Microgrid Update; SRO and Pool Resolved

If you’ve come to Town Center lately, you’ve likely noticed colored flags in the ground and white spray-painted lines on the pavement. This is a visual indicator that our microgrid project is underway!

The Town’s microgrid will connect seven municipal buildings to a fuel cell at Amity High School. When the power goes out, the fuel cell will power the municipal buildings through the microgrid. This will help us provide uninterrupted service during outages.

Construction will continue along Newton Road and Meetinghouse Lane through July. It is anticipated that the project will finish by late fall.

I am pleased to report that two potentially contentious Town issues have been resolved: continuation of the School Resource Officer at Beecher Road School for the 2017-18 school year and opening of the CCW pool for the 2017 season.

A School Resource Officer (SRO) is a specially trained local police officer assigned to work at a school. Both Beecher and Amity High School have SROs: Amity’s is part of Amity’s budget and this year there was an effort to switch Beecher’s from the Police Department budget to the school.

The Beecher Board of Education did not feel it could cover the costs and, after hearing from Beecher parents, the Board of Finance added funding for the SRO.

Another issue of concern to many is the Country Club of Woodbridge pool.

It now seems that we will be able to open the pool this summer safely and at reasonable cost, although the small bath house and kiddie pool will not be available. If the pool is to continue beyond this year, it will require a significant financial investment; that decision will fall to the new Board and Commission members who take office in July.

– First Selectman Ellen Scalettar

Fire Department Offers Grilling Safety Tips

The Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Department and Fire Marshal urge you to grill safely.

General grilling tips
*Grills should only be used outdoors and not near the home, deck railings or under eaves and overhanging branches.
*Keep children and pets away.
*Remove grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
*Never leave your grill unattended.

Propane grills
Before you use your grill, check:
*the connection between the gas (propane) tank hose, regulator and cylinder, and where hose connects to burners. Tighten if loose.
*for potential leaks: Apply soap and water to the hose. Turn the propane tank on. If there is a leak, there will be bubbles around the hose. If there are bubbles, turn off tank and have grill serviced before using again. If the leak doesn’t stop, call the Fire Department immediately.

When the grill is on:
*If you smell gas, turn off gas tank and burners.
*If smell stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using again.
*If smell continues, move away from the grill and call the Fire Department. Do not move the grill.

Charcoal grills
*If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
*Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
*When finished, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

For more tips visit woodbridgefire.com/grilling-safety and facebook.com/woodbridgefire

May 29 is Memorial Day Ceremony

The Woodbridge Memorial Day ceremony will be held on Mon., May 29, 11 am at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Monument in front of the Center Building (4 Meetinghouse Lane).

The program includes patriotic music, a memorial wreath presentation, the Woodbridge Police Department Honor Guard and remarks by local elected officials. Rain location is the Center Building gym.

Municipal Elections: May 1
Annual Town Meeting: May 15

Memorial Day Ceremony

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First Selectman Visits Pixels 2 Press

Pixels 2 Press recently moved to Woodbridge from Norwalk. First Selectman Ellen Scalettar toured the new-to-Woodbridge business as part of the Town’s “Shop Woodbridge, Dine Woodbridge, Try Woodbridge” campaign.

Pixels 2 Press offers digital photography and retouching, photo composition, and large format printing such as trade show displays and in-store marketing displays.

Partners Ed Belenski and Bob Ardolino (pictured left to right with Scalettar) mostly work for other businesses but showed Scalettar examples of their retail work -- custom family photo "memory boards."

"This is amazing," she said marveling at one display showcasing the clarity of wedding photos from the 1940s and 50s. The idea started when Belenski made one for a family funeral.

The duo scan photos (and return the originals), and correct the coloring and lighting and remove any grain or grit.

They brought Pixels 2 Press to Woodbridge to reduce their commute – Belenski lives in Woodbridge and Ardolino in Northford. Already they have created banners for their landlord and a neighbor business and are talking with other local businesses about creating signage.

"We didn't realize all the business opportunities we'd find moving here," says Belenski.

Volunteers Needed

The Human Services Department is need of volunteers for the following positions:

**Emergency Food Closet Volunteers** sort donated food.

**Friendly Visitor/Telephone Reassurance Program Volunteers** visit or call homebound disabled adults or those over age 60.

**The Woodbridge Center Lunch Program Volunteers** set up, serve and help clean-up at luncheon program attended by adults 60 and over.

