

Priorities Taking Shape

As we head into November, there are a few big themes that are emerging in my work as your First Selectman. I'd like to share how I see the following priorities taking shape and ask you, as always, to continue providing me with feedback and thoughts on these as well as other matters of concern to you.

Town Budget Process Begins

Our annual budget process has begun at Town Hall and in each of the departments that make up the Town budget. I met with department heads recently to set out some guidance and encouraged each of them to look for any cost-savings they might be able to suggest, as well as areas where we may be able to bring in additional revenue. We will consider all suggestions! Especially as the state budget funding situation moves toward resolution, it will be critically important that we are able to tell residents we have left no stone unturned in our search for ways to save taxpayer money.

The Board of Selectmen will soon begin review of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2018-2019 in two parts; the Capital Budget (in November and December), and the Operating Budget (in January and February). The specific dates for our budget meetings are posted on the Town website and I would like to encourage members of the public to tune-in and learn more about how the budget is set.

Road Work in Our Business District

Another major theme emerging is a renewed effort to transform our approach to Economic Development. Growing the grand list by adding businesses to our commercial district is of course crucial to easing budget pressures. This area at the border with New Haven and the exit 59 interchange with the Wilbur Cross Parkway deserves our attention, especially as the state Department of Transportation (DOT) pursues three separate road improvement projects in the vicinity.

DOT is working on a short-term, safety-oriented project that will go out to bid in January and begin construction in April 2018; a mid-term project to reconfigure the on and off-ramps to the Parkway which is in the planning stages; and

finally the major project to repair Heroes' Tunnel. A recent DOT meeting in Hamden addressed the Heroes' Tunnel project and I will be meeting soon with DOT officials to further discuss the project. In all this road work, we will seek opportunities to improve access to our business district while enhancing the experience of this neighborhood for both those who shop and those who live here.

Public Safety Radio System

A third major theme coming into focus for our Town is the need to re-invest in aging infrastructure. The BOS has had a sub-committee looking at the need for a Public Safety Radio System upgrade for some time now. It's important to note that our current communications system had a 12- to 15-year life expectancy when it was installed in 2003. We are now at the very end of the equipment's useful life. A consultant hired by the Town to help us address our Radio System needs has informed us that due to the age of the equipment replacement parts are increasingly difficult to find. This is obviously a very serious matter and the project to upgrade the system must take a high priority. A Public Safety Simulcast Radio System consists of towers throughout town and a console used to send the data to these towers. It does not include the radios themselves – these devices, both handheld and in the dashboard of emergency response vehicles – are separate from the Radio System. Our current radio devices would continue to operate with a new Radio System.

The aim of the upgrade will be to increase the coverage and reliability of the system as well as to improve the interoperability between Police, Fire, and EMS -- and to bring Public Works employees into the same system as well. This is a crucial missing link in our current system, especially during storms when Public Works trucks are out on the roads dealing with downed trees and wires as well as when snow plows are active. Improved interoperability between all departments would be critical in such emergency conditions.

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First Selectman Beth Heller took part in several Fallapalooza events in October, including Progression Salon's "Pampered In Pink" fundraiser for Smilow Cancer Center (pictured far left). A special thanks to all the local businesses and organizations that came together to make Fallapalooza a success, as well as the event organizers. (Pictured left) Halloween Parade visits Town Hall for some healthy snacks.



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Veterans Day Ceremony



4 Meetinghouse Lane. The program includes a history of the Veterans Day, patriotic music, a memorial wreath presentation, the Woodbridge Police Department Honor Guard and remarks by local elected officials.

The annual Woodbridge Veterans Day Ceremony will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, November 10. The ceremony takes place at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Monument located in front of the Center Building at

In the event of rain, the ceremony will be held indoors at the Center Building gym located at 4 Meetinghouse Lane. Contact Woodbridge Town Hall with questions pertaining to the ceremony, 203-389-3400.



