

Woodbridge Town News



Happy
Autumn

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023



Upcoming Election Promises to Be a Milestone In More Than One Way

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

For the first time in recent Woodbridge history, the municipal election this year will take place in November, along with the election of most other municipalities in the state. With the retirement of First Selectwoman Beth Heller at the end of this term, Woodbridge will be getting a new crop of officials taking their seat in the Town Hall meeting room.

Running at the top of the Democratic ticket is Mica Cardozo, who has been part of town government in a number of ways, in particular as a member of the Board of Selectmen, although he stepped back from that position two years ago. Nevertheless, he served as deputy selectman and chair of the ad hoc Ordinance Committee, and his experience with municipal government goes way back and covers many groups, namely the

Economic Development Commission, the Police and Fire commissions, and the Recreation Commission. If elected, he would also be Woodbridge's first First Selectman of color.

He retired earlier this year after a distinguished career as a business development and sales executive with SNET and with AT&T.

Cardozo's running mates for the Board of Selectmen are Democrats Sheila McCreven, Maria Madonick and Steve Munno.

The Republican ticket also has its firsts. It is politically diverse, in that they field two unaffiliated candidates, and even a Democrat for the Amity Board of Education. At the top of the ticket is Marty Halprin, an unaffiliated candidate with deep roots in the community. He runs a property management and is the president of B'nai Jacob synagogue. He recently retired from the Milford Fire Department as

Battalion Chief in charge of Planning, Safety and Training.

Joining Halprin for the Board of Selectmen are incumbent David Vogel, and new to the board Javier Aviles and Andrea Urbano (Unaffiliated).

Boards of Education: Lynn Piascyk, a Republican, and chairwoman of the Woodbridge Board of Education, is running for re-election, as is fellow board member Jeff Hughes. Candidates for the Amity Board of Education on the Republican ticket are Bruce Marien, a Democrat, and Daniel Del Prete. Candidates on the Democratic line are Patrick Reed and Sudhir Karunakaran, both incumbents on the Amity board; and Steven Lawrence and Erin Williamson for the Woodbridge Board of Education.

Appeals Boards: Town Plan and Zoning members are being appointed by the new Board of Selectmen, but the Zoning Board of Appeals is an

elected board. Running on the Republican ticket are Clifford Lynch Jr. and Cynthia Gibbons; and as alternates Jaime Nichol and Chris Dickerson. On the Democratic ticket are Shawn Flynn and Kalman Watsky for the Zoning Board of Appeals and Lauren Francese as an alternate.

For the Board of Assessment Appeals, the Democrats are fielding Jeff Ginzberg; the Republicans Annitta Ingraham.

Marty Halprin: When Marty Halprin joined the local fire department some 25 years ago as a volunteer, he was discussing local politics with fellow firefighters. "I felt like I really should run for first selectman," he said. "I'd be the youngest first selectman the town ever had."

Well, 25 years later – now in his early 50s, married and with three

See "Election" On Page 16



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Woodbridge Like Me Day

The ad hoc Woodbridge Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee will hold its 3rd Annual Woodbridge Like Me Day on Saturday, September 30 from 11 am - 2 pm on the Town Center Green. Rain location is Amity High School, 25 Newton Road. This free community event will follow the Annual 5k Road Race and Children's Fun Run hosted by Woodbridge Recreation.

Woodbridge Like Me Day is a celebration of our vibrant and diverse community, and will feature live performances, local organizations, music, food trucks and more. For questions or further information, please contact Assistant Library Director Jen Sullivan; jsullivan@woodbridgetown-library.org; 203-389-3487.

Over 40 organizations will participate in the event this year with

a line-up of several performances to take place at the Gazebo on the Town Green. Link to all participants here: <https://sqr.co/likeme>. Featured in the photo is Aiping Tai Chi. Approximate activity and performance times are noted below.

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee looks forward to seeing everyone at the event!

11:00 AM	Yoga with Diane King
11:15 AM	Beecher Road Band
11:30 AM	Salsa Demo with Susel Oropesa
12:00 PM	Wu Dang Kung Fu
12:15 PM	Indian Dance
12:30 PM	Aiping Tai Chi
12:45 PM	Era Dance Group
1:00 PM	World Champion Taekwondo
1:15 PM	Interfaith Choir
1:30 PM	Jinling Dance Group



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www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com



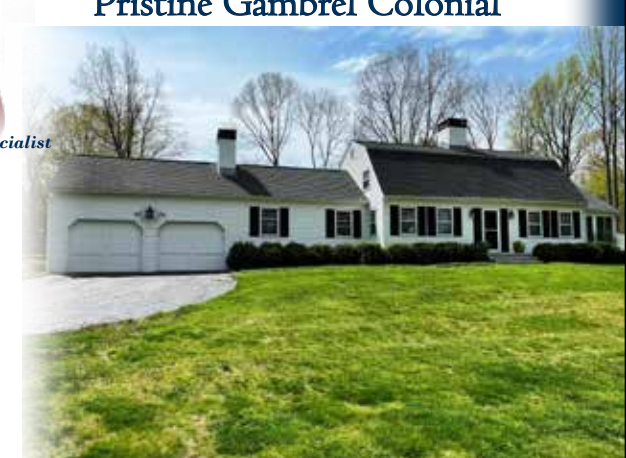
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NEW ELECTION DAY THIS YEAR • TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

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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 27 | Election Issue.....October 20

November 17 | Thanksgiving IssueNovember 10

December 15 | Holiday IssueDecember 8

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

FROM OUR READERS

Newton Road Unsafe for Pedestrians

To all who travel up or down Newton Road, I am issuing a cry for help . I am writing to ask all drivers to face the reality that Newton Road is more than a thoroughfare where drivers with big engines can test their mettle. If drivers were to slow their vehicles down to the speed limits, they might notice all the pedestrians - residents and students - and nature they put at risk with their racecar behavior. Please slow down. Do you really want to wake up the next day and thereafter with someone you injured or killed haunting you?
Michael Burns

Protecting Our Schools, Students & Educators

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent political discourse in our community, specifically concerning our school system, students, and educators. It is disheartening to witness our Republican candidates resorting to divisive tactics, misinformation, and fearmongering in their efforts to gain support, rather than focusing on the well-being and progress of our schools. I moved my family to Woodbridge in 1994 for my children to have the opportunity to attend the Amity School System. I now have grandchildren at Beecher. To watch a political party actively working to undermine our educators, control our curriculums, and hold our budgets hostage is something I would never have imagined happening in our Town in the 30 years I've lived here.
In a letter sent to the Amity BOE in November 2022, they write "School boards seek to conceal from the public their efforts to infiltrate DEI/CRT pedagogy into school curricula, then seek to marginalize and stifle those in opposition." This letter was signed by Republican BOE Candidate Daniel Del Prete. The WRTC's Facebook page shared a message in May this year that starts with "The Amity administration and the board won't tell you what DEI truly stands for or admit that it's a racist Marxist-based ideology that they are using to indoctrinate our children." These sentiments are not only misleading but also harmful to our community's unity and the educational journey of our children. It is essential to recognize that DEI is not a sinister ideology but a commitment to creating an inclusive and equitable environment for all students, regardless of their background. By promoting diversity, fostering equity, and
See "Letters" On Page 17

Decide To Ride

There's nothing like football season in our area to bring people together. As students, alumni, and fans aged 21+ pack the stadiums this year, a reminder to plan ahead for a safe ride home if your game day plans include a beer or two.
Whether you're at a tailgate, seated on the 50-yard line or cheering on your team from a local bar, Anheuser-Busch, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Uber, and Dichello Distributors, Inc. have an important message for the entire community: Decide to Ride.
Drunk driving is 100% preventable. By opting for an Uber or other sober ride home at the end of the day, we can keep everyone safe and ensure the good times continue all season long.
Anheuser-Busch, MADD, and Uber joined forces and launched the Decide to Ride campaign in September 2021 as part of a first-of-its-kind industry coalition aimed at bringing an end to drunk driving. This season, Dichello Distributors, Inc. is proud to help promote responsible drinking behavior and keep our community safe.
Tony Lota
Alcohol Awareness Coordinator
Dichello Distributors, Inc.

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.

Top Ten* Reasons to Preserve the Former Country Club of Woodbridge

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



Woodbridge residents have voted – repeatedly – to preserve this land. When he was seeking re-election in the spring of 2009, former First Selectman Ed Sheehy wrote to Woodbridge voters asking for our votes and for our support to purchase the Country Club of Woodbridge (CCW). His letter promised that the land would be preserved as open space:

“The Board of Selectmen carefully analyzed the proposed purchase and recognized the importance of maintaining the property as open space . . . If the purchase is approved the town will acquire 150 acres of beautiful open space to be enjoyed by residents for generations. It would be irresponsible for the Board to allow the property to fall into the hands of developers.”

Sheehy was re-elected by a wide margin, and a few weeks later voters overwhelmingly approved the purchase of the property at the 2009 Annual Town Meeting.

In the last issue we presented the first five reasons to preserve the CCW land: (1) State policy demands preservation of more open space. (2) Towns like Woodbridge must protect all available land to achieve the state’s Green Plan goal. (3) Woodbridge policy supports land protection. (4) Open space produces proven economic benefits. (5) Preservation of the CCW costs very little.

Here are five more reasons to support the preservation of this land:

6. Open Space is widely recognized as an important Town asset that enhances property value. Did you see the article in the New York Times’ Real Estate section last year extolling Woodbridge’s virtues (*A Peaceful Rural Enclave Close to New Haven*, April 17, 2022)? The reporter instantly perceived that Woodbridge’s most salient feature is its rural atmosphere and open spaces. Recent home purchasers quoted in the article all remarked on their attraction to the Town’s “rural feel,” its “wooded look,” and the sense of “space” in the Town, indicating the high dollar value of those characteristics for potential home buyers.

7. Woodbridge has less fully protected open space than many people think. Most of Woodbridge’s so-called protected open space (15% of the town) is owned by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) to protect public water supply for the Greater New Haven area. But more than half of the RWA land in Woodbridge is categorized as “Class II” which cannot be considered fully protected because it could be sold. Nonprofits own 3% of the Town’s land, and the State owns 1%. Only 6% of the Town’s land area is fully protected open space actually owned by the Town, mostly acquired with the assistance (and encouragement) of State grants.

8. The CCW property has special ecological features of statewide and regional significance. Most of our Town’s existing protected open space is dense, established forest. By contrast, the former CCW land has early successional habitats with grasses, shrubs, and young trees that are essential for certain species of wildlife and are critical for the survival of pollinators. Early successional habitats are vanishing in Woodbridge, in Connecticut, and indeed in the entire Northeast. Recently, Audubon Connecticut produced a report on the CCW emphasizing that the property is part of a corridor of undeveloped land that connects the RWA’s Maltby Lakes Recreation Area, the Yale Golf Course, and surrounding woodlands to the south with West Rock Ridge State Park and other RWA lands to the north. This report stated that this corridor has immense value for habitat connectivity within the surrounding urban landscape. The State’s Green Plan emphasizes the importance of protecting acreage that offers benefit at this ecological scale.

9. The CCW is a paradise for birds – and birders. A member of the Menunktauck Audubon Society recently described the CCW as “wondrous habitat for a wide range of resident and migrating birds, plus - the native plant bonanza on display there is unparalleled in this area. I have never seen more common milkweed, golden rod, or aster in one place.” The former golf course is listed on eBird – a website managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology where birders from all over the world enter their sightings -- as a “Hotspot.” To date, 64 species have been recorded at this Hotspot including the American Kestrel, a type of falcon that has been in long-term decline due to loss of habitat. Once abundant in the Northeast, the Kestrel is currently listed as a “State Species of Special Concern” in Connecticut.

10. CCW soils are another important feature. The CCW is comprised primarily of Prime Farmland Soils and Farmland Soils of Statewide Importance. According to our Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development, these soils are an “irreplaceable asset” (p. 75) and the Town should “preserve farmland, fertile soils, and local agribusiness . . . and avoid further development on prime farmland soils” (p. 87).

For all these reasons, the Town should honor the promise made by former First Selectman Sheehy and preserve the CCW land as Open Space.

We can save the planet, one parcel at a time!

For background documentation and more information, visit our website: UnitedforWoodbridge.org
unitedforwoodbridge@gmail.com Follow us on Facebook: United for Woodbridge

Paid for by United for Woodbridge, Paul Harrigan, Treasurer

OPINION

From the Democratic Town Committee

BY ELLEN SCALETTAR
WDTC CHAIRMAN



Trust

Strong relationships are built on trust, whether with family members, friends, or community leaders. We may not always agree with the people we trust, but knowing that we can believe what they tell us and that they will stand by their word gives us the confidence to deepen our relationship.

