As your First Selectman, I have been very busy during the past month and would like to give you a brief idea of what is going on in Town. As always, I welcome your input – please be in touch with me if you have ideas.

A new school year has begun
Our schools are off to a great start at both Beecher and Amity. I spent a wonderful morning at Beecher on opening day, greeting children as they came off their busses on August 28th. At the Beecher PTO’s Ice Cream Social later that week I had fun scooping ice cream for over an hour – close to 1,000 parents and kids attended. Woodbridge Youth Services and the Human Services Department sponsored a 7th Grade Picnic for incoming students from Woodbridge and Bethany, which was also very well attended. The kids enjoyed getting to know each other.

Storm Preparedness
I met with representatives from United Illuminating, along with our first responders (Fire, Police, and Public Works) to review and update our Storm Preparedness Plan. Woodbridge is well prepared. Please take the time to review the Emergency Preparation Guide that was mailed to every household – it should help you prepare for storms and other emergencies.

Former CCW Pool Update
I met with Recreation Director John Adamovich and REC Commissioner Bob Hill about the pool at the former-CCW. After reviewing financial data for the now concluded season, the REC Commission will present a detailed report for the Board of Selectmen at our October 11th meeting. Many residents have told me they enjoyed the pool this season and are urging that it be open for another season. The Board will be considering all factors, including financial self-sufficiency and the cost of any needed repairs, as we make decisions going forward in an effort to continue offering pool membership next summer.

District Animal Shelter
The Regional Water Authority installed a new water line to our facility on Bradley Road, thanks in part to funding for the project in a STEAP Grant. We will now have easy access to clean drinking water for the animals in the facility’s care.

Vendor consolidation
I initiated meetings with the Amity School District to determine whether the Town can consolidate services in order to operate more efficiently and save money in various areas including information technology and facility maintenance. Stay tuned!

Beth Heller’s Column: Signs of Autumn

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Fallapooza events throughout October! For details: WoodbridgeCT.org/Fallapooza

The Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association’s Truck or Treat

The Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Department is holding its 6th Annual Halloween “Truck or Treat” event on Tuesday, October 31 from 5 - 8 pm (rain dates are Nov. 3 and 4).

Fire trucks will be decorated for the holiday and children can “Truck or Treat” in a fun and safe setting. At this free community event, hot dogs, hamburgers, soup and more will be served at no charge. At approximately 7:15 pm, a spook-tacular fireworks display will wind down the celebration.

Donations of candy are appreciated and may be dropped off in the Firehouse lobby Mon. through Fri., 8 am - 4 pm, leading up to the event.

Due to popularity of this event Route 114 between Meetinghouse Lane and Newton/Center Rd. will be closed from 4:30 - 9 pm. No parking will be allowed on Beecher Rd. between Route 114 and Woodside Dr. or on Newton Rd. from Route 114 to Burnt Swamp Rd. Parking is available at the Old Firehouse on Meetinghouse Lane, at Town Hall and Amity High School. Additionally, public access to the Fitzgerald property will close from 2 - 9 pm to allow for the safe set-up of the fireworks demonstration.

This community event started when Hurricane Sandy made it impossible for local children to Trick or Treat in 2012. The Woodbridge Volunteer Firefighters opened up the firehouse – complete with costumes, candy and decorated fire trucks – allowing families to celebrate in the midst of downed trees and widespread power outages. The response to “Truck-or-Treat” was so overwhelming, firefighters made it an annual event growing from 2,000 participants in 2012 to over 4,000 in 2016!

