

Woodbridge Town News



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VOL. 10 – ISSUE 9

CIRCULATION 3654

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021



Parents Bring Student Masking Controversy to Board of Ed

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEW CORRESPONDENT

Four Beecher Road School parents addressed the local Board of Education at its September 20th meeting on the issue of the mask mandate, some of whom were asking the board to reconsider the mask policy, which requires anyone in the building – both students and teachers – to wear a mask. Students also are required to wear a mask on the bus.

At this point there is no approved Covid 19 vaccine for children under the age of 12, so the prevention strategies involve wearing of masks and social distancing as much as feasible. The school has seen four cases of Covid 19 during the first three weeks of operation, each of which required quarantining of anywhere between 18 and 30 persons.

School Supt. Dr. Jonathan Budd said it seemed that the cases were contracted outside of the school community, and had not spread inside the school.

Dan Cowan, a former board member who has been vocal on this issue, suggested during the public comment portion of the meeting that the board should conduct a survey to find out where parents stand on this issue. He referred to a letter to the board from a fellow parent, Josh Gelder, in which Gelder claimed the wearing of masks was proven ineffective.

"I feel that this is a major, unnecessary requirement for children, especially considering the extremely low transmission rate among their age group," Gelder wrote. He also addressed the

See "Masks" On Page 7



2nd grade teacher Joseph DePalma works to build a positive classroom atmosphere.

District Names Its Teacher of The Year

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEW CORRESPONDENT

Teaching team leaders in conjunction with administrators at Beecher Road School chose second-grade teacher Joseph DePalma to represent them in the state Teacher of the Year competition. "The individual must possess

excellence in teaching, must inspire a love for learning in students and must be a distinguished member of the profession," said School Supt. Dr. Jonathan Budd at the annual teachers' convocation, when he introduced their

See "Teacher" On Page 23

New Concepts Emerge for Use of Country Club

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Country Club of Woodbridge property has received renewed attention lately for its development potential. It comes after the Zoning Commission loosened its restrictions on

the Residential A zone, especially for properties with access to public water.

First Selectman Beth Heller announced that the town had received two proposals – outlines of which are

See "Country Club" On Page 2

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“Country Club” From Page 1

posted on the town website, <https://www.woodbridgect.org>.

The town was scheduled to have a virtual Q&A session on Wednesday, September 28, for townspeople to hear about the more developed concept of the two. It involves the biggest part of the property with a large variety of housing, ranging from 1.5-acre plots with large houses to smaller-sized properties and several units for people 55 and over. It involves bike- and walkways as well as internal roads and driveways.

The developers promise to deed back to the town about 50 acres of the land, with the majority of it located southeast of Woodfield Drive, as a buffer to Route 15. They are also promising to update and open to the public several recreational facilities, such as the outdoor pool, tennis- and volleyball courts and more.

The second proposal, so far outlined only in a few broad strokes, involves the New England Brewing Co, which has looked for a “forever home” to allow it to grow beyond its current footprint off Amity Road. It would involve the brewery as well as ten housing units, some of which with an affordable component. In all, their proposal is to purchase 25 acres of the 150-acre property for \$1.5 million.

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Woodbridge Historical Society Establishes Building Fund

The Amity and Woodbridge Historical Society has been busy doing lots of work on our collections and on the buildings on the grounds of the Darling House. With a matching grant from the 1772 Foundation, painting and repair work on the porch and the entire “street-facing façade” of the Museum is ongoing, as well as needed repairs to the small outbuildings.

We were awarded a Planning and Survey Grant from the State of Connecticut to assess the conditions of the three large barns and develop a preservation plan for them. We have received the first reports of the engineering surveys. The engineers found that the cow and horse barns are in good condition for their age but do need repair and preservation work, and we have already started the planning process to submit a Historic Restoration Fund matching grant to the State in the fall.

The icehouse, although the “youngest” of the buildings, is also the most

lightly framed and is in need of urgent stabilization to prevent further loss of its structural integrity, and potentially the building itself if we were to experience an extreme weather event.



The Society is working to take immediate action and has already informed the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen of the need to move quickly.

The estimated cost to complete the urgent icehouse stabilization is \$13,900. To do this we are going to establish a building fund that will help complete all the required work on the barns that is needed over the next 5 years. To kick off the establishment of this fund, we have a very generous Woodbridge resident who has offered to match, dollar for dollar up to \$5000 of donations! We are asking for your support to help us establish this fund so that we can take full advantage of this matching offer to raise a total of \$10,000. Please visit www.woodbridgehistory.org for more information.



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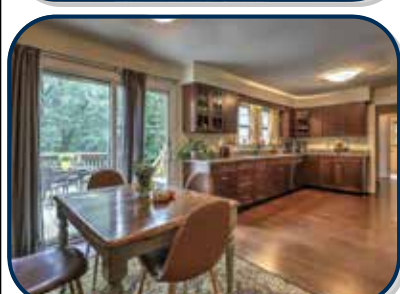
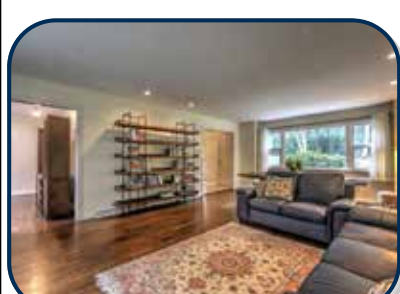
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From the Democratic Town Committee

BY LAURENCE GROTHEER



The town’s Living Treasure Award ceremony and dinner last week was an invaluable case study in community spirit and public service. It was the third of these events in the past four years (last year’s was cancelled to safeguard against coronavirus transmission); it’s now a regular occasion to celebrate the volunteer contributions of standout residents and simultaneously raise supplemental funds for senior center facilities and programming.

This year’s recipients were honored for long-term, volunteer efforts in local schools, churches, community groups, and government positions. Their respective, admirable commitments provide for others a reminder, encouragement, and motivation to get involved as able, lend a hand as necessary, and provide input as needed. The sustained efforts by Living Treasure Award winners - and publicity about it - also creates a legacy of selflessness to which others may aspire.

The event itself was held with ample precaution given ongoing pandemic conditions, despite an admirable vaccination rate among Woodbridge residents. The Town’s fire station - with its large bay doors opened wide to minimize shared air - was the venue, and masks were required of all who attended the sold out event, just as they are required inside all Town buildings.

After a brief program to honor this year’s recipients and recognize their generous nature, dinners were served to take away and enjoy elsewhere, again, to minimize the risk of virus transmission through shared air.

These protocols are consistent with scientific evidence, advice from medical professionals, and the collective experience of these past 18 months: physical distance between us, mask use, and vaccination - in any combination - are irrefutably effective antidotes to virus spread. Here’s hoping this lesson is well learned town-wide, as the issue of mask-wearing continues to play out in local public schools.

It’s a given: using a mask is no one’s first choice; we all long for a pre-pandemic lifestyle. But when given the chance to protect teachers in a classroom filled with too-young-to-be-vaccinated students, keep students safe from other students who might’ve been exposed, guard against trans-

mitting the virus to family members at home, and otherwise help quash the incidence of COVID-19 in our community, isn’t it common sense, and wouldn’t it be wise, for each of us to accept some responsibility, care for one another, show some community spirit, and selflessly wear a mask?

More broadly, I would take away one more lesson from last week’s event to underscore the giving nature of Living Treasure Award winners: a reminder to look for similar traits in those we choose to hold elected office. It has been my privilege to work for, with, and among government officials of both parties for most of my career, some genuinely motivated to work as public servants, and some in my judgment more interested in the perceived power, prestige, and panache of holding elected office.

Similarly, I think policies promoted by those in office, or by those who seek to hold office, provide abundant evidence of intention to either provide the greatest good for the greatest number or conversely, protect and benefit a select few by controlling, restricting, or otherwise subverting the best interests of some others.

I believe these distinctions are apparent right now in the respective approach to current hot-button policy issues beyond pandemic response and whether or not to be vaccinated or wear a mask. Right now there are many who are hard at work to restrict voting rights and access to the ballot box, roll back environmental protections meant to safeguard the life-sustaining planet we share, extend the proliferation of automatic weapons and other dangerous guns on American streets, and impose arbitrary, heartless health standards on others based on gender, ethnicity, and economic standing.

Going forward, I hope all of us take to heart the community spirit and generous nature embodied in Woodbridge residents chosen for the Living Treasure Award, and look for it in those who are active in the public sector. Our local government, public schools, state government, and our nation itself all depend upon those willing to give of themselves and work for a community, state, and country committed to the best interests of all.

Other Side of the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE
WRTC CHAIRMAN



Move our Municipal Elections to November? How about “NOT?”

Among the myriad of bills passed in the most recent legislative session in Hartford was one that received little attention because it only impacted a small handful of towns, including Woodbridge. It moves our biennial local elections from May to November effective 2023, but allows our Board of Selectmen to reject the move if it so chooses.

There are several reasons the Woodbridge Republican Town Committee opposes this change in our local election date, none of which are what you might say are “Republican versus Democrat” issues.

First, we need to stand up for ourselves and flex what little muscle we have to control our own destiny as a town. As we saw with the recent zoning challenges that will materially impact Woodbridge by opening up sections to multi-family housing, Hartford is applying a “one-size fits all” approach to as much of our lives as it can reach. Enough. There are a host of reasons why we Woodbridge residents moved here and have stayed; the unique character of the town is usually high on those lists. Our spring election, which at one time was the standard in the state due to the agricultural cycle, is one such unique aspect. No harm in keeping it. This conform, conform, conform mentality coming out of Hartford diminishes Woodbridge.

Second, with all deference to the Woodbridge Town News which covers our local elections very effectively, broader coverage of our elections, if they were held in November, would expectedly dry up in the shadow of New Haven, even Hamden, holding elections at the same time. That’s not good for voters who up to now have received another perspective on our local races through multiple media outlets.

Third, why? Moving from May to November has no financial benefit to Woodbridge. State and federal elections are held in even years. Only local elections are held in odd-number years - May or November makes no difference financially. The work the Registrars of Voters and Town Clerks perform, along with the many per diem workers who run the mechanics of our elections, do not change one lick. Absentee ballots still go out, the gym is set up for in-person voting and all the processes to ensure a fair election are exactly the same. There is zero financial benefit for such a proposed change. At last look Woodbridge has

the thirteenth highest mill rate in the state, so if there was a change to bring the cost of government down, as Ross Perot used to say, “I’m all ears.” No savings with this proposal. And as an aside, would you rather stand outside on line at the poll on a typical May day or November day?

Where did this idea come from? According to the legislative record, it came from the Government Administrative and Elections Committee - the body that manages our elections, including setting the official election calendar. It might surprise people to learn that there are literally dozens of milestone dates around each election, dealing with party nominations, caucuses, filing dates, petitions and other process-intensive details, and many rules on how these issues need to be handled. With a few towns having May elections, and the balance of the state having them in November, this requires two election calendars be created to suit the different election dates. Anyone involved in managing a May election will tell you getting the May Election Calendar out of Hartford is like pulling teeth, nowhere near as smooth as issuing the November version. So, their response? Get rid of the May election. It does not reduce costs, as they are at full staff year-round. Eliminating the May election for administrative convenience rewards bad behavior. As state and Woodbridge taxpayers, we should not accept this proposal - and there is a way to do just that.