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Fall Driving and Vehicle Safety

The Woodbridge Police Department offers the following tips for Fall Driving and Vehicle Safety:



- Drive slower after dark – there are fewer hours of daylight at this time of year.
- Use caution – the early morning and late afternoon angle of the sun can create “glare” and difficult driving situations.
- Remember that wet leaves can create slick pavement and obscure traffic lines and markings.
- Cold fall mornings often result in fog which affects driving visibility and perception of distance.
- Deer mating and migrating increases during the fall season – be alert for darting deer, especially at night.
- Make certain your vehicle is properly maintained and keep an emergency kit, snow brush/scrapper and flashlight readily accessible.
- Never leave your car unattended with the engine running to “warm it up” - not even for brief periods of time.
- Be prepared for ice, frost and snow – clear your windshield and windows to ensure visibility all around your vehicle.
- Always lock vehicles – even when parked in the driveway. Perpetrators frequently target unlocked cars, especially during the overnight hours.
- Keep all valuables, purses, credit cards, cell phones and electronic devices out of plain view and properly secured, so as not to increase your vulnerability.

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Library Hours

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

In observance of Veterans Day, the Library will be closed Friday, November 10.

Regular hours resume Saturday, November 11.

For the Thanksgiving Holiday, the Library will close 4:30 pm on Wednesday, November 22 and will remain closed Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24.

Regular hours resume Saturday, November 25.

Holiday Book Fair

The Friends of the Library will be selling some unusual books at a Holiday Book Fair, Saturday, December 2, 10 am - 2 pm.

The book fair will feature a small collection of unique books at special prices. The Friends received unusual donations and will price the books at higher than their usual rock-bottom prices. Included will be: leather-bound Franklin Library Classic Books, mint condition, gilt page edges, sewn-in ribbon book marks, \$15; lovingly collected, beautiful art books -- from Edward Hopper to Jasper Johns -- in pristine

condition, \$10/hardcover, \$5/paperback; a small number of graphic novels by popular author, Neil Gaiman, excellent condition, \$10; and a historical collection of psychology books from a local psychologist, good condition, hardcover and paperback, \$1/book.

Holiday books as well as all books in the Friends Bookstore Alley will be available at usual prices. Quantities are limited, so come early! The Friends are providing free gift wrapping.

Thursday Night Film Screenings at 7 pm

Nov. 2: *The Big Stick*

Nov. 16: **Retirement Planning (see below) - No Film screening**

Nov. 23: **Thanksgiving**

Nov. 30: *The Glass Castle*

Upcoming Adult Events

A Holiday Flower Workshop with Donna Rapino of Diva Fiore - Tuesday, November 7, 6:30 pm

The holiday season is fast approaching! Learn how to create a beautiful centerpiece perfect for your sideboard or mantel, using floral foam. Make one for Thanksgiving at the workshop and use your skills later to make another for the upcoming winter holidays. Donna will provide the floral foam along with some greens and flowers. You provide a low vessel (not a vase), scissors/knife, greenery from your yard (or the roadside!) and some of your favorite things: candles, pinecones, ribbons, ornaments, herbs, spices, grasses, vines, bittersweet, flowers.

Thanksgiving Time with Robin Glowa, The Conscious Cook - Thursday, November 9, 7 pm

Need some new inspiration for Thanksgiving appetizers and side dishes? Come enjoy a selection of delectable dishes for your holiday table.

The Missing Link in Retirement Planning Thursday, November 16, 7 pm

Why and When to Consider Long-Term Care Insurance, presented by the State of Connecticut's Partnership for Long Term Care.

November Children's Programs

Series Club: The Wishbone Wish

Wednesday, November 15, 6:30 pm (Grades 2 & 3)

Pick up your copy of *The Wishbone Wish* with Judy Moody and Stink by Megan McDonald at the Children's Desk when you register and then join us to discuss this Thanksgiving themed tale. Space and supplies are limited. Copies of the book and registration at the Children's Desk.

Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education

Saturday, November 25, 2 pm (ages 4 and up)

What are the features all raptors have in common? Meet five different birds and learn their individual stories as well as the

characteristics and behaviors of each species. Space is limited. Please register online, www.woodbridge.lioninc.org.

Graphic Novel Club featuring Squish by Jennifer and Matthew Holm

Thursday, November 30, 4:30 pm (Grades 4 & 5)

Meet Squish, a comic book loving grade school amoeba trying to find his place in the world. Woodbridge Library partners with Beecher Road School on this special book discussion for students in fourth and fifth grades. Copies of the books are available at the Children's Desk in the library. Please register online, www.woodbridge.lioninc.org.