The Association is seeking sponsors for this event. For sponsor details and event updates visit WoodbridgeFire.com or Facebook.com/WoodbridgeFire.
Halloween Safety Tips

The Woodbridge Police Department offers the following safety tips and suggestions to promote a safe, fun and trouble-free Halloween:

* Trick-or-Treat in groups with adult supervision.
* Apply reflective tape to costumes, dress in light colors and carry a flashlight.
* Remind children to be alert and to keep a safe distance from moving vehicles.
* Avoid using cellphones and electronic devices while walking.
* Motorists should drive defensively and be alert for excited youngsters crossing the streets.
* Use caution when passing vehicles stopped in the roadway, as they could be dropping off children.
* Driving below the posted speed limit will allow added time to brake in the event that a child darts into the street.
* Report any suspicious or criminal activity immediately.
* Wait until children are home to sort and check treats. A responsible adult should closely examine all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped or suspicious items.

Holiday Baskets

The Woodbridge Human Services Dept. needs sponsors to participate in the Adopt-A-Family Program. This program provides holiday food baskets for the December holidays to Woodbridge families in need. “Due to the economy, we are getting more referrals for families and seniors who need holiday baskets”, noted Mary Ellen LaRocca, Director of Human Services.

Distribution of holiday baskets will take place on Thursday, December 14. Anyone interested in sponsoring a family should contact Woodbridge Human Services at 203-389-3429 by October 31. Monetary donations may be made payable to Woodbridge Human Services located at 11 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525.

Food Drive - October 28

The Woodbridge Human Services Department maintains a Food Pantry year round to benefit Woodbridge families. On October 28, Boy Scout Troop 63 with assistance from Troop 907 and Venture Crew 913 will hold their annual Food Drive to collect non-perishable food items to support the community and replenish the pantry. The generous giving of Town residents has helped to make this annual event such a success.

The scouts will soon distribute information flyers to Woodbridge households. Please check expiration dates for all food donations to be certain items have a valid date.

For more information, call Judi Young at 203-389-3429.
Lending Restriction Lifted

As of Monday, September 18, 2017, a supplemental delivery service is available to the Woodbridge Town Library for materials coming from other member libraries of its Libraries Online, Inc. (LION) consortium. Because of this supplemental service, patrons of the Woodbridge Town Library no longer face restrictions as to the number or type of items requested from other libraries.

The Board of Directors of LION has contracted with Riverbend Express of Portland, CT, to provide this new delivery service among member libraries in order to enhance the consortium’s resource sharing capabilities.

Items from non-LION libraries will continue to be distributed by deliverIT CT, the Connecticut State Library’s delivery system. This system has been limited by budget cuts in recent years and this has forced libraries statewide to place significant restrictions on the items that patrons were able to request from other libraries.

The new LION delivery service will ensure that Woodbridge Town Library patrons will be able to request items without restriction. For additional information on the new delivery system, contact the Information Desk at 203-389-3434.

Adult Fall Events in October

Metro North: From First to Worst presentation with Jim Cameron - Oct. 3, 7 pm:
Long time rail advocate Jim Cameron presents an engaging lecture on our region's biggest commuter railroad. He explains how Metro-North went from an award-winning operation to one suffering numerous derailments, slower speeds and deteriorating service. His presentation is informative, thoughtful and somehow hilarious, no matter if you’re a commuter, a train buff, or just interested in this vital mode of transportation.

The Grounded Goodwife presents Pudd’nheads: Childhood in Colonial America - Oct. 10, 7 pm: The presentation examines the unique aspects of childhood between the late sixteenth and late eighteenth centuries and explores themes including birthing and childrearing practices, parenting, children’s health and education, naming, gender, play and rites of passage. Providing fresh historical perspectives on key features of children’s lives, this program offers compelling information on colonial children as well as Native American and slave children, who are too often left out of conventional coverage.

There are many delicious ways to enjoy this member of the Allium (onion) family. Discover the health benefits and versatility of garlic. You may gain a brand new appreciation for this common clove!

Maximize Your Social Security Benefits with David Cowan, AAA endorsed retirement advisor - Oct. 19, 6 pm: This workshop helps participants learn how to make the most out of Social Security and retirement. David Cowan, will discuss how to navigate retirement challenges, ways to safeguard retirement savings and how to increase Social Security benefits.

