Girl Scouts at the Gold Award ceremonies.

For more information about the Gold Award or how to become a Gold Award volunteer or mentor, visit gsosfct.org.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Woodbridge Boy Scout Troop 907

Woodbridge Boy Scout Troop 907 held their annual family picnic at Indian Well State Park in Shelton Saturday, July 17 and combined it with a weekend campout at Webb Mountain in Monroe, Friday - Sunday July 16-19.

Troop 907 meetings start up Thursday nights after Labor Day in the Woodbridge Center First Church of Christ Parish House at 7 PM. It is a great time to join the troop (www.troop907.org).

“Rotary” From Page 1

time she spent with them. “The best thing was seeing them less stressed,” she wrote.

Volunteering may be seen as an effort to make the world a better place, but at the same time it helped her improve her own communications skills. “Trust me, it’s worth it,” she wrote.

Madison’s goal is to become a veterinarian. She will be attending Colby Sawyer College in New Hampshire.

Rose Parady is a recent graduate of Amity High School. She was a volunteer with the Friends of the Wood-

bridge Library. She also found that the time she gave freely helped her build deeper connections, both with those close to her and with the people she met along the way. She will be heading to Mount Holyoke in Massachusetts this fall semester.

Rotary members presented the scholarships at a brief ceremony in The Center cafeteria August 5. In attendance were Woodbridge First Selectwoman Beth Heller and Bethany First Selectwoman Paula Cofrancesco. The third scholarship recipient, Natasha von Beeden, was traveling with her family and could not attend.

Environmental School Course on “Water and Related Issues”

Presented by Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut

Water has become a hot issue lately. Currently, half of the continental United States is suffering from severe drought, a condition that threatens humans, livestock and crops. Scientists attribute this to climate change, which results in hotter global temperatures and disrupted weather patterns. How is the average person to make sense of all of this? We need information to help us navigate changes that threaten our environment, our health and our wallets.

On September 22-23, 2021, The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. will present National Garden Clubs Inc. Environmental School Course 4, Series 3 “Water and Related Issues”. The course will be offered virtually, via Zoom.

In this 2 day course, you will hear from a variety of excellent speakers on a wide range of topics such as environmental science, Earth stewardship, and fresh and salt-water aquatic

plants and animals. In addition, the effects of climate change on water, the value of wetlands to the ecology and how to run environmental educational programs for youth will also be addressed.

The course includes 8 one-hour modules presented by academics, environmentalists and industry leaders. In addition, you will be able to enjoy a two-hour environmental field trip without leaving the comfort of your home or office, thanks to Zoom.

Environmental School courses are designed to teach participants environmental literacy and an appreciation of the natural world. The courses are open to anyone, whether or not they are garden club members.

You can register online at www.ctgardenclubs.org. For additional information, please contact Sharon Bender, Environmental School Chair, at 203-530-2920 or ESChair@ctgardenclubs.org.

Organizations Invited to Woodbridge Like Me Event

Woodbridge organizations are invited to participate in the ad hoc Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee’s event, Woodbridge Like Me. The event, held on Sat. Oct. 2 from 11 am – 2 pm, is a sister event to the Woodbridge Town Library’s One Book, One Town choice, American Like Me: Reflections on Life Between Cultures, which is a selection of essays edited by the actress America Ferrera.

The event, which immediately follows the 39th annual Woodbridge Road Race, will be a celebration of all things Woodbridge and will highlight the organizations and cultural groups that make up Woodbridge civic life. Any organization based in Woodbridge or with Woodbridge ties is invited to participate by hosting a table with an activity and/or a performance. Interested organizations should contact Betsy Yagla at byagla@woodbridgect.org.

At the Woodbridge Like Me event the ad hoc Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee will ask for resident feedback. “Our charge is to identify and assess issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion of concern to Town residents and employees,” said

the committee’s Vice-Chair Robert Reed. “I hope residents take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about their town and their neighbors, and to share their ideas and concerns to make Woodbridge an even better and more welcoming place for all.”

The Library will hold a series of programs on the book American Like Me: Reflections on Life Between Cultures. This book contains 31 stories about life between cultures, as told by actors, comedians, athletes, politicians, artists, and writers. These authors are also immigrants, children or grandchildren of immigrants, indigenous people, or people who otherwise grew up with deep and personal connections to more than one culture. Each of them struggled to establish a sense of self, find belonging, and feel seen. Ranging from the heartfelt to the hilarious, their stories shine a light on a quintessentially American experience and will appeal to anyone with a complicated relationship to family, culture, and growing up.

Copies of the book are now available at the reference desk. More information to come on upcoming events relating to the book.



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

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Temple Beth Sholom: "A Caring Community"

High Holiday Services at Temple Beth Sholom

In observance of the 5782 High Holidays, Temple Beth Sholom, 1809 Whitney Avenue, Hamden is conducting in-person and virtual services at the following times:

Rosh Hashanah – 1st Night

Monday, September 6 at 8:15pm

Rosh Hashanah – 1st Day

Tuesday, September 7 at 9:00am

Rosh Hashanah – 2nd Night

Wednesday, September 8 at 6:45pm

Rosh Hashanah – 2nd Day

Wednesday, September 8 at 9:00am

Kol Nidre

Wednesday, September 15 at 6:00pm

Yom Kippur Morning

Thursday, September 16 at 9:00am

**Yom Kippur Mincha/
Yizkor/Ne'ilah**

Thursday, September 16 at 4:30pm

All services will be live streamed online on our YouTube channel. For more information, please visit www.tbshamden.com or call the Temple Beth Sholom office at 203-288-7748. Additionally, Temple Beth Sholom offers daily morning and evening minyans, and Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services. All services are in-person and on Zoom. Details can be found on <https://tbshamden.com/worship>.