When the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee sought a candidate for First Selectman, the traits we were looking for included Town-specific leadership experience, an honest and direct approach, and demonstrated respect for all members of our community. We wanted someone we could trust. And the name that kept coming up was Mica Cardozo.

If you know Mica or have met him in recent weeks at community events or when he has come to your door, you have seen these qualities for yourself. For those of you who have not yet met him, I offer these observations from some of our fellow residents:

- › “As my Deputy First Selectman for four years, I got to know Mica well. My respect for his judgment, fairness, and determination grew throughout that time. We didn’t always agree, but our disagreement was always respectful.” Beth Heller, First Selectman
- › “As the owner of a small business here in Woodbridge, I very much appreciated working with Mica on the Economic Development Commission. He was always prepared for our meetings, asked probing questions and provided thoughtful insights and suggestions.” Jamison Scott
- › “I met Mica when he was considering a run for First Selectman. He impressed me immediately as a person who is genuine, caring and truly interested in hearing from the many voices that make up our Town. His commitment to supporting our community, kids, teachers and schools is evident. I am confident that Mica will take Woodbridge forward in a collegial and community driven spirit.” Mohini Ranganathan
- › “My family and I are relatively new to Woodbridge. I’m unaffiliated and began to follow the positions of the Republicans and Democrats in Town. I happened to meet Mica and he kindly gave me the time to explain his vision for addressing our Town’s current and future challenges. Mica was responsive and respectful of my being new to Town issues.” Tristan Baker

When Mica tells you that he is open to discussing all options for addressing critical issues facing our Town - fostering economic development and controlling taxes, establishing a community solution to the Country Club, assuring the continued excellence of our schools - you can count on it. You can also trust him when he says that doing nothing is not an option.

Can Woodbridge residents count on Mica’s Republican opponent to be equally forthright about what he stands for? I don’t know the answer, but I do find it puzzling that the Republican First Selectman candidate emphasizes his voter enrollment as “unaffiliated,” suggesting that he is aligned with neither party. While that is true of many unaffiliated voters who provide a robust contribution to our political discourse, it appears disingenuous in this case. He was nominated by the Republican Party, he is leading its ticket, he is using traditional Republican talking points and he has been a public Donald Trump supporter.

Finally, and most importantly, I know that you can trust who Mica says he is, what he stands for, and what he plans to accomplish to ensure that our community thrives. You can also trust that the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee will be there to provide you with the facts you need to make informed decisions.

We hope you will take the opportunity to meet Mica as he visits residents’ homes or at various events we have planned around the community. Also, please stop by the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee open houses at our headquarters, 176 Amity Road (the former UPS store) on Wednesdays from 6-8 PM to meet Mica and other Democratic candidates.

For more information about campaign events and the Democratic candidates, visit woodbridgedems.org/ election. For voter information including registration and absentee ballot requests, visit <http://woodbridgedems.org/vote>. If you would like to help on the campaign or have questions for us, please email us at communications@woodbridgedems.org.

Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, November 7th, Election Day in Woodbridge!

From Across the Aisle

BY MARTY HALPRIN



A New Voice With New Ideas

Hello fellow Woodbridge residents -

As a candidate for First Selectman, I have the pleasure of meeting many new people. It’s important to hear voter concerns and I have had a lot of conversations about what’s happening in our town. I’d like to share with you what I’m hearing.

On the education front, one hot issue is the Beecher Road School campus. The building is getting old and stretched for space. The student population is projected to continue growing for the next several years. More immediately, the roof is leaking and requires prompt repair. Yet the Democrat Selectmen leading our town have been slow to address even the immediate problem – the leaking roof – at Beecher. They have created multiple siloed committees to look separately at various town buildings while largely ignoring Beecher’s infrastructure needs. As a result of this failure, Beecher’s roof has worsened over the last several years.

If elected, I will reorganize the town’s disparate and disorganized capital planning into a laser focus on the school’s immediate and long-term needs. We will deliver an integrated capital plan that makes Beecher’s infrastructure our town’s first priority. My fellow candidates, Woodbridge Board of Education members Jeff Hughes and Lynn Piascyk, have made valiant efforts to get the town leadership’s attention on Beecher’s needs. They deserve another term to share their knowledge and commitment with a First Selectman who joins them in making Beecher a priority.

Many residents also express concern about the deterioration in ranking of Amity Regional High School. For a long time Amity enjoyed a spot among the top high schools in Connecticut. Unfortunately, over the last few years Amity has slipped consistently where today U.S. News and World Report lists Amity #39 among high schools in the state.

Our town has always valued top quality education. Amity’s downward trend raises serious questions about the current quality of education our children are receiving, for which all of us deserve answers. Further, the slide threatens an adverse impact on our home values. Potential buyers look at school rankings and reputations, and we have historically commanded a premium for our homes accordingly.

As your First Selectman I promise to make Amity a priority. I will encourage the First Selectmen in Orange and Bethany to join me in pressing the Amity Board of Education to reverse the downward trend – quickly. The candidates on my slate, Bruce Marien and Dan Del Prete, will be leaders in re-focusing the Amity Board on its #1 priority – academics. Bruce is a former Amity teacher and coach, while Dan is an Amity parent active in PTO.

Beyond these issues, residents I meet are frustrated with their inability to vote on the Town’s annual budget. They can’t understand why we hold an annual referendum on Amity’s budget but fail to hold a similar vote on our town’s budget. I share their frustration, and think it is high time we modernize our Town Charter (our local Constitution) to provide an annual referendum instead of the antiquated Town meeting process that fails to match modern lifestyles. Similarly, residents are surprised to learn that most Connecticut towns have an elected Board of Finance while ours is appointed. Given the Board of Finance’s preeminent role in crafting our town’s budget, residents are interested in changing the Board of Finance selection process. I commit to establish a Charter Revision Commission promptly to consider both issues.

We’re a small town with big challenges. The partisan approach of the local Democratic Town Committee has kept them in office for fifteen years but has failed to address our challenges. I am honored to be a member of a Republican-endorsed team which includes Unaffiliated (like me), Democrat and Republican candidates. We know that local – not national - issues are at stake here on November 7th, and we are united in our commitment to do a better job leading our town. We have the skills, energy, and new ideas to make a much-needed positive impact on Woodbridge. Please give us a chance to show you what we can do.

Republican Slate First Selectman

- › Marty Halprin (U)

Board of Selectmen

- › Andrea Urbano (U)
- › David Vogel (R)
- › Javier Aviles (R)

Woodbridge Board of Education

- › Lynn A. Piascyk (R)
- › Jeff Hughes (R)

See “Across the Aisle” On Page 9

As we enter the beautiful fall season, it is important to remind everyone that September is Hurricane Preparedness month. Please be sure to stock up on batteries, water, pet food, medications, and other supplies in the event we do have a weather emergency. Always be attentive to local weather updates.

With public health in mind, please note the COVID-19 virus infection rate has been steadily rising lately. It is essential that our residents get vaccinated, especially those who are most vulnerable. To meet this need, the Human Services Department will host four vaccine clinics this fall in the Center Building gymnasium. They have already hosted one clinic and there will be two flu vaccine only clinics and one more clinic with 5 vaccines available including: (newly formulated) COVID 19, RSV, Shingrix, Prevnar 20- the new pneumonia vaccine, and regular and high dose flu vaccine. Thank you and congratulations to this department for seeking and receiving a federal grant to provide better access to vaccines for our community. This \$10,000 grant from the National Council on Aging will support the Human Services Department's work in making it as easy as possible for older adults and people with disabilities to get their updated vaccinations and protect their health. Please call the Human Services Department (203-389-3429) for further information, or to schedule an appointment.

The 5th Annual Living Treasure event at the Woodbridge Center honoring standout Woodbridge residents Mary Lee Barker, Joe Crisco, Matt Giglietti,

From the First Selectman BY BETH HELLER



and Lynn Piascyk was a lovely event and a very successful fundraiser for The Woodbridge Center. Congratulations to all involved with this great community-building event!

I hope you will add the 3rd Annual **Woodbridge Like Me Day** to your calendars. This event is hosted by the Woodbridge Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The free event was created to bring residents together to celebrate the vibrant and diverse Woodbridge community. No matter how long you have lived in Town, there are great reasons for everyone to attend this event on Saturday, September 30th. Further information is available on the Town Website.

We will hold a dedication and naming ceremony for **The Karen A. Lombardi Woodbridge Regional Animal Shelter** on Friday, October 13. The event is scheduled for 1:30 pm at the shelter at 135 Bradley Road in Woodbridge; kindly RSVP to Gerry Shaw at gshaw@woodbridgect.org or 203-389-3401.

Woodbridge road maintenance is expected to take place soon. The current start date for road milling is October 12 on Downs Road. As part of the 2023 Road Paving Program, the following roads will be milled and paved: Downs Road, Walker Lane, Buttonball Lane, Wepawaug Road, and a section of Johnson Road (an approximate 300'

long segment near #1087). Paving will begin once milling has been completed for all roads. Road work schedules are contingent upon weather conditions. Downs Road may be closed during road work hours for two days. Contact the Department of Public Works with questions at 203-389-3420.

We received several responses from the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the former Country Club of Woodbridge property, for land use consultants, which was sent out this past summer. If you recall, this came as one recommendation first, from the Strategic Plan subcommittee of the Board of Selectmen, made up of Selectmen McCreven and Vogel. This plan was unanimously approved by the full Board. Following that approval, the RFP was developed by Selectmen Kuriakose, Vogel, and me, with input from Administrative Officer Tony Genovese (and approved unanimously by this Board, prior to its distribution. I believe it is not appropriate for this board to review, discuss, or decide on the proposals at this time, as four out of six of us will not be returning to the Board of Selectmen, it seems much more suitable for the new board to take up this matter with their vision for the future of that property. Hopefully, should the new Board choose to use a consultant, this new person will take input from all stakeholders including residents

and businesses. I believe this effort will build consensus while providing positive ideas for the Town.

The Woodbridge Police Department will host the DEA **National Drug Take Back Day** from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm on Saturday, October 28. For more information, please see the Police Department article in this newspaper.

Each year, the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association hosts the **Truck or Treat** event on Halloween (October 31st) at the Firehouse. It is a fun, safe way for families to enjoy the festive holiday. We look forward to this fun night and thank the volunteers once again for their efforts on behalf of all Woodbridge residents!

As a reminder, the Town of Woodbridge Municipal Election will be held on **Tuesday, November 7th**. Absentee ballot **applications** are available now and may be obtained from the Town Clerk's office and are also on the Town website. Absentee **ballots** will be available on October 6 and can be completed by mail or in-person. Contact the Town Clerk's office at 203-389-3424 for more information.

And just one more reminder for your calendars. Please do not forget that Veteran's Day will be commemorated on November 10 in the Center Building Gymnasium at 11 am. We will have further updates on this ceremony as it comes closer.

As always, my door remains open to you. If you need to reach me, please call 203-389-3401 or email me at bheller@woodbridgect.org to chat or to request an appointment.

Bethany Land Trust Acquires Three Sisters Preserve

At the end of August, the Land Trust acquired 20 acres from Connecticut Water with funds generously donated to the Land Trust by the Zdru Family Fund. Located at 1154 Amity Road at the Naugatuck border, this parcel includes land in Bethany, Naugatuck, and Prospect.

The Beacon Hill Brook, a Class III Trout stream, runs through the lowlands portion of the property near Amity Road while the uplands portion rises almost 300 feet higher, featuring steep escarpments on both sides of a spectacular ravine.

Built as an Eagle Scout project by Ryan Hendrick of Bethany, a hiking trail loop leaves the trailhead along Route 63, crosses Beacon Hill Brook and climbs over a ridge to the bottom of the ravine. From there, it heads back to the brook past some foundations of what may have been a mill site long ago. The trail is about 0.5 mile in length, includes a short section of boardwalk, and is marked with yellow blazes.

Climbing up the steep ravine off trail will bring you to the location of a long-gone chestnut tree with three trunks that served as a reference point for Na-

tive Americans, and later the colonies. The tree was known as both the Three Sisters Tree and the Three Brothers Tree. In 1673, the New Haven Colony and the Milford Colony disputed the boundary and agreed to settle the dispute through physical combat, which apparently ended in a draw. Today, the site of that tree marks the boundary between Bethany, Naugatuck, and Prospect.