A Thru Hike on the Appalachian Trail with Sam Ducharme - Oct. 24, 7 pm: Enjoy a modern day adventure as Sam Ducharme recounts his 2,180-mile, 14-state backpacking trip from Springer Mountain, GA to Mt. Katahdin, ME. During his six-month journey he documented the rugged beauty of the Appalachian Mountains, the wildlife, the hardships encountered on the trail, as well as the people, culture and humanity at its finest. Join Sam as he takes you through the trail towns, over the mountaintops and through the backcountry. The images and stories will leave you with a renewed awe of the beauty of our country and its people. See his gear, how he cooked and hear what it is like sleeping in a hammock for six months through three seasons.

Robin Glowa, The Conscious Cook, presents The Glory of Garlic cooking demonstration - Oct. 17, 7 pm: Do you think of garlic as just a stinky, sharp seasoning?

Teen Tech Program

The library is looking for teen volunteers to participate in its Teen Tech program which is run on the last Wednesday of each month at the library from 2:45 - 3:45 pm.

Teens will receive training and offer assistance to community members who need technology assistance. Teens may count this as part of their community service hours. For additional details, contact Katherine Ward at kward@woodbridgect.org

Thursday Night Film Screenings at 7 pm

Oct. 5: Wonder Woman
Oct. 12: Megan Leavey
Oct. 19: Social Security Presentation (see above) - No Film screening.
Oct. 26: Hocus Pocus
**Library Hours**

Library hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 am - 8 pm and Friday & Saturday from 10 am - 5 pm.

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**October Programs**

**Series Club: The Three-Ring Rascals - The Show Must Go On!**

Wed. Oct. 11, 6:30 pm (Grades 2 & 3)

Do you like pizza? Do you sometimes get into trouble even though you try to be good? If so, you might be a rascal! You’ll laugh out loud when we introduce the first Three-Ring Rascals book by Kate Klise *The Show Must Go On!* Step right up to hear the amazing tale of Sir Sidney’s Circus. Barnabus Brambles is the new circus manager. He deals with talking mice and a lion who loves pizza.

Have fun with book related activities and pizza snacks. Stop by the Children’s Desk for a copy of the book, although it is not necessary to read it before the program. Space and supplies are limited. Online registration required.

**Sciencetellers: Sat. Oct. 28, 2 pm (Grades K - 6)**

Ahoy! Set sail with us on a thrilling action-packed adventure about a crew of quirky pirates marooned on a desert island. With mutiny and high-tide looming, the pirates must rescue their salty captain and find a way to build a new ship before all hope is lost … at sea!

Throughout the story, volunteers from the audience will help to explore the incredible science behind clouds, combustion, air pressure and more. Do not miss this refreshing nautical tale with a twist!

Online registration is required for this event.

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**College Bound Student Programs**

**ACT Practice Test**

Saturday Oct. 7, at 10:30 am:

Take a free full-length practice test given under the same condition as the actual exam and proctored by the Princeton Review.

Learn about endurance needed to take the test and receive a personalized score report showing your strengths and weaknesses to further prepare for the test.

Space is limited. Online registration is required.

**SAT Practice Test**

Saturday, Oct. 21, at 10:30 am:

Take a free full-length practice test given under the same condition as the actual exam and proctored by the Princeton Review.

Learn about endurance needed to take the test and receive a personalized score report showing your strengths and weaknesses to further prepare for the test.

Space is limited. Online registration is required.

**Best Fit Colleges with the Princeton Review**

Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 6:45 pm:

Get expert advice on the college admissions process and learn how to choose the best school to fit a student’s unique learning style, personality and goals.

Registration is required and space is limited. Please register online or call the library’s Information Desk at 203-389-3433.

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**Ongoing Activities**

**Babies (0-18 months)**

Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11 am

Join us for songs rhymes, fun for little ones.