By a two-thirds vote of our Board of Selectmen, Woodbridge can reject the proposed change of our election date to November. The easiest way to express your view is to email all six of our BOS members and state your desire to keep our local election in May. If enough of us do, and the BOS listens, Woodbridge will be able to retain at least one aspect of our unique town. Here are their addresses: Bheller@woodbridgect.org, Senjoeandpat@yahoo.com, Dalober@aol.com, David.Vogel.71@gmail.com, Pkuriakose4@gmail.com, SheilaSMcCreven@woodbridgect.org. The wording in the legislation that can keep our election in May is unclear, but it appears our BOS will need to take action on this issue before December 31, 2021, so please email our BOS members right away and push to get this on their agenda in October or November. Just put in the Subject line: Keep our election in May!

Orange Town News

THE ORANGE TOWN NEWS ONLINE

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

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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 29 Veterans Day Issue	October 22
November 19 Thanksgiving Issue.....	November 12
December 17 Holiday Issue	December 10

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

FROM OUR READERS

The Woodbridge Center is a Treasure as Well

I would like to extend my congratulations to the Living Treasure Award recipients: Nate Case, Andrew Esposito, Jr, and Lorenzina Ferrante Fernandes. As was echoed multiple times throughout the night, these recipients earned this honor and deserved to be recognized. The Living Treasure Event on Thursday, September 23rd was also an opportunity to highlight The Woodbridge Center as a resource to the community.

Some of you may ask, "What is The Woodbridge Center?" Many may think, "It's where you go when you get old and can't do anything else." The truth is, it is anything but that. The Center offers a variety of services and programs to those whose age only matters to qualify to participate. It is a place where differences are welcome, and each person's story is organically shared. Members discover others with like interests. Skills, laughs, and stories are bountifully exchanged and built upon. Friendships are made, kindness flows effortlessly. And when difficult times arise, this foundation becomes the quiet support needed to continue on.

In short, The Woodbridge Center, like the 2021 Living Treasure Award recipients, is a treasure that strengthens the bonds of our community.

Kristy Moriarty
Woodbridge Senior Center Director

We are Not Giving Up

On June 1, 2021 a petition signed by 275 Woodbridge residents was filed with the Woodbridge Town Clerk. The petition followed our charter's pro-

cess for bringing a question before the townspeople in a referendum: Should the town sell the former Country Club of Woodbridge clubhouse and developed land around it for reuse as a banquet facility, and permanently protect the remaining land from development? It's a fair question, and residents have a right to answer it.

On June 25, 2021 Town Counsel Gerry Weiner and First Selectman Beth Heller met with five of the petition sponsors at Town Hall. In what was a positive and cooperative meeting, they promised that the Town would advertise the sale of the clubhouse in a Request for Proposals, and that the petitioners would have a chance to protect the rest of the property from development.

Since filing the petition two development proposals mysteriously surfaced for the CCW property: one to develop a Woodbridge version of the Bronx's Co-Op City; the other using our popular local brewery as a back door entry to an intensive housing development. On September 8, the BOS tabled the Request for Proposals.

Why has the administration promoted the two housing development proposals, but effectively swept under the rug the petitioners' proposal? Is that fair government?

We're not giving up. The petition now has over 300 signatures and is still open. Anyone who wants to sign may contact Paul DeCoster, William Silberberg, James Urbano, Susan Israel, Chris Dickerson, Donald Menzies, James Hubbard, or Maria Kayne.
Jim Urbano

Woodbridge Town News

WTN LETTERS POLICY

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

Woodbridge Town News

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WOODBRIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Robosapiens Take Lego League State Championship

The Robosapiens include Beecher Road School and Amity Middle School students: Henrietta Hall, Lucy Jiang, Alex Klee, Jacob Klee, Mihir Nandy, Jacob Richards and Xander Shavers. They won the FIRST Lego (FLL) League State Championship. FLL is an international science and robotics team competition. Teams have to develop and share an innovative solution and they also have to design and program an autonomous robot to complete as many missions on a field within 2.5 minutes.

This year the theme was to innovate ways to encourage people to be more active. The Robosapiens built a swim master which, unlike what is available on the market, allows a person to swim with both arms and legs on land. The team’s top Robot Game score this year was 455 points. Unfortunately, because of COVID, the World Championship was cancelled this year.

Xander Shavers Becomes State Merit Winner

Sixth grader, Xander Shavers, is the State Merit Winner from CT in the 3M Young Scientist Challenge 2021. For his project, he built a thermal camera to detect ticks which have a lower temperature than humans. His Technology Prize Pack includes an Amazon Fire Tablet.

Amity Academic Hall of Honor, Athletic Hall of Fame Induction

The 2021-2022 Amity Academic Hall of Honor and Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be postponed with the new date of April 28, 2022. Due to new covid concerns, we have decided to wait until the spring. The event will still be held at Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange, CT. Please save the date and we look forward seeing you, as we celebrate our new honorees.

HONOREES INCLUDE:
Allison Barwise - Class of 2009
Athletic Hall of Fame
Soccer, Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field

Joseph Ciancola - Class of 2010
Athletic Hall of Fame
Hockey, Baseball

Sal Coppola - Class of 1987
Athletic Hall of Fame
Varsity Baseball Coach

Janice Ehorn - Class of 2008
Athletic Hall of Fame
Volleyball

Erin (McLaughlin) Guise - Class of 2005
Athletic Hall of Fame
Swimming

Gilbert Jennings - Class of 1991
Athletic Hall of Fame
Football, Wrestling, Outdoor Track & Field

Scott Klein - Class of 1988
Academic Hall of Honor Education/Journalist
Journalist/Deputy Managing Editor at ProPublica

Robert Leonard - Class of 1987
Academic Hall of Honor - Business/Finance
Business Owner of New England Brewing Co.

Mark A Levine - Class of 1988
Academic Hall of Honor - Engineer/Charity
Advocate to Others with Cystic Fibrosis

Michael Slomsky - Class of 1991
Academic Hall of Honor- Business/Finance/Charity

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www.amityregion5.org
(Hall of Honor).

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AMITY HIGH SCHOOL THANK YOU TO LOCAL PATRONS!

The College & Career Center at Amity Regional High School would like to thank our job site partners (listed here) for sponsoring our students during the annual internship program last spring. Due to their generosity, 212 seniors were able to successfully complete the 3-week long internship. We greatly appreciate their time, patience and willingness to mentor our young adults. Please patronize the businesses listed here and thank them for their contribution to our school community!

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Mew Haven Cat Cafe

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New England Spine & Disc

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Ronai Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine

Rosenberg, Whewell, & Hite Attny.

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Seymour Optometric Center

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West Rock Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine

Who's Your Doggie

Wilkinson, Wolfe & Associates

Woodbridge Child Center

Yale University/Dept. of Anesthesiology

York & Chapel

Mirror Mirror on the Crater

My crew has a commander, pilot, mathematician, engineer, biologist, physicist and computer scientist. We are smart and curious and work well together. We are leaving big mirrors along the craters to melt the ice by reflecting sunlight onto the ice. We need water to drink, grow food and turn it into rocket fuel and oxygen. If there is enough water on the moon, we won't need to carry it from Earth and could carry other things. Finding and making enough water on the moon will help us survive on the moon and travel beyond to places like Mars.

Jasmine Shavers submitted this essay to the Artemis Moon Pod Essay Contest run by NASA. She is a second grader and competed in the K-4 category attaining semifinalist status. If you are interested in learning about the contest, go to:

<https://www.futureengineers.org/artemismoonpodessay>.

Attention Teachers!

We want to know what's going on in your classroom!
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You can also send us your pictures.

(Parental consent required)

Woodbridge Town News

P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477 • edit@WoodbridgeTownNews.com

From the First Selectman BY BETH HELLER



On Saturday, October 2, the Town’s ad hoc Diversity & Inclusion Committee is hosting “Woodbridge Like Me,” a celebration of the people, cultural and civic organizations that make Woodbridge what it is.

I thank the Diversity Committee for creating this event and providing a forum for Woodbridge residents to learn about this important issue. According to Data Haven’s 2021 Woodbridge Equity Report, our Town has grown by about 100 residents since the 2010 census. In the same time period, our Asian population has grown from 9% to 13% (compared to 5% total statewide); our Latino population grew from 3% to 6% (compared to 17% statewide), and our Black population grew from 2% to 3% (compared to 10% statewide).

The Library’s One Book One Town discussion, during the Woodbridge Like Me event, will focus on American Like Me: Reflections on Life Between Cultures, which is a selection of essays edited by the actress America Ferrera. The discussion will be led by a panel of local authors who have written on the topic of culture and race. This promises to be a very interesting and informative discussion.

This event and book discussion, coupled with the Community Council’s new resident meet-ups, are critical steps in maintaining a dialogue on these important topics. I welcome future recommendations from the committee and members of our community.

Speaking of new residents and change, the Town of Woodbridge has established a Housing Study Committee to address the State requirement that all municipalities have an Affordable Housing Plan in place by July 1, 2022. The committee is also working with the South Central Regional Council of Governments, which is also creating a regional housing plan. The document will include housing plans tailored to each municipality in the Council. The plan will be assisted by a housing survey. The survey is on the Town’s website and hard copies are available at the Town Hall, Human Services and Library. The survey is open through October 15, 2021.

The Board of Selectmen has received two proposals from developers interested in purchasing the former Country Club of Woodbridge property. Both proposals can be viewed on the Town website. Arbor Haven was asked by the Board of Selectmen to hold a virtual public information forum on September 29 and the Board plans to hear from Eclipse Development, the

other developer, at our regular October meeting.

The Arbor Haven proposal is to pay the Town \$9 million for 100 acres and build approximately 140 homes – a mix of large single family homes, market-rate homes, affordable and age-restricted homes, all for purchase. They also plan to demolish the clubhouse, create a Town pool, a park, walk/bike paths and rehabilitate the tennis and volleyball courts for town use. Arbor Haven will make every effort to protect existing trees on the property. Eclipse Development would pay the Town \$1.5 million for 25 acres and proposed to build an expanded New England Brewing facility and construct approximately 100 rental apartments with an affordable component.

Please stay tuned as the Board continues to discuss the best use of this Town-owned land. My hope for the 150-acre property is to find a way to pay off our remaining debt, address our State mandated housing requirements, and reserve some land for recreational use and/or possible solar.

The Board of Selectmen has also discussed the federal American Rescue Plan Act funding. The Town is scheduled to receive a total of \$2.6 million. The funding must respond to a negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our rough draft proposal to the Board of Selectmen is to install an HVAC system in the Center Building. This building houses our emergency shelter, Senior Center, a daycare, Town offices, the fitness center and Police Department. The Center Gym is also in that building and the gymnasium has many town uses, such as elections and referenda, major Town meetings, and many recreational and town-wide events. Providing ventilation to this building is my first priority so that we can safely provide important resident services. We are also interested in improving the Grove area with a covered pavilion to provide a sheltered outdoor programming space; improving and updating playgrounds and ballfields to encourage continued use of outdoor recreational opportunities; and marketing our business district and holding events there to bring in more folks to enjoy our beautiful town.

Unfortunately, because of the pandemic and lack of ventilation in the Center Gym we will not be able to hold our indoor annual Veterans’ Day Ceremony this year. I am hopeful that we can hold an outdoor Memorial Day Ceremony next spring.

Our local organizations are getting creative to find fun and safe ways to

“Masks” From Page 1

board during its virtual meeting, saying his son asked him why he had to wear a mask. “I couldn’t give him an answer,” he said.

The comments prompted Board member Jeff Hughes to suggest adding a Covid-19 discussion to the agenda. However, Erin Williamson cautioned fellow board members to start an impromptu discussion, saying a lot of parents would be tuning in if they knew that the board was discussing this controversial issue. The board agreed, and voted to add a Corona-related conversation to the October agenda.