Carol Lambiase, President of the Land Trust, said, "With a Class III trout stream, striking geology, and historic significance to Native Americans, we are very grateful to the Zdru Family Fund to be given the opportunity to preserve this remarkable property."

The Three Sisters Preserve acquisition is the latest in a series of land preservation activities of the Bethany Land Trust over the past several years. In 2016, the 36.4-acre Woodward Nature Preserve was received as a subdivision set aside followed by the purchases of the 25.2-acre Grobe Preserve in 2018 and the 6.9-acre Van Epps Preserve in 2020. In late 2022, the Land Trust received a donation of 49 acres of woodlands, streams, and historic features called Whispering Pines from Irene



Beacon Hill Brook

Stahl, who lovingly tended the land with her late husband, Carlton.

Funds received from grants and generous donors have made acquisitions at bargain sale prices a reality. In addition to our recent property acquisition activities, the Land Trust is dedicated to maintaining our preserves and easements. In fact, the exploits of our trail crew, "The Wild Bunch," were recognized in a short piece published

in the July 2023 issue of Connecticut Magazine.

The Bethany Land Trust, Inc. is a private, charitable, non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving our natural lands. The Land Trust now owns 30 properties totaling 423 acres and is steward to some 200 acres of easements. To make a tax-deductible donation to the Land Trust please visit: <https://bethanylandtrust.org>

WOODBIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Amity's Ranks on State Assessments Went Up... Yet Why Did Its Ranking on U.S. News Drop?

BY SUDHIR KARUNAKARAN
AMITY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

Amity High School's drop in the 2023 U.S. News ranking is puzzling, especially after the strong improvement in ranks on state-wide assessment tests last year. At the last BOE meeting, some parents raised concerns about the ranking drop. As a BOE member and Woodbridge parent myself, I delved into the data, to understand and diagnose the issues, so that the board and school can take any necessary remedial actions.

Amity's Impressive State Assessment Rankings in 2021-22

Despite the educational challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, Amity had maintained stable scores in 2021-22 compared to the pre-COVID scores in 2018-19. Hence, I first looked at Amity's performance, relative to other schools. There is good news here. Amity's rank among CT schools improved substantially in all three subjects:

- › Math: Improved from 28th to 9th;
- › English and Language Arts (ELA): Improved from 27th to 11th;
- › Science: Improved from 28th to 17th.

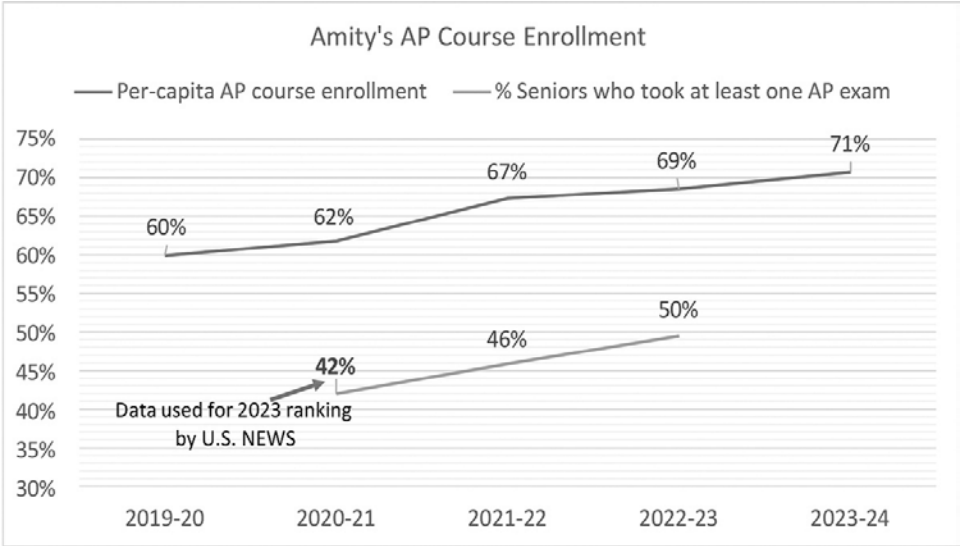
The rise in ranks is a testament to the resilience and hard work of our students, teachers, and administrators, who persevered through the pandemic without falling behind in academics.

But if Amity's ranks on state assessments went up, why did U.S. News rank drop?

The Discrepancy with U.S. News Rankings: Older Data and COVID-disrupted AP test rates

Since Connecticut didn't publish state assessment data for 2020-21 (due to COVID disruptions), U.S. News used older 2018-19 data-data that was also used for last year's ranking. Thus, this 40% component of the ranking, did not reflect Amity's recent performance improvements. The good news is that the impressive 2021-22 performance will help Amity's ranking next year.

The other major 40% component of the ranking is Ged to Advanced Placement (AP) test taking and scores, which U.S. News considers as a proxy for college readiness. For this year, U.S. News used data from the COVID-disrupted 2020-21 year, where Amity had a historic low AP test taking rate



Source: Data provided by Amity High School and from Superintendent Reports

of 42%, and this COVID-related drop was sharper than at peer schools. As the graph shows, these numbers are recovering and should have less impact on Amity's future rankings.

Assessing Amity Priorities

The recent student performance in state assessments shows that on average our students are performing among the very best. And there are other strong signs of excellence during the last year. Our students continue to do us proud by winning various national and state-level competitions. In particular, a record 27 students out of a class of 315 (8.6%) achieved "Commended Scholar/Semi-Finalist" status at the National Merit Scholar competition last year. This is about three times higher than the national average of 3% who achieve this status. Overall, Amity's academic performance is on the rise, not on the decline.

I see one persistent challenge for Amity. As the graph suggests, a significant share of Amity students taking AP classes choose not to take the exams. The exams cost \$98-\$148, and as colleges increasingly do not give college credit for AP exams, many Amity students find these exams not worth their stress or money. Some districts pay for their students' exams. There are some who require or "expect" students to take the exams. Since Amity "encourages," but does not require students to take the exams, it has been a drag on our US News rank in recent years.

But it is not clear how Amity should address this challenge. A school should prepare students for college by encouraging them to learn advanced material. Taking AP courses and doing well on them does that, but taking expensive AP exams that students don't see value in does not. While Amity can encourage students to voluntarily take AP tests to improve their chances of ad-

mission to a preferred college, it would be misguided to push them to take AP exams just to boost Amity's ranking.

Looking Ahead

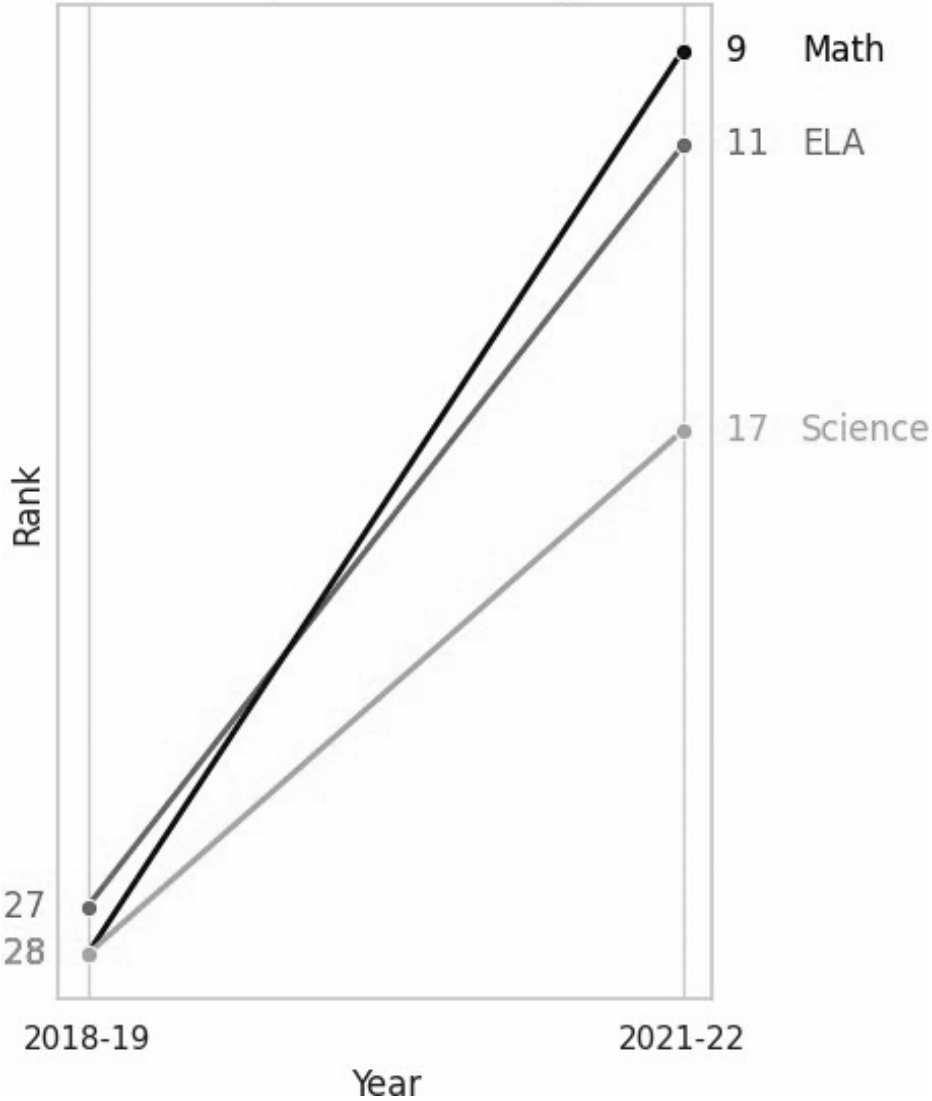
Magazine rankings, especially when based on outdated data or questionable metrics such as AP test taking, don't define our excellence. The state assessment ranks show that Amity students on average performed very well in academics last year. Their AP course participation continues to rise after the steep drop caused by COVID. The National Merit Scholarship performance shows that our top students also do exceptionally well. Overall, this suggests that Amity is pursuing excellence in an inclusive way-at the top, and across the board.

Given the evidence, I concluded that any narrative that Amity is underperforming or declining on academic performance is inconsistent with the facts. Such narratives demonstrate our hardworking students and educators. And by hurting the school's reputation, it harms our community's attractiveness. I hope my analysis reassures concerned parents and the broader community that Amity's U.S. News rank this year is an idiosyncratic blip and does not reflect either current student performance or a systematic decline. The evidence instead suggests improving performance.

And if one simply wants to see good news in a recent ranking, here is one. In 2023, Niche ranked the Amity School District as #10 in the state with an overall A+ and specifically an A+ for College Preparation.

Let's applaud Amity's achievements, even as we strive for continuous improvement. Amity's mission should be clear: to remain a hub of excellence that allows every student in our community to achieve their potential. Let the rankings follow the excellence.

Amity's rank improvement among CT schools



Source: Data provided by EdSight, CT's official portal for schools. Ranks calculated by author.

EDUCATION

First Selectman Debate

A First Selectman Debate will be held on October 10th that will be run by a local Amity High School club called Mock Trial.

The debate will take place between the two first selectman candidates

Marty Halprin and Mica Cardozo at 5 PM on October 10th.

The debate will be run by Amity High School students and will encourage student attendance to the event, and also be open to the general public.

STUDENT NEWS

Dean's List Southern New Hampshire University

Manchester, NH - Tucker Saley of Woodbridge has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Summer 2023 Dean's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

LOCAL SPORTS



Bottom Row L-R: Kathleen Kapralos, Alex Awe, Alex Wilson, Calin Angelucci, Grayson Forcier; Middle Row L-R: Landon Villacis, Cal Behun, Emmett Baldino, Cam Villacis, Brady Bartels; Top Row L-R: Coaches Dan Baldino, Manager Chris Bartels, Alex Wilson, Michelle Wilson, Craig Behun; (Not Pictured: Zeke Green, Will Ranini)

Beth-Wood All Stars Go 7-1

Congratulations to our 8U Beth-Wood All-Star Team. They finished their regular season with an impressive 7-1 record.

Some of the most memorable wins were against Norwalk, Oxford, and

a last inning come from behind win against Newtown B.

We wish them luck as they develop into great ballplayers. We are very proud of our Beth-Wood All-Stars. Good luck next season team!

HEALTH & FITNESS

Management of Acute Sports Injuries

BY KYLE BRANDAY, MSPT, CDN

There are few things more gut wrenching than lying on the court or field of play, writhing in pain from an injury just sustained during practice or a game. The swelling, the pain, an inability to get yourself off the field. Most athletes, whether professional, collegiate, or recreational have been in this position at one point or another. Often times we are able to bounce right back up, take a quick rest, and get right back to playing. However, what happens when we can't get right back in the game?