The Woodbridge Center Vegetable Garden Volunteers provide ongoing assistance.

**Youth Evening Program Volunteers** chaperone activities for 7th and 8th grade students.

**Youth Advisory Board** Volunteer board members give input on services and programs for youth.

To volunteer or for more information about these programs, call Human Services at 203-389-3429.

### Volunteers Needed

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### Town Expands No Smoking Policy

At a recent meeting, the Board of Selectmen adopted a new no-smoking policy.

Previously, the Town’s policy prohibited smoking in all Town buildings and Town-owned vehicles. The new policy extends the smoking prohibition to within 25 feet of an entrance to any Town building. The policy also prohibits smoking at Town-owned outdoor recreational facilities, including playgrounds, athletic fields and parks.

Electronic smoking is also prohibited.

“THIS expanded policy is designed to protect and enhance indoor and outdoor air quality and contribute to the health and well-being of all Town employees, residents and visitors,” said First Selectman Ellen Scalettar.

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The Friends of the Library will hold their annual Book Sale the first weekend in June.

Thursday, June 1, 5-8 pm is Member’s Night (you can join at the door for $15/year, $10/students or seniors and $25/family). On Friday and Saturday the sale will be open 10 – 5 pm. On Monday, June 5, patrons can buy a bag of books for $5. The sale will be open from 12 pm – 5 pm.

Hardcover books are $2, paperbacks are 3 for $1 and most everything else is $1. A few specially priced books will be approximately $5.

Also, there will be a free wine tasting on Thursday, June 1 at 7pm with Woodbridge-based Savino Vineyards (for ages 21 and up). On Saturday, June 3 there will be a Lego engineering program with Play-Well TEKnologies from 11:30 am -1 pm for children in Grades K-6.

Space is limited for both programs and online registration is required.

To support the sale, the Friends are asking patrons to donate gently used books during Library hours by May 15.

Friends of the Library organize the annual Purves Lecture, help manage Bookstore Alley and hold other fundraising events to benefit the Library.

Join the community in reading “The Table Comes First: Family, France, and the Meaning of Food” by Adam Gopnik. Programming for the One Book, One Town program will run throughout the month of May and books will be available for checkout at the Circulation Desk beginning on April 15. Please register for any of the programs below online or by calling 203-389-3433.

* Sat., May 6 – Metal Spoon Stamping (ages 14 and up) at 11 am

* Tue., May 9 – Connecticut Food and Wine Cooking Demonstration with Robin Glowa at 7 pm

* Wed., May 10 – Connecticut Food and Wine Lecture with local authors Eric Lehman and Amy Nawrocki at 7 pm

* Thu., May 11 at 7 pm – Chef Bun Lai of Miya’s Sushi will be talking about the food at Miya’s as well as owning/running a family restaurant and his farm in Woodbridge! Samples will be served as well!

* Wed., May 17 – book discussion with Christine Scarfuto, literary agent at Long Wharf Theatre in the library Meeting Room at 7pm

* Thu., May 25 – Woodbridge Night at Long Wharf Theatre. Purchase tickets for this evening’s performance of The Most Beautiful Room in New York and join the Library for a pre-show reception with hors d’oeuvres @ 6:30 pm.

Quinnipiac professor and Woodbridge resident Rachel Ranis will lead a discussion about “Hillbilly Elegy” by J. D. Vance on May 22 at 7 pm.

J. D. Vance’s recent memoir, subtitled “A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis,” has climbed bestseller lists and has sparked discussions around the country due to his theories of social mobility and economic instability.

What does Vance’s writing mean for America? Is our country in crisis? Is the American Dream changing?

Prior reading is helpful, but not required. Please register.

For details and to register for events, visit www.Woodbridge.lioninc.org
**Patrons Create Fund for Library Programming**

They say that books give wings to the mind and flight to the imagination. For life-long learners like Gerry Eckhardt, her first memory of visiting a library stems back to Waterbury where, as a young girl, she would read anything and everything she could during the summer months at the Silas Bronson Library.

“My upbringing was modest, but my parents’ value of education was paramount,” Gerry said. “At an early age I developed a special appreciation for our local library and the opportunities it presented. Now, reflecting on this later in life, I believe that you’re never too old to learn or to enjoy learning.”

Libraries have always had a special place in Gerry’s heart, ranging from service as the President of the Friends of the Seymour Public Library and volunteering as the librarian for Chatfield School. Gerry and her husband, Harvey, are also active members of the Woodbridge Town Library, where they have come to enjoy its engaging cultural programming.