Swinging Through the Stacks



Save the dates!
November 3 & 4, 2017!
 The Woodbridge Town Library presents *Swinging Through the Stacks*, a mini-golf event sponsored by The Friends of the Woodbridge Library and local businesses in the community. All event proceeds will benefit library programs and technology.

Friday, November 3 - Adult Par-Tee (18 and up):
 Join us for an evening of mini-golf, beer, wine and food from 6-9 pm. The cost is \$25 per single adult and \$40 per couple. Be among the first to try out our custom mini-golf course in this special after hours event. Food includes Sally's pizza, sandwiches from Amity Meat Market, beer from New England Brewing Company, and food from Solun Tapas Restaurant, The Original Antonio's, and Woodbridge Social.

Saturday, November 4 - Fore Families! (Ages 5 and up):
 Mini-golf is open between 10 am - 4 pm. The cost per game is \$5 per adult, \$3 per child and \$15 for a family up to two adults and 5 children. Refreshments will be available. No registration is required on Saturday, it is first come, first play!

A Big Thank You to Mini-Golf Sponsors

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- Friends of the Woodbridge Library
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In-Kind Sponsors

- Amity Meat Market
- Joyce Printers
- New England Brewing Company
- Sally's Pizza
- Solun Tapas Bar Restaurant
- The Original Antonio's Restaurant
- Woodbridge Social

2018 College Bound Student Programs

PSAT—Now What?

Saturday, January 13 at 11 am

You've taken the PSAT, now learn about the next steps on your path to getting into college. Please register online.

SAT Practice Test

Saturday, February 10 at 10:30 am

Take a free full-length SAT practice test given under the same conditions as the actual exam and receive a personalized score report to learn about your strengths and weaknesses. Online registration required.

ACT Practice Test

Saturday, March 24 at 10:30 am

Take a free full-length ACT practice test given under the same conditions as the actual exam and get a personalized score report to learn about your strengths and weaknesses. Online registration required.

Ongoing Children's 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.

Medicare Open Enrollment

The open enrollment period allows Medicare recipients to make changes to health and drug coverage plans. Medicare beneficiaries should take the opportunity to review their health care needs for the upcoming year and see if changes to current coverage are needed. Open enrollment is October 15 to December 7, 2017. For any questions, please contact Judi Young, CHOICES Counselor at Woodbridge Human Services Department, (203)389-3429.

Coffee at 10 - Lecture Series

A bit of breakfast and a bit of knowledge

- 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
- Jan. 24** Marijuana as Medicine with Southern CT Wellness and Healing Center

Please RSVP for all programs: 203-389-3430

November 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.

- 11/3 Eggplant parmesan with pasta
- 11/7 **Veteran's Day Lunch!** Garlic chicken with potato, vegetables
- 11/10 Closed for Veteran's Day
- 11/14 Ravioli with meatballs
- 11/17 **Annual Thanksgiving lunch** begins at noon, no charge. RSVP required
- 11/21 Baked potato bar with turkey chili
- 11/24 Closed for Thanksgiving holiday
- 11/28 Stuffed shrimp with rice pilaf

Special Programming

Events are held at The Woodbridge Center unless otherwise noted. To RSVP or for more information, call 203-389-3430 or email jglicksman@woodbridgect.org

Nov. 1: 11-12:15 pm, 12-week Kripalu Chair Yoga class begins with Instructor and Woodbridge resident Julie Luciani, fee \$50.

Nov. 4: 24th Annual Harvest & Holly Fair, 10 am - 2 pm, Center Building. Volunteers and bakers are welcome – 11/3 or 11/4, please RSVP. This annual event raises funds for Center programming and needs – come enjoy the fair and support the Center!

Nov. 7: Veterans Day speaker and lunch at 12:15 pm.

Nov. 8: Medicare 101, 6-7 pm, in the Center Lounge sponsored by Legacy Group LLC and presented by David Cowan, an AAA endorsed retirement advisor.

Nov. 8: 15 Smartphone, iPad classes at Library on Wed. afternoons from 3-4 pm in the meeting room. Free classes taught by Amity High School students. RSVP.