Document Shredding Event at Temple Beth Sholom

Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021

Time: 9am-12pm



Temple Beth Shalom

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

Cost: Small Copy Boxes (18 x 12 x 12 inches or smaller) - \$10 per box
Large Banker Boxes (18 x 18 x 24 inches or larger) - \$20 per box

Also Available:

- › Hard Drive Destruction & Computer Recycling - \$20 each
- › CRT Computer Monitors - \$20 each
- › Hard Drive Only - \$10 each

All items should be in a box that can easily be picked up. Paper items only. No trash bags, paper bags, etc. No trash or non-paper items. No CDs, X-Rays, etc. Paper clips and staples CAN be shredded.

On-site shredding truck provided by Affordable Solutions, LLC.

Questions? Email fundraising@tbshamden.com.

Temple Beth Sholom is an egalitarian conservative synagogue with over 350 member families and singles from the Greater New Haven community. Located at 1809 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut 06517-1401, 203.288.7748, Rabbi Benjamin E. Scolni

High Holy Days at Temple Emanuel 2021/5782

The pandemic has caused Jewish communities all over the world to experiment with new and creative ways of celebrating Shabbat, holidays and milestone events. Once again, due to the continuing pandemic, Rabbi Michael Farbman and Temple Emanuel will celebrate most of the High Holy Days online – celebrating together while staying apart.

SELICHOT – Saturday, August 28 at 7 pm – online only

Joint URJ Selichot with Temple Emanuel, Congregation Mishkan Israel (Hamden), Temple Beth David (Cheshire) and B'nai Israel (Southbury)

ROSH HASHANAH SERVICES – online unless otherwise noted

ROSH HASHANAH FAMILY CELEBRATION – Monday, September 6 at 3 pm – outside, weather permitting, with masks and appropriate distancing, otherwise, online

EREV ROSH HASHANAH SEDER – Monday, September 6 at 7 pm

ROSH HASHANAH DAY I – Tuesday, September 7 at 10 am

TASHLICH – Tuesday, September 7 at 4 pm – outside, weather permitting, with masks and appropriate distancing, otherwise, online

ROSH HASHANAH DAY II – Wednesday, September 8 at 10 am – outside, weather permitting, with masks and appropriate distancing, otherwise, online

YOM KIPPUR SERVICES – online only



Temple Emanuel

KOL NIDREI (Erev Yom Kippur) – Wednesday, September 15 at 8 pm

YOM KIPPUR MORNING – Thursday, September 16 at 10 am

YOM KIPPUR FAMILY SERVICE – Thursday, September 16 at 1 pm

MINCHA – Thursday, September 16 at 5 pm

YIZKOR, NEILA and HAVDALAH – Thursday, September 16 at 6:15 pm

EREV SUKKOT – Monday, September 20 at 6:30 pm

EREV SIMCHAT TORAH – Monday, September 27 at 6:00 PM

Links to digital versions of Mishkan HaNefesh, the high holy day Machzor, information about how to access virtual services and additional details about these events and all other events and services at TE are on the Temple Emanuel website, www.tegnh.org. You can also call the temple office at 203-397-3000. Stay connected with our community. Keep your physical distance while maintaining your social connections. Hope to “see” you soon!

HOLY INFANT FAITH FORMATION HAS BEGUN FOR HOLY INFANT CHURCH

Registration Fees Per Child

Grade 1-6 Tuition - \$100

Busing for the Elementary Student - \$115 per child

Grades 7, 8, and 9 Tuition - \$130

Grade 10 Confirmation - \$50

Class Schedule

Race Brook/Monday – 3:20 to 4:20 p.m.

Peck Place/Tuesday – 3:20 to 4:20 p.m.

Turkey Hill/Wednesday – 3:20 to 4:20 p.m.

Monday Evening – 7 to 8 p.m. Grade 9

Tuesday Evening – 7 to 8 p.m. Grades 7 & 8

Wednesday Evening – 5 to 6 p.m. Grade 7, 8 and 9

Registration forms can be found on the church website holyininfantorangect.com.

If you have any questions please contact 203-799-2379.

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
edit@woodbridgetownnews.com



HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Christ Church Bethany Community Celebration!

Saturday, September 18th, 2 - 6 PM

Christ Church Front Lawn
526 Amity Road, Bethany, CT 06524

Wandering Roots - Free Concert starts at 3:00 PM

A food truck will be on hand starting at 2:00 PM

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & CRAFT FAIR

At Our Lady of Assumption Church
81 Center Rd., Woodbridge
sponsored by our Parish Ladies Guild
Saturday, November 13, 2021
9:00am - 3:00pm. Free Admission

Come join us for a fun, relaxing shopping experience!

Over 40 tables of Unique Vendors Fabulous Homemade Bake Sale

Children's crafts Santa available for picture taking (11:00 - 2:00)

White Elephant Sale Cookie Contest Children's Choir program at noon

Many Generous Raffle Baskets Christmas Trains Adult Choir program at 2pm

Breakfast & Lunch selections for purchase; served by the Knights of Columbus

Proceeds fund the Service Award Scholarships, the School Supply Drive, the Easter Egg Hunt, Sacramental Receptions, and other charities of the ministry.