The conventional approach has always been RICE: Rest, Ice, Compression, and Elevation. The reason for this is that in most acute injuries, the damage to soft tissue (ligaments, tendons, and muscles) as well as involved joints can create swelling and inflammation. By resting, we reduce the further strain put on the injured area. Icing assists with reducing the inflammatory response and creating vasoconstriction (narrowing of the blood vessels) to reduce swelling. Compression also reduces swelling by preventing the fluid in the affected area to pool and expand. Elevation allows for a natural flow of the fluid in the injured area to work its way back to the heart passively. Contraction of our muscles prevents pooling of fluid normally, however in injured areas, our muscles often are too painful to contraction and creating that normal pumping effect to drive fluid out of the injured area.

Research has shown that acute treatment of injuries sustained on the field will lead to significantly less time on the sidelines. Take one of the most common on field injuries, an ankle sprain. Generally speaking, a sprain of the ankle involves injury to both ligaments and tendons and can create significant swelling, pain, and difficulty with walking and certainly



Kyle Branday

in performing sports related activities. Treatment of an acute ankle sprain to manage swelling and pain within the first 24-48 hours can lead to potential rehab time of 2-4 visits, whereas chronic treatment viewed at treatment began 72 hours or later post injury can lead to treatment time up to 3-5 weeks.

The results speak for themselves. While younger athletes always tend to rebound faster than those of us who still try and be weekend warriors, we all need acute treatment of our injuries in order to get back on that playing field quickly. Don't let a simple sprain keep you off the field.

Kyle Branday, MSPT is a licensed physical therapist and partner at Amity Physical Therapy. Kyle is a graduate of Quinnipiac University with years of experience treating a wide variety of injuries including orthopedics, sports related injuries, and neurological rehabilitation while working with patients of all ages and ability levels. Amity Physical Therapy is in its 19th year as a practice and now maintains 5 offices in Woodbridge, Hamden, Branford, Milford and Wallingford. Kyle can be seen at his Woodbridge location at 1 Bradley Road and can be reached at (203) 389-4593 or visit amitypt.com.

"Across the Aisle" From Page 6

Board of Assessment Appeals

- Annitta L. Ingraham (R)

Zoning Board of Appeals

- Clifford Lynch, Jr. (R)
- Cynthia Gibbons (R)

Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate

- Jamie Nichol (U)
- Christopher Dickerson (R)

Amity Regional Board of Education

- Bruce A. Marien (D)
- Daniel Del Prete (R)

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PHYSICAL THERAPY

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Recreation News





2023 Woodbridge Road Race & Fun Run

The Road Race & Fun Run will take place on Saturday, September 30. The Fun Run starts at 9:00am and the 5K begins at 10:30am. Please visit the 5K road race runsignup.com website to register. For Fun Run registration, please visit the Recreation Registration Website.

the show and transportation;

- › Gratuity not included;
- › For information on how to register, please call the Recreation Office at 203-389-3446 or visit <https://secure.rec1.com/CT/woodbridge-ct/catalog>.

Fall Adult Programs

Adult programs returning in September! The Adult Badminton Program continues on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Memberships available or \$10 drop in. Bill Banick yoga classes take place Monday through Friday, 8:30- 9:45 am. Tuesday night sessions 5:30-6:45 pm. Thursday night T'ai Chi session 5:30- 6:30pm. Classes will take place in the Center Building, Room 16 or outside weather permitting. Yoga with Diane King will continue Monday and Wednesday mornings from 10:30-11:45 am, and Monday evening classes from 5:30-6:45pm in Room 16 at the Center Building. For more information, please visit our website at <https://secure.rec1.com/CT/woodbridge-ct/catalog>.

Radio City Christmas Spectacular Bus Trip

Join the Woodbridge Recreation Department on Sunday, November 19 for a fun filled day in New York City!

- › Bus leaves at 8:00 am at 11 Meetinghouse Lane in Woodbridge;
- › Arrives in New York at 9:30 am (Shop/Lunch on your own);
- › Show is 2:00pm (Start lining up at 1:30pm);
- › Leave New York From Radio City directly after the show at 4:00pm;
- › Arrive in Woodbridge at approximately 5:30pm;
- › \$150 per person; includes ticket to

The Insurance Resource, LLC



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Medicare open enrollment for 2024 begins October 15th.

Contact me for any Medicare plan questions.

Robert Reed
203-232-3370
robert@tirworld.com

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AND ALWAYS STRIVE TO DO BETTER!”

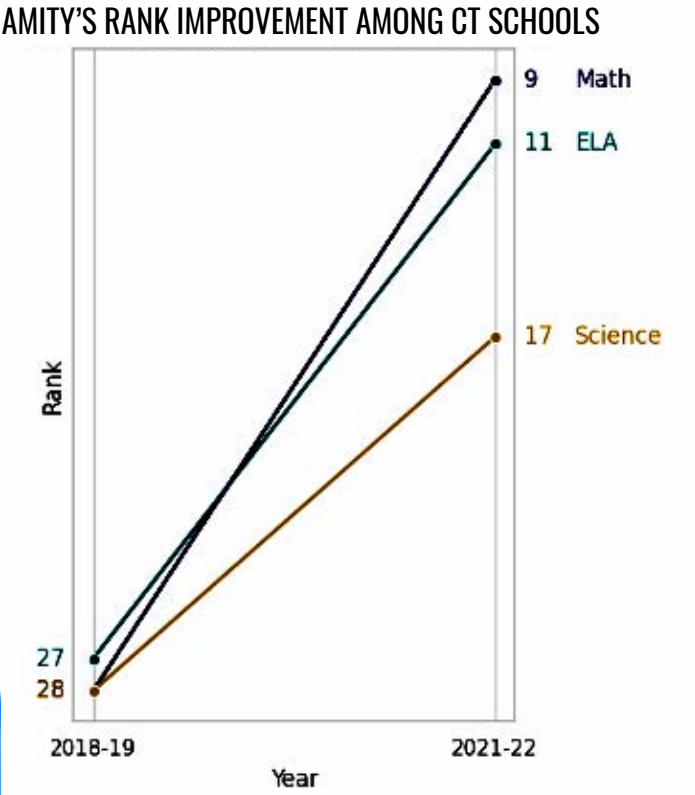
SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS - EMPOWER OUR EDUCATORS - PROTECT OUR SCHOOLS



PATRICK REED
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR AMITY BOE

SUDHIR KARUNAKARAN
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR AMITY BOE

AMITY’S RANK IMPROVEMENT AMONG CT SCHOOLS



Subject	2018-19 Rank	2021-22 Rank
Math	27	9
ELA	28	11
Science	28	17

LET’S KEEP AMITY MOVING FORWARD - VOTE TUESDAY NOV. 7

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AMITY’S SUCCESSES AND THE REPUBLICAN EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE THEM,
VISIT WOODBRIIDGEDEMS.ORG/AMITY

PAID FOR BY THE WOODBRIDGE DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE, JEFFREY A. KENNEDY, TREASURER

“Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns.” — GEORGE ELIOT



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AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



1) Deb Urso of Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center provides a virtual tour of Italy, with cappuccino and Italian cookies, to Center attendees of the Immersive Italy program; 2) Woodbridge residents, Town employees, and first responders appreciate the delicious Town-wide picnic given by Coachman Square at Woodbridge in the Grove picnic area; 3) Carole Abbate enjoys a relaxing moment with a cup of coffee from The Center's sponsored coffee bar, while looking through a book from the Lounge Library maintained by the Friends of the Library; 4) September's Lunch Bunch, to Il Gabbiano in New Haven, are impressed with the generous lunch portions.

BY KRISTY MORIARTY

Contact The Woodbridge Center

More information on available programs and services can be found on The Center's page of the Town Website. Call 203-389-3430 or email kmoriarty@woodbridgect.org with questions or for more information. Follow us on Facebook (The Woodbridge Center, Woodbridge CT) for current updates, local information, and fun programming photos. Also, please make sure you are on our email blast list to receive the latest Woodbridge Center updates. Call to subscribe.

October Coffee Bar The Center Café, no charge

Stop by The Center between the hours of 9 am – 4 pm and enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea at no charge. Sponsorship for the month of October is provided by the Woodbridge Republican Town Committee.

October Super Sponsor Wall The Center Cafe's Art Wall

We would like to thank and recognize the following sponsors for their generous contributions in support of The Center:

- › Coachman Square at Woodbridge;
- › DNR Laboratories;
- › Elim Park;
- › Opal Stork Home Care;
- › Whitney Rehabilitation and Health Care Center.

Upcoming Programs In-person Lunch For everyone 55 and older

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12-1 pm, The Center Café

Lunch includes a choice of hot entrée with roll and sides or a sandwich, soup, roll, dessert, coffee/tea and water. The price for lunch is \$5.00 for residents, \$6.00 for non-residents, with a \$1.00 additional fee for take-out. Please RSVP with The Center 203-389-3430 by noon the day before.

Entrées for October (alternate sandwich in parenthesis):

- › 10/3 Vegetable and cheese frittata (chicken salad wrap);
- › 10/5 Turkey pot pie (tuna salad on a roll);
- › 10/10 Baked manicotti with meat sauce (roast beef and cheese on a roll);
- › 10/12 Herb roasted turkey (seafood salad on a wrap);
- › 10/17 Stuffed flounder (roast beef and cheese on a wrap);
- › 10/19 Capellini and meatballs (turkey and cheese on a roll);
- › 10/24 Stuffed peppers (tuna salad on a wrap);
- › 10/26 Spooky Sponsor Social with sponsored lunch (see details below);
- › 10/31 Corned beef (seafood salad on a roll).

Popcorn and a Movie
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 pm
Tuesdays in The Center Lounge
Thursdays in The Center Café

View a variety of movie genres from recently released to classics on Tuesdays and Thursdays with freshly popped popcorn at The Center.

- › 10/3 A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood (2019);
- › 10/5 Julie and Julia (2009);
- › 10/10 Silver Linings Playbook (2012);
- › 10/12 When Harry Met Sally (1989);
- › 10/17 Murder on the Orient Express (2017);
- › 10/19 Little Women (2019);
- › 10/24 The Princess Bride (1987);
- › 10/26 1:30 pm Hairspray (2007);
- › 10/31 1:30 pm Hocus Pocus (1993).

T'ai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance (TJQ: MBB)

Mondays and Fridays
24 weeks (48 classes) sessions:
11 am – 12 pm – enrollment open until October 13
Center Building Gymnasium
Fee: \$96.00 for entire session (\$2/class)

Improve your balance, mobility and daily functioning while preventing falls with this popular, evidenced-based therapeutic movement program, offered in partnership with the CT Healthy Living Collective and funded in part by the CT Department of Aging and Disability Services State Unit on Aging. Participants meet twice a week with local instructor Bill Bannick. No previous T'ai Ji Quan experience is necessary. All fitness levels are welcome! You must sign up with The Center for

the full 24-week (\$96.00) session. Space is limited. Please call to register.

Lunch & Learn – Medicare 2024

Wednesday, October 4, 11:30-12:30 pm
The Center Café, no charge

Find out what you need to know and do to prepare for Medicare's open enrollment period October 15th - December 7th. The presentation will be given by Leslie Pruitt of Agency on Aging of South Central CT with a complimentary lunch provided by Coachman Square at Woodbridge. General questions regarding Medicare are welcome. Please RSVP with The Center.

Lunch Bunch to Bear's Smokehouse Barbecue

Wednesday, October 11
Van leaves The Center at 11:30 am or meet at Bear's at 12 pm

Join a social outing to lunch at Bear's Smokehouse Barbecue in New Haven. Self-pay for your meal at the restaurant. \$3.00 per person for transportation (or meet at the restaurant). Call The Center to RSVP by October 11. Space is limited.

Lunch & Learn
Decoding discomfort: Exploring common cardiovascular symptoms, their diagnosis and treatment, and when to get help.
October 18, 12-1 pm

See "Woodbridge Center" On Page 13

“Woodbridge Center” From Page 12

The Center Café, no charge

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is prevalent in all adults but increases to staggeringly high numbers as we age. While some types of CVD are largely asymptomatic, others may present with sudden or gradual discomfort, or other physical changes. Join Becket Greten-Harrison, cardiology PA and founder of Hearts at Home, for a presentation about some common CVD symptoms that are treatable, and when to get immediate help or call 911. Question and answer to follow. Please RSVP by October 13.