**Storycraft (Ages 3-5)**

Saturdays, 11 - 11:30 am

Join us for a literature based program and art project!

**Storycraft (Grades K-3)**

Mondays, 6:30 - 7:15 pm (excludes the last Monday of the month)

Join us for a story or two followed by a mixed media craft.

**Ready to Read (18-36 months)**

Thursdays, 10:30 - 11 am

Find out how talking, singing and reading build vocabulary and a love of books!

**Eager Readers Book Group (Grades K-2)**

Meets last Monday of every month, 6:30 pm

Stop by the Children’s Desk to pick up a copy of this month’s book selection. Read the book at home and then stop by for a book discussion and craft.
From the Director

October includes ‘National Make a Difference Day’ - a chance for each of us to consider ways to improve the lives of those around us. There are many opportunities at the Center for those who want to be involved. As we prepare for the November 4th Harvest & Holly Fair, we welcome volunteers and community members willing to pitch in at the Center. Please call to sign up or with questions!

“The greatest gift you can give someone is your time.” - Anonymous

Coffee at 10 - Lecture Series
A bit of breakfast and a bit of knowledge

Oct. 25 Opiates and Chronic Pain with Seybridge Pharmacy owner Peter Przybylski

Nov. 29 Healthy Diet: herbs, anti-inflammatory foods & immune system boosters with Dr. Artemis Morris author of Anti-inflammation Diet for Dummies

Dec. 20 Genealogy Methodology with Sheila McCreven and Mary Ellen Lucuk

Please RSVP for all programs: 203-389-3430

October Lunch Menu

Lunch is served Tuesdays and Fridays at the Center Café 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.

10/3 Stuffed cabbage with potatoes
10/6 Roast beef with potatoes & vegetable
10/10 Sausage & peppers over rice
10/13 Flu Clinic day - Chicken enchiladas with bowl of chili
10/17 Baked stuffed tilapia with rice pilaf
10/20 Tell-a-Joke day! Chicken stir fry over rice
10/24 Turkey lasagna with red sauce & garlic bread
10/27 Beef stroganoff with noodles
10/31 Halloween fun! Chicken Cacciatore

Special Programming

Events are held at The Woodbridge Center unless otherwise noted. To RSVP or for more information, call 203-389-3434 or email jglicksman@woodbridgect.org

Oct. 3: Lunch entertainment with Janey Street, winner of the L.A. Music Critic’s 2017 Icon Award. Lunch served 12:15 pm, RSVP requested.

Oct. 9: Closed Columbus Day

Oct. 10: State Senator George Logan speaks on the 2017 Legislative Session with time for questions. RSVP, 12:15 pm lunch.

Oct. 11 & 25: Free Classes! 11 - 12:15 pm, Kripalu Chair Yoga with Woodbridge resident Julie Luciani, a certified yoga instructor and occupational therapist with extensive experience working with seniors to improve strength, range of motion, balance and endurance. The 12 week class begins Nov.1 for $50. Classes include seated exercises, standing balance exercises and simple standing poses using a chair.

Oct. 13: VNA Sponsored Flu Clinic 11 am - 2:30 pm, Center lounge. Please bring insurance cards. The CDC recommends yearly flu shots.

Oct. 16: Lunch Bunch! Self-pay lunch at U.S.S. Chowder Pot III in Branford. Van transportation ($3) or meet us there. RSVP required.

Oct. 18: “Fall Ball” sponsored by New England Young at Heart at Aria in Prospect, 11 am - 3 pm. Tickets include buffet lunch, music, dancing and raffles, $10. Please RSVP by Oct. 10.

Oct. 18: State Senator George Logan’s Senior Health and Wellness Fair, 11 am - 2 pm, at Warsaw Park in Ansonia. Free transportation for Woodbridge residents. Call the Center by Oct. 13 to reserve a spot.