Woodbridge Town News

THE WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS ONLINE

Online Version of the Woodbridge Town News

www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com

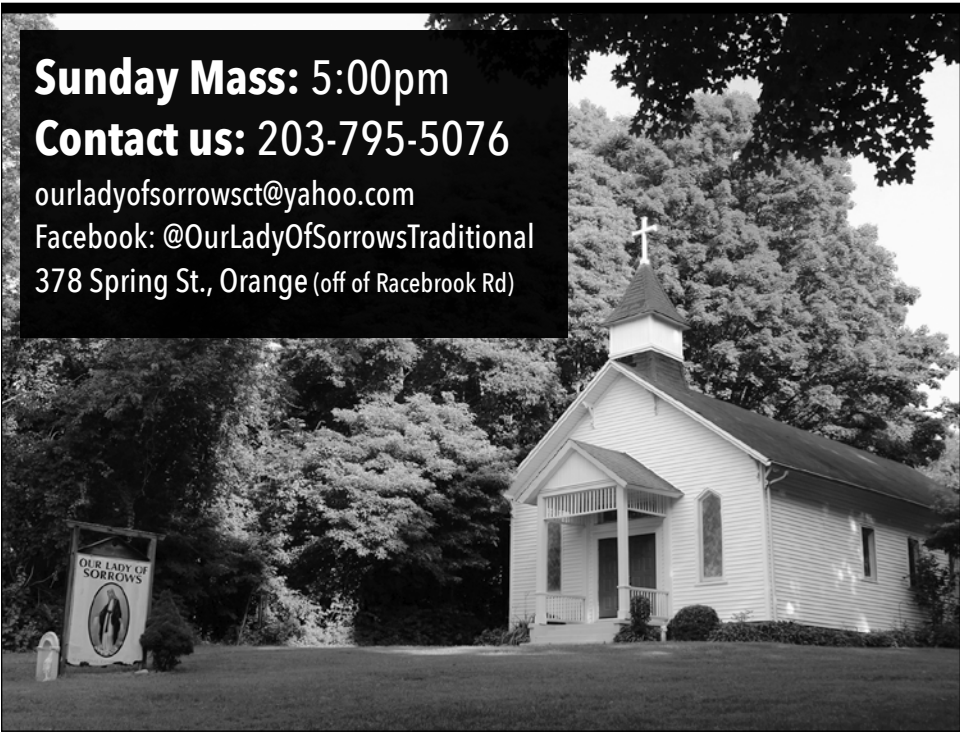
Sunday Mass: 5:00pm

Contact us: 203-795-5076

ourladyofsorrowsct@yahoo.com

Facebook: @OurLadyOfSorrowsTraditional

378 Spring St., Orange (off of Racebrook Rd)



“Beecher” From Page 1

and hand washing will be part of the daily routine.

Last school year, about a quarter of the town’s elementary students were learning from home to avoid infection. This year, with a large percentage of the adult population vaccinated, including the teachers, students are expected to return to in-person learning, even though there is no vaccine for kids under 12.

Teachers as of mid-August were not required to get the vaccine, although in School Supt. Dr. Jonathan Budd’s estimation, 90-95% of them did. He said he does not know who is and who isn’t vaccinated out of respect for privacy laws, and relies on state directives going forward.

In-class attendance will therefore be much higher than what it was last year, and social distancing requirements were reduced from the original 6 foot to a 3-foot goal. “Space is a logistical challenge this year,” said Math Specialist Kim Franklin, who is also the president of the Woodbridge Education Association (WEA).

As of mid-August, enrollment was steady, with 835 students signed up to attend school. By comparison, the previous school year ended with 846 students enrolled. Even so, the administration saw a spike in the fourth grade, and added a seventh classroom at that grade level to keep class sizes within the guidelines the district had set for itself.

School Supt. Dr. Jonathan Budd said he managed to do that within budget. Like in many other organizations, the pandemic has led to a larger than normal turnover, with some seven teachers and staff retiring at the end of a challenging school year. The administration spent the summer sifting through hundreds of applications. The hiring process was still ongoing two weeks before the start of school. The new hires will be introduced to the community at the September Board of Education meeting, he said. Among the new hires is also an IT manager, Anthony Billings, who comes to Woodbridge from the New Haven school system.

At this point each student in Grades 2 to 6 has an individual Ipad; the kindergarten and first grades have a set in each classroom to facilitate small group activities, Dr. Budd said. Even so, at the height of virtual learning, the district made sure that every student had access to a device at home.

Throughout the summer the administrative team had looked at the classrooms and how to accommodate the influx of students. “Luckily, many (classrooms) are large enough,” Dr. Budd said. “We’re going to fit them all in.”

Their primary goal for the next months is to re-integrate the students who have been away from the classroom, and to identify those who need extra support. Grant moneys were

available to offer summer programs called Summer Academy, which were very successful, both in number of attendance and which showed strong results, Dr. Budd said.

Going forward, the math and language arts specialists who were deployed last year as classroom teachers to cover for those who were teaching virtually, are now back in their roles supporting the classroom teachers.

Literacy specialist Teresa Nakouzi, for example, last year was assigned to a Kindergarten class. Nakouzi had worked as a classroom teacher for 16 years until she became a literacy specialist for the last nine years. Teaching kindergarten during a pandemic had its own challenges, she said.

The kids came to her with no experience of what “school” means, no understanding of a classroom. They had their supplies in laundry baskets under their desk. Teaching phonics through a mask to a 5-year-old who is maybe six, maybe 12 feet away required patience on both sides; desk shields created a physical barrier between teacher and student and could make it more challenging to keep their attention.

Ms. Nakouzi remembered former School Supt. Dr. Guy Stella saying “we built the plane while we were flying it.” “That was true then and it is true now,” she said. Key is to stay positive and proactive, she said, and to work collaboratively. She said without the help and understanding of her teachers’ aides, her colleagues and the support of the administration the year could have gone much worse.

Math intervention teacher Kim Franklin said she hears from some parents who would prefer to continue distance learning from home. That particular learning model is not an option this year, per state Department of Education. She did not know whether more parents had signed up to homeschool.