Dr. Budd said the district’s policy is following the Governor’s executive order, which expires at the end of September. At the time, it was not clear whether the Legislature would extend the Governor’s emergency powers and what that would mean for the local district.

“Right now, it’s the mandate we have to adhere to,” Dr. Budd said. He said if the state grants local discretion, then the Woodbridge Board of Education will have that conversation about masks, but should the state continue to require masking, it would not be part of the discussion.

Gelder, a father of two at Beecher Road School, said his son did not want to go back to school after he found out that he would have to wear a mask the whole day. When he addressed the board, he said although he is not completely against wearing masks, he opposes mandating it. Parents should have the right to make medical decisions for their children, he said, add-

ing “forcing a child to wear a mask is a medical decision.”

In his letter, he challenged the board to “stand up and be advocates for our children and to push back against unsound medical mandates from our state...Our kids are forced to wear masks at school while adults are able to pack stadiums, go to restaurants, and go shopping in the State of CT without masks.”

Parent Allyson Valsamis disagreed with that stance. She said decisions should be made by public health departments, not by parents. She said Gelder’s e-mail purports that there is no evidence for mask efficacy, while in fact, more than 100 studies show the opposite.

As of September 16, children made up more than 25% of Covid cases, she said. If the school did not have a mask mandate it would have to offer remote learning, but “remote learning is not on the table. I find it exhausting that we’re still allowing discussion whether our children should be wearing a mask, when we’ve had four positive cases in three weeks,” she said.

Parent Kristen Turcosz added another angle to the conversation. She said she complained to the administration that her children had overheard teachers in the hallways talking about their vaccination status, which Turcosz felt was inappropriate. Many families have religious objections to vaccination, she said, and a lot of families will choose not to get the vaccine for their children right away. “Indoctrination is not education,” she said, adding “I don’t want my children exposed to that kind of language.”

celebrate Halloween this year. On Saturday, October 9 the Library is hosting pumpkin decorating. In the business district, The Willows is holding a walk-thru of their decorated driveway on Friday, October 22 and Saturday, October 23 and several local businesses are hosting trick or treating on Saturday, October 23 from 11-1, followed by a free outdoor concert in the business district (1 pm at Coachman Square’s lawn). For the second time during the pandemic the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association will hold its Truck or Treat as a drive-thru on Halloween. Beecher Road School PTO’s Halloween Hoot will also be a drive-thru. Visit the Town calendar (www.woodbridgect.org/calendar) for details on these and other events.

As you know, Verizon/Cellco is proposing to build a new cell tower in a residential neighborhood at a private residence at 118 Newton Road. This is a private transaction between a neighbor and Verizon/Cellco, however the Town has worked with the neighborhood to

try to prevent a cell tower from being built in ANY residential neighborhood in Town. In September there was a crane test to verify Verizon/Cellco’s data at the height of the proposed tower on Newton Road and also at another site behind the Town’s Public Works facility. The test was organized and paid for by the residents’ group opposing the proposed site. I have attended three evidentiary hearings on behalf of the Town, and recently testified and answered questions from the CT Siting Council, and others, reiterating the Board of Selectmen’s position that we are in support of a cell tower for better service, but opposed to its location in any residential neighborhood. We have offered several alternate sites to Verizon/Cellco. The hearing regarding the cell tower has been continued to October 21. We will keep you informed of any decisions!

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. Please stay safe!

“By all these lovely tokens September days are here, With summer’s best of weather And autumn’s best of cheer.” — HELEN HUNT JACKSON

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Garden Club to Hold Plant Sale

The Garden Club of Woodbridge will hold a plant sale on Saturday, October 2, from 10 am to 2 pm. The location is the church green, Meeting-house Lane, Woodbridge. Members will offer a large selection of perennials, and possibly some shrubs or trees from their gardens. Plants generously donated by a garden center will also be available. Perennials for sale include iris, peonies, hosta, coreopsis, coneflower, columbine, day lilies and more. The photo shows some of

the items sold at the club's previous plant sale.

Fall is a great time to add plants to your garden! Since the soil remains warm through autumn, perennials will have time to settle in and continue to grow below ground even after frost. Fall planting will jump-start their growth next spring.

This fundraiser is held in conjunction with the town wide event, "Woodbridge Like Me," showcasing local organizations.



Fresh Veggies Are Not Exclusive To Spring And Summer

Spring and summer may be the seasons most often associated with gardening. But people who love to grow their own vegetables can do so even when the weather outside is frightful.

Various vegetables thrive in cool temperatures. The home and garden experts at HGTV note that some winter vegetables are hardy. That means they can handle frosts in temperatures as low as 25 F without being damaged. Others are even sturdier in the face of all that winter can throw at them, capable of tolerating temperatures that dip into the high teens.

Growing vegetables in winter requires a different approach than growing in spring and summer, as gardeners must be ready to prevent damage from frost if temperatures get especially chilly. For example, the experts at Michigan State University Extension note that gardeners may need to utilize floating row covers to protect sensitive crops from frost. Gardeners interested in planting

winter vegetables can speak with a local garden center professional about which crops to plant and what to do if temperatures push winter vegetable gardens to the brink.

Though it's up to gardeners what they want to plant, the following are some popular winter vegetables that can make for wonderful, fresh additions to any dinner table even after the traditional gardening season has come and gone.

- ✓ Arugula
- ✓ Broccoli
- ✓ Brussel sprouts
- ✓ Cabbage
- ✓ Carrots
- ✓ Collard greens
- ✓ Endive
- ✓ Parsley
- ✓ Parsnips
- ✓ Kale
- ✓ Radishes
- ✓ Rutabagas
- ✓ Spinach
- ✓ Swiss chard

Woodbridge Town News

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TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND



Excited Woodbridge and Bethany students and Youth Services Program Assistant BeeJ Ahern await the next winning raffle number at the recent Seventh Grade Picnic. Photo Credit Jeanette Glicksman

Welcome 7th Graders!

Seventh graders had an awesome time at the annual Seventh Grade Picnic on the Woodbridge Green. Music, games, pizza, popsicles, and raffle prizes made a cool event on a warm evening.

With a cohesive Youth/Human Services staff, Woodbridge police presence for safety, and many willing volunteers, students had a great meet up of Woodbridge and Bethany incoming middle schoolers. Students also had the opportunity to meet Amity Middle School Assistant Principal Thayer Doyle, Bethany First Selectman Paula Cofrancesco, and Woodbridge Deputy First Selectman Sheila McCreven who each greeted the teens.

Home Alone Class for Ages 9-12

A two-day class is offered on Tuesdays, October 12 and October 19 from 4:00 to 5:15 PM in the Woodbridge Center Gym at 4 Meetinghouse Lane. Topics include who’s at the door, phone responses, nutritious snacks, emergencies, fire danger, calling 911, and internet safety. Participants receive a snack, water, and information packet to share with parents. Fee is \$15 for residents and \$20 for non-residents. Discount for siblings. Call to register.

It’s Leaf Raking Season
Teens: Looking for Paid

Work? Residents: Need to Hire a Teen?

The Woodbridge Job Bank needs teen residents willing to work outside. Jobs include raking, yard clean up, shoveling snow, moving, packing, child or animal care and more. Be the first to contact Youth Services to schedule your interview and find work. Earn cash, gain experience, and help local residents. Learn communication skills, and build your resume to earn your references for college, scholarships, etc. Email: Npfund@Woodbridgect.org or call 203-389-3429. Residents may call to hire teens for odd jobs.

Interested Community Members Wanted: Youth Advisory Council

Youth Services is looking for a few Woodbridge parents to join a group for a meeting every other month during the school year at 3:45 pm to work with community members to advise Youth Services and bring ideas for programming. Contact Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3429 for information.

Local Prevention Council

A few community members interested in prevention of alcohol and substance abuse are needed to join the Bethany-Orange-Woodbridge Drug and Alcohol Action Committee (BOWDAAC). Contact Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3429 for information.

Business Happy Hour November 2

Woodbridge businesses are invited to a happy hour on Tuesday, November 2. Starting at 5 pm there will be a tour of the newly renovated showroom at Crest Lincoln of Woodbridge (185 Amity Road) and at 5:30 pm the happy hour will begin at neighboring business New England Brewing (175 Amity Road). Drinks and food truck fare will be available for purchase at the brewery.

Economic Development Commission members will lead a discussion for part of the evening to share information and get feedback on projects. There will also be a portion of the event dedicated to networking.

Businesses interested in sending a representative to the happy hour should RSVP to Betsy Yagla at 203-389-3403 or byagla@woodbridgect.org.

Town of Woodbridge Meetings for the Month of Octobert 2021



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

10/4	Town Plan & Zoning Commission.....	6:30 PM	Town Hall
10/4	Human Services Commission	7:00 PM	
10/6	Housing Opportunity Study Cmte	7:00 PM	Town Hall
10/12	Library Commission	6:30 PM	Library
	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:30 PM	Town Hall
	Agricultural Commission	8:00 PM	
10/13	Board of Selectmen.....	5:00 PM	
10/14	Community Council.....	9:30 AM	
	Economic Development Commission.....	7:00 PM	Town Hall
10/18	Fire Commission	6:00 PM	
	Police Commission.....	6:15 PM	
10/19	2030 Task Force	6:00 PM	
7/20	Diversity & Inclusion Committee.....	6:30 PM	
	Inland/Wetlands Agency	7:30 PM	Town Hall
10121	Board of Finance.....	6:00 PM	Town Hall
	Conservation Commission.....	7:30 PM	Town Hall
1025	CUPOP.....	5:30 PM	Town Hall
	Recreation Commission	&:00 PM	Beecher School S
10/26	Gov’t Access TV Commission	7:30 PM	Town Hall

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Your input and participation is essential in helping understand and address housing needs in your community and across the region.



Housing Plan Survey

Woodbridge residents are encouraged to complete a housing survey which will inform a State-required housing plan. In 2017 the State required that all municipalities have an Affordable Housing Study in place by June 1, 2022.

The Town of Woodbridge has established a Housing Study Committee to address that requirement, and the Town is working with the South Central Regional Council of Governments which is creating a regional housing plan. The document will include housing plans tailored to each municipality in the Council based on each municipality's individual housing markets and needs.

The survey and background on the survey are on the Town's website. Hard copies are available at the Town Hall, Human Services and Library. The survey is open through October 15, 2021.

WOODBRIDGE LIKE ME

10/2, 11-2 pm Town Center

Organized by the Town's Ad Hoc Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Part of the Woodbridge Town Library's One Book One Town selection, *American Like Me*. Details on the Town website, woodbridgect.org

Woodbridge Like Me

The ad hoc Diversity & Inclusion Committee invites the public to its event, Woodbridge Like Me. The event, to be held on Saturday, October 2 from 11 am – 2 pm, is a sister event to the Woodbridge Town Library's One Book, One Town choice, *American Like Me: Reflections on Life Between Cultures*, which is a selection of essays edited by the actress America Ferrera.

The event, which immediately follows the 39th annual Woodbridge Road Race, will be a celebration of all things Woodbridge and will highlight the organizations and cultural groups that make up Woodbridge civic life. There is no rain date.

At the Woodbridge Like Me event the Ad Hoc Diversity & Inclusion Committee will ask for resident feedback. "Our charge is to identify and assess issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion of concern to Town residents and employees," said the committee's Vice-Chair Robert Reed. "I hope resi-

dents take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about their town and their neighbors, and to share their ideas and concerns to make Woodbridge an even better and more welcoming place for all."

