When I started my term as your First Selectman just over 6 months ago, I had three top priorities. Let’s come to consensus on long-term plans for important Town assets such as the former Country Club property, the Old Firehouse and the upgraded Radio System; let’s agree on new and creative approaches to managing our resources such as vendor consolidation, eliminating redundancy, sharing services; and above all, we must continue to be nice to one another as we go about this work – to be respectful of our different opinions and always to keep in mind that we all want, in our own way, what’s best for Woodbridge.

For several weeks, I have been working to prepare a Public Opinion Survey about the Town-owned former Country Club property. After discussion at both the December and January meetings of the Board of Selectmen, the survey has been finalized. I am grateful to my fellow BOS members for their thoughtful contributions and suggestions.

I would like to share my thoughts with you on this Public Opinion Survey: After almost 9 years since we purchased the former CCW property, I believe we should take a new reading of public opinion to see what Woodbridge residents think about this important topic.

I want to hear as many voices as possible – some people attend meetings, send emails, make appointments to meet with me at Town Hall, or send messages to email lists or post to Facebook groups but there are many others who have not yet spoken up. I want to know the opinion of as many households in Woodbridge as possible. I promise to respectfully listen.

I invite you once again to join me. Let’s work together to get things done. We will not always see complex issues eye-to-eye, but we can voice our opinions, listen respectfully to each other, and then move on to action steps.

Please look for the survey in your mailbox in early February. There will be a postage paid return envelope enclosed in the mailing, but if you would like to help defray costs you are welcome to hand deliver your completed survey to Town Hall or the Town Library. The deadline for responses will be Monday, February 12.

For more information, or questions, call Town Hall at 203-389-3404.

—First Selectman Beth Heller

Mailbox Policy

If a mailbox or post is struck by a Town snowplow during snow removal, the Town will replace it with a standard box and/or post and will supply the labor and materials.

If the mailbox or post is damaged by snow or other factors the Town will not replace or repair it.

If a snowplow damages a custom or fancy mailbox and/or post the Town will replace it with similar quality provided the resident supplies the Town with a receipt or other evidence of value for the mailbox and/or post.

All requests for replacement or repairs must be made within 72 hours of the end of the storm during which the damaged occurred.

Reporting Power Outages

To report a power outage, call United Illuminating at 1-800-722-5584. To report downed wires, call 9-1-1 and a dispatcher will coordinate with Public Safety and United Illuminating to make the area safe.

Emergency Shelter

If the Town decides to open the shelter, it is at The Center Gym/Senior Center (4 Meetinghouse Lane). Remember to bring medication, clothing, cell phone and charger to the shelter. Any special needs should be communicated to the shelter ahead of time by calling 203-389-3430.

If the Town opens the shelter, residents will be notified through the CT ALERT system.

Stay in Touch

The State CT ALERT system uses the 9-1-1 database to alert residents of life-threatening emergency conditions. Home phones are already registered but cell phones, business phones, email and hearing impaired receiving devices (TTY) may be added. The option to be notified in more than one town or location is available.

To change your settings, visit www.ctalert.gov. Personal information will only be used for emergency purposes.
Heller Welcomes Businesses

First Selectman Beth Heller welcomed one new business to town, The Better Beagle Co., and congratulated two businesses, the JCC and Oak Lane Tennis Club, for re-opening.

The Better Beagle Co., a new natural pet food and supply store, opened in December.

Oak Lane Tennis Club, under new ownership, re-opened earlier this year. The club is on the grounds of the former private Oak Lane Country Club.

The club is open to the public, offers seasonal and hourly court rentals and programs for players of all ages and levels.

The JCC recently reopened its doors after a December 2016 fire. The fire was an opportunity to re-think the fitness and cultural center’s use of the building. The building now features expanded group exercise space, a room dedicated to Spin class, a pool and gym, a climbing wall, more accessible locker rooms and new spas. Plus, a Maker Space, coworking space, a fitness lounge and a new café that will serve Willoughby’s coffee along with food from a variety of local businesses.

“One of my goals is to focus on economic development and it is so exciting that a new business has chosen to make Woodbridge home and that the JCC and Oak Lane are open again,” said Heller.