Should kids be required to quarantine, teachers will have to revert to “blended teaching” – managing the in-person classroom while also following students on the screen. “We are doing the best we can, given the circumstances,” Franklin said.

Lunch will still be eaten in the classroom, although the kids will be able to move through the hallways to the cafeteria and pick it up. As long as the weather cooperates, classes may eat outside. A federal program continues to pay for the hot lunch program, so families are encouraged to take advantage of it. The better the participation rate, the better the reimbursement rate.

On the buses, students will be masked and sit at assigned seats – a requirement that will make it easier to contact trace, should there be a student testing positive for Covid 19, said Beth Cohen of B&B Transportation. “Last year we had very few cases [of Covid 19],” Cohen said., adding “We’re just hoping the new year is going to be a great ride.”

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES



WPD Welcomes New Deputy Chief

The Woodbridge Police Department recently welcomed new Deputy Chief Ronald Smith Jr., who was sworn in on August 18, 2021. He replaces longtime Deputy Chief Raymond Stuart who retired in January 2021.

Deputy Chief Smith joins the department following his recent retirement from the Hamden Police

Department where he had a lengthy and decorated career during which he served in various supervisory and administrative capacities and ranks.

Police Chief Frank Cappiello stated that Deputy Chief Smith brings a wealth of experience and exemplary attributes that will complement the goals and objectives of the Woodbridge Police Department.

Fire Department Invites the Town To Mark 9/11 Anniversary

The Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Department is planning a special 9/11 memorial on the 20th anniversary of the attack on the United States. It will take place on Saturday, September 11, between 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. in the front of the firehouse, where a large piece of steel from the World Trade Center towers serves as a reminder of the horror of that day as well as the heroism of the first responders, many of whom perished in the collapsing buildings.

The plan is to shut down Center Road for the ceremony, so that people can assemble yet follow social distancing guidelines.

Fire Chief Sean Rowland said ten years ago the department obtained a piece of the steel beam and designed the memorial with the help of David Stein's architectural firm of Silver Petrucelli. The steel beam is sitting at the head of a small reflecting pool, which was put in "with the help of many people."

The fire department booked a bagpiper for the event. The public is encouraged to attend.

Politicians Champion Bonding Funds for Senior Center

Representative Mary Weland-er (D-Orange/Derby/Woodbridge), Senator Jorge Cabrera, and Senator James Maroney applaud the approval of state funding for the renovation of the Woodbridge Senior Center.

The State Bonding Commission has approved \$300,000 to fund the renovation of the Woodbridge Senior Center. The center is currently comprised of two rooms in the basement of a re-purposed public school built in 1928. This project will create a reception area, a private location for visiting nurses to meet with seniors and a sport equipment closet. The project will also renovate structural concerns such as inefficient outdated lighting and buckling floors.

"Our seniors deserve the best resources available, and this funding will transform the Senior Center into a fully usable, welcoming space for the community," said Rep. Weland-er. "I am thrilled that our state is supporting seniors and the entire Woodbridge community with this facility. This funding will improve the lives of so many

residents. My sincere thanks to the state delegation, First Selectwoman Heller, and each of the advocates who fought for this grant."

"These funds will no doubt improve the lives of our seniors, increasing the level of comfort they enjoy at the senior center and making needed improvements to the building," said Sen. Cabrera. "I am pleased to see state funds go towards bettering the lives of seniors in Woodbridge."

"Our seniors deserve quality care and by transforming outdated spaces, folks who reside in this senior center will have an all-around better experience," said Sen. Maroney. "Updating and renovating can not only improve the physical space a person is in but improve one's quality of life. I am thrilled money is being given to the Woodbridge Senior Center that will help build upon the future care of everyone."

The facility hosts exercise classes, meals, lectures, special occasions and other events. This grant was approved by the State Bonding Commission on Friday, July 23rd.

Woodbridge Town News

ATTENTION WOODBRIDGE RESIDENTS!

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

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

How To Help Students Improve Their Focus On Their Studies

Teachers strive to create supportive and challenging classroom environments for their students. Such settings can bring out the best in students and help them overcome obstacles, including an inability to focus.

The struggles students can have with focusing on their studies was apparent during the pandemic. A 2020 survey of more than 400 college students found that 64 percent were concerned about their ability to maintain their focus and discipline in remote instructional environments. Though educators, students and parents are hopeful that remote learning will soon be a thing of the past, no one is certain about what lies ahead in regard to the 2021-22 school year. Ideally, students will be back in school time full-time five days per week by the start of the new academic year. However, there's no guarantee that will be the case, and students may need help focusing on their studies.

Emphasize one activity at a time. Various studies have shown that multitasking adversely affects performance and makes it hard to concentrate. A recent study from researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that performing two or three activities simultaneously puts significantly more

demand on the brain than simply doing those tasks one after another. All students, and especially those who are struggling with focus, should be encouraged to take on one task at a time.

Take breaks. The Cleveland Clinic notes that various studies have found that periodic breaks improve mood, boost performance and increase a person's ability to concentrate and pay attention. Many students are well acquainted with lengthy cramming sessions on the eve of a big exam, which can feel like a rite of passage for high schoolers and college students. Parents and educators can emphasize the importance of taking breaks during such sessions and how periodic rest can help improve performance.

Take a piecemeal approach to big tasks. The Child Mind Institute notes that breaking big tasks down into smaller, more manageable pieces can help kids effectively tackle more challenging tasks. The piecemeal approach can make big tasks seem less daunting, and the success kids have at each smaller task can provide some needed momentum as they draw closer to solving the problem.

Many students struggle to focus on their studies. Some simple strategies can help students overcome such challenges and fulfill their academic potential.