The event kicks off with a book talk led by resident Rev. Antona Smith, at 11 am. The book, *American Like Me: Reflections on Life Between Cultures*, contains 31 stories about life between cultures, as told by actors, comedians, athletes, politicians, artists, and writers. These authors are also immigrants, children or grandchildren of immigrants, indigenous people, or people who otherwise grew up with deep and personal connections to more than one culture. Each of them struggled to establish a sense of self, find belonging, and feel seen. Ranging from the heart-felt to the hilarious, their stories shine a light on a quintessentially American experience and will appeal to anyone with a complicated relationship to fam-

Recreation News



Fall Pool Hours Announced: Adult Swim returns Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4:00 to 4:45 pm or 5:00 to 5:45 pm, and Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:45 pm to 8:30 pm or 8:30 pm to 9:15pm. This is in addition to General Swim on Saturday and Sundays from 12 to 12:45, 1:00 to 1:45, 2 to 2:45 or 3 to 3:45 pm. By appointment only. Masks required when not in the water.

Registration for Woodbridge Rec Winter Basketball leagues will begin on Monday, October 4th for Woodbridge residents. Tuesday evenings is the Classic Basketball league for grades 4, 5, and 6. The program runs from December 7 through March 29. The cost is \$130. It is from 6 to 8 pm. Wednesday evenings marks the return of the High School basketball league. The cost is \$65 for an individual or \$500 for a team. It runs December 8 through March 30. It is for grades 9 through 12, and is from 7 to 8:30 pm. Thursday evenings is the Junior High

league. The cost is \$130 and runs from December 9 through March 31. It is for grades 7 through 9. It is from 6 to 8 pm. Space is limited in all the leagues. Call the Rec. Dept. office for more information. Masks are required at all times, no matter of vaccination status.

Adult Programs below. Masks are required at all times, no matter of vaccination status.

Adult Badminton has returned. Ongoing registration is in progress and a prorated fee is available, or \$10 drop in. Wednesday evenings 7 pm to 9 pm. This session ends December 8th.

Yoga with Diane King will continue with the Monday and Wednesday morning classes 10:30 am to 11:45 am during October. Ongoing registration available.

Yoga with Instructor Bill Banick take place Monday through Friday, 8:30- 9:45 am. Tuesday night sessions 5:30-6:45 pm. Classes will take place in the Center Building, Room 16 or outside weather permitting.

Notice to Woodbridge Residents

The Town of Woodbridge owns several parcels of open fields that are available for lease. Some of the land is suitable for haying, while other acreage is appropriate for planting of silage corn or other crops.

Any Woodbridge farmer who is interested in leasing Town-owned land for the 2022 growing season should

contact Gerry Shaw in the Selectman's Office, either via e-mail to gshaw@woodbridgect.org or via mail to Attn. Gerry Shaw, Woodbridge Town Hall, 11 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525.

Letter of interest must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 6, 2021.

ily, culture, and growing up. Copies of the book are now available at the Library reference desk.

Following the book discussion, new residents are invited to a 12 pm meet-up and tour organized by the Community Council. There will also be an Indian folkloric performance by Tinkle Toes Dance Academy, a demonstration by Aiping Tai Chi, a performance by the Butterfly Chinese Dance Troupe, demonstrations by World Champion Taekwondo and the Southern CT Chinese School.

First Church of Christ will sell pie and ice cream; Friends of the Library is hosting a book sale; The Garden Club of

Woodbridge will host a plant sale and Walk Bike Woodbridge will conduct bike safety checks.

As of press time, other participating organizations include 10selden, Amity Black Student Union, Amity Community for Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Amity Diversity in Action, Amity Woodbridge Historical Society, Beecher Road School PTO, Boy Scout Troop 907, Democratic Town Committee, Inclusion at Amity, Republican Town Committee, Rotary Club of Woodbridge, Southern CT Chinese School, Woodbridge Arts Guild, Woodbridge Gardens for Wildlife and Woodbridge Together.

AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



Left: Pero and Jane Baljevic get assistance from Adair Luciani and Ruta Majumdar as they shop The Center's talented Craft Group's table at the Summer Second Saturday's Craft Fair on September 11. **Right:** Town employees get ready to walk around the center of town to bring awareness to Alzheimer's on September 2.

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

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

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

The Woodbridge Center experienced substantial flooding on Wednesday, September 1 from the remnants of Hurricane Ida. The flooding resulted in damage to The Center lounge, cafeteria, and director's office. All programs that regularly utilize these spaces have been relocated to other areas. The offices of Kristy Moriarty, Senior Center Director, and Jessica Esposito, Clerical Program Assistant, have temporarily relocated to upstairs in Human Services, Center Building Room 13. Trying to see this in a positive light, we will take this opportunity to move ahead with the planned renovation project.

Many thanks to Coachman Square at Woodbridge for sponsoring a delicious drive-thru lunch on September 9 for Woodbridge Center clients and the Woodbridge Police Department after the annual Town-wide Picnic had to be cancelled.

Walk to End Alzheimer's: Thank you to all who contributed to The Center's team, Motrin in Motion. Over \$600 was raised for research to help end Alzheimer's.

New Activities and Events
Learn to Play Bridge Class, October 13 at 1 pm. Interested in a refresher or learning to play bridge? Instructor Wendy Frieden will lead this class - time, duration, and cost dependent on skill levels interested. Call for more information and to register. (Class start date may change based on the Town of Woodbridge's COVID positivity rate.)

Medicare Refresher/Prepping for the Annual Medicare Open Enrollment Period, October 13, 10-11 am. Join Jeffrey Comen, local Medicare Advocate/Broker, in the Grove (inclement weather- Center Building gym) to learn about all four parts of Medicare (A, B, C & D). A free educational guide will be provided. Bring your questions! Enjoy a special treat during the presentation provided by Hamden Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center. Call to register.

Back Pain Zoom presentation, October 15, 11:30 am- 12:30 pm. Kyle Brandy of Amity Physical Therapy will give this Zoom presentation on the differences in types of back pain, how to evaluate and assess it properly to find the true cause of the pain, and most importantly how to alleviate it!

Halloween Box Lunch & Mini Health Fair, October 28, 12-1 pm. Come through our spooky Halloween entrance, continue into the festive Health Fair in the gym, then leave with a box lunch sponsored by Coachman Square at Woodbridge. Wear your costume for added trick-or-treat fun. Call for more details and to RSVP by October 21.

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

Craft Group: Tuesday and Thursday, 10 am - 12 pm in The Center café (outside by the Newton Road side of the library when the weather is nice). Bring your current knitting or crocheting project to work on while enjoying a lovely time socializing.

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

Bridge, pinochle, and mahjongg

are temporarily on hold due to the current COVID positivity rate. Please feel free to call The Center to sign-up for play when it resumes.

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

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

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

Targeted Strength Training is offered on Mondays, outdoors in the Grove (Center Building gym during inclement weather), 9-10 am. Led by Michele Tenney, this exercise class uses exercise bands to focus on strengthening specific muscle groups to help increase balance, stability, and flexibility. Bands are available for purchase through the instructor. The class fee is \$40 for an 8-week session and will be prorated as needed.

Zumba Gold: Who says exercise can't be fun? Join instructor Amanda Aranzullo for this fun "dance party" as she introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on all elements of cardiovascular health, muscular conditioning, flexibility and balance. No prior Zumba experience required. Classes are held Fridays, 9-9:45 am in the Grove (Center Build-

ing gym during inclement weather). Next session begins October 29. The fee is \$30 for a 6-week session.

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

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

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

Frozen soups are now available for \$1 per 10 oz. container. Varieties include Italian wedding, beef orzo, Matzo ball, sweet potato bisque, and more. Call 203-389-3430 to place your order.

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

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



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Woodbridge resident, Gordon Sanford, took these pictures of the flowers at the Transfer Station. He believes it is impressive that they were grown and maintained without chemicals or pesticides and sends Kudos to those who planted the flowers.



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Pre-Winter Perennial Pruning Pointers

Foliage and football might be two things people instantly associate with fall, but there’s more to this beloved season than brightly colored leaves and action on the gridiron.

Gardeners know that spring is an ideal time to plan and plant their favorite flowers and most flavorful fruits and vegetables. However, seasoned gardeners know that gardening is a year-round commitment. Pruning is one of the keys to keeping perennials coming back for years to come, and fall is an ideal time to take on this important task.

Pruning perennials in the fall is not a one-size-fits-all endeavor. According to the Old Farmer’s Almanac, some perennials can be cut down after the first killing frost, while others can be left to benefit wildlife, including birds and insects. Understanding pruning and when to do it this fall can help gardeners lay a strong foundation for their gardens that will benefit them next spring.

Why should some perennials be pruned?

The College of Agricultural Sciences at Pennsylvania State University notes that perennials that have become diseased or infested with insects are pruned to prevent those problems from resurfacing in the spring. In addition, according to the Old Farmer’s Almanac, many herbaceous perennials have old



foliage and dying stems after several hard frosts. If dead foliage or dying stems aren’t pruned, disease, slugs and other pests can overwinter in the plants. Cutting these plants down to the ground after several hard frosts allows the base of the plant to remain dormant over the winter but makes the plant less hospitable to disease and insects.

Which perennials should I prune?

The first step to pruning perennials is to recognize which need to be pruned and which can be left intact for the winter. The Old Farmer’s Almanac notes that bee balm and phlox are prone to powdery mildew and should be cut back once they’re gone. Hostas harbor slug eggs, so they, too, should

be pruned after a hard frost. Hosta leaves that have fallen on the ground should be removed as well. There’s no need to cut back certain perennials if they’re healthy. For example, hardy geraniums do not require pruning in the fall, and Penn State Extension notes that hardy perennials like garden mums are more likely to survive a cold winter if they’re left intact. That’s because the tops of such plants will collect leaves and snow for insulation and moisture over the course of winter. Gardeners who are unsure about fall pruning can speak with their local gardening center for additional advice regarding which plants to cut back before winter.

When to prune perennials

Gardeners need not rush to prune perennials in the fall. Diseased or infested plants can be pruned at the first sight of disease or infestation, but gardeners can wait until several hard frosts have occurred before they prune healthy perennials. In gardening parlance, a hard frost refers to when temperatures drop below 28 F. Several hard frosts kill the uppermost growth of most perennials, making this an ideal time to prune them.

Pruning perennials in fall can be the first step toward creating an awe-inspiring spring garden.

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How To Create A Sunroom

As fall inches closer to winter, it's not uncommon for people to look to the coming cold with a degree of lament. Spring, summer and fall provide ample opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors, but such chances are few and far between once the winter freeze settles in. Though winter might compel the masses to huddle up inside, there's still a way to take in the great outdoors on cold winter days and nights.

It might not prove an exact substitute for summer nights around the firepit, but a sunroom affords homeowners a chance to marvel at snowy winter landscapes without venturing out into the cold. Sometimes referred to as "all-season rooms," sunrooms can make for a great retreat on quiet summer mornings or crisp autumn afternoons. Sunrooms can be treated as blank canvasses, which makes decorating them more fun. But a few tricks of the trade can help homeowners turn their blank canvasses into welcoming spaces to take in all that nature has to offer throughout the year.

Define the purpose. The experts at Better Homes & Gardens recommend homeowners decide how they want to use the sunroom before they begin decorating it. When the weather gets too chilly to dine outside, will the sunroom serve as an alternative dining space in the same way patios and decks do during the warm weather? Or do homeowners want to turn their sunrooms into reading rooms? Though it's possible to make sunrooms multipurpose spaces, it may be hard to create a relaxing vibe in rooms that are too crowded with furnishings or too busy. Defining how the space will be used also makes it easier when shopping for furnishings.

