

## **The Little Things: Everyday Wins in Woodbridge**

Not every achievement makes the headlines. But I know that all too often it's the little things that make the biggest difference in the day-to-day life of a town.

As your First Selectman, I am proud of the steady, behind-the-scenes progress that keeps our community strong, connected, and forward-moving.

### **Community Spirit & Events**

#### **Memorial Day Ceremony**

We were blessed with a beautiful day and a great turnout for this year's Memorial Day Ceremony. Special thanks to Dr. Barry Josephs, who works with the town each year to organize this moving tribute. For the first time, the event was streamed live on Facebook, allowing nearly 2,000 people to participate virtually, a powerful example of how tradition and technology can come together to strengthen our community.

#### **Truck or Treat at Meeting House Lane**

With construction underway and early voting taking place in Town Hall, the Fire Department and the Registrars of Voters reimagined this year's Truck or Treat, relocating it to Meeting House Lane. Their collaboration ensured a well-attended, safe, and festive event that brought neighbors together in the spirit of fun and flexibility.

#### **Earth Day Celebration**

Just days before the 2nd Annual Earth Day Celebration, we had to shift to our indoor rain plan. Thanks to outstanding coordination across town departments and the dedication of the Sustainability Committee, the event welcomed over 1,500 attendees and remained a joyful, meaningful celebration of environmental stewardship.

#### **Woodbridge Like Me Runway Show**

Our first-ever Woodbridge Like Me Runway Show celebrated the diversity of our town, bringing residents together in a powerful show of inclusion and unity.

#### **Community Conversations**

We hosted a public forum with Attorney General Tong, continuing our commitment to open dialogue, transparency, and civic engagement.

### **Civic Transparency & Access**

#### **Expanded Government Access TV Coverage**

Residents can now watch all Board and Commission meetings, as well as special events and forums, thanks to the expansion of filming on Government Access TV. This move enhances transparency and enables more people to stay informed, even from home.

### **New Legal Notice Section in the Agenda Center**

A new section on our town website allows residents to sign up for legal notice notifications—covering items like public hearings and ordinance changes. It's a small feature with a big impact on accessibility and participation.

### **.Gov Website Migration**

We're actively migrating our digital presence to a .gov domain, a change that will improve cybersecurity, increase accessibility, and better reflect our status as a public institution.

### **Sustainability & Smart Living**

#### **HeatSmart Woodbridge**

Launched in partnership with PACE, this initiative helps residents save on heating costs and reduce energy use through Home Energy Solutions assessments. The program offers customized improvements and income-based incentives that support both individual homes and the community's climate goals.

#### **Westward Road Scenic Designation**

Westward Road was officially designated a Scenic Road, an achievement rooted in collaboration between town commissions, staff, and the Board of Selectmen, preserving a cherished stretch of our natural landscape.

#### **Trail Sign Upgrades**

Trail signs with QR codes offer residents and visitors easy access to Woodbridge's rich heritage.

### **Our Business District**

#### **CT Main Street Membership**

By joining the CT Main Street program, Woodbridge is investing in local business revitalization and strengthening the heart of our town.

#### **Grand Openings**

Woodbridge has celebrated several grand openings across our business district, including Atlas Eyecare and Eye Wear, Crunch Boreks, and Tide Cleaners. These new establishments not only diversify our commercial offerings but also add energy and vitality to our town center.

### **Education & Culture**

#### **First Poet Laureate Appointed**

Charlotte Allen was named Woodbridge's first Poet Laureate by the Library Commission. As a writer and educator, she'll use this role to bring poetry into community spaces, enriching the cultural life of our town.

## **Communication & Outreach**

### **Monthly Newsletter Relaunch**

The revival of our printed newsletter and growth in e-news subscriptions have made town updates more accessible to residents across generations.

### **Website Enhancements**

Improved alert systems, newsflashes, and updated layouts make our website easier to use and keep residents connected and informed.