How School Shopping Has Changed In The Pandemic Era

Back-to-school shopping sales have long been indicators that the summer vacation season is coming to a close. Students and their parents may visit area stores or browse online looking for items to make the coming school year a success. Those lists have looked similar for decades, but shopping for school supplies in the pandemic era may prove to be a unique experience.

Though hundreds of millions of adults and adolescents have now been vaccinated against COVID-19, there figures to be some lingering effects of the pandemic during the upcoming school year. That could affect which school supplies families buy in the weeks to come. Here's a look at some of the latest trends.

A shift from physical stores: According to data from IBM's U.S. Retail Index, the pandemic has accelerated a shift away from physical stores to digital shopping by about five years. It's likely that school shoppers will turn to the internet for their supplies, which means local brick and mortar shops should increase their web presence and digital shopping capabilities to reach online shoppers. This includes omnichannel fulfillment, such as buy online and pickup in store (BOPIS) options.

Reassessment of what's essential: The pandemic may have changed which items consumers consider essential. For

example, clothing became less significant as a greater number of students were enrolled in virtual learning. Back-to-school shoppers may purchase less clothing and focus more on tech items, among others.

Traditional supplies become less necessary: In 2020, Deloitte forecasted that a shift in preferences and intentions would result in parents buying fewer traditional supplies, such as notebooks and office supplies, as they chose to invest in digital resources to supplement children's education. That shift likely will continue into this school year.

Support for local retailers: Community spirit grew in the early days of the pandemic and continues now. Many people prefer to shop in locally owned stores. Eighty percent of customers surveyed feel more or as connected to their communities, according to the business industry consultant company Accenture.

Customers are trying new brands and products: Shoppers are trying new products out of curiosity as well as necessity. Back-to-school shopping may include novel brands and other items that may not have been readily purchased in years past.

Back-to-school shopping may continue to look a bit different than in previous years, spawning trends that may ultimately become the new normal.

DID YOU KNOW? Special Needs Planning

Do you have a family member who is receiving government assistance because of special needs? It may be cash assistance from the Social Security Administration or the Department of Social Services as someone who meets the Social Security definition of "disabled". It may be medical assistance from the State of Connecticut through the Medicaid program. It may be housing and supportive services through the Department of Developmental Services.

Do you want to provide financial assistance for the family member after your death? If so, it is important to do it the correct way.

- **Create a "third-party special needs trust":** the type of trust is a "third party" trust because it is funded with assets that originated with you and not the person with special needs.
- **Funding the Trust:** you can put assets in the special needs trust while you are alive or after your death.
- **Ownership and Benefits:** assets in the special needs trust are not considered owned by or available to your family member with special needs. Assets in the trust will not affect his/her eligibility for government benefit programs.
- **Supplemental Needs:** assets in the special needs trust can be used to supplement what is covered by the applicable government benefit program. Examples include education expenses, housing upgrades, hobbies and entertainment, vacations, and special needs advisors.
- **After death:** after the death of the family member with special needs, assets remaining in the trust can be distributed to other family members. There is no pay-back obligation to any government for benefits that had been received.

If you are interested in learning more about special needs 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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- › Reference help: including getting started/troubleshooting our digital library services (hoopla, Kanopy, Libby)

At this time, the Woodbridge Room is closed; however, staff can retrieve items shelved there (magazines, poetry, plays, etc.). The study room is available for one-hour reservations; please call the reference desk to book your time. 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!

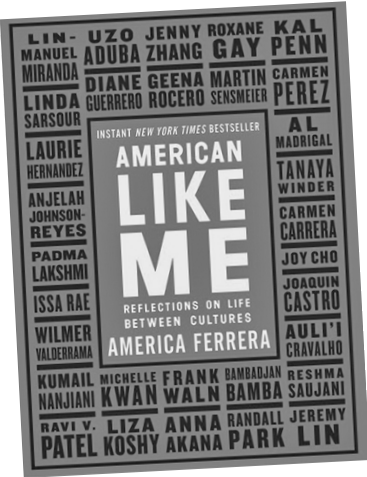
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Library Announcements

Thank you to all who signed up and participated in this year's Summer Reading programs—both adults and children! Congratulations to all of our prize winners!

A **Craft Fair/Makers Market** will be held in the Library/Center Building parking lot, on Saturday, September 11, from 10 am to 1 pm, for the final Second Saturday event. Many of the Celebrate Art! activities have been re-scheduled to this event, due to the cancellation from the August rainstorm. Support local artisans, crafters, and

makers, take part in the craft supplies swap, and more!

Our One Book, One Town Title is *American Like Me: Reflections on Life Between Cultures* by America Ferrera. The book contains thirty-one stories about life between cultures, told by actors, comedians, athletes, politicians, artists, and writers, who are also immigrants, children or grandchildren of immigrants, indigenous people, or people who otherwise grew up with deep and personal connections to more than one culture. Each of them struggled to establish a sense of self, find belonging, and feel seen. Ranging from the heartfelt to the hilarious, their stories shine a light on a quintessentially American experience and will appeal to anyone with a complicated relationship to family, culture, and growing up. Copies now available at the reference desk. More information to follow on upcoming events relating to the book.

Thursday Night Movies throughout September on the Town Center Green

- › **September 9:** *Coco*
- › **September 16:** *Raya and the Last Dragon*

- › **September 23:** *In the Heights*
- › **September 30:** *Green Book*

Movies begin at sunset (approximately 6:45/7 pm), in front of the Gazebo. Registration is not required. Bring blankets, chairs, and snacks—don't forget the popcorn. All are welcome!

Children's Programs and Events

Outdoor Storytime Continues!