October Birthdays Celebration

Thursday, October 19, 12-1 pm
The Center Café

Celebrate October birthdays at The Center during lunch on Thursday, October 19 from 12-1 pm. Cupcakes or cake will be provided by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. Future birthdays will be celebrated on the third Thursday of each month.

Annual Spooky Sponsor Social

Thursday, October 26, 11:30-1:00 pm
The Center Building Gymnasium and Center Café, no charge

The Center is fortunate to have the generous support of our sponsors throughout the year. The Annual Spooky Sponsor Social provides the opportunity to thank many of these sponsors for their generosity while learning more about their businesses/agencies. Visit with over 20 sponsors from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm at this festive, health fair style event which includes blood pressure and wellness guidance by cardiologist PA, Becket Greten-Harrison from Hearts at Home, and registered nurses from Orange Visiting Nurses Association. Visit all of the sponsors, then enjoy lunch (no to-go’s) in the Center Café with a choice of turkey BLT or tuna salad sandwich provided by Coachman Square at Woodbridge and Whitney Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. Wrap up the festivities with freshly popped, buttered popcorn while watching the movie Hair Spray in the Center Café at 1:30 pm. Please RSVP with The Center 203-389-3430 by October 19.

Halloween at The Center – Treats or more Treats!

Festive lunch, Wine Cork Pumpkin

Craft, and Popcorn & a Movie

Tuesday, October 31, 12-3:30 pm
The Center Café and Center Lounge

Start with lunch in the cafeteria at noon with a choice of hot corned beef entrée or seafood salad on a roll. A decorative Wine Cork Pumpkin Craft, provided by Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, will follow at 12:45 pm. Lastly, at 1:30 pm, enjoy watching Hocus Pocus in the lounge with freshly popped buttered popcorn. Participate in one or all of the programs. Please RSVP with The Center by 12 pm, October 30.

Extend your day at The Center by participating in the aerobics class from 10 - 11 am in the Center Café and/or with the Stitch Craft (Crocheting and Knitting) Group from 10 am – 12 pm in the Center Lounge.

New! Duplicate Bridge

Fridays, 1 – 4 pm
The Center Café

Please reach out to the Woodbridge Center 203-389-3430 if you are an experienced bridge player interested in playing Duplicate Bridge on Fridays, 1 – 4 pm.

Regular Programs Exercise

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

Aerobics Class with Laura Richling Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 am; Center Building Gymnasium; Fee: \$3.00 payable at the start of each class

Come enjoy a complete cardio and strength training workout to music. Bring your own 1-or 2-pound hand weights, if you have them, to use during the class.

Indoor Pickleball Monday through Friday, 12:30-3:30 pm; Center Building Gymnasium; Annual fee: \$20 for residents, \$25 for non-residents

All levels are welcome. The annual fee includes outdoor play as well. Please make sure your dues are current. Call for more information.

Outdoor Pickleball Every Day; Outdoors on the Town Courts; Annual fee: \$20 for residents, \$25 for non-residents

The annual fee includes indoor play as well. Please make sure your dues are current. Call for more information.

Hobbies/Social

Bridge Wednesdays, 1-4 pm; The Center Café

Seasoned bridge players are wel-

come to play bridge every Wednesday in The Center Café. Please call prior to initial play.

Mahjongg Mondays and Fridays, 10-11:30 am; The Center Lounge

Seasoned Mahjongg players are invited to participate. Please call prior to attending for the first time.

Painting for Pleasure Art Class with local artist Carole Abbate Mondays, 10 am - 12 pm; The Center Cafe

Create paintings of your choice as Carole helps inspire beginners to intermediates to paint with acrylics or watercolors. Bring in a picture or a photo for inspiration. No experience is necessary. Call to sign-up for this 6-week, \$36 class. Sessions run concurrently with classes prorated if applicable. Join anytime. Please call to register.

Pinochle Thursdays, 1:30-4 pm; The Center Lounge

Anyone interested in playing pinochle, or learning to play pinochle, is invited to join the pinochle group on Thursdays from 1:30-4 pm in the Center Lounge. Please call The Center prior to first attendance.

Stitch Craft Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 am - 12 pm; The Center Lounge

Bring your current knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, or other craft project to work on while having an enjoyable time socializing.

Services Offered Ask the Nurse Program with OVNA

Second Tuesday of the month
The Center Consultation Office in The Center Café

A registered nurse from Orange Visiting Nurse Association (OVNA) will be available to monitor your blood pressure, check your weight, and answer questions to help guide your health and wellness.

Ask a Cardiology PA (Physician’s Assistant) Program with Becket Greten-Harrison

Fourth Thursday of the month
The Center Consultation Office in The Center Café

Becket Greten-Harrison, PA and founder of Hearts at Home, will be available on the 4th Thursday of every month to help answer questions and concerns about your health, check vital signs including blood pressure, and perform a brief exam upon request. Consultations are private, in-

formal, and strictly confidential. No notes or other personal information will be saved.

Computer Lab

Computers and laptops are located in room 11 of the Center Building Human Services corridor, which is open Monday through Fridays, 10 am - 2 pm. Printing is available (first 5 pages free).

Transportation

(Woodbridge residents only)

Those 60 years of age and older, or who are temporarily or permanently disabled, may call to arrange car or wheelchair accessible van transportation to medical appointments to 17 surrounding towns, local grocery shopping, banking, pharmacy pick-up, and social engagements. This service is provided Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm based on availability. Appointments may be made up to three months in advance. Vehicles are cleaned between each use.

Delivered Meals

(Woodbridge residents only)

Healthy, well balanced, flash frozen meals for \$5.25/meal are available for delivery. Order by noon on Monday for delivery to your home during the same week. Choose from a wide variety of options including lasagna, vegetable and cheese frittata, crab stuffed talapia, and turkey pot pie. Meals include a roll, fresh fruit, and dessert. Two meal minimum order with a ten-meal limit. See The Center’s page on the Town website for a complete list of offerings. A wide variety of frozen soups are also available for \$1.50 per 10 oz. container.

Friendly Visitor Program

(Woodbridge residents only)

Call the Human Services Social Worker at 203-389-3429 to arrange for a friendly visitor.

Medical Loan Closet

(Woodbridge residents only)

Durable medical equipment, including walkers, wheelchairs, knee rollers, shower chairs, and more, is available for lending. Donations of transport chairs are needed. Call for details.

Job Bank

(Woodbridge residents only)

Residents may call Nancy Pfund, Youth Services Director, at 203-389-3429, to hire a student worker. Schedule now for yard clean-up, party assistance, baby-sitting, and more.



HUMAN SERVICES



Left: Members of The Center's Alzheimer's walk team gather to walk around the center of Town to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Association recently; Right: The Living Treasure recipients stand with First Selectman Beth Heller, center, State Senators James Maroney and Jorge Cabrera, Human Services Director Jeanette Glicksman, and Woodbridge Center Director Kristy Moriarty. The winners of the 2023 Living Treasure Award are Mary Lee Barker, Joe Crisco, Lynn Piascyk, and Matt Giglietti.

BY JEANETTE GLICKSMAN
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES

Human Services News and Services: Call 203-389-3429 or email humanservices@woodbridgect.org for more information.

Vaccine Clinics: The Human Services Department has planned 5 vaccine clinics this fall. All clinics require an appointment; please call 203-389-3429 to schedule. The four remain-

ing clinics will be held at the Center Building gymnasium. There will be flu vaccine-only clinics on October 2 and October 20 as well as multiple-vaccine clinics on October 3 and October 30. The multiple-vaccine clinics will provide access to five different vaccines including COVID-19, Flu, RSV, Shingles (Shingrix), and Pneumonia (Pneumovax 20). For more information and to make an appointment call the

Human Services Department.

Free Test Kits: The Biden administration has resumed providing free at-home COVID-19 test kits. Four free tests are available for each household to request through the government's COVIDTests.gov portal. Tests will be shipped through the U.S. Postal Service starting October 2. Some test kits are also available through the Human Services Department; please call 203-

389-3429 to request.

Drug Take Back Day: The Woodbridge Police Department, in conjunction with the Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge Drug and Alcohol Action Committee, will host the DEA National Drug Take Back Day from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm on Saturday, October 28 at the Woodbridge Police Department,

.....

See "Human Services" On Page 16

CALL SHELLY TO SCHEDULE YOUR FURNACE TUNE UP TODAY!

Apple Oil Company

7/24/365

A Full Service Oil Company Providing Bio Fuel and Heating Oil Plus!

BIOHEAT

Cleaner. Better. Safer.

Serving You is Our Core Business

APPLE OIL CO.

SMART SENSE TECHNOLOGY

We Install and Service All Brands

Boilers
Furnaces
Air Conditioning
Hot Water Heaters

Let our seasoned, fully trained, and licensed service staff take care of your heating needs.

(203) 934-FUEL (3835)

Buy from your Local Neighbor

Sam Livieri - Woodbridge (Owner)

Tony Ferranti - Orange (GM)

Ken Crepeau - Milford (Service Mgr)

APPLE OIL CO.

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S1-0302987
HOD 374

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



Home Alone Class

A two-day class for youth, ages 9-12, will be held on Thursdays, October 19 & 26 from 4:00-5:00 pm in Room 16 in the Woodbridge Center Building at 4 Meetinghouse Lane. Students learn about answering the door and phone, emergencies, calling 911, healthy snacks, and internet safety. Snacks and materials are provided. Advance payment of \$15 for residents (\$20 for non-residents) and permission form will reserve your spot. Sibling discount offered. Call to sign up early as space is limited.

Youth Evening Programs- Halloween Spooktacular

Woodbridge Youth Services will be hosting this popular event for both 7th and 8th grade residents of Bethany and Woodbridge and all students of AMSB. Mark your calendars for Friday, October 20th, 2023, 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Woodbridge Center Building Gym at 4 Meetinghouse Lane. Fee is just \$10 (payable at the door) for music by our DJ, games, the mummy wrap, costume contest, raffle, and refreshments. Sponsors are Woodbridge Youth Services and the Town of Bethany.

Volunteers Needed

Adults, College Students, and high school juniors and seniors wanted to chaperone or assist at the registration tables, games, and food table. Community Service hours will be approved for high school students. Call Youth Services for information.

Job Bank Seeks Woodbridge and Bethany Teens Who Want Work

The Job Bank guides teens ages 13-18 as they apply, interview, and earn money doing odd jobs for Woodbridge residents. Teens are needed now, especially for yard work. Contact the Job Bank to schedule your interview. Other jobs include babysitting, housework, animal care, tutoring and tech assistance. Residents may call 203-389-3429 to hire a student.

Woodbridge Youth Advisory Board

Woodbridge Youth Services seeks Woodbridge parents to join its Advisory Board which meets five times per year (September through May). Contact Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3429 for more information.

Drug Take Back Day

National Drug Take Back Day will be held on Saturday, October 28th from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm at the

Woodbridge Police Department at 4 Meetinghouse Lane and at High Plains Community Center in Orange from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. All unwanted/expired medications will be taken (including liquids and sharps). Volunteers from the National Pharmacy Association will be on site in Orange to answer any questions, along with the Orange Police Department, BOWDAAC, and CERT.

Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge Drug and Alcohol Action Committee (BOWDAAC) New Members Sought

Our local prevention council works within our communities and local schools to provide programming and share information regarding vaping, tobacco, drug, and alcohol use. Contact Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3464 to get involved. Group meets monthly during the school year.

Amity Youth Awarded at Annual Regional Prevention Meeting

On September 20th, the Annual Regional Prevention Meeting was held with BOWDAAC, Milford Prevention Council, and the West Haven Prevention Council. A year-in-review was presented, as well as the upcoming goals for this year. In addition, each prevention council honored a volunteer that has gone above and beyond for their council.

BOWDAAC selected Ben Aviad, a senior at Amity High School, who serves on the joint BOW/Milford Youth Committee. Ben has shown great passion for the work we do and always has ideas of what projects we could work on next. He was an integral part of our Youth Problem Gambling Video project, helping to create the storyline and understanding how gambling affects youth. He is eager to work on new projects for this school year and we can't thank him enough for volunteering so much of his time. Thank you, Ben!