Define when the room will be used. In addition to defining how the room will be used, homeowners should give ample consideration to when the room will be used. A year-round sunroom will need to be heated, while a three-season sunroom likely won't require heating. Cooling might be a concern on hot summer afternoons, but many homeowners will likely spend such days outside anyway, so cooling the room may be as simple as installing a ceiling fan and ensuring windows can be opened to let fresh air in. Homeowners who want a year-round sunroom should install insulated glass to keep the room even warmer when the mercury dips.

Opt for bright colors. Bright colors can make sunrooms feel all the more inviting and make for a perfect match with all the natural light already in the room. The renovation experts at HGTV note that white walls and ceilings can maximize the warm illumination of the natural light that will be pouring in from the floor-to-ceiling windows. Better Homes & Gardens adds that brightly colored cushions, pillows and area rugs with similarly hued colors and patterns can add visual interest and texture to a sunroom.

Make use of a view. Homeowners needn't direct too much of their focus on decor if their sunrooms come with a view. Art on the walls and other decorative items around the room are less important if a sunroom affords a view of the ocean or a lake or dense woods that attract local wildlife. In rooms with a view, arrange furniture so residents and guests can comfortably look outward and take in all the surround landscape has to offer.

Sunrooms are a great place to take in nature no matter the weather.



Design Ideas To Give Your Home A Farmhouse Feel

Farmhouse style homes are having a moment. A 2020 survey from Homes.com asked more than 5,000 adults across the United States about their favorite house style from a list that included bohemian craftsman, mid-century modern ranch, French chateau, and Tudor, among others. Modern farmhouse was the runaway winner, as participants in 42 of the 50 states indicated this simple, cozy style was their favorite.

Home renovation projects can help homeowners put their own unique stamp on their homes, and such projects can be both aesthetic and functional in nature. The following are some farmhouse design elements homeowners can consider as they look to transform their home interiors with this popular style in mind.

Exposed beams: Exposed beams instantly evoke images of a farmhouse. The home improvement experts at BobVila.com note that this rustic renovation project can utilize real wood or faux beams that look like the real thing. Decorative beams that have nothing to do with a home's structural integrity can be installed by skilled do-it-yourselfers. However, even faux beams are heavy, and BobVila.com recommends homeowners have an engineer assess their existing structure prior to installation.

Distressed wood finishes: Distressing is designed to make something look less than perfect. Distressed wood fin-

ishes can be found throughout many farmhouse style homes. Furniture and picture frames can provide the distressed look farmhouse fans are looking for. This is a relatively inexpensive project that many homeowners can tackle on their own after watching some online tutorials that recommend the right tools and techniques to get the job done right.

Kitchen sink: Many components combine to create a truly classic farmhouse kitchen. But perhaps no component is more essential than the classic farmhouse sink. The renovation experts at HGTV note that a classic farmhouse sink features a deep, wide basin. Farmhouse sinks are large enough to handle all the dishes that come after a big family meal. Old-fashioned porcelain sinks are worth consideration by homeowners who want their kitchen sinks to evoke a traditional farmhouse feel.

Countertops: HGTV recommends butcher block countertops for homeowners who favor European farmhouse style. Homeowners overhauling their kitchens to create a farmhouse feel should consider installing a large island with a walnut butcher block countertop for an authentic farmhouse feel.

Farmhouse style homes are wildly popular. Some simple renovations can help homeowners with a fondness for farmhouse style bring this classic look into their homes.

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ARTS & LEISURE

Partnered Program

Ansonia Nature Center and Ansonia Public Library

Nature's Explorers
October 20, 27 and November 3, 10/10-11:30am
Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center, 10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT 06401
TUITION: \$40 per 4-week session
Contact/Registration: 203-736-1053 or ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org

October and November - Join the Nature Center and Public Library for this 4-week session geared for children ages 2-5 years old with an adult explorer. These outdoor classes will be fun exploring and learning through play. We will learn about nature and science

while hiking with ANC's Ranger Dan and reading with APL's Ms. Jen. We'll end with a snack! Every class is outside, so dress for the weather! Email to ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org to sign up.
"Dedicated to creating a lifelong connection to nature." Our mission is to foster environmental stewardship that connects our communities to the natural world of the Lower Naugatuck River Valley, and balance the demand for recreation with the need for conservation. Our 156-acre nature preserve is located at 10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT. For more information, visit ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org.

Free Afterschool Program

Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center

Fall Term Jr. Rangers
Thursdays - 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, & 11/18 ~ 3:30-5:00pm
Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center, 10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT 06401
TUITION: Free!
Contact/Registration: 203-736-1053 or ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org

Has your child ever wanted to work with animals, garden, help maintain our trails, and help with special events? This is the opportunity to help the Nature Center in our 8-week after-school program. Jr. Rangers offers a chance for your child to become immersed in the job duties of our Park

Rangers. This fun and exciting program fills up fast!
-registration is necessary, and children must be prompt. Every class is outside, so dress for the weather! Email to ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org to sign up.
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Ansonia Nature & Recreation Center Fall 2021 Calendar

10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT 06401
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Please register for all programs at ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org. Dates and times are subject to change. All In-person classes are socially-distant events. Space is limited. Must register in advance. No walk-ins allowed. New rules and regulations must be followed.

OCTOBER Bittersweet Wreaths

Saturday, October 2, 1:30 p.m.
Bring your own clippers and gardening gloves for this workshop led by Ranger Dawn. When you collect these beautiful orange-berried vines, you're actually helping the park by removing this invasive plant species. Create a

beautiful fall wreath for your home or a gift. FEE \$6. Please call to register.

Infinity and Beyond

Friday, October 8, 7 pm
Join Ranger Jeremy for an out of this world event. Together you will learn about the different planets, stars and constellations that comprise our night sky. Relax under the stars and work on some unique space related arts and crafts! All while watching Draconid Meteor Shower, nature's greatest light show. Please register for this event at ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org.
See "Calendar" On Page 21



Carole's Kings Headlines Afternoon For The Arts Gala

Carole's Kings – the world's first all-male Carole King Tribute – headlines the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation's Afternoon for the Arts Gala on Sunday, November 7, 2021, 2 pm, at Amity High School's Brady Center for the Performing Arts.
The performance begins at 2 p.m. and is preceded by a lite reception and raffle preview at 1 pm. (Remember to set your clocks back the night before!). General admission tickets are \$45 and can be purchased at www.jamiehulleyartsfund.org. CDC guidelines for indoor events at the time of the gala will be in effect. Guests are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance to assist with the planning of safety protocols.
CAROLE's KINGS is an exhilarating, family friendly musical revue delivered by three incredibly talented New York stage veterans who consistently wow their audiences with a dynamic act jammed-packed with chart-topping sensations such as The Locomotion, I Feel the Earth Move, You've Got A Friend, Natural Woman, and many more. Their set list also includes songs by King's friends and collaborators James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, Carly Simon, and Neil Sedaka. They have received rave reviews from such venues as Caesar's Palace and Celebrity, Princess, and Norwegian Cruise Lines.

The Gala also showcases the talents of young aspiring performers from the foundation's partner programs: Amity Creative Theater, Broadway Method Academy in Fairfield, and Square Foot Theatre Company in Wallingford. Serving as Tri-Masters of Ceremonies for the afternoon are Robert Kennedy, Kimberly Jenna Simon, and Kari Hulley. Our Gala Raffle, Mystery Bags, and Buy-It-Now Boutique offer many opportunities to bring home prizes fit for "a King."
The Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the educational enrichment and professional development of young artists and early career professionals, was founded to celebrate the life of Orange, CT resident Jamie Elaine Hulley. All proceeds from the Gala are dedicated to scholarships and educational programs throughout Connecticut especially in the greater New Haven and Fairfield counties. Since the foundation's creation in 2002, over \$900,000 has been awarded which have touched the lives of thousands of area youth each year.

For information on the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation, visit www.jamiehulleyartsfund.org, call (203) 891-8869, or email: jamieart@snet.net.

ARTS & LEISURE

Mega Tasting Event to Benefit Leukemia Patients

The Nicole Donzello Foundation cordially invites you to its second annual tasting fundraiser, featuring 50+ wines, over 13 breweries with 40+ beers, distilled beverage bars, over 15 restaurants, chocolate bar, DJ, raffle and auction. All proceeds benefit leukemia patients and their families at Smilow Cancer Hospital.

The event date is Saturday, October 23, from 7 to 10 p.m. at The Woodbridge Club, 10 Milhaven Road. It is open to those 21 years of age and over. Tickets are \$75 (includes entry and tasting glass) or \$125 (includes entry, tasting glass, t-shirt, exclusive tasting hour from 6-7pm, and ten raffle tickets. All CDC and State of Connecticut COVID protocols will be followed. Tickets may be purchased on the website, Nicoledonzellofoundation.org.

The foundation was created by Nicole who was diagnosed with Acute Monoblastic Leukemia (AML) in February of 2015. As a wife and mother of two young children while practicing criminal law in Connecticut, she had to

put life on hold to focus on her health. Since, she has relapsed three times, receiving two stem cell transplants, with the most recent in June of 2020. Nicole is extremely grateful for the support family and friends have given throughout her journey. This support allows Nicole and her husband to focus on her health.

She has made it her mission to provide support to fellow leukemia patients and their families; as such the foundation's mission is to ease the financial burden patients and their family's receiving treatment at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven face while undergoing treatment for leukemia.

Due to the overwhelming success of the first tasting event, the foundation was able to award 14 need-based monetary grants for Smilow patients and their families. She hopes to assist even more patients this year, which can only be done with your support. Please come out and have fun for a good cause.



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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 a.m. in the Meetinghouse.

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

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

*If you would like assistance 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 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Weekly Bible Study: Our Bible Study Group meets at the Parish House each Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. All are invited!

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

Events Update: We are excited to announce that FCCW will be participating in the “Woodbridge Like Me” event, sponsored by the Town of Woodbridge on Saturday, October 2, 2021. Seasonal delights, like fresh cider and warm apple pie a la mode (\$2), a free ice cream scoop for children, live music by singer/songwriter Shawn Taylor, and much more - from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Come on over!

Sanctuary Décor Restoration: The fine decorative arts company, John Canning, Cheshire, CT, has begun its work to repair the plasterwork and



The First Church of Christ

to repaint the grisaille/trompe l’oeil design on the ceiling of our historic sanctuary. Go to www.uccw.org for all the details. Donations from the wider community to the FCCW Sanctuary Fund are welcomed.

Pre-School Space Available: Three rooms (1,200 sf) and a fenced playground are available. Please contact the office for more information.

For More Information: Visit our website at www.uccw.org for resources such as our calendar of events, monthly parish newsletter, ministry and volunteer opportunities, photo galleries, scout info, and much more! Feel free to email us or call the office with all your questions. We are happy to hear from you!