Every Wednesday, 10:30 - 11 am. Meet at the picnic tables; no registration required. Feel free to bring chairs or a blanket. Suitable for babies through Pre-K. We'll meet until it is too cold (below 50*).

Fall Drop-In Crafts: Thursdays between 3-4 pm. Outside in front of the library. Begins September 9 until mid-to-late October. Ages 3 and up. No registration required! Held indoors if raining.

More programs to come—please check our website frequently for updates and sign up for eblasts from the library to find out the latest news!

News From The Friends Of The Library

Interested in supporting the Friends of the Library? Here are a few ways to lend your support:

- › Shop the Tiny Bookstore in the Meeting Room anytime you're in the library!
- › Bookstore Alley has reopened; shop whenever the library is open to the public. (Honor boxes available for your monetary contributions in both locations.)
- › Shop Amazon via Amazon Smile.
- › Make a donation to the Friends via PayPal.

When It's Time To Call In A Tutor

Busy schedules, hybrid learning and demanding coursework have affected students' academic performance over the last year-plus. The months since a pandemic was declared in March of 2020 have been unlike any other, and confronting the academic challenges of the pandemic may have adversely affected some students' grades.

A recent report from the Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Research and Strategic Improvement in Virginia found the number of middle and high school students with two or more failing marks increased by 83 percent in the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year compared to the year prior. But students' grades may slide or they may find certain school work overly challenging even in normal years. Since many parents have not seen a periodic table or had to solve high school math problems

in decades, tutors may be just what students need to regain their academic footing.

Failing grades are not necessarily the most notable indicator that students can benefit from the services of a tutor. The Princeton Review says 25 percent of high school students say homework is their biggest source of stress, and homework progress can help parents determine if it's time to call in a tutor. Students who find their homework is taking too long, particularly double or triple the amount of time it once required, may need some extra help. Here are some additional indicators that a tutor may be needed.

Declining test scores: Some students are simply poor test takers, but a gradual or sudden decline in test scores may indicate students are having trouble mastering material. Teachers can pinpoint if certain concepts

are overly challenging to students and notify parents if there are any problem areas.

Poor time management or focus: Students who are struggling may have their attention drift or they put off doing tasks because they don't grasp the assignments.

Lack of homework help at home: Parents may have prior commitments during the times of day when their children are doing homework. Even when parents are home, they may discover that the concepts covered in school are not being taught in the ways parents learned them and they may have difficulty assisting their children. Tutors can step in and help students when parents cannot.

Learning disorder: Certain students learn differently from others due to a diagnosed or undiagnosed learning disorder. A child who is struggling with

reading, phonics, spelling, and writing may have dyslexia, according to the tutoring experts at Dyslexia Practitioner NJ. Tutors who specialize in learning disorders can assess and address learning conflicts and tailor instructions in ways that can help students overcome those challenges.

Students "shut down" or say they "hate" school: Disinterest in school or expressions of hating going to school may be indicative of academic struggles in the classroom, says the Princeton Review. Some students get so frustrated they simply give up. Tutors can solve learning puzzles and help get students back on track and reignite their interest in school.

Tutors can be valuable resources for students who need some one-on-one attention to master general learning concepts or reinforce skills for key tests or projects.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Preseason Movement Screens Are Needed In Youth Athletics

BY KYLE BRANDAY MSPT/CDN

Starting this time of year, the pediatrician's office is flooded with parents lining up to get their children through their yearly preseason physical so they can participate in sports once the school year kicks off again. Ensuring our young athletes health and well being is of the utmost importance. Detection of underlying breathing issues, cardiac conditions, and general internal health concerns needs to be done so we can keep our kids healthy and catch serious health concerns.

Unfortunately, there is another, often very under analyzed group of problems which is plaguing the world of youth athletics. And it's not some new case of the flu or a virus which clings to soccer balls which would send us scrambling for disinfectants. Rather, it is movement.

How would you feel if I told you that the rate of injury in youth sports has spiked in the last decade? And no, that's not because more kids are breaking bones. The spike is in repetitive over-use injuries. Conditions like tendinitis, muscle tears, and cartilaginous break down are running rampant in our town and travel teams alike. They are sidelining our young athletes at a record pace.

These problems are literally due to the spike in year round participation in single sports. I could drop statistics such as the fact that in the 2018 NFL Draft, 29 out of 32 First Round Draft Picks played 3 different sports in high school (THREE!!). 32 out of 32 played at least 2 sports in high school. The reason this is important is because it forces our body to move in different ways, movement patterns, to strengthen the body and create support through a wide range of athletic movements. That alone will help our young athletes develop their muscles very differently and create strength in ways they didn't know they had. It also blows apart the notion that single sport specialization is a predictor to playing at the collegiate or professional levels.

If you put that knowledge to use for the betterment of our young athletes, the orthopedic community applauds you. But that isn't what this article is truly about. The reality is with the pressure being put on kids and parents alike, the year round play issue isn't going to go away tomorrow. So what else can we do? We need to look deeper than the internal side of our athletes' health. We need to look at how they move.

What if I told you that by screening the movement patterns of our youth athletes that we can pick out specific weaknesses and range of motion limitations which could land your child on the sideline before they start? The ability



Kyle Brandy MSPT/CDN

to analyze movement is the hallmark of a good orthopedic physical therapist. I have fixed more rotator cuff tendinitis in my overhead throwing athletes like baseball players and quarterbacks through the years by looking at the way their lower body moves and stabilizes them during their throw than by attacking their shoulder alone. A pitcher is strong and can throw the ball fast not solely because of the way they can whip their arm around, but by the way in which they can generate force through their legs and core to allow for the entirety of movement mechanics to enhance their velocity.