Applications for the State Elderly and Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program must be filed with the Town’s Assessor Office between Feb. 1 and May 15, 2018. To be eligible, Woodbridge residents must:

• Have turned 65 on or before Dec. 21, 2017. (Those on social security disability are exempt from the age requirement.)
• Be full time Woodbridge residents.
• Earn income up to $35,300 for a single person or $43,000 for a married couple. Proof of income and social security 1099 earnings are required.

Applications can be filed at the Assessor’s Office, Town Hall, 11 Meetinghouse Lane, Mon. through Fri., 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Residents already on the program but required to renew will be mailed an application.

View the Assessor’s page on the Town website for detailed eligibility instructions or call the Assessor’s Office, 203-389-3416.

Better Beagle Co. owner Kristen Marano and her dog, Ellie.
Library News

Library Hours

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

The Library will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents’ Day.

Book Donations Wanted by Friends

The Friends of the Woodbridge Library want your gently used books! Fiction, non-fiction, hardcover, paperback, adult, young adult and children’s books are all being accepted. DVDs and CDs are being accepted too!

Please make sure any donated items do not have water damage, mold, yellowed pages, or writing on the inside. Donations may be placed in the marked bin in the lobby of the library or call 203-389-3493 to arrange a pick-up of larger donations.

Library Debuts New Logo

The Woodbridge Town Library is debuting a new logo, marking the most dramatic change in its visual identity in many decades. Using a modern, geometric form in green, the logo better reflects the library today as it nods toward technology and innovation. The logo was inspired by an adaptation of an architectural element from the oldest part of the Library, specifically an ornamental wooden motif on its roof.

“Our new logo is not only eye-catching, but it also clearly conveys who we are to the community,” said Eric Werthmann, Library Director. “It does this by containing a visual element that reflects our traditions, while also emphasizing our forward-thinking outlook.”

The new logo was designed by Michelle Kliman of Chicago-based MK Studios. Michelle is a Woodbridge native, which gave her a special insight into the local community.

“I took inspiration from the history of the original building and its architectural elements to create a design with heritage, while making it modern, clean and contemporary.” said Kliman. Please look for the new logo on the library website and future publicity materials. The library will have new “swag” featuring the logo in upcoming weeks.

An Evening with the Gillettes

Join us for an entertaining, educational and humorous presentation on Sherlock Holmes, William and Helen Gillette and Gillette Castle by Harold and Theodora Niver. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created Sherlock Holmes, but he was brought to life by actor William Gillette. Gillette also put together the "costume," the hat, pipe, lens and cape, that we associate with Holmes to this day.

On Wed., Feb. 21 at 7 pm the Nivers will become the Gillettes—flitting back and forth between presenters and portrayers, in time. Please register for this event online or by calling the library at 203-389-3433.

Thursday Night Film Screenings
at 7 pm
Feb. 1: Battle of the Sexes
Feb. 8: American Made
Feb. 15: Breathe
Feb. 22: Last Flag Flying

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Library News

Take Your Child to the Library Day Returns

The Woodbridge Town Library will be celebrating the seventh annual national Take Your Child to the Library Day on Sat., Feb. 3, to encourage families to bring their children to the library.

This year Cactus Head Puppets brings the story of The Pied Piper to life in an adaptation of the traditional folktale. Not only does the town find a musical solution to pest control, but the kids of Hamelin also teach the grownups a lesson about generosity. Join puppeteers John and Megan Regan as they present this tale, told with multiple puppetry styles, and plenty of dancing rats!

Online registration. Show begins at 2 pm for ages 4 and up.

Massaro Farm at the Library Winter Program Series

Join us for a screening of the fascinating documentary film, “Fresh” followed by a discussion of the sustainable food movement.

The event will be held from 6-8 pm on Wed., Feb. 28 in the Woodbridge Town Library Meeting Room, and is free and open to the public. “Fresh” offers an illuminating look into our current food production methods, as well as how food production is being reinvented across America.

Following the film’s showing (running time: 72 minutes), there will be a short discussion about the movie, this region’s food production innovations, and what we can do to eat fresh, local food.