FCCW Sunday Service Schedule

Sept. 26 th	Rev. Karl Duetzmann
Oct. 3 rd	Rev. Raquel Irizarry*
Oct. 10 th	Rev. Martha Bays
Oct. 17 th	Rev. Karl Duetzmann
Oct. 24 th	Rev. Martha Bays
Oct. 31 st	Rev. Walter Pitman
Nov. 7 th	Rev. Hiram Brett *
Nov. 14 th	Rev. Walter Pitman
Nov. 21 st	Rev. Karl Duetzmann
Nov. 28 th	Rev. Raquel Irizarry
Dec. 5 th	Rev. Hiram Brett *
Dec. 12 th	Rev. Karl Duetzmann
Dec. 19 th	Rev. Janice Touloukian
Dec. 26 th	Rev. Raquel Irizarry

* indicates a Communion Sunday

The First Church of Christ is located at 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525 • Phone: 203-389-2119 • Email: office@uccw.org • Website: www.uccw.org • Facebook: www.facebook.com/uccwoodbridge • *For online or media related questions, please email JoAnna.Rubino@growfirstchurch@gmail.com.



Zion Lutheran Church Orange Welcomes Pastor Joshua Schiff

On June 12, Zion Lutheran Church (780 Grassy Hill Road, Orange) welcomed newly ordained Pastor Joshua Schiff and his family.

Pastor Schiff grew up in Southern Illinois. After returning from Operation Iraqi-Freedom in 2008, he married his best friend and worked for over six years in the State Correctional System. During his time working in Corrections, he completed his undergraduate education and his first graduate degree. He then left Corrections to pursue his dream of becoming a Lutheran pastor. During the summer of 2020, Joshua completed his vicarage at Faith Lutheran Church in Green Bay, WI. He holds a Master of Education degree from the University of Illinois and a Master of Divinity

degree from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. In the Fall of 2021, he will begin coursework toward his Master of Sacred Theology at Yale Divinity School.

Joshua is married to Shelly, who was accepted to the Long-Term Care Management Certificate program at the University of Connecticut and will begin her coursework there this fall. They have two children. The Schiffs enjoy living in New England and are excited about becoming part of the greater Orange community!

Zion holds weekly Divine Worship Services at 5:00 pm Saturday and 10:30 am Sunday. More information about Pastor Schiff and the Congregation (including its open prayer list) can be found at www.zion-orange.com.

Orange Congregational Church Invites You to Worship

Orange Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, invites you to join us at 205 Meeting House Lane in Orange for worship, or on YouTube at Orange Congregational Church, UCC for our livestreamed services.

Our regular in-person Sunday worship will be at 10:00 a.m. in our Sanctuary. Due to COVID precautions, indoor seating is limited to 100 people, so please contact the church office (occhurch@snet.net or 203-795-9749) to register prior to worship and confirm your attendance. Masks are also required.

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, which means we welcome all people into the full life and leadership of the church regardless of race, class, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or family type. We love kids and teens and welcome them with love into our community, too.



Orange Congregational Church

We are currently offering virtual or in-person church school and youth group, Bible study, book club, an “Art of Scripture” group, and an anti-racism ministry. Anyone interested in joining our choirs or other groups can email occhurch@snet.net or visit orangecongregationalchurch.org for more information.

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Good Shepherd Rummage Sale

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd at 680 Racebrook Road in Orange announces its Fall Rummage Sale to be held at the church on Friday, October 8th from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. and on Saturday October 9th from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. As in the past, the Rummage Sale will feature men's, women's and children's clothing, jewelry, accessories, shoes, jigsaw puzzles, toys, lamps, books, DVDs, housewares and linens.

Based on our experience from prior Rummage Sales, we encourage you to come to the Sale early and to come expecting to find a hidden treasure.

The Church's Sunday service times



The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

are 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

If you want more information about the Rummage Sale or about the church services, please call Elaine Swirsky at 203-795-6809.

Holy Infant Church Outdoor Rosary

The Holy Infant Church Women's Guild is having an Outdoor Rosary on Saturday, 10/9, at 1 pm on the church lawn at 450 Racebrook Road. The rain date is Sunday, 10/10 at 1 pm. Bring a chair and please park in the lot, not in the driveway area.

The Guild will be doing its annu-

al Christmas pocketbook stuffing for needy women. Donations of new or gently used pocketbooks, warm hats, gloves, socks, scarves, and new every day basic hygiene items are needed. Donation boxes will be on the portico of the church. All items are needed by Sunday, November 27.



ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

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

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Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

Kids and Teens

BEKI has returned to its usual schedule of services for all ages of children. Every Saturday, Children's Havura meets outdoors in the courtyard. K-2 Kehila and Junior Congregation meet indoors. All three start at 10:45 am and end outdoors with the congregation's kiddush lunch. To receive her weekly newsletter, email Youth and Family Programming Director Annie Norman-Schiff at anormanschiff@beki.org. She also will provide information about upcoming events for teens (BEKI USY) and pre-teens (BEKI Kadima).

Elm City Kallah

On Saturday, October 30 at 1 pm, Rabbi Ethan Tucker will speak



at BEKI as part of the weekend Kallah. Selected as an outstanding young Jewish innovator in New York, Rabbi Tucker is known for his ability to transcend the af-

filiation boundaries of Judaism. The co-founder of Kehilat Hadar, an independent prayer community in New York's Upper West Side, he is now President and Rosh Yeshiva at an observant egalitarian yeshiva, also called Hadar. His topic is "Navigating Relationships in a World of Difference: How do we proceed when aspects of our Jewish observance create discomfort with family members and friends?"

Learn About CONECT

The Zoom Schmooze on Wednesday, October 6 at 7:30 pm will be about CONECT:



Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut. CONECT is a broad-based organization made up of 37 congregations from Hamden

to Stamford that organize together on issues of common concern. The featured speaker will be Matt McDermott, Lead Organizer for CONECT, who led CONECT through success-

ful campaigns on immigration rights, health insurance rates, criminal justice reforms, and police accountability. To request the link, email office@beki.org.

Fair Trade Foods

On Wednesday, October 13 at 7:30 pm, the Schmooze will be about Fair



Trade with Susan Sklar, the Interfaith Team Manager at Equal Exchange. Started in 1986 as a food co-op, Equal Exchange facilitates the Jewish Fair Trade Project,

which assists Jewish institutions and individuals in purchasing kosher and Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

Outdoor Music

BEKI will hold its next courtyard music event on Saturday, October 23 at 7:30 pm. This showcase will feature secular and Jewish music from BEKI musicians, a campfire, and plenty of good vibes. In case of rain, the event will move inside.



Ancestors Exhibit

BEKI's latest high holy day gallery show features pre-1950 photographs and artwork that portray the diverse ethnic backgrounds of members. More than 40 members contributed images of ancestors, some which date as far back as the 1880s, along with information on their identities and the lives they lived. The exhibition, which will be on view through November 7, is open to the public by appointment; email office@beki.org or call 203.389.2108.

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



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HUMAN SERVICES



From left are Human Services Director Jeanette Glicksman, award winner Andrew Esposito, Jr., First Selectman Beth Heller, award winners Lor Ferrante Fernandes and Nate Case, and Human Services Commission Chair Susan Davidson.

Two Flu Clinics

According to the Area agency on Aging, last year ½ million people were hospitalized due to seasonal flu and more than 32,000 people died. Getting a flu shot and practicing frequent handwashing are 2 steps you can take to reduce your risk of getting the flu. People who are 65 and older are at high risk of having serious health complications from the flu.

There will be two flu clinics available for residents 60+, town employees, and volunteer fire fighters at the Center Gymnasium in October. Pre-registration is required for each of these clinics. Call for information on accepted insurance at each clinic as they differ. Each clinic will provide both regular dose and high dose - for those 65+ who request it and while supplies last.

The first clinic will be held on October 14, 11 am-2 pm in the Center Gymnasium and is sponsored by Orange VNA. Call 203-891-4752 for registration information. This clinic has been extended by one hour and has limited available appointments. The second clinic will be held on October 21, 11 am - 3 pm, in the Center Gymnasium and is sponsored by VNA Community Healthcare & Hospice. To pre-register go to www.vnacommunityhealthcare.org/flu or call 203-458-5920. Call for information on participating insurance.

Energy Assistance Program

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

Adopt-A-Family Program

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

December holidays to Woodbridge families in need. Basket distribution will take place early December. If interested in sponsoring a family, call by October 29. Contributions of gift cards are welcome.

Emergency Preparedness

In the event of a weather emergency or power outage, elderly residents and those with disabilities are encouraged to register for the Emergency Call list by calling the Human Services Department at 203-389-3429.

Community Conversation and Suicide Training Offered

Suicide Prevention training and a community conversation with Pam Mautte, Director of the Alliance for Prevention & Wellness, a regional behavioral health action organization, and Kara Sepulveda of Quinnipiac Valley Health District. The training, QPR (Question, Persuade & Refer) – Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention – is offered at no cost to interested community members on Thursday, October 21 at 6 pm via zoom link. Please register in advance of this program at Human Services (203-389-3429) to receive the link. Call for more information.

Living Treasure Award

The Living Treasure Award was a terrific community building event honoring three wonderful residents: Andrew Esposito, Jr., Nate Case and Lor Ferrante Fernandes for their remarkable decades-long volunteer commitment to Woodbridge. The event was made possible by the efforts of much of this community and the gratitude list is long! Thank you to Living Treasure Committee members: Susan Davidson, Lynn Piascyk, Cathy Austin, Bob Garofalo, Janet Onofrio, Kristy Moriarty, Ellen McDonald. Many thanks to The Woodbridge Fire Department and the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire



Association for hosting the event and Nakouzi, Dr. Neelima Kaushal, Paul

Celebrity Servers included from left, front row: Margaret Hamilton, Dr. Neelima Kaushal, Joe Crisco, Jen DiBlanda, Dr. Guy Stella; Celebrity Servers in back row from left: Police Chief Cappiello, Paul Kuriakose, Dr. Jonathan Budd, Lynn Piascyk, Fire Marshal Joe Cappucci, Gary DiBlanda, and Teresa Nakouzi. Many thanks to all the volunteers.

for their support of this event. Thank you to the members of the Woodbridge Building Maintenance Department for their efforts to set up and break down this event! Thanks to Susan Jacobs for serving as emcee of the event and serving up her warmth and humor. Thanks to all those who attended and supported this wonderful event. Thanks for donations and support received from Amity Garden Center, Amity Meat Center, Amity Wine & Spirit, Andrew Esposito, Jr., Apizza Grande, Archie Moore's, First Selectman Beth Heller, Billy's Ice Cream, Carmine's di Vega, Cathy Ressler, Chris Sorenson and Merry Mountain Farm, Chrisandras Country Store, Clay Date, Chowder Pot III, D'Aniello's Amity Bike, Dozo Asian Bistro, Elim Park, Ernie's Pizzeria, Explorers Learning Center, Gerry Shaw, Foxwoods Resort & Casino, Hamden Rehabilitation & Health Care and Michelle Riley, Tom and Jenifer Wayland and Joyce Printers, Julia's Bakery, Katz's Deli, Lasse's Caterers, Mark Dutka, Mary Leigh Sabshin, Mohegan Sun, Nelson Hall Theatre, New England Brewing Co., Paolo's Restaurant, State Representative Mary Welander, Safari Stan's Pet Center, Scott Zimmerman, State Senator Jorge Cabrera, State Senator James Maroney, Seven Angels Theatre, Simon Donato, Sitting Duck Tavern, Starbucks Coffee Company, Sticky Paws Grooming Salon, Stop & Shop, Tea With Tracey, Thai Stories, The Red Barn, Tom Kenefick, Traditions Golf Club at Oak Lane, U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro, U.S. Senator Chris Murphy, Wash & Wag, Woodbridge Hardware, Woodbridge Running Company, Woodbridge Social, and Worldwide Fish & Pets. Celebrity Servers: Margaret Hamilton, Police Chief Cappiello, Jen DiBlanda, Gary DiBlanda, Dr. Guy Stella, Joe and Pat Crisco, Teresa