Nov. 9: Diabetes Awareness, 11 am - noon, in the Center lounge. November is Diabetes awareness month! Fifty percent of people over 65 in U.S. have prediabetes but most are unaware. This program, presented by Mary Swansiger of Griffin Hospital's Community Outreach and Parish Nursing Dept., will cover both diabetes awareness and self-management. A 6-week self-management class will start Nov. 30 at no cost and run Wednesdays from 1-3:30 pm.



Chair Yoga with Julie Luciani

Nov. 17: Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon at noon with entertainment by Paula Pettinella. This no cost holiday meal is sponsored by the Woodbridge Police Union,

Coachman Square and the Willows Rehabilitation Center. RSVP required by Nov. 10.

Nov. 17: Radio City Christmas Spectacular with lunch at Carmine's

Restaurant. Trip includes transportation, lunch, show and gratuity for \$198 per person.

Nov. 20: Lunch Bunch! Self-pay lunch at Las Brasas Mexican Grill in Woodbridge. Van transportation (\$3) or meet us there. RSVP required.

Nov. 21: "To Toss or Not To Toss"- VNA food safety program at 12:30 pm. Lunch is at 12:15 pm.

Nov. 28: Lunch entertainment with Brian Gillie (12:15 pm lunch).

Nov. 30 & Dec. 7: 6:45-9 pm, Bridge Defensive Strategies with Rita Brieger and Linda Chafkin. RSVP with Center or instructors.

Dec. 1: Annual Holiday Luncheon at 12:15 pm in the café. Join us for a seasonal feast sponsored by the Woodbridge Rotary Club. Lunch served at 12:15 pm with entertainment by Karin Wagner. There is no cost for lunch but reservations are required by Nov. 27.

Dec. 2: Center Art exhibit and reception, 1-3:30 pm, at the Woodbridge Library meeting room. The exhibit will run from Dec. 2 through Dec. 31.

Ongoing Programming

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 *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee. New members are always welcome.

Art Class: Class began Oct. 11 and meets each Wed. for ten weeks from 10 am - noon in the Center Café. The class is taught by local artist Graham Dale. To register call 203-389-3430. The class fee will be prorated for those joining in progress.



Nashville recording artist Janie Street

Friday Movies: Following lunch in the Center lounge at about 1 pm: 11/3 *A United Kingdom*, 11/17 *The Glass Castle*

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., & Thu., 1 - 4 pm, Center lounge. The group is always looking for new players and will bring rusty players up to speed!

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

Chair Kripalu Yoga: Meets Wed., 11 am—12:15 pm, in the Center Gym. Register for class and pay \$50 fee for 12 weeks. The classes include seated exercises and simple standing poses using a chair.

24th Annual Harvest & Holly Fair

KIDS ZONE! Photos with Santa & ornament making, face painting, henna tattoos and cookie decorating, teacher's gifts and café, Sat., Nov. 4 from 10 am - 2 pm in the Center Gym & Café. Kids Bake-off Competition - Age groups Grades 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12 may participate in 3 categories: cupcakes, cookies & dessert bars, and cakes. Both inexperienced & experienced bakers are eligible to enter. All baked goods must be made in a home kitchen from scratch—no mixes or store-bought entries. Only one entry per category. You must bring one item to be judged and 11 to be sold at the Fair (for cakes you must bring two). Please package items for sale. Drop items at the Center by 9:30 am on Nov. 4. Entry forms will be provided at drop-off. You do not need to be present to win. Call for more information regarding judging and prizes.

Great Community Event!

- 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
- Pies & 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
- Princeton Review

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 and will be entered into a holiday drawing. For details, contact Elaine Marcucio at 203-887-5047 or the Center at 203-389-3430.

Holiday Preparation

Volunteers Needed

Thanks to the generosity of so many, there are food items which require sorting and shelving for the Woodbridge food pantry.

Pictured here, left to right, are Youth Services Director Nancy Pfund, Maria Ammar, who recently collected food at a Breast Cancer Fundraiser, and Director of Human Services Mary Ellen LaRocca.

The Boy Scouts from Troop 63, with assistance from Troop 907 and Venture Crew 913, generously donated their time to collect food from local residents for the Woodbridge Food Panty.