Seating is limited; please pre-register by calling the library at 203-389-3433 or go to www.woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Children’s Events

Series Club featuring the Magic Bone Series
Feb. 8 at 6:30 pm
Grades 2 & 3 can join us to discuss the Magic Bone series and have fun with Olympics-themed activities. Register at the Children's desk and check out a copy of the book.

Crazy 8s: Pirate Treasure Hunt
Feb. 17 at 2 pm
Grades K-2 are invited to use math to learn to read a pirate treasure map! Register online.

Graphic Novel Club
Feb. 22 at 5:30 pm
Grades 3 & 4 are invited to read Babymouse Goes For the Gold with Olympics-themed activities. Register online.

Tweens Celebrate Lunar New Year!
Feb. 15 at 5:30 pm
Grades 5 & 6 can join us to celebrate Lunar New Year! Register online.

Ongoing Children’s Events

Babies (0-18 months) Wednesdays, 10:30-11 am
Join us for songs and 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.
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

Feb. 2: Tell a Joke Day! Join us for weather related humor to turn a cold day into sunshine. Lunch begins at 12:15 pm. Reservations are requested.

Feb. 6: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program begins. VITA is a free tax preparation service available to low-income individuals, people who have a disability, and those who speak limited English. Appointments are available each Tuesday, 9 am -12 pm, through April 10. Call for appointments and information on required documents.


Feb. 14: 1-2:15 pm, free Valentine’s Day Kripalu Chair Yoga class with Julie Luciani, Center Building, Rm.16. Call to reserve a spot.

Feb. 20: 11 am - 12 pm, Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield presents “Dual Need Plan” for those eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid programs. Learn more about no cost assistance with vision, hearing, dental and preventative care including Silver Sneakers and “Over the Counter Card” provisions.

Feb. 20: National Muffin Day! Enjoy all things from a muffin tin– meatloaf, corn bread and dessert! Lunch begins at 12:15 pm. Reservations are requested.

Feb. 22: Trip! CT Flower Show in Hartford with lunch at Dakota’s. Call to reserve a spot today!

Feb. 27: Lunch entertainment with John Paolillo at 12:30 pm. Lunch begins at 12:15 pm. Reservations are requested.

Feb. 28: 2:45 pm, Team Tech Day in the Woodbridge Library meeting room. Bring any devise and any question. The free session is taught by Amity High School students. RSVP.

Mar. 2: Chinese New Year Celebration! Join us as we celebrate the Year of the Dog with a dumpling cooking demonstration with Tina Yao and guest speaker Nancy Yao Maasbach. Demonstration begins at 12 pm with lunch at 12:15 pm. Reservations are requested.

Mar. 4: Trip! AAC Women’s Basketball Semi-Finals at Mohegan Sun Arena.

Mar. 6: National Consumer Protection Week Event! Senior Scams and Safety presented by the Valley Senior Services Council with speaker Tracey Parks, Coordinator of Community Education & Training at BH Care.

Mar. 13: 12:15 pm Annual St. Patrick’s Day luncheon with entertainment by Pierce Campbell. Traditional corned beef lunch, $6. RSVP required by Mar. 5.

Mar. 14: March Madness Dance sponsored by New England Young at Heart (and Coachman Square) at the JCC of Greater New Haven from 11 am - 2 pm. Buy your tickets today. $12 for lunch, entertainment and transportation! RSVP deadline is Mar. 2.

Winter Weather

Storm Closings - If weather is inclement please tune into Channel 3 (WFSB) or Channel 8 (WTNH) for Woodbridge Center closings. When the Woodbridge School system has a weather related closing, the Center is also closed, including all programming, transportation and lunch.

Volunteer Opportunity - Woodbridge Human Services seeks residents to volunteer at the Town’s Emergency Shelter, located in the Woodbridge Center at 4 Meetinghouse Lane, in the event that it is opened due to a hurricane, flood, power outage or other emergency. Volunteers are needed days, evenings and weekends to provide supervision, serve meals, and provide information and outreach. The American Red Cross and Human Services will be facilitating a training to become a volunteer. Please contact Woodbridge Human Services at 203-389-3429 if interested in helping residents in an emergency.