Kuriakose, Lynn Piascyk, Fire Marshal Joe Cappucci, and Dr. Jonathan Budd. Human Services Commission members: B. Pat Madden, Janet Ciarleglio, Jennifer Clarke- Lofters, Susan Davidson, Cathy Austin. Advertisers: Zeisler & Zeisler, P.C. Attorneys at Law, April Stirling-Coldwell Banker, The Write Approach, The Serene Spot, Kut Rite Hair Shop, Pat Cardozo-Coldwell Banker, Behavioral Health Consultants, LLC-Arnold Holzman, Emily Resnik Conn – Resnik and Resnik, Andes International Gourmet Deli, Beth and Allen Heller, The Woodbridge Republican Town Committee, The Rotary Club, Adolf Luciani- Group Insurance Associates, Karen Bellamy-Farmers Insurance, Buddy DeGennaro-Coldwell Banker, The Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee, The Woodbridge Park Association, Real Living-Wareck D'Ostilio, Pat and Joe Crisco, Susan and Alan Davidson, The Linden at Woodbridge, Connecticut Window Film and Tinting, Always Best Care Senior Services, Birchwoods at Oak Lane, B and B Transportation, Inc., Gina Clark, Laticrete International and the Rothberg Family, Elim Park Health Care & Rehabilitation Center, Boy Scouts Troop 907, Opal Stork Home Care, The Garden Club of Woodbridge, Bender Plumbing, The Willows- Genesis HealthCare, Brookside Farm Market, The Tradition Golf Club at Oak Lane, The JCC of Greater New Haven, Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Street N' Savory, The Fernandes Family, Joyce Printers, Coachman Square at Woodbridge, The Case Family, The Esposito Family, Nails By Hong, Amity Physical Therapy and Visiting Angels. With so much support in so many ways, it is easy to leave someone out- please know we appreciate everyone's efforts even if they are not listed here.

“Calendar” From Page 16

Space is limited; \$6 per person.

Mushroom Hike

Sunday, October 17, 1:30 p.m.

Put the “fun” in fungi with this themed nature hike lead by Ranger Evelyn! Explore the diversity of decomposers and see how many different kinds of mushroom you can find. (We will not be collecting to eat). Wear comfortable shoes for uneven terrain. Space is limited and registration is required. To register, email ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org.

NATURE EXPLORERS

Wednesdays, October 20, 27, November 3, 10, 10- 11:30am

Join the Nature Center and Ansonia Public Library for this 4 -week pre-school/toddler program for children ages 2-5 with their adult explorer. These classes are loosely structured, influenced by the seasons and the interests of the children. We will go outside to explore nature and read a story every class so please dress for the weather. Classes will end with a light snack and conversation. TUITION: \$40 for all 4 weeks, due at the first class. Class is limited to 10 children. Contact us at ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org to register in advance.

AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 23, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Celebrate this wonderful season with the staff and the Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center (FANCI). Take a ride through our park in our horse-drawn story wagon, where you’ll hear some Halloween tales! Walk our haunted trail to the golden rod maze. Enjoy lunch from one of our food vendors. Learn about bats, spiders, and owls from one of the nature center’s naturalists! Visit the Nature Shop table to buy some creepy and crawly nature-related items. Enjoy nature-related exhibitors and vendors. You can try your hand at pumpkin painting, get your face painted, and make some original crafts. All proceeds will benefit the Nature Center’s exhibits. RAIN or SHINE. No park admission fee. Call us for more information at 203-736-1053.

NOVEMBER NATURE EXPLORERS

Wednesday, November 3 & 10

Join the Nature Center and Ansonia Public Library for this 4-week pre-school/toddler program for children ages 2-5 with their adult explorer.

These classes are loosely structured, influenced by the seasons and the interests of the children. We will go outside to explore nature and read a story every class so please dress for the weather. Classes will end with a light snack and conversation. TUITION: \$40 for all 4 weeks, due at the first class. Class is limited to 10 children. Contact us at ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org to register in advance.

CT’s Wild Turkey

Saturday, November 13, 1:30 pm

CT’s Wild Turkey is an iconic symbol of Thanksgiving. The Native Americans as well as early settlers relied on the turkey for survival by hunting the species to near extinction. In the 20th Century there was a successful relocation program that increased the number of turkeys to a large population. Join us on a brief talk and hike to find the illusive wild birds. Wear good walking shoes. To register please contact us at ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org. FREE

Full Beaver Moon Hike

Friday, November 19, 6 pm

Full Moon Hike with Stargazing. Join Ranger Evelyn for a hike by the light of the full moon, then relax under the stars for an astronomy lesson with Ranger Jeremy, who will be talking about the partial lunar eclipse that will have occurred earlier that morning. (Go to <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/@5281551> for more information on eclipse times in our area.) Wear comfortable shoes for uneven terrain and dress for the weather. FEE: \$1 per person. Space is limited and registration is required. To register, email ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org.

DECEMBER WINTER WREATH WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 4, 10 am

Celebrate winter and the festive season as you create a wreath from fresh locally grown greens, then decorate your masterpiece with natural trimmings. Enjoy some warm mulled cider and a cookie too! Wreath frames and wire will be provided. Please bring your own hand clippers. MATERIALS FEE \$15. To register, please email ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org. Limited space.

ONGOING

Fiber Arts - Tuesdays, 6 p.m.
Monday Hike – Monday, 9 a.m.

THINGS TO COME

Snowshoeing, Valentines, Maple Sugaring

DID YOU KNOW?
Safekeeping of Original Estate Planning Documents

If you take the time and effort to complete the estate planning process it is imperative that you know where you will store your original estate planning documents so that you are sure that they are preserved in a secure location and can be accessed when needed in the future.

Why do you need original documents?

- Your original Will is extremely important as this original document needs to be submitted directly to the Probate Court upon your death. In the event your original Will cannot be located additional steps must be taken to obtain a copy of the Will and “prove” that it is identical to the original Will and that the original Will has not been revoked, destroyed, amended, etc.
- Your original Power of Attorney is essential for real estate transactions as the original must be recorded on the land records. Additionally, many financial institutions will request to view an original Power of Attorney document.

Where to keep original documents?

- If you work with a trusted law firm the law firm may provide security measures for storing your original estate planning documents.
- A safe deposit box
- A heatproof, waterproof, fireproof safe in your home.

If you are interested in learning more about the importance of preserving and safekeeping of your original estate planning documents please contact the office. We would be glad to meet with you for a no-hassle, no charge initial consultation, no matter how long it lasts.



Attorney Steven Floman and Attorney Allison DePaola Drozd are responsible for this advertisement. This advertisement has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal advice or to create an attorney client relationship. Readers should not act upon the information contained in this article without seeking advice from an attorney regarding the specific facts and circumstances of your case.



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WOODBRIDGE LIBRARY

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

From the Circulation Department: Changes to Park & Pickup

On September 13, Park & Pickup became request-only and automatic email holds notices returned. Do not reply to the automated email notification as it comes from an account that is not checked. You will receive automated emails when your holds are ready, and then you will have approximately one week to pick them up from inside the library. (If you normally receive phone calls from the library about your holds, you will still receive a call from us when your request is ready.)

All items that are ready for pick up will be put on the self-service holds shelf next to the Circulation Desk, as they were prior to June 2020. Please come inside, pick up your items, then go to the Circulation Desk to check them out. We also have a self-checkout machine for your convenience.

If your email address has changed, or you'd like to get emails instead of phone calls (or vice versa), please let us know.

Every time you get a notification email and you would like to continue to use our Park & Pickup service to obtain your items, you will have to specifically request this by calling the Circulation Desk at 203-389-3433. After letting us know that you would like to get your items via Park & Pickup, they will be checked out to you and brought to the Meeting Room within 15 minutes.

Thank you for all of your support and feedback over the last year and



WOODBRIDGE TOWN LIBRARY

a half, regarding Park & Pickup and other library matters. We are happy to be slowly returning to our usual library services and we look forward to seeing you back inside the building!

New Library Hours Begin October 4 and Saturday Hours Return

We look forward to seeing everyone during our expanded hours—our new schedule will be: Monday, 1-7 pm; Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 am-5 pm; Thursday, 10 am-7 pm; Saturday 10 am-5 pm. The Library will be closed Monday, October 11 in observance of Columbus Day.

Library Information

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

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

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

please call the reference desk to book your time. The meeting room cannot be used for any events or programs. Seating throughout the Library is extremely limited and no puzzles or children's toys are in use.

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

Department Phones and Emails

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

Library Events

Programs require registration either online or via phone.

Unstuck Mini

Wednesday, October 14 at 7 pm
A Virtual Program

Has your lifestyle or the pandemic left you feeling depleted and stuck? You're not alone! Join Integrative Nutrition Health Coach, Cindy Kane, and Professional Organizer, Lauren Hass, as they provide tips and tricks, along with accountability to change your mindset and motivate you toward overall health and wellness. This virtual, interactive program will include an exercise to build awareness toward greater balance and well-being in your life. Registration is required and is EXTREMELY LIMITED to adults only. A Zoom link will be provided prior to the program.

From Jazz to Soul: Rhonda Denet and the Silver Fox Trio

Saturday, October 23 at 2 pm
Meet at the Gazebo on the Green
Featuring jazz to soul; songs from

the 30s through the 70s. A musical journey from the era when the "First Lady of Song," Ella Fitzgerald graced the stage to when the "Queen of Soul," Aretha Franklin ruled the airways. This showcase pays tribute to Billie Holiday, Nina Simone, Nancy Wilson, Etta James, Martha & The Vandellas, Mary Wells, and Gladys Knight. Please register; all ages welcome.

Trick or Treating in the Library

Thursday, October 28, 4 to 7 pm
Meet at the Library

Wear your costume, bring a trick or treat bag, and visit every department of the library for a prize or a treat! Make a craft at our craft table in the YA section on the 2nd floor. Grown-ups invited to dress up too! Non-costume face masks required for ages 3+.

Ongoing Children's Programs

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

Fall Drop-In Crafts: Thursdays between 3-4 pm. Outside in front of the library. Now through October 14. Ages 3 and up. No registration required! Rain cancels.

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

News From The Friends Of The Library

The Friends of the Library thank the community for all of their donations throughout the summer into September. They ask that you please hold off on future donations as they prepare to clean and organize the items for upcoming sale events. Donation days will be announced when they are ready to accept them again.

You can shop the Friends Bookstore Alley anytime the library is open—inventories and displays are constantly changing. You can also lend support by shopping on Amazon via Amazon Smile, and selecting Friends of the Woodbridge Library as your designated charity. The Friends also accept donations via PayPal.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & CRAFT FAIR

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

Come join us for a fun, relaxing shopping experience!

Over 40 tables of Unique Vendors Fabulous Homemade Bake Sale
Children's crafts Santa available for picture taking (11:00 - 2:00)
White Elephant Sale Cookie Contest Children's Choir program at noon
Many Generous Raffle Baskets Christmas Trains Adult Choir program at 2pm
Breakfast & Lunch selections for purchase; served by the Knights of Columbus

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

Woodbridge Town News

THE WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS ONLINE

Online Version of the Woodbridge Town News

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“Teacher” From Page 1

choice. “Without a doubt, Joe DePalma matches this definition perfectly!”

DePalma has been a teacher at the school for the past 9 years. He has served as team leader in his grade level. He is a specialist in Responsive Classroom management and has trained fellow teachers, both locally and nationally.