Call 203-389-3429 or email npfund@woodbridgect.org for information or to sign up for programs. Sign up for Youth Services Notifications: <https://www.woodbridgect.org/list.aspx>

See Youth Services' Website: <https://www.woodbridgect.org/160/Youth-Services>

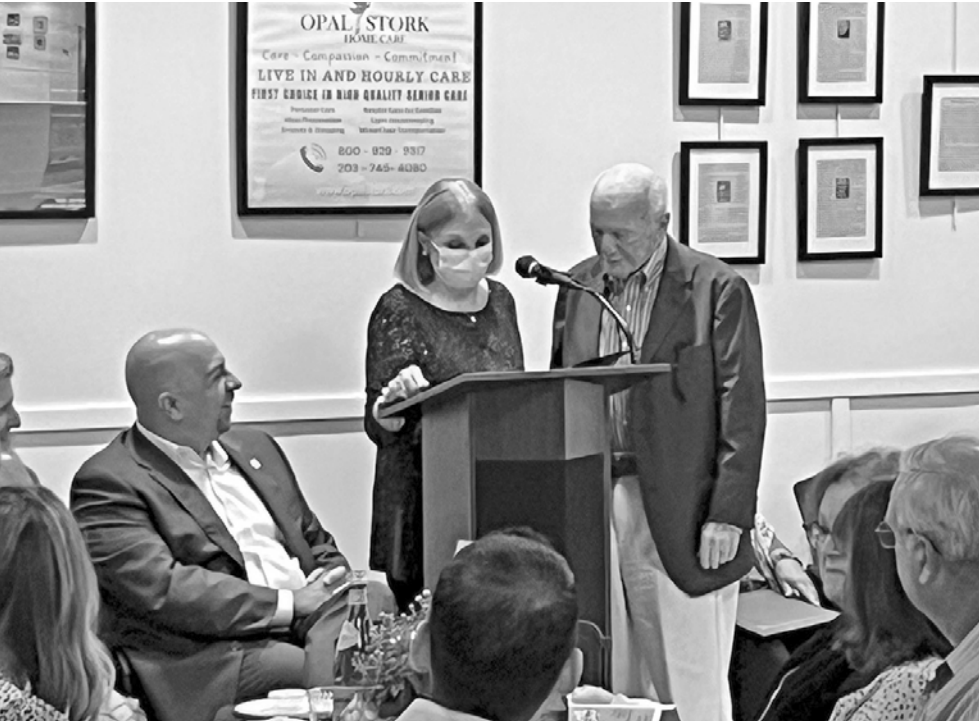
Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WoodbridgeYouthServices.CT>



Halloween Spooktacular Mummy Wrap from 2022



Ben Aviad receives award from BOWDAAC Coordinator Jessica Simone



1) Matt Giglietti receives a State citation from State Senator Jorge Cabrera during the 5th annual Living Treasure event held at The Woodbridge Center; 2) Living Treasure Award recipient Lynn Piascyk holds up her recognition plaque from the Human Services Department during the recent community-building event; 3) First Selectman Beth Heller presents Board of Selectmen member Joe Crisco with a Town citation during the Living Treasure event; 4) Mary Lee Barker shakes State Senator Jorge Cabrera’s hand after receiving a State citation from State Senator James Maroney during the Living Treasure event at The Woodbridge Center

“Human Services” From Page 14

4 Meetinghouse Lane. This is a safe, convenient, and responsible means for prescription drug disposal. Please no ointments, lotions or liquids, no needles-sharps should be included in disposal. The Police Department also offers 24-hour access to disposal year-round.

Living Treasure Event: Many thanks to all who came out to support the 5th annual Living Treasure Award

event. Thanks also to the many advertisers, both individual and businesses, who contributed to the fundraising effort. The spirit of volunteerism celebrated at the event was made even more special with all the volunteers who made the Living Treasure dinner possible. The Living Treasure Award honors Woodbridge residents who have contributed many years of service to the Town. The event serves as a fundraiser for The Woodbridge Center.

Food Pantry: Residents in need

may call for access to non-perishable food each month. If interested in donating, the food pantry needs dish soap, cleaning products, laundry soap, coffee, canola and olive oil, canned chicken, pasta sauce, snack foods, and personal hygiene products such as deodorant, toothpaste, razors, and shampoo.

Energy Assistance Program: Qualifying residents may schedule an appointment to apply for the 2023 - 2024 CT Energy Assistance Program administered by TEAM, INC. For more

information regarding this program, please call Judi Young at 203-389 3429.

Food Drive: Please consider donating to the annual Boy Scout food drive and collection which will take place on October 28. This food drive benefits the Woodbridge Food Pantry and local families in need. Last year town residents donated close to two tons of food. We hope we can match that effort again this year. Many thanks to the scouts of Troops 63, 907, and 410 for their efforts each year.

“Election” From Page 1

daughters – he would still be the youngest first selectman, at least in recent history. In addition, he would be the first unaffiliated first selectman.

Asked why he decided to run, he said he felt there was a need, that there were a number of unresolved issues, and he felt he could have an impact. In the end it was the Republican Town Committee that suggested the top spot, and he agreed to it. His pledge is to leave partisan politics behind. “We’ll do what’s right for Woodbridge,” he said.

Like other Republicans before him, he’d like to initiate a Charter revision,

and to introduce a referendum for the budget approval, much like the Amity budget.

Country Club: Both Halprin and Cardozo said the future of the Country Club is an important issue on voters’ minds.

Halprin feels past administrations were too focused on putting housing there. “A true evaluation [of all options] needs to be done,” he said, wondering why a survey conducted a few years ago was never used in the decision-making process. With a more careful analysis, some type of housing might come out on top, he said, but the town bought the property as open space, and if housing is the answer, there needs to be a reason why this

is the first choice.

Similarly, Cardozo expressed openness to all options, but “the only thing I am really opposed to is inaction,” he added, calling it a missed opportunity. The property should be considered an asset to the town, and the townspeople have agency in how to use it.

Obviously, it’s contentious, he added. But “we all want what’s good for the town.” And at this point the property is so neglected that almost anything seems preferable to what’s there. He said the realization that very close to the former Country Club of Woodbridge property Yale owns a large nature preserve and that has changed his own assessment of the need for a large open space tract.

Cardozo said he had not seen the responses to an RFP (Request for Proposal) the town put out last August, looking for a consultant to guide the town through the process of finding an answer.

Cardozo said the question of the Country Club needs to be assessed in light of all the needs of the town – housing is one, but also school enrollment, taxes, economic development, open space and recreation. “It’s a conversation we have to have, a consensus we have to reach,” he said, with emphasis.

“This certainly is not political,” he said. “The town needs to figure out where the needs are and how to fill them, in the best interest of the town.”

“Letters” From Page 4

celebrating inclusion, our schools aim to provide a nurturing space where every student feels valued and has an equal opportunity to succeed. DEI is a vital component of ensuring that our educational institutions prepare our students for a diverse and ever-changing world. It was deeply troubling to witness an entire campaign to vote down the budget last year as a protest against DEI.

Our schools rely on these budgets to provide quality education to our children and support our dedicated educators. Hindering these efforts only jeopardizes the future of our students and the success of our schools. As responsible and informed citizens, we must recognize the importance of protecting our school system, students, and educators and to support candidates and parties that prioritize the betterment of our educational institutions rather than seeking to weaken them for political gain. I urge our community to choose a path that strengthens our schools and fosters a positive learning environment for our children. We must support the values of our Town and reject divisive rhetoric that threatens the hard work of our educators and the future of our students. I hope you will join me in voting for our Democratic BOE Candidates on November 7th.
Christine Risley

A Few Thoughts About Candidate Dan Del Prete

Hello fellow Amity and Beecher friends. My name is Nell D’Andrea. Some of you may know me because of my three wonderful boys that have gone/are going through the Beecher Road and Amity School System, or maybe from the many sports they all play, or even where I work. But I am here to speak about my colleague and friend Dan Del Prete. He is currently running for the Amity Board of Ed and I just wanted to share a few thoughts about my good friend.

I have known Dan for over eight long years now. I became friends with Dan and his wife while cheering on our children at the Beth-Wood baseball games. We were always moving in the same directions but he never seemed to be stressed by it all. I could count on him and his family to help with the logistical chaos of needed rides and being there to watch and support my kids as well as his.

He is a parent for whom I have the utmost respect for the involvement Dan puts in. I have watched his children go out on the Amity track and cheer on each other at races saying “Keep going, you can make it!” Not all siblings have this bond and it really is heartwarming to see; this obviously is something they learned and internalized from their parents – family supports one another. I mention this because I believe that this support and example of care and love comes from home. It comes from the solid examples at home. This fantastic gaggle of Del Pretes would travel everywhere in their bus-like vehicle. The support from Mom and Dad never faltered and doesn’t to this day. The more kids he had, the more involved he became.

He is a level-headed, involved parent who just wants to make sure the future of Amity is successful. He would be a perfect Board of Education member and I hope you’ll join me in voting for Dan this fall.
Nell D’Andrea

Voting for Halprin for First Selevtman

I hear Mica Cardozo is a nice man, but his four years as Deputy First Selectman suggest he lacks the guts required to lead our town. In all that time he never publicly challenged his party’s approach on any issue, including the former Country Club and our ever-increasing budget. Now he says he has a 100-day plan—really?
In sharp contrast First Selectman candidate Marty Halprin is a retired firefighter. September 11 offers a vivid

reminder of the guts it takes to choose firefighting as a profession. These are the guys who run into burning buildings when the rest of us are running out of them.

Marty’s father developed a property management business and Marty could have followed his father’s path. Instead, Marty chose both to continue the business AND serve as a professional firefighter. Together these two pursuits give him the business savvy, leadership skills, and emergency management expertise to lead our town well.

On November 7th I am voting for Marty Halprin for First Selectman.
Joan Dekas

Delighted to Support Vogel for Another Term as Selectman

Based on knowing David Vogel for over 56 years, and having followed closely his service on the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen over the past two years, I am delighted to recommend him as a candidate for re-election to the Board.

One of Woodbridge’s greatest challenges is its finances. Dave’s experience includes years of work at Yale’s development office and his leadership roles at the Whitney Center, where he serves on the finance committee and the philanthropy council (and where he has gained special insights regarding the needs of senior citizens). His understanding of revenue and cost

issues and his skills in identifying potential sources of savings and of income have added fresh eyes and a new voice on the Board in assessing and addressing Woodbridge’s ongoing struggle to reduce costs and lower our disproportionate mill rate burden.

Finally, Dave has been a vocal critic of the current Board’s majority party’s approach to singularly partisan governance. Dave Vogel will continue to be a diligent spokesman for those whose views have been given inadequate attention for far too long, and he will seek to find appropriate compromise with every Board member who truly cares about democratic governance for Woodbridge.
Tom Weil

Pleased to Support Gibbons for Zoning Board of Appeals

We are pleased to write this letter supporting Cynthia Gibbons as a candidate for the Woodbridge Zoning Board of Appeals. We have known Cindy for several years and know her to be honest and trustworthy, a professional and reliable individual. She is a lifelong resident of Woodbridge and understands the need to maintain the quality of the town and keeping Woodbridge a town to be proud of. That is why we are more than happy to support Cynthia Gibbons as a candidate for the Woodbridge Zoning Board of Appeals.
Betsey D’Andrea and Jack Brandt

TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023 – 6:00 P.M., DST

Pursuant to §4-5 (c) of the Charter of the Town of Woodbridge, notice is hereby given that the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Central Meeting Room, 11 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT to receive comments on the following proposed amendments to the Woodbridge Ordinances:

ARTICLE III – FIRE COMMISSION 75-22 DUTIES AND POWERS C.
~~Annually conduct a written evaluation of the performance of the Woodbridge Fire Marshal, said written evaluation to be filed with the Board of Selectmen on or before July 1 of each year.~~

Section C of Article III – Fire Commission 75-22 Duties and Powers is repealed in its entirety.

ARTICLE IX – TAX ABATEMENT FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL
382-21. A shall be amended as follows to align with CGS 12-81w:

A. For two or more years of service abated by \$2,000
B. Deleted
C. Deleted

382-23 – Application of abatement shall be amended:
The tax abatement shall be applied against any real property taxes owing to the Town of Woodbridge or to motor vehicle taxes owing to the Town of Woodbridge at the sole choice of the volunteer firefighter.

382-25 – Applicability New
(New language) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in section 382-7, if property is held in trust for a volunteer firefighter who would otherwise qualify for this tax abatement, the tax relief may still be granted if the volunteer firefighter is the primary beneficiary of the trust during his or her lifetime and meets all other requirements under this program. The application for tax abatement shall contain a copy of the trust agreement which shall be reviewed and approved by the Assessor and Town Counsel prior to approval of the application.

Effective Date: The amendments to Article IX herein shall be applicable to taxes owing beginning with taxes on the grant list of October 1, 2023.