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

2/2 Quiche and soup
2/6 Chicken burrito with black bean soup
2/9 Lasagna and salad
2/13 Valentine’s Day & Fat Tuesday! Pulled pork with beans, cole slaw, corn bread and king cakes
2/16 Chinese New Year! General Tso’s chicken with rice and eggroll
2/20 Muffin Mania! Muffin tin meatloaf, corn bread and dessert
2/23 Clam chowder and tuna sandwich
2/27 Cavatelli with broccoli and sausage

Enjoy our special lunches!
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 Mon. through Thu., 12:30-2:15 pm. Annual membership is $20 with a suggested $5 additional donation. 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 in the Center Gym, Tue. and Thu., 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 Feb. 27. This month’s book is The Alice Network by Kate Quinn. New members are always welcome.

Art Class: New class begins Feb. 28 and meets each Wed. for ten weeks, 10 am - 12 pm, in the Center Café. The class is taught by local artist Graham Dale. Registration and $60 payment are required for this class. A month-long art exhibit of class members’ work will hang at the Woodbridge Library during the month of May.

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

Feb. 28 Getting Your House Ready for Sale with Realtors Pat Cardozo, Holli Shanbrom and Debbie Schlegel
Mar. 28 Gardening Wisely with the Garden Club of Woodbridge

Please RSVP for all programs: 203-389-3430

Friday Movies: Following lunch in the Center lounge at 1 pm: 2/2 Battle of the Sexes, 2/9 Stronger, 2/16 Home Again, Favorite Film Friday 2/23 Lincoln

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. Come any day—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.

Chair Kripalu Yoga: Meets Wed. from 1-2:15 pm in the Center Building, Rm. 16, with instructor Julie Luciani. New class starts Feb. 14 to May 9. Register for class and pay $50 fee for 10 weeks (plus 1 free trial week). The classes include seated exercises and simple standing poses using a chair.

Institute For Learning in Retirement (ILR)

Calling all lifelong learners! ILR is a non-profit, community-based group of adults who share a love of learning. At its heart, ILR is an academic program designed to suit varied interests. The Woodbridge Center invites local residents to join. Membership and class registration can be found online at ilralbertus.org or contact membership coordinator Joan Murphy at 203-314-6352 or by email at info@ilralbertus.org. The Spring course catalog will be published in mid-February.

ILR is hosted by Albertus Magnus College which provides classroom space for Fall (October-November) and Spring (April-May) semesters. Other classes are held at the University of New Haven’s Orange campus, the Woodbridge Library and other sites. Whether you have an interest in the arts, literature, music, current events, history, science, movies, social lunches or museums, ILR can provide enrichment to your life.

Woodbridge Center Transportation Program

This program provides transportation to Woodbridge residents only, weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm. Any Woodbridge resident who is 60 years or older, or permanently or temporarily disabled may schedule transportation on a first-come, first-served basis. For reservation and contribution information, call 203-389-3430 between 9 am - 4 pm, weekdays.

Transportation to medical appointments is available to the following towns: Woodbridge, Ansonia, Bethany, Derby, Hamden, New Haven, Orange, Seymour, Shelton, Branford, East Haven, Milford, North Haven, Wallingford and West Haven. Transportation for grocery shopping, banking and pharmacy needs is available on Wednesdays and transportation to the Woodbridge Center’s activities is available daily. Reservations must be made 24 hours in advance of all appointments.
Drone Zone Funfest on Feb. 9

Seventh and eighth graders from Woodbridge and Bethany are invited to the exciting Bethwood Bash with a Drone Zone and DJ on Fri., Feb. 9 from 7-9:30 pm at the Bethany Town Hall Gym. The cost is $5. Call 203-389-3429 to register early and receive an extra raffle ticket. Volunteers and donations of raffle prizes are appreciated.

Call Youth Services at 203-389-3429 for information. Watch local stations for weather related cancellation. This youth program is open only to Woodbridge and Bethany 7th and 8th grade residents including private school students, and is sponsored by Woodbridge Youth Services and the Town of Bethany.