This love of learning compelled Eckhardt to establish a fund through the Valley Community Foundation to support adult cultural and arts programs at the Woodbridge Town Library that will help attract more patrons and provide alternatives to other local programs. “Through our fund I hope to support stimulating programs for adults in the same way I encouraged my children and students to enjoy learning,” Gerry said.

“The Library is immensely grateful to Gerry Eckhardt for her tremendous generosity in setting up this fund,” said the Library’s director, Eric Werthmann. “We are excited that it will allow us to continue to present inventive, thought-provoking programs that explore ideas, cultures and the arts.”

The fund can be contributed to by anyone wishing to support adult cultural and arts programs at the Woodbridge Town Library. Contributions are tax deductible. You can visit www.valleyfoundation.org, click Donate Online at the top right corner, and on the following page, manually enter “Eckhardt” into the field box. Additionally, if there is a preference to donate by check, checks can be made out to either Valley Community Foundation or VCF, with the name of the Eckhardt’s fund in the memo line. For more information please contact John Ready at the Valley Community Foundation at 203-751-9162.

**Children’s Events**

**Thu, May 4 @ 6:30 pm:** Teen craft and snack night (grades 6 & up). Come make a duck tape pouch & have a delicious treat.

**Sat, May 6 from 2-4 pm:** Drop in Craft (pre-K & up). Make a paper plate turtle & check out some turtle books.

**Sat, May 6 @ 2 pm:** Crazy 8’s Math Club (grades k-2). May’s theme: The Secret to Stickies (with Post-Its).

**Sat, May 13 @ 2 pm:** Sport Stacking with Glenn Costello. Race against the clock as cups are stacked in specific sequences.

**Mon, May 15 @ 6:30 pm:** Eager Readers K-2 Book Group. *Camille and the Sunflowers* by Laurence Anholt.

**Thu, May 18 @ 4:30 pm:** Graphic Novel Club (grades 4 & 5). Read *Roller Girl*, play games, have a snack, and do a craft.

**Thu, May 18 @ 6:30 pm:** Series Club (grades 2 to 4). We will discuss a new series each month, play games, make a craft, and much more. May’s series: Geronimo Stilton.

**Sat, May 20 @ 3 pm:** Smurf Program (pre-K and up). Enjoy a Smurf story, a snack, and make your very own Smurf house with a Smurf figurine to take home!

**Thu, May 25 @ 6:30 pm:** Teenreads @ the Library (grades 6-8). Middle School Book Club. Meet to review & recommend books monthly. Get a free book, enjoy snacks, make friends, and get first pick at new books.
From the Director

This month starts a new chapter for our Center! The Human Services Commission and the Board of Selectmen approved a name change: what was the “Senior Center” will now be known as the “Woodbridge Center.”

The new name reflects efforts to reach a broader audience with programs of health, wellness, nutrition, exercise, education, recreation, transportation and socialization. All Woodbridge adults 60 years of age and older are welcome.

We are eager to accommodate an expanding population. According to the state Department on Aging, Connecticut residents 60 and older make up 20% of the state’s population. In Woodbridge residents 60 and older are about 30% of the town’s population. The town is planning for a future that includes a growing number of active, older adults.

For more information about activities at the Center or to RSVP for programming please call 203-389-3430 or email jglicksman@woodbridgect.org.

Special Programming

To RSVP or for more information, call 203-389-3430 or email jglicksman@woodbridgect.org

May 1 – Center closed for municipal elections

May 2 – ‘Spring Fling’ sponsored by New England Young at Heart. Includes free massages, nail care, and blood pressure screenings plus health, home, beauty and wellness vendors. 9:30 am to 12:30 pm with a cooking demo at 11:45 followed by lunch ($3). RSVP requested.

May 3 & 10 – Smart Phone Class at Library on Wednesday afternoons from 3–4 pm in the meeting room. Free classes taught by Amity High School students. Please RSVP.

May 9 – Lunch program “The ABC’s of Stroke” presented by the VNA Community Healthcare 12:30 pm.

May 10 – “Senior Prom” at Aria in Prospect sponsored by New England Young at Heart. Tickets are $23/person and include appetizers, a 3-course meal, entertainment and transportation. RSVP required.