“Joe understands the value of communication and the importance of that can’t be underestimated,” said Dr. Budd in a conversation with this reporter. He noted how DePalma interacts with his students, really modeling successful communication strategies. “He gets along with all types of kids, adults and parents,” Dr. Budd said, adding a popular quote that “No significant learning can occur without a significant relationship.” – by Dr. James Comer.

The nomination goes beyond being a popular teacher. It reflects his willingness to co-operate with and support his colleagues, especially after the challenging year of the pandemic. He was particularly attuned to the needs of the remote classroom teachers, it was noted, offering to help and support them along the way.

“Last year was a challenging year, a unique year,” DePalma said. Teachers had to roll up their sleeves to support the kids in this unusual environment. “We were teaching in a much different way than we were used to,” he said.

Just as this reporter was visiting his classroom, an unanticipated lockdown was announced over the PA system (it later turned out that a worker had triggered it by mistake). Without missing a beat, DePalma instructed the students to sit in front of their desks and to remain calm. Sensing some nervousness, he affirmed with a firm but gentle voice, that he would always take care of them first, and that everything was



Joseph DePalma was named Beecher Teacher of the Year

okay. In that manner, even with social distancing, he gave them a verbal hug.

Mr. D, as he is affectionately known, grew up in Orange, and is a 2005 Amity graduate. He currently lives in Shelton with his wife and 6-month-old daughter. Having a child of his own has shed a new light on his job, he said. More than ever, he has come to realize how important the role of a teacher is, he said. The fact that parents entrust their children to them, “I started to realize how important it is that I uphold that trust.”

Like most teachers at Beecher Road School, DePalma is trained in Responsive Classroom, but he has become a trainer in this classroom management technique. During the summer he works for the company that developed the concept, The Center for Responsive Schools, and has trained teachers from all over the nation. He also offered some professional development opportunities for teachers new to Beecher Road School.

The philosophy of Responsive Classroom helps teachers develop effective classroom management, which in turn helps build a positive community, he said. In addition, they strive to offer an engaging academic program that is developmentally appropriate. By offering a safe, engaging and fun environment, the ultimate goal is that the classroom is a place where kids want to be every day.

To enter the Teacher of the Year competition, he had to submit a series of essays touching on his philosophy, but also on ways to help the school community and the community at large; on how to integrate technology in teaching, and so forth. All the teachers of the Year from throughout the state will be feted at an event at the Bushnell next spring. At that point the winner of the contest will be announced.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Physical Fitness, Healing And Safety In The Age Of Covid

While normal living seems to have come to a halt during the pandemic, physical fitness and the needs of the human body to remain healthy and strong move on. In fact, “Movement as Medicine” is a mantra for Amity Physical Therapy, the only local physical therapy practice that has embedded a Fitness unit into all three of its offices.

Founded sixteen years ago by Michael Dow, MSPT and CEO/Clinical Director, Amity Physical Therapy is renowned for its “Prehab/Rehab” program that has established the practice as a destination for patient therapy before and after orthopedic surgery. “It’s possible,” Dow said, “that in many cases surgery can be avoided with specific preventative methods. Our clinicians are skilled at restoring movement in joints, reducing or eliminating pain, and possibly avoiding or forestalling further orthopedic procedures.

“From pediatrics to geriatrics, we cover all the bases in human physical movement increasing performance, strengthening muscles, ligaments and joints, and returning patients to normal activity in record time.” Dow continued: “Our Fitness Centers, now an integral part of our therapy programs, are staffed by licensed professional trainers who work side by side with physical therapists to apply a holistic approach to our practice. Health-Wellness-Fitness – it’s all here including nutritional programs for the most comprehensive physical health service in the area.”

Amity Physical Therapy is a classic example of the adherence to all Covid-19 safety practices outlined by the government. From the socially-distanced lobby to private therapy rooms and tables to fitness equipment – all are thoroughly sanitized after patient treatments and usage.

Masks and appropriate PPE gear



Michael Dow

are in force. For patients who prefer online or Telehealth sessions rather than in-person visits, these are offered as well. Dow concluded: “Again, we’ve covered all the bases in physical health responsibly, safely, and in many respects, uniquely. With the pandemic having limited our lives and the way we perform personal and professional tasks, it also limits our physical activity impairing our health and weakening the body’s physical structure. Correct fitness and therapy programs tailored to the individual, can significantly sustain and improve one’s muscular-skeletal profile during a very restrictive time in our lives.”

Michael Dow MSPT/CEO founded Amity Physical Therapy seventeen years ago and maintains offices in Woodbridge, Hamden, Branford and Milford. He received his degree from Sacred Heart University and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for his work with the national Multiple Sclerosis Society. He works with patients of all ages, as well as local high school and college athletes. Michael can be reached at 203-389-4593 or visit amitypt.com.



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DEATH NOTICES

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



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Woodbridge Historical Society
Establishes Building Fund

The Amity and Woodbridge Historical Society has been busy doing lots of work on our collections and on the buildings on the grounds of the Darling House. With a matching grant from the 1772 Foundation, painting and repair work on the porch and the entire “street-facing façade” of the Museum is ongoing, as well as needed repairs to the small outbuildings.

We were awarded a Planning and Survey Grant from the State of Connecticut to assess the conditions of the three large barns and develop a preservation plan for them. We have received the first reports of the engineering surveys. The engineers found that the cow and horse barns are in good condition for their age but do need repair and preservation work, and we have already started the planning process to submit a Historic Restoration Fund matching grant to the State in the fall.

The icehouse, although the “youngest” of the buildings, is also the most

lightly framed and is in need of urgent stabilization to prevent further loss of its structural integrity, and potentially the building itself if we were to experience an extreme weather event. The Society is working to take immediate action and has already informed the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen of the need to move quickly.

The estimated cost to complete the urgent icehouse stabilization is \$13,900. To do this we are going to establish a building fund that will help complete all the required work on the barns that is needed over the next 5 years. To kick off the establishment of this fund, we have a very generous Woodbridge resident who has offered to match, dollar for dollar up to \$5000 of donations! We are asking for your support to help us establish this fund so that we can take full advantage of this matching offer to raise a total of \$10,000. Please visit www.woodbridge-history.org for more information.

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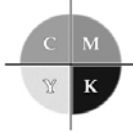
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How To Help Seniors Adapt To Automotive Tech

Modern automobiles are more technologically advanced than ever before. That tech isn't just making driving more comfortable and convenient, but also more safe.

In a recent analysis of motor vehicle accidents, researchers at the International Institute for Highway Safety found that vehicles with blind spot and lane departure warning systems were involved in 11 percent fewer sideswipes and head-on crashes than cars that did not feature such systems. In addition, the IIHS estimates that the number of automobile crashes in the United States could be decreased by 85,000 each year if every vehicle were outfitted with a lane departure warning system.

Driver assistance systems have made driving safer for millions of people across the globe, but one de-

mographic may need some extra help adapting to modern vehicles, and may even need a little extra encouragement to utilize tech that can keep them safe behind the wheel. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that, in 2018, the United States was home to 45 million licensed drivers aged 65 and over. That marks a 60 percent increase since 2000. Though seniors' perceived unwillingness or inability to utilize modern technology is often overstated, some aging drivers may need a little extra help as they try to learn how to use assistance technologies in their vehicles.

Learn the tech yourself. Assistance technologies are not all one and the same. Vehicle manufacturers have their own systems and there can be a learning curve when adapting to a new one. If you aspire to teach a senior

how to utilize the assistance technologies in his or her vehicle, first learn the tech on your own. If both you and your aging friend or family member own a Subaru, chances are you already know how to use the tech in your loved one's vehicle. If you drive cars made by different manufacturers, visit the dealership where your loved one bought his or her car and ask for a quick tutorial on all the safety features in the vehicle. Salesman demonstrate these features every day, so it shouldn't take long for them to show you the ropes.

Be patient. Each person adapts to a new technology at his or her own pace. It's important to remain patient when teaching aging drivers how to use the tech in their vehicles. Old habits die hard, and while some drivers may quickly adapt to tech like backup cameras, others may not be so quick

to abandon driving techniques they've been safely using for decades. Stay the course, remain patient and allow senior drivers to adapt at their own pace.

Teach one tech at a time. It can be overwhelming for drivers of all ages to adapt overnight to all the tech in their new vehicles. When teaching senior drivers how to utilize various driver assistance technologies, take it one tech at a time. When coupled with your patience, this approach can help seniors avoid being overwhelmed and increases the likelihood that they will embrace the tech in their vehicles.

Many senior drivers utilize driver assistance technologies every day. A patient and methodical approach to showing seniors how their vehicles can help them stay safe behind the wheel can be a road map to helping seniors adapt to life in modern vehicles.

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WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS



Love is Patient

Allie (Blum) & John Laychak have proven the scripture to be true! “Love is Patient.” They married in July 2020 and waited a year to celebrate with friends and family who were witnesses to their love and wedding renewal ceremony/1st year anniversary in The Berkshires in July 2021.

Allie is the daughter of John and Monica Blum of Woodbridge, CT. John is the son of John and Tina Laychak of Milford, CT.

Jeff Rutkowski, their uncle, officiated the wedding renewal ceremony. Allie and John were honored to have

maid of honor Maggie (Blum) Santandreu, best men Nick and Anthony Ferrara, bridesmaids Alissa Beedle, Leanne Beedle, Grace Laychak, Christine Hill, Stefanie Wegiel and Jenna Pisano, groomsmen Pat Fitzgerald, Jamie Blum, Ben Santandreu, Bryce Bryant, Tyler Kennedy and Sam Olsson at their sides.

“Marriage is sharing life with your best friend, enjoying the journey along the way and arriving at every destination...together.” This quote embodies the very essence of their relationship.

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LOCAL SPORTS



Resident Wins National Pool Championships in Vegas

A Woodbridge resident is \$15,000 richer after a recent visit to Sin City. But his good fortune didn't happen in the casino. Kajone Ky won the 2020-2021 APA 8-Ball Classic Pool Championship in early August in Las Vegas.

Ky was amongst nearly 6,000 poolplayers throughout North America who attempted to qualify for the American Poolplayers Association's (APA) 8-Ball Classic. He was one of only 826 that advanced to the national finals at the Westgate Las Vegas.

Ky competed in the Orange Tier of the 8-Ball Classic and received a cash and prize package worth \$15,000 and ultimate bragging rights upon returning home to his local poolroom. The 8-Ball Classic featured five individual tiers all based on skill level. The finals match was live-streamed and can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/Y7BpEs3Bgwo>.

Ky is a member of the local APA League in Woodbridge where he plays pool regularly. The 8-Ball Classic, held August 5 - 7, was part of the APA's Poolplayer Championships which featured

16 divisions of competition, nearly 10,000 total players and more than \$1.2 Million in prize money.

The APA, based in Lake Saint Louis, Mo., sanctions the world's largest amateur pool league, known as the APA Pool League throughout the United States, and as the Canadian Pool League in Canada. Nearly 250,000 members compete in weekly 8-Ball and 9Ball League play. The APA is generally recognized as the Governing Body of Amateur Pool, having established the official rules, championships, formats and handicap systems for the sport of amateur billiards.

The APA produces four major tournaments—the APA World Pool Championships, the APA Poolplayer Championships, the APA Junior Championships and the U.S. Amateur Championship—that, together, pay out nearly \$2 Million in cash and prizes annually! The APA and its championships are sponsored by Aramith, Action Cues, PoolDawg and Valley-Dynamo. For more information on the American Poolplayers Association, visit poolplayers.com.

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