Home Alone Class

Children ages 9-11 are encouraged to join Youth Services 10:30 am -12:30 pm on Tue., Feb. 20 in the Center Building, Room 11, for a fun, interactive class about staying home without supervision. Instruction includes ideas on safety, emergency response and social media precaution. Healthy snacks will be prepared in class. Cost is $15 per child. Register by calling 203-389-3429.

First Selectman’s Youth Award Nominations

Do you know a Woodbridge youth who has worked to improve the Town of Woodbridge or assisted its residents? Nominate a deserving youth by completing a Nomination Form on the Town of Woodbridge website under Youth Services or contact Youth Services at 203-389-3429 to obtain a form. Parents cannot nominate their own child. Nominations are due by Mon., Mar. 5.

Recreation Spring Program Registration

Registration for Woodbridge Recreation Spring Programs will begin on Wed., Feb. 21. Programs include: swim lessons, bowling, basketball, flag football, gymnastics, Taekwondo, tennis, piano lessons, guitar lessons, running club, Kumon, Clay Date, Kids Dig Farms and Little Scientists. Badminton, yoga and T’ai Chi adult programs are available. Most programs begin the week of March 26. For registration information contact the Woodbridge Rec. Dept. at 203-389-3446, or register online at www.woodbridgetc.org. Click on the online registration link at the middle right hand side of the Town webpage.

Children’s Programs

• Basketball: Tue., Grades K-2; Mar. 27 through May 22
• Basketball: Thu., Grades 3-6; Apr. 5 through May 31
• Bowling: Mon., Grades K-6; Mar. 26 through June 4
• Bricks4Kidz (lego): Wed., K-6; Mar. 28 through May 30
• Clay Date: Mon., Grades 2-6; Mar. 26 through June 4
• Flag Football: Wed., Grades 3-6; Mar. 28 through May 30
• Guitar: Thu., Grades 3-6; Apr. 5 through May 31
• Gymnastics: Sat., PreK-6; Apr. 7 through June 2
• Kids Dig Farms at Massaro Community Farm: Thu.,

Ages 9-12; Apr. 5 through May 31
• Kumon (math or reading): Mon., Grades K-6; Mar. 26 through June 4
• Little Scientists: Tue., Grades K-5; Mar. 27 through May 22
• Movenastics: Sat., Grades K-6; Apr. 7 through June 2
• Piano: Mon., Grades K-6; Mar. 26 through June 4
• Running Club: Mon., Wed. & Fri., Grades 3-6; Apr. 2 through June 1
• Swim Lessons: Age 3 and up; Tue., Wed. & Thu.; Mar. 27 through May 31
• Tennis: Mon. or Sat., Grades K-6; Apr. 23 through June 4
• Taekwondo: Mon. or Wed., Grades K-6; Mar. 26 through June 4

Adult Programs

• Badminton: Wed., Jan 10 through Mar 14
• T’ai-Chi: Wed., Jan. 17 through Mar. 7
• Yoga (Gentle with Diane King): Mon., Jan. 22 through Mar. 5 or Wed., Jan. 10 through Feb. 14
• Yoga (with Bill Banick): daily weekday morning classes and Tue. evening class; Mar. 6 through May 29
Save the Date! The 19th Annual Snowflake Dance & Auction benefitting the WVFA is Sat., Mar. 3. Featuring the Rum Runners cover band, this fun night helps support Woodbridge’s volunteer firefighters.

**Town Earns Budget Award**

The Town earned the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the national nonprofit Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

“This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement by your organization,” states the letter from GFOA.

In order to earn the budget award the Town’s Finance Department and Board of Finance met nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The guidelines assess how well the budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device.

**CO Safety Tips**

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a colorless and odorless gas. CO poisoning can occur when a fuel-burning appliance or machine, such as a furnace, heater or generator, is not working or vented properly.

High levels of CO can be fatal. To avoid dangers of CO:

• Install and maintain CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of CO.
• Centrally locate CO alarms outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of your home.
• Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.
• Make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow and other debris.
• Remove vehicles from the garage immediately after starting.

For more safety tips as well as event information, visit www.woodbridgefire.com and www.facebook.com/WoodbridgeFire.