May 10 – Financial and Legal Services Discussion covering medical directives, Power of Attorney, trusts, wills, estate planning and tax saving ideas and more. In the Center Lounge from 6-7:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served, RSVP.

May 12 – Mother’s Day Lunch

May 15 – AARP Safe Driver Training Class 9 am -1 pm in Center Lounge; $15 for AARP members, $20 for non-members. Reservations required.

May 15 – Lunch Bunch! Lunch with friends at Crave in Ansonia; transportation is provided by the Center van or meet us there. Reservations required. Participants self-pay at the restaurant.

May 16 – Lunch program Entertainment- Ralph Sacco- 12:30 pm

May 18 – Art Opening ‘The Art of Aging’ at the Agency on Aging, South Central Connecticut from 1-5pm at 1 Long Wharf, New Haven. RSVP: Transportation provided.

May 23 – 40th Anniversary Luncheon – see invitation next page.

May 24 – 40th Anniversary Dinner – see invitation next page.

May 25 – Trip to Newport Playhouse and Cabaret Restaurant- The trip is $100/person and includes transportation, lunch buffet, ticket to “Lunch with Mrs. Baskin” and driver’s gratuity.

May 30 – Roger Hart presents slideshow on Yellowstone National Park following lunch.

May Lunch Menu

Lunch is served Tuesdays and Fridays at the Senior Center Cafeteria at 12:15 pm. The cost is $3 for dine-in meals and $4 for take-out. Reservations are requested. Meals include bread, juice, coffee/tea and dessert.

5/2 Spring Fling – Vegetable lasagna with white sauce and salad
5/5 Cinco De Mayo – Shrimp soft tacos, salsa and chips and flan
5/9 Chicken oregano with sweet potatoes and salad
5/12 Mother’s Day – Tea sandwiches and desserts
5/16 – Roast Beef with roasted vegetables and salad
5/19 Quiche with fresh fruit and salad
5/23 40th Anniversary Luncheon – Chicken Marsala, rice pilaf and cake
5/26 Polish Mother’s Day – Kielbasa with potato pancake and pierogi
5/30 Memorial Day – Pulled pork and coleslaw
Ongoing Programming

**Pickleball** Meets Fridays in the Center Gym for group play from 2-3:30pm. Self-scheduled hours are available for those who have paid annual fee of $20. Interested players can drop in daily from 12:30 pm - 2:15 pm Monday thru Thursday. On Fridays we’ll have the space from 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm. The equipment will be available on a first come, first served basis.

**Exercise with Laurie:** Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Center Gym from 10-11 am. No need to sign up – just a drop in fee of $2 gets you a great workout! Exercise class includes a combination of strength training, cardio, flexibility and balance.

**Book Club:** The book club meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month, 11 am at the Library. The next meeting is May 23. This month’s book is “Empire Falls” by Richard Russo. This book won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2002. It is the story of Miles Roby in a fictional, small blue-collar town in Maine and the people, places, and the past surrounding him, as manager of the Empire Grill diner.

**Art Class:** Begins anew on May 31 (if minimum class numbers are met) and will run 10 weeks on Wednesdays from 10 am until noon in the Center Café. The class, taught by local artist Graham Dale, is just $60 and participants are asked to bring their own supplies. For a list of supplies and to register contact the Center.

**Friday Movies:** Following lunch in the Senior Center Lounge at 1 pm: 5/5 La La Land, 5/12 Fences, 5/19 A Dog’s Purpose, Favorite Film Friday – 5/26 Arsenic and Old Lace

**VNA Blood Pressure Screenings:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, Blood Pressure Screenings, weight and conversation with a registered nurse.

**Duplicate Bridge:** Mondays, 9:30 am, Center Café.

**Bridge:** The Center’s Wednesday bridge group invites new members! Join the group for a friendly game of cards. No reservations necessary– just come down to the Center lounge at 1 pm.