CHAPTER 42. Funds. ARTICLE I COUNTRY CLUB ENTERPRISE FUND
Recommendation that Article I Country Club Enterprise Fund be repealed as the Town of Woodbridge no longer operates such club as described within the context of this article.

Copies of the proposed revisions to the Woodbridge Ordinances are posted on the Town’s Website at www.woodbridgect.org and on file in the Town Clerk’s Office and may be reviewed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be submitted to the Selectman’s Office via mail or e-mail to gshaw@woodbridgect.org until 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, or presented in person at the public hearing.

Dated at Woodbridge, CT this 22nd day of September 2023.

Board of Selectmen
Town of Woodbridge



HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

September 29 to October 27

Two Sukkah Parties

BEKI's annual Sukkah Hop (a progressive party around Westville) will be Sunday, October 1.

BEKI Apizza will be Wednesday, October 4 in the sukkah (inside in case of rain). Vegan and gluten free pies will be available. Reservations are due September 29 to the BEKI office, 203.389.2108 x114 or office@beki.org., \$10/adults, \$5/child under 12, \$30 maximum/household.

Yizkor and Simchat Torah

Shmini Atzeret services on Saturday, October 7 will include Yizkor memorial prayers. Simchat Torah services on Sunday, October 8 will include torah processions, singing and dancing. Children's programming that day will involve unrolling the entire Torah, celebrating, and learning. Details at beki.org.

Elm City Kallah

On Saturday, October 28, Maharat Rori Picker Neiss will speak at BEKI as



part of the week-end Kallah. Her topic is "But My Ineffable Name I Did Not Make Known," asking what this name is, what it signifies, and what is it to "know" God.

Picker Neiss serves as Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis, Missouri and is chair of the cabinet of Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis. She is a David Hartman Center fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America and a CLAL Rabbis Without Borders fellow.

She will also speak on October 27 at Westville Synagogue and October 29 at Congregation B'nai Jacob. Elm City Kallah is made possible by generous grants from the James M. Shure Educational Fund and the Greater New Haven Jewish Federation.

Children's Programs

Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, and Junior Congregation, all led by parent or grandparent volunteers, meet each Saturday. For more information, consult Education Director Annie Nor-



man-Schiff at anormanschiff@beki.org.

Youth Group

In September, twenty-three BEKI teens gathered for the youth group's kickoff event. Over pizza and sushi, they discussed plans for the year and learned about BEKI's teen learning program, called Teen Keshet.

The next youth group event, for students in grades 7 to 12, is Apple Picking at Lyman Orchards in Middlefield on Sunday, October 15 from 2-3:30 pm. Contact anormanschiff@beki.org for more information.

Study with the Rabbi

Rabbi Eric Woodward leads a discussion of the weekly Torah portion on Thursdays. Talmud class meets Sunday, October 22 and other select Sundays. Details at beki.org.

Current Exhibition

"Off Our Walls," an exhibition of art from over eighty BEKI homes, will be on display through October 28. The exhibition is open to the public by appointment; email office@beki.org or call 203.389.2108 x 114.

Celebrating Gender Diversity

Rabbi Dr. Jay Michaelson will speak on BEKI Zoom Wednesday, November 15 at 7:30 pm on the topic



"Celebrating Gender Diversity in Jewish Tradition, Values, and Theology." Michaelson is a political commentator, a rabbi, and the author of nine books including the bestselling God vs. Gay? The Religious Case for Equality. He holds a JD from Yale Law School and a PhD from Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Email office@beki.org to request the Zoom link.

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

Document Shredding Event at Temple Beth Sholom

Date: October 29, 2023

Time: 9am-12pm

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

Cost:

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

Also Available:

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

All items should be in a box that can easily be picked up. Paper items only. No trash bags, paper bags, etc. No trash or non-paper items. No CDs, X-Rays, etc. Paper clips and staples CAN be shredded. On-site shredding truck provided by Affordable Solutions, LLC.

Questions? Email fundraising@tbshamden.com.

Come early! Once the truck is full the event is over!

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

Trinity Church

The church office is open Monday to Thursday from 9am-3pm. Feel free to contact us at trinityoffice@trinityefc.com or (203) 387-4711 x11. Learn more at trinityefc.com, facebook.com/trinitychurchwoodbridge or instagram.com/trinityefc.



Trinity Church



Josh Benner

New Senior Pastor

Please join us in welcoming Trinity's new Senior Pastor, Josh Benner. Pastor Josh, his wife Kari, and son Robbie recently moved here from Illinois. You can learn more about them on our website at trinityefc.com. Come meet them on Sundays or at our upcoming annual Fall Festival.

Sunday Service

Join us for Sunday School (all ages) at 9am and Worship Service at 10:30am. Sunday mornings at Trinity are a time we gather to worship God, grow in Christ, and connect with one another. Come for an intergenerational, relational experience that is built around our core values of Worship, Discipleship, and Community.

Fall Festival

You're invited to the Trinity Church annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 7 from 1-4pm. This is a family-friendly event with live music, food, and fun including a dunk tank, face painting, pony rides, pumpkin carving contest, and more! Rain or shine, bring your friends and family to enjoy an afternoon of fall fun.

33 Center Road, Woodbridge
203-387-4711

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 EVENTS

The First Church of Christ, Woodbridge

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

Interim Minister

The Rev. Susan Murtha is the Interim Minister at FCCW and has made quite an impact. Plan a visit to see what is "happening." You can also read about her on our website. We are honored to have such an extraordinary individual here with us at First Church!

Kid's Church at First Church!

Families meet at the church at 10:00 and at 10:10 the children are walked over to the Parish House for Kid's Church by Forest Vandeflor, our project leader for children's ministries, along with an adult volunteer. This is a great time for the children while their parents are at the worship service! We've also added a fabulous new program: Picture the Bible that has already been a great success here at First church.

Weekly Bible Study

Bible Study meets at the Parish House each Wednesday, 10:30 am. All are invited!

Boy Scout Troop 907

BSA Troop 907 Expands Membership Kicks Off New Year with Two Trips
Woodbridge based BSA Troop 907 added new members this year bringing its membership to 19 boys. The vibrant and active troop had a stun-

ning summer camp week in August at Camp Sequassen in New Hartford, CT. The group earned a total of 40 merit badges as well as other awards and fun activities including Land and Sea games competing against other troops from both in state and out of state.

The Troop begins the new year electing its peer leaders and planning the first two camp outs including a weekend camp sponsored by Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford, CT where they can earn a wide variety of merit badges such as Search & Rescue, Public Speaking and Aircraft. The group will also be enjoying the Fall weather at a local BSA camp. They will be conducting a few fundraisers to offset costs for the year, and they are hoping the community rallies to assist so keep your eyes out for future information.

Any boy entering the 5th grade and regardless of previous scout experience are welcome to visit anytime at its regular Thursday meetings hosted in First Christ of Church rear lower meeting room at 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT.

RichForselius
Troop 907 Committee Chair

First Church Welcomes Girl Scout Troop 60163

Junior Troop 60163 will begin meeting at the Parish Hall starting 10/1. This is what their leader had to say, "We are Junior Troop 60163. We began our journey in Girl Scouts in 2019 as Daisy Scouts. Sadly, the year was cut short by COVID-19. We carried on the following year, meeting outside at the leader's house as 2nd

year Daisies. That summer we bridged to Brownies. Over the next two years we completed three Journeys which earned us a Summit Pin, a very prestigious award in Girl Scouts. As part of the Journeys, we were required to do a take action project. One of the Journeys we worked on was about storytelling. We believed a fitting project would be to place a Little Library up at Fitzgerald Park. We wrote a letter to the First Selectwoman requesting permission and were asked to present our request to the Board. Two Brownies presented the Troop's presentation over Zoom to the Board and the Troop was granted permission to put up the library. Our Little Library is posted near the sign at the beginning of the walking trail.

As we begin our 1st Junior year, our goal is to work towards earning our Bronze Award, which is the third highest award in Girl Scouts. We love a challenge!

We are looking forward to a year filled with cookies, camping, new skills, new friendships (all 4th grade girls are welcome to join us) and service to our community.

We would like to thank First Church for offering us a safe space to hold our meetings.

Yours in Scouting- Girl Scout Troop 60163.

Upcoming Events

Monster Bash: Sunday October 29th @ Parish Hall, 5 Meeting House Lane, Woodbridge from 3-4:30PM

Join us in your costumes for our spooky family event. There will be plen-

ty of tricks and treats at Parish Hall.

Zoom Option

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

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

Office Hours

The Church office in the Parish House is open from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Join the FCCW Choir!

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

For More Information

Visit our website at www.uccw.org for resources such as our calendar of events, monthly newsletter, ministry and volunteer opportunities, photo galleries, scout info, and much more! Follow us on Facebook and stay up to date with parish happenings, including memorials and baptism announcements. Feel free to email us or call the office with all your questions. We are happy to hear from you!

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How to Honor Various Faiths During a Holiday Party

The holiday season is a time to gather and celebrate with family. In recent years, families have become more and more diverse, particularly in regard to faith. For example, data from the Pew Research Center indicates that 46 percent of Jewish adults between the ages of 18 and 29 are children of interfaith marriages.

A greater number of interfaith marriages means it's likely holiday hosts will be celebrating among family and friends with different religious backgrounds than their own. In an effort to ensure everyone feels welcome, hosts can consider these ways to honor various faiths during their holiday celebrations.

Learn about other faiths. Knowl-

edge of other faiths can help hosts create a more inclusive and welcoming atmosphere during the holiday season. For example, a Christian host welcoming a Jewish friend or relative into their home for the holidays can learn about the festival of Chanukah prior to opening their home to guests.

Incorporate what you've learned into the party. After learning about the holiday celebrations of other faiths, hosts can incorporate that new knowledge into their decor and celebration. When planning the meal, prepare a traditional holiday dish a guest might eat when celebrating their own faith or culture. This can make for a meal that's both welcoming and more flavorful at the same time.

Let guests chip in. Extended family members and friends from different religious backgrounds may be proud of their faith and enthusiastic about the chance to share it with the people they love most. A holiday gathering is the ideal time to embrace this spirit. Encourage guests from different religious backgrounds to bring something that reminds them of their own religious celebrations. That can be a particular food or beverage, a playlist of holiday songs or a small gift such as an ornament to incorporate into holiday decor. Guests can then share as much as they would like to about their faith, including any holiday traditions that they typically engage in.

Reduce emphasis on a particular

holiday. When hosting friends and family during the holidays, avoid placing too great an emphasis on a particular religious holiday. It's alright for hosts to offer well wishes and even recite prayers that reflect their faith, but try to emphasize how enjoyable it is for everyone to gather under one roof and celebrate the season together. Celebrating with family is a significant component of the holiday season for people of all faiths, so emphasizing togetherness during this special time of year is something all guests will appreciate.

Holiday hosts can embrace various strategies to make sure guests from all religious backgrounds feel welcome at their homes this holiday season.

WOODBRIDGE LIBRARY

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

Library Announcements

The library will be CLOSED on Monday, October 9 for Columbus Day. We will be open our regular hours on Saturday, October 7!

Now Open Saturdays Year-Round

The Woodbridge Town Library is open on Saturdays year-round Monday—Thursday: 10 am to 8 pm, Friday & Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm. Our wifi works on the library grounds, even when the library is closed. Picnic tables are available. Enjoy!

Online Card Registration Available

Are you a Woodbridge resident? You can sign up for a library card online! Visit our website, woodbridgetownlibrary.org. After registering, you will immediately be able to use your new account to place holds on items for pick up at the library. We will then contact you via email within 2 business days with your new library card number. At this time, you will get full access to our electronic resources, including downloadable books and magazines. Please note that this is a temporary registration that will expire in 30 days. Before the 30 days is up, please visit the Woodbridge Town Library in person to verify your name and address. At that time, you will receive a permanent library card.

Do We Have Your Email Address?

Sign up for our email newsletters to receive notifications about events, new offerings, and library hours/closings. We typically only send one email a week. Join our mailing list by visiting our website and entering your email address in the form provided. That's it! (You can also give us your email address while in the building.)

Need a Notary?

Notary Services are now available at the Library by appointment or by chance! Please contact the Reference Desk for more information desk (stop by or call 203-389-3434) or email Bill (warmstrong@woodbridgetownlibrary.org).

Library Information

Visit the Library website 24/7 to access digital resources - woodbridgetownlibrary.org. We are fine-free and have automatic renewals on most items. Call or email to place holds, ask questions, find out information, and more.