By screening our young athletes' movements we can see the road map to success, or the road to ruin and the sideline. Looking at the integration of movement and stability at multiple joints throughout the body can determine whether we will overload sensitive tissue and create greater overall strain. Picking out those movement dysfunctions will give us the opportunity to create the best program to attack the limitations our athletes are facing which put them at risk of injury....BEFORE the season starts.

The amount of money dumped into sports specific coaches and training is staggering. But can your athlete truly maximize that training effort if they can't move the right way to accomplish what the coach is asking? Sometimes the most basic, primal movements people take for granted can be the most limiting part of another persons' athletic function. Correcting limitations and teaching people how to move correctly is the hallmark of what physical therapy is all about. If you want to optimize training, you need to check your movement first.

Stopping our kids from feeling the exterior pressure of playing one sport year round in hopes of a scholarship or making the pros is not something we can change overnight. But creating a difference in the orthopedic health of

Cervicogenic Headaches and Dry Needling

BY PETER GELOSO DPT

Cervicogenic headaches are a common cause of headaches and frequently seen in the physical therapy profession. These types of headaches can be very painful, and even debilitating. However, they differ from a true migraine.

Cervicogenic headaches often have a musculoskeletal component associated with them, and that is a physical therapist's specialty. People with cervicogenic headaches often have loss of range of motion in certain directions as a result of tight musculature or stiff cervical spine joints and poor posture. The muscles can often be palpated in certain spots which can increase their symptoms and refer pain into the head, these spots are commonly referred to as "knots" or "trigger points". The headaches are also often unilateral, on one side only, and the pain may radiate from the neck/back of the head up to the front of the head or behind the eye. There may or may not be neck pain accompanying them.

There are many different treatments that physical therapists can offer to help treat cervicogenic headaches. These may include: Modalities such as moist heat and electrical stimulation.

1. Manual soft-tissue massage;
2. Joint mobilizations;
3. Therapeutic exercises/postural correction.

One particular manual therapy technique that I personally have found to be a beneficial treatment for my patients with cervicogenic headaches is dry needling. Dry needling is safe, minimally discomforting and often an effective technique for patients with certain musculoskeletal presentations. This is a treatment performed by skilled, trained physical therapists, certified in the procedure.

A thin monofilament needle, similar to an acupuncture needle (although the treatment is very different than acupuncture) penetrates the skin and treats underlying muscular trigger points. The release of the muscles may be performed at the neck, base of the skull, and upper back that may be contributing to cervicogenic headaches.

A trigger point is a local contracture or tight band in a muscle fiber that



Peter Geloso DPT

can disrupt function, restrict range of motion, refer pain or cause local tenderness. When dry needling is applied to a dysfunctional muscle or trigger point, it can decrease banding or tightness, increase blood flow, and reduce local and referred pain that may be associated with cervicogenic headaches.

Dry needling is not only an effective treatment for cervicogenic headaches, but for a wide array of various musculoskeletal disorders. Using this technique for rotator cuff dysfunction, calf tightness, and even tremors or spasticity can be effective!

If you are a person who believes they may be experiencing cervicogenic headaches, the various treatments offered by a physical therapist, including dry needling, may be for you. If you have any questions regarding your symptoms, or dry needling, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or one of the many other knowledgeable physical therapists at our offices in Woodbridge, Hamden, Branford and Milford.

Peter Geloso, DPT is a licensed physical therapist and supervises the Milford office of Amity Physical Therapy. He received both his Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Sports Science and his Doctorate Degree in Physical Therapy from Elon University in North Carolina. He can be reached by phone at (203) 693.2350 or visit amitypt.com. Remember, you don't need a referral for Physical Therapy!

our athletes starts with a simple screen. This is one choice that's a no brainer.

There is no need for a referral or prescription to have an orthopedic screen done for your child. You can call to set an appointment at (203) 389-4593. Kyle Brandy, MSPT, CDN has been a staunch advocate for proper orthopedic health

and wellness in youth athletics during the last decade of practice. While working with patients ranging from pediatrics to geriatrics, Kyle takes great pride in helping the youth athletes in the Greater New Haven community achieve their goals. For information of services offered by Amity Physical Therapy, you can visit amitypt.com.

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How To Help Young Athletes Cope With Defeat

The value of athletic competition for children who like to play sports is undeniable. Though not all kids will want to play sports, those who enjoy competing in organized athletics can benefit in myriad ways.

Doctors with the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Sports Medicine and Fitness note that interest in sports should start with the child, not the parent. Such an approach can ensure kids are playing sports because they want to, and not solely because their parents want them to. The AAP notes that when kids are playing sports because they want to, they can take the lessons learned from competition and use them throughout the rest of their lives. For example, Dr. Steven Cuff, MD, FAAP, who co-authored the 2019 report “Organized Sports for Children, Preadolescents and Adolescents,” notes that “the camaraderie and teamwork needed on a playing field offers lasting lessons on personal responsibility, sportsmanship, goal-setting and emotional control.”

When competing, some young athletes may have a hard time handling defeat. In fact, even professional athletes routinely acknowledge how much they struggle after a loss. But there are ways parents and coaches can help young athletes cope with defeat.

Reward effort. The College of Education at Michigan State University recommends coaches and parents put an emphasis on effort and allow athletes to bring up the outcome of a particular competition on their own. Encourage maximum effort during

competition and spend time after the game discussing with athletes how they performed and the effort they gave. Remind them that their best effort is all anyone can ask for, which shifts focus from a loss to the effort they gave.

Communicate privately if effort is lacking. Parents and coaches who feel their child or player did not give maximum effort can communicate those feelings privately without putting the athlete down. Emphasize that the next game is a great chance to show improvement and give maximum effort.