Oct. 19: Two-part series, Social Security - 6 pm at the Woodbridge Town Library. Learn how to maximize your Social Security benefits at this workshop. Medicare is second session, Nov. 8 at the Center lounge from 6 - 7 pm. Both are sponsored by Legacy Group LLC and presented by David Cowan, an AAA endorsed retirement advisor. For details, call 203-389-3434. RSVP to the Center.

Oct. 20: Tell-a-Joke Day! Share a laugh during lunch! Jokes provided or bring an appropriate one of your own. Lunch served at 12:15 pm.

Oct. 30: AARP Safe Driver Training class, 9 am - 1 pm in the Center lounge; $15 - AARP members, $20 - non-members. RSVP required.


Upcoming Trips - Nov. 9: Westchester Broadway Theater-Annie Get Your Gun, with music and lyrics by Irving Berlin. Trip includes transportation, lunch, show and gratuity for $102 per person.

Nov. 17: Radio City Christmas Spectacular with lunch at Carmine’s. Trip includes transportation, lunch, show and gratuity for $198 per person.
Stay healthy, meet new friends, and enjoy one of Woodbridge’s best walking locations! Walk the Fitzgerald Property cornfield loop at a moderate or gentle pace. The walking group meets Fridays promptly at 9:30 am at the parking area on Beecher Road. To join call 203-389-3430 or email Judi Young at srsocialworker@woodbridgetct.org.

**Pickleball:** Meets Fridays in the Center Gym for group play, 12:30 - 3:30 pm. Paid annual members may arrange playing times with other players through the Doodle scheduling tool and drop in Monday through Thursday, 12:30 - 2:15 pm. Equipment is available on a first come, first served basis.

**Exercise with Laurie:** Workout includes a combination of strength training, cardio, flexibility and balance. Bring weights if you have them. Class is at the Center Gym, Tuesday and Thursday, 10 - 11 am. No need to sign up - just pay a drop in fee of $2 and stay for a great workout!

**Book Club:** The book club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, 11 am at the Woodbridge Town Library. The next meeting is Oct. 24. This month’s book is *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. New members are always welcome. Stop by the library’s Adult Services desk to pick up a copy of the book.

**Art Class:** Class begins Oct. 4 and meets each Wednesday, 10 am - noon in the Center Café. The class is taught by local artist Graham Dale. For a list of supplies and to register call 203-389-3430. The class fee is $60.

**Friday Movies:** Following lunch in the Center lounge at about 1 pm: 10/6 *Wonder Woman*, 10/13 *Megan Leavey*, 10/20 *Churchill*, Favorite Film Friday: 10/27 *Airplane!*

**Ask the Nurse:** 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, 11 am - 12:30 pm, blood pressure screenings, weight and conversation with a registered nurse from VNA Community Healthcare.

**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:** Mon., Wed., and Thu., 1 - 4 pm, Center lounge. The group is always looking for new players and is willing to bring rusty players up to speed!

**Mah-jong:** Mon. & Fri., 10 am, Center Building - Room 11.

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**24th Annual Harvest & Holly Fair**

**KIDS ZONE!** Photos with Santa & ornament making, face painting, cookie decorating and kids bake-off competition. Sat., Nov. 4 from 10 am - 2 pm in the Center Gym & Café.

- Entertainment
- Sweet treats Bakery
- Jewelry - vintage & new
- Treasure chest tag sale
- Silent Auction & Take-a-Chance tables
- Sunflower Farm items
- Craft Group – Handmade crochet & knit items
- Pie & homemade fudge
- Friends of the Library
- LuLaRoe Clothing
- Steeped Tea Organics
- Inspirational wall art & handmade lotions, candles
- Homemade sweet potato dog treats
- Lighting & Energy Vendors

The first 300 attendees will receive either a free U.I. night light or an emergency beacon light and a SnapLight. TechniArt, New England Conservation Services & United Illuminating will be offering services and products at reduced rates. All attendees will receive a raffle ticket & will be entered into our holiday drawing. To volunteer, donate items, baskets or for details, contact Elaine Marcucio at 203-887-5047 or the Center at 203-389-3430.
Road Race & Fun Run

The Woodbridge Recreation Dept. will hold its 36th Annual 5K Road Race and Children’s Fun Run on Sat., Oct. 7, rain or shine.