Department Phones and Emails

- › Adult Services/Reference: 203-389-3434; reference@woodbridgetownlibrary.org;
- › Children's Department: 203-389-3439; childrens@woodbridgetownlibrary.org;
- › Circulation/General info: 203-389-3433; circulation@woodbridgetownlibrary.org;
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From Adult Services Tips for Sleep with Wendy Hurwitz

Wednesday, October 4 at 7 pm

Come learn about tips to improve sleep and restorative rest in this free program. Please register: <https://woodbridgetownlibrary.org/events/wendy-hurwitz-tips-for-sleep/>.

Garrett Stack: American Jukebox on Tour

Saturday, October 7 at 2 pm

Join us for a live show at the Woodbridge Town Green where Woodbridge resident and on-air personality Stack will sing all the hits, play guitar, and provide tantalizing tidbits about the music of the Baby Boom Generation. Bring your own seating. Registration optional. Sponsored by the Gerry Hellmann Eckhardt Fund for the Woodbridge Town Library, a designated fund of the Valley Community Foundation <https://woodbridgetownlibrary.org/events/garrett-stack-american-jukebox-on-tour/>.

Tips for Memory with Wendy Hurwitz

Saturday, October 14 at 2 pm

Come learn about the tips and techniques used by memory athletes in this free program. Please register: <https://woodbridgetownlibrary.org/events/wendy-hurwitz-tips-for-memory/>.

Halloween Paint and Sip

Saturday, October 21 at 1 pm

Repurpose old paintings by adding a spooky twist! Find a painting you like from an attic or secondhand shop and add some autumnal touches with acrylic paint, or use a plain canvas to create an original painting while enjoying some wine. Brushes, acrylic paint, blank canvases, and wine provided. Two wine tickets per participant. Registration required. Please bring IDs; must be 21+, <https://woodbridgetownlibrary.org/events/hallow->

[een-paint-sip/](#).

A Night with Edgar Allan Poe

Tuesday, October 24 at 6:30 pm

See the resurrection of legendary author Edgar Allan Poe through the talents of Campbell Harmon with a spellbinding one-man show, intertwining dramatic re-enactments, historical biography, and dynamic interactions with the audience. Sponsored by the Gerry Hellmann Eckhardt Fund for the Woodbridge Town Library, a designated fund of the Valley Community Foundation, <https://woodbridgetownlibrary.org/events/a-night-with-edgar-allan-poe/>.

Woodbridge Writers Workshop

Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, from 3 to 5 pm.

Gather with area writers as we read and critique our works in a friendly atmosphere. Register online or at the library. More information on our website or call the reference desk.

Woodbridge Scrabble Group

Wednesdays at 11 AM

Meet with friends and neighbors for friendly games of Scrabble every week in the Meeting Room. No registration required.

Indoor Film Screenings

Thursdays at 7 PM

Join us on Thursday evenings for a movie screening in our Meeting Room. No registration is required to attend, but seating is first come, first serve.

Upcoming Titles

Book Club: The Next Chapter

October 5th, Rated PG-13, Comedy, 1h 48m

Follows the new journey of four best friends as they take their book club to Italy for the fun girls trip they never had.

Air

October 12th, Rated R, Biography, Drama, 1h 52m

Follows the history of sports marketing executive Sonny Vaccaro, and how he led Nike in its pursuit of the greatest athlete in the history of basketball, Michael Jordan.

Paint

October 19th, Rated PG-13, Comedy, 1h 36m

Carl Nargle, Vermont's #1 public television painter, is convinced he has it all: a signature perm, custom van, and fans hanging on his every stroke – until a younger, better artist steals everything (and everyone) Carl loves.

Goosebumps

October 26th, Rated PG, Comedy, 1h 43m

A teenager teams up with the

daughter of young-adult horror author R.L. Stine after the writer's imaginary demons are set free on the town of Madison, Delaware.

Saturday Morning Meditation

Every Saturday at 10:15 am, one hour of silent Vipassana (mindfulness) meditation is hosted by Dr. Aruna Pawashe, a retired lecturer and scientist from Yale University. She has been practicing Vipassana (which translates as seeing things as they really are) meditation for over 15 years. She is a volunteer and a trustee member for the Vipassana Meditation Center in Shelburne, Massachusetts. Aruna has hosted many Vipassana meditation programs over the years throughout the greater New Haven area. When she is not available, Mrs. Nita Lathia, her colleague and fellow Vipassana meditation practitioner, will host the group meditation event.

Registration suggested, but walk-ins welcome too! Zoom option is available: <https://woodbridgetownlibrary.org/events/meditation/>.

From The Children's Department:

The following weekly programs do not require registration

Monday Baby Group: Every Monday at 10:30 am, for newborn to 18 months.

Wednesday Story Time: Every Wednesday at 10:30 am, for ages 2 and up.

Thursday Craft Time: Every Thursday at 4 pm, in the craft room for ages 3 to 8.

Friday Storycraft: Every Friday at 11 am, join us for stories and a craft.

Poetry Craft

Poetry Craft registration opens on Monday, October 2. This is a take-home activity for ages 5 to 10, <https://woodbridgetownlibrary.org/events/poetry-craft-2023-10-02/>.

Decorate Marshmallow Witches

Tuesday, October 3 at 6:30 pm. Ages 7 and up, online registration required, <https://woodbridgetownlibrary.org/events/decorate-marshmallow-witches/>.

Animal Show with Furry, Scaly Friends

Thursday, October 5 at 4 pm. A variety of animals will visit the library! All ages, please register: <https://woodbridgetownlibrary.org/events/furry-scally-friends/>.

Many more October programs for kids! Please visit our events page for more information: <https://woodbridgetownlibrary.org/events/>.

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“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.” — ALBERT CAMUS

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How to Cut Back on Your Big Box Habit

Big box retailers are ubiquitous. The appeal of such stores' extensive inventory is undeniable, and consumers like the comfort of knowing they can stop into a big box store anywhere on the map and feel a sense of familiarity with their surroundings.

Despite that feeling of familiarity, consumers who shop exclusively at big box retailers are missing out on what small businesses have to offer. Though it may be impossible to avoid big box retailers entirely, now is a great time to see what small businesses have to offer. Here's a few ways consumers can reduce their reliance on big box retailers.

Start Gradually

A gradual separation from big box retailers will likely prove easier than quitting cold turkey. Try replacing one big box trip each week with a visit to a locally owned small business. Brand loyalty to a local business can be built up from there.

Take Steps To Become A More Active Community Consumer

Serving on a community's commerce commission or a similar agency

helps consumers learn about the small businesses that are coming to town or already established. A greater awareness of shopping options could mean a greater propensity for stopping in and shopping these stores rather than the chain alternatives.

Increase In-person Shopping

It's tempting to simply shop online and order something from one of the national chains that can afford to ship items straight to your home. However, small retailers tend to have more unique offerings and boast pleasant shopping experiences. Plus, in-person shopping allows consumers to get a real feel for a product, which can save them the time and effort it takes to return things that don't fit or aren't quite right. Many small businesses now offer their own e-commerce options, where a shopper can buy an item online and then pick it up in the store or curbside to save time.

Consumers have grown accustomed to shopping at big box retailers. But kicking that habit and patronizing small local businesses can benefit consumers and communities alike.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Boy Scout Troop 41 Kicks Off New Season

Boy Scout Troop 41 is gearing up for a new season of camping, hiking, and other outdoor adventures. The troop is open to boys ages 11 and up from all surrounding towns.

"We're looking forward to a great year of Scouting," said Scoutmaster Brian. "We have a lot of great events planned, and we're always looking for new Scouts to join us."

Troop 41 meets Monday nights at the Congregation B'nai Jacob. Meetings typically include a variety of activities, such as games, scout skills instruction, and planning for upcoming events.

The troop also goes on a number of campouts throughout the year. These campouts provide Scouts with the opportunity to learn new skills, such as camping, cooking, and orienteering.

In addition to camping, Troop 41 also participates in a number of other activities, such as hiking, and community service projects.

Scouting is a great way for boys to learn new skills, make new friends, and have fun. We encourage all who are interested in Scouting to come check us out. For more information about Troop 41, visit troop41woodbridge.org.

- Upcoming Troop 41 events:**
- › September: Beginner Backpacker;
 - › October: Top Shot Camporee;
 - › November: Shooting Sports and Orienteering Trip;
 - › December: The Freedom Trail in Boston.
- How to join Troop 41:**
- › Visit troop41woodbridge.org;
 - › Contact Scoutmaster Brian Cleveland at (203) 314-1329.

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League of Women Voters of Amity Participates in Vote411.org

Like planets lining up for a grand conjunction, Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge are holding municipal elections on the same day for the first time in recent memory. This gives the League of Women Voters of Amity an opportunity to make efficient use of the national League's online voter guide, Vote411.org, ahead of Election Day, November 7, 2023. Voter education is central to the League's mission, and a nonpartisan Voters Guide is a key tool in that mission.

Vote411.org was launched by the national LWV Education Fund in 2006 as a "one-stop-shop" for election related information, including rules specific to each state. In its first operation of the [Vote411](http://Vote411.org) system, LWV Amity is posing questions to the candidates for

First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, and Amity Board of Education. Invitations to participate were recently sent to those candidates, with each person's own code for submitting the information they want to present to their voters.

Voters should be able to read candidate views by mid-October and may be able to follow up when a candidate's campaign social media and contact information are also provided.

The League of Women Voters is strictly nonpartisan; it neither supports nor opposes candidates for office at any level of government. For more information on making democracy work at the local level, contact Pua Ford, pua4d@yahoo.com, 203-305-4068.

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ARTS & LEISURE



A Dive into India’s Temples

BY RIYA RAO

Ancient society is frequently celebrated for its architectural achievements. The world has marveled at the Great Wall of China and the Pyramids of Giza for their scientific and mathematical cleverness and how they stand proudly even after hundreds and thousands of years. Like these impressive structures, the temples of India display the ingenuity and prosperity of the ancient Indians. They served as a place of refuge, worship, and trade, not just for the locals, but for travelers from every corner of the world. This summer, I visited Tamil Nadu, a state in Southern India where my parents grew up, and experienced some of the grand temples in the area. Visiting them has allowed me to witness history that was previously unknown to me.

The first place I visited, Mahabalipuram, is a perfect example of the brilliance of ancient Indians. Located near the sea in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, the monuments were built from the seventh to ninth century by a royal dynasty named the Pallavas. During the Pallavas’ reign, the seaport of Mahabalipuram was a leader in world trade, and the monuments of the town were built to welcome foreign travelers. Artwork throughout this region shows

signs of French, Roman, and Chinese influence. One such sculpture is the Pancha Rathas. This structure consists of five temples, each in the shape of a chariot, all carved from one rock. One contains Roman-style pillars in the back, while another depicts an image of a foreigner. Some believe they honor the five Pandava brothers and their wife, Draupadi, who are characters from a Hindu epic, the Mahabharata. The Pallavas have also illustrated their talent in a grand sculpture named Arjuna’s penance, or the Descent of the Ganges. Measuring 45 by 100 feet, this is the second-largest sculpture in the world to use a technique called “bas relief,” where an image is lightly carved onto the stone. The world’s first largest bas relief scene is in Cambodia and was also carved during the ancient Hindu reign. Even the most basic components in Mahabalipuram were built with precision and care. For example, the granite well used for storing rainwater is carved into the shape of a perfect circle, a great feat during a time of simple chisels and hammers.

Another of Tamil Nadu’s most well-known and impressive temples is in Thanjavur, constructed in the eleventh century by the Chola dynasty. With its detailed paintings and sculptures,

it has gained worldwide recognition, becoming a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. The main shrine, known as Brihadeeswarar Temple, is unique for being built so that its shadow never appears on the ground. It measures 216 feet tall, the digits of which add up to nine. Nine plays a significant role in Hinduism, for it represents the nine planets and forms of God. The shrine was constructed from over 130,000 tons of granite, which had to be hauled nearly forty miles from the nearest rock quarry to Thanjavur. Using ramps and the power of many elephants and men, the granite slabs were slowly pulled on top of each other. At the very top sits a huge stone dome weighing eighty tons. The Cholas did not use any binding material;

instead, the stones fit into each other like a puzzle piece. This strategy has protected the temple from wind, rain, fire, and man-made forces for over one thousand years.

The temples of ancient India are filled with rich history. From its dimensions to the sculptures and paintings adorning the walls, they tell us stories about the Hindu culture and showcase India’s scientific advancements and prosperity in the past. Mahabalipuram and Thanjavur are only two of the hundreds of temples throughout India that flaunt its architects’ phenomenal talent. The ability to travel to these destinations and similar ones around the world allows us to learn about our ancestors and how they led us to where we are today.





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