Encourage a healthy perspective. The COE at MSU also urges parents and coaches to encourage young athletes to keep a healthy perspective on their participation in sports. Encourage kids not to sacrifice other aspects of their life, such as academics and their social life, to improve their athletic performance. When young athletes focus too heavily on a sport, that can create an unhealthy situation that makes it that much harder to cope with defeat in a positive way.

Emphasize the individual, not the athlete. Coaches can speak with their players about their lives outside of the sport. Such conversations can show athletes that there’s more to life than just sports and that they’re more than just athletes, which can make it easier to handle defeat.

Many successful athletes insist they learn more from defeat than they do from victory. Helping young athletes cope with defeat in a healthy way can benefit them throughout their lives.



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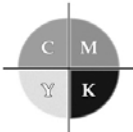
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How Volunteering Benefits Students

Volunteering is often seen through the lens of how volunteers help to improve their communities. Though there's no denying the valuable role volunteers play in strengthening their communities, it's worth noting just how much volunteers can benefit from donating their time and effort to worthy causes.

A 2020 study published in the Journal of Happiness asked 70,000 participants about their volunteering habits and mental health. The study found that, when compared to those who did not volunteer, people who had volunteered in the previous 12 months were more satisfied with their lives and gave their overall health higher ratings.

Volunteering can benefit anyone, and can be especially valuable to students, benefitting their overall health and helping in myriad other ways as well.

Volunteering can get a foot in the door. The National Association of Colleges and Employers reports that employers expect to hire 7.2 percent more new college graduates from the class of 2021 than they did from the class of 2020. That's encouraging news, but recent graduates will still face stiff competition as they look for their first



job. Volunteering with an organization in their field can be a great way for current students and recent graduates to get their foot in the door. Even if a volunteering opportunity does not ultimately lead to a job offer, the experience students gain can help them stand out in a crowded pool of job applicants down the road.

Volunteering can help students find a career path. A 2017 report from the U.S. Department of Education found that about 30 percent of undergraduates in associate's and bachelor's degree programs who had declared majors changed their majors at least once within three years of their initial enrollment. The same report noted that

roughly one in 10 changed majors more than once. Those statistics suggest that many students are uncertain about what they want to study at the onset of their college careers. Volunteering before and during college can help students explore their interests and see where their skills are applicable. They can then rely on that experience as they choose a major.

Volunteering expands students' social horizons. Volunteers serve and work alongside people from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds. That's a great way to see the world through a new perspective, and it also can positively affect students' eventual careers. Professionals who have worked with people of various backgrounds are in better position to effectively communicate with a wider array of people, which can help them build a more diverse set of business relationships. Organizations recognize that value and often prioritize hiring candidates with the kind of strong interpersonal skills students develop through volunteering.

Volunteering can be a great way for students to develop an array of skills that can benefit their personal and professional lives for years to come.

“Labor Day is seen as a day of rest for many hardworking Americans.” — JAMES P. HOFFA

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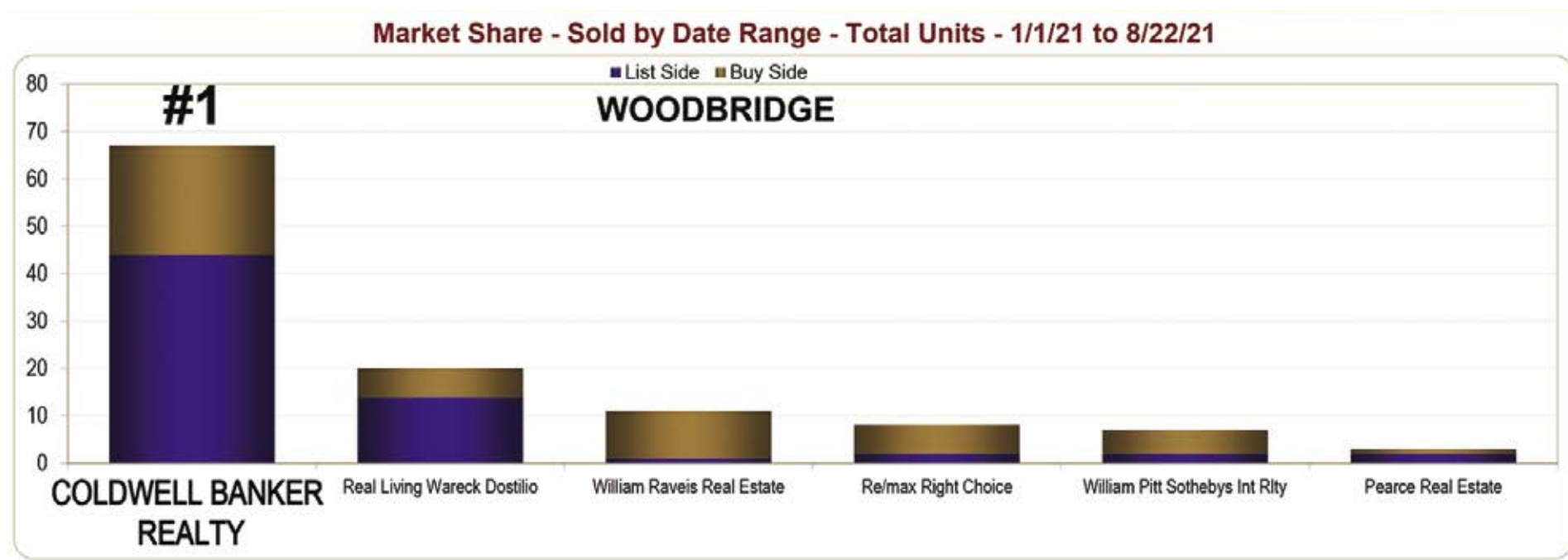
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