Volunteers are needed to get the job done. Any youth who wants to offer community service hours, please call



203-389-3429 to help. Adult volunteers are also welcome.

Toys 4 Kids

Income eligible residents who need holiday toys for children 12 years of age and under should call Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3429 to set up an appointment to apply to TEAM, Inc. Application deadline is Dec. 15, 2017.

Job Bank

Wanted: Teens Who Desire Work for Cash...Need Holiday Money?

Woodbridge teens, ages 13-18, interested in occasional paid jobs for Woodbridge residents should call Youth Services at 203-389-3429. Typical jobs include weeding, gardening, yard clean-up, raking, shoveling snow, babysitting, and animal care. Parent permission required.

The Job Bank conducts an interview, and matches residents with registered teens who gain experience and self-confidence while earning some money. It's a perfect opportunity for young people to learn responsibility with assistance from Youth Services.



Recreation News

For more information, call Recreation at 203-389-3446. Registration is available online at woodbridgect.org. Click Recreation Registration at the bottom of the page to register and view the complete lineup of program options.

Road Race Results



The first place winner of the 36th annual Woodbridge 5K Road Race, held October 7, was Grant Young at a time of 18:07. Laura Pierce was the first place female winner at 18:56. The Woodbridge Road Race raises funds for the Woodbridge Food & Fuel Fund and Recreational programming.

Many thanks to all for making the Road Race and Fun Run possible for the community to enjoy including: event sponsors, Town staff and volunteers, and the Recreation Commission.

Winter Program Registration

Registration for the youth after-school programs begins November 1.

This winter's activities include: Arts & Crafts, Basketball, Bowling, Floor Hockey, Guitar Lessons, Hip Hop Dance, Indoor Soccer, Indoor Tennis Lessons, Little Scientists, Piano Lessons, Swim Lessons, Kumon and Taekwondo.

Adult programs include Badminton, Tai Chi, and yoga. Classes taught by Bill Banick or

Diane King are available.

A new class is being offered, *Self-care for Everyone: Movement, Massage, Meditation, Breathing*. The class incorporates movement from yoga and qi gong (a form of tai chi) with Yoga Instructor Diane King.

To register, call the Recreation Dept. at 203-389-3446 or visit the Town website to view the full lineup of winter program options.

Youth Basketball League Program

It is time to register for the Woodbridge Recreation Youth Basketball League Programs. Three leagues are being offered this season: Classic League for grades 4, 5, and 6 on Tuesday evenings; Junior High League for grades 7, 8, and 9 on

Thursday evenings; and High School League for grades 9 through 12 on Wednesday evenings. Basketball leagues begin the week of Dec. 4.

Call 203-389-3446 to register or go online, www.woodbridgect.org.

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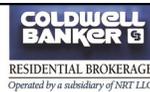


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Save the Date! Santa & Mrs. Claus will be at the Fire House, December 16.
See details in the December Newsletter.

Thanksgiving Safety Tips

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during Thanksgiving. Children love to be involved in holiday

preparations. Thanksgiving is also the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment.

Celebrate safely with these tips from the Woodbridge Fire Department:

- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children at least three feet away from hot stoves.



Turkey Fryers

The Woodbridge Fire Department discourages the use of outdoor gas-fueled turkey fryers that cook the turkey in hot oil. The use of turkey fryers can lead to devastating burns, other

injuries and the destruction of property. If you prefer a fried turkey, look for grocery stores, specialty food retailers, and restaurants that sell deep fried turkeys, or consider a new type of “oil-less” turkey fryer.

For more information on Thanksgiving cooking safety and turkey fryer safety visit www.woodbridgefire.com/thanksgiving and www.facebook.com/WoodbridgeFire.

Priorities Taking Shape

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It will take approximately 12 months once a replacement Radio System is approved for the equipment to be fully installed, tested and operational. If we were to approve the project in December 2017, we should expect to be able to retire the old system no sooner than December 2018. Accordingly, our Boards of Selectmen and Finance plan to meet jointly in November to receive a presentation and recommendation for action on this project. I look forward to working together with the membership of both Boards to see this project through to a Special Town Meeting for voter approval.

-Beth Heller, First Selectman