**Pinochle:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 1-4 pm, Senior Lounge

**Mah-jong:** Mondays and Fridays, 10 am, Center Building-room 11.

**Diabetes Prevention Group** Wednesdays 10-11 am March 8 -July 5, reservations required.

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**JOIN US FOR TWO CELEBRATIONS**

**40 YEARS**

**AND STILL GOING STRONG**

**WOODBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER**

**~40th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON~**

ON MAY 23, 2017
12:00 PM TO 1:45 PM
$3.00 PER PERSON
Antipasti, chicken marsala luncheon, and cake
Entertainment provided by The Humble Bees
Free transportation provided for Woodbridge adults 60+
Please RSVP by May 18th

**~40th ANNIVERSARY DINNER~**

ON MAY 24, 2017
5:30PM WINE & HORS D’ŒUVRES
6:15PM PROGRAM & DINNER
$25.00 PER PERSON
Choice of Baked Stuffed Shrimp or Baked Stuffed Chicken
Entertainment provided by the Pierce Campbell Jazz Trio
Free transportation provided for Woodbridge adults 60+
Please RSVP by May 10th
**First Selectman’s Youth Award Winner Named**

First Selectman Ellen Scalettar and Woodbridge Youth Services announce the 2017 winner of the First Selectman’s Youth Award as Jason Luciani. Jason, an Amity sophomore and the son of Thomas and Roxanne Luciani, has made a genuine commitment to the Town of Woodbridge and its residents:

Jason stepped up as a Senior Patrol leader in Boy Scout Troop 907 to plan and lead weekly meetings. He keeps the troop involved with Memorial and Veterans’ Day ceremonies and the placement of flags on veterans’ graves at all three Woodbridge cemeteries. The Troop prepares and serves food at Columbus House and supports a huge food drive to benefit the local food bank. His Eagle Scout project is locating veterans’ graves in Woodbridge to replace missing or broken flags, and plans to memorialize these veterans through signs indicating their grave locations and the wars in which they served.

Jason is also active in clubs such as Outdoor Venture and Leo Club, and serves Our Lady of the Assumption Church as an altar server and choir member. He helps the parish with holiday food baskets and Christmas gifts.

Other involvement includes assisting with the Garden Club Spring Sale and with the First Church of Christ Strawberry Festival. Jason’s fellow scouts nominated him for the Order of the Arrow with whom he builds trails.

He has performed volunteer work at the Woodbridge Country Club, and spends time at Coachman Square.

Jason received his award from Deputy First Selectman Beth Heller at the Human Services Volunteer Tea on April 20. People’s United Bank in Woodbridge V.P./Market Manager Garett Luciani presented Jason with a $100 check for his dedication and service, and State Senator George Logan honored Jason with a State of Connecticut citation.

**Recreation Summer Camp Options**

For more information, call Recreation at 203-389-3446. Registration is available online at woodbridgect.org

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**New! Outdoor Walk & Tone Program**

Join Instructor Jill Patterson for walking, interval training, toning exercises and stretching.

This class ($80) will be held 8 to 8:50 am on June 21, 28, July 12, 19, Aug. 9 and 16 at the Fitzgerald Walking Trails (100 Center Road).

Patterson is a Registered Dietitian nutritionist, certified fitness instructor and personal trainer and has been teaching fitness classes for 15 years.

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**Pre-School Camp**

Woodbridge Recreation offers a six-week Pre-School Camp open to children ages 3 – Kindergarten. Camp staff are caring, highly experienced and trained to work with small children.

Each week of camp has a theme. Previous themes include Halloween in July, Crazy Hat Day, Hawaiian Day.

This camp is a great way to introduce preschoolers to new activities and skills. Camp runs from Mon., June 26 – Fri., August 4, 9 am to noon. Pricing is $230 per week and there are discounts for multi-week enrollments.

**All-Star Baseball**

The All-Star Baseball Camp with Amity High School Head Baseball Coach Sal Coppola will run July 10 through July 21, (Monday through Friday) 9 am to noon at Amity Regional High School. Assistant Varsity Coaches Jeff Rotteck, and Brendan Moss are also on the camp staff.

This camp is designed to foster development of young players in a fun and challenging environment. Campers will focus on the same drills used by the Amity Baseball Team. Games and competitions will be organized each day.

This camp is for students ages 8 to 13; the cost is $325.

**Bricks4kidz**

Bricks4kidz Summer Camp will offer two one-week programs. Bricks4kids is a LEGO-based program.

During Week 1, Bat League: Heroes and Villains, campers build motorized models of Batman’s speedy vehicle and Batgirl’s motorcycle. Campers will use their imagination, building skills, and crime-fighting passion. July 17 – 21, 1 to 4 pm.

In Week 2, Remote Control Mania, campers use LEGO components to create dynamic vehicles, inventions, machines, and more. Campers also learn to magnify, diminish, and redirect force to move objects at different speeds and in different directions. July 24 – 28, 1 to 4 pm.

The cost is $220/child per week, or $400 for both weeks.