The one mile Fun Run for children 12 and under begins at 9 am at the Fitzgerald Tract Trails located off Beecher Road. The 5K Road Race begins at 10:30 am at the Woodbridge Town Center, Meetinghouse Lane. The 5K course winds through quiet, mostly-flat residential neighborhoods.

Registration the morning of the event begins at 8 am at the Woodbridge Town Center for the 5K Race and the Fitzgerald Tract for the Fun Run. For registration details, call the Recreation Office at 203-389-3446.

Fall Program Registration

Ongoing registration is taking place for Woodbridge Recreation Fall Programs. There is an extensive lineup of fall after-school and Saturday programs with variety to appeal to every student. Most programs run through mid-November.

Swim lessons, basketball, bowling, flag football, gymnastics, floor hockey, stickball, Taekwondo, tennis, hip hop dance and the Running Club are among activities being offered.

Programs for students interested in art, music, math and science are also available. A variety of arts and crafts along with guitar and piano lessons, Kumon and Little Scientist workshops are offered.

Different science topics and themes are available through the science workshops.

New to the line-up of adults programs is Thursday morning yoga class with Diane King at 10:30 am. This class incorporates movement from yoga and qi gong. Great for concentration, joint mobility, balance and stress relief. Badminton, guitar and T’ai Chi are offered as well.

Contact the Recreation Office at 203-389-3446 or visit the Town website, woodbridgect.org, for registration information. Click Recreation Registration at the bottom of the page to link to the Recreation Department for the lineup of fall program options.

For more information, call Recreation at 203-389-3446. Registration is available online at woodbridgect.org.
News from Beecher Road School

As the leaves prepare to turn majestic colors, the school year is in full swing at Beecher Road School. Turn out of parents at our three recent Open House nights once again demonstrates the involvement and partnership of Woodbridge parents, teachers, and students. After a highly successful Ice Cream Social, the tremendous support of our PTO will now focus on the annual "Hoot" celebration on October 21st. More information is available at brspto.org.

The Woodbridge Board of Education is busy in a number of areas – you can learn more by accessing the meeting agendas of the WBOE monthly meetings as well as its four subcommittees; curriculum, finance, policy, and facilities. The WBOE has also created a short-term Ad Hoc SRO Committee to assess the current and future security personnel needs at Beecher Road School.

At the September WBOE Meeting, strong student achievement results (SBAC and CMT Science) were reported from the Spring of 2017. Beecher Road School continues to be among the top tier of schools statewide as demonstrated in these state assessments. And finally, while the enrollment in most Connecticut schools and districts is declining, the enrollment at Beecher continues to grow. In fact, enrollment on the first day of school was even higher (831) than the projected increase to 811. This increased enrollment certainly speaks to what prospective parents say about Woodbridge and Beecher Road School: “What a great town and great school!”

Please visit our district website for more information: woodbridge.k12.ct.us.

Assessor’s Motor Vehicle Inspection

During the month of October, the Woodbridge Assessor’s office will inspect those motor vehicles felt to have high mileage and/or poor body condition. The vehicle must be registered in the Town of Woodbridge as of October 1, 2017. The mileage and condition of the vehicle will be documented and taken into consideration when pricing the vehicle for the October 1, 2017 Grand List. This inspection may or may not change motor vehicle value.

Please bring your vehicle to the Woodbridge Town Hall between 9 am and 4 pm, Monday - Friday. An appointment is not necessary. October will be the only time during the year that mileage and motor vehicle condition will be considered. Call the Assessor’s Office at 203-389-3416 with questions.