Ice Storm Response, Clean-up and Next Steps

We are busy cleaning up from the recent ice storm and preparing for more winter weather.

My thanks to all town residents for your patience and cooperation as Woodbridge experienced the bitter cold, high winds, ice, snow, rain and power outages on January 20 and 21.

I would like to highlight and express deep appreciation for the work of our Town’s First Responders during this storm. They answered a high volume of calls related to the many downed trees and limbs that were blocking roads and taking down power lines. In all, over 100 calls were answered by our dedicated Fire, Police, Public Works Road Crews and our Animal Control Officers over the long holiday weekend. These men and women are always there when we need them, and I am sure I speak on behalf of residents when I express gratitude for all they do on our behalf.

Our Human Services Department opened the Emergency Shelter and Warming Station in the Center Building, and their work to provide a place to warm up, sleep and charge devices for all affected residents is so appreciated. Kudos to the JCC for opening their doors to members and non-members, for warming, charging and showers. Thank you! I also want to acknowledge and thank those residents who offered to open their homes to neighbors during the lengthy power outages. This spirit of neighbor reaching out to neighbor is inspirational. This is what makes Woodbridge a truly wonderful community.

As we do after all major storms, Town Hall staff and I have met with representatives from UI and our First Responders to go over the response to this storm, and suggest ways that we can improve. In addition, I have waived the fee associated with brush disposal at the Transfer Station through February 9. Please see the Town website for further details.

As a reminder, during storms or other high call volume conditions in Town, please use the Police Non-Emergency Number (203-387-2511) to contact the Town for help with NON-EMERGENCY assistance. When we are closed for storms, all other phone numbers for Town departments in Town (including Human Services, Public Works, Animal Control, and Town Hall offices) are not answered and messages are not monitored. By calling the Police Non-Emergency number, you will be connected to available services to assist you – please do not hesitate to call.

- First Selectman Beth Heller

Snowflake Dance Fundraiser: Come out and have some fun while benefitting your volunteer firefighters! The 20th Annual Snowflake Dance & Auction is Sat., Feb. 23 at the JCC. The Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association’s largest fundraiser will feature the Rum Runners cover band as well as a silent and live auction. To advertise in the ad book, donate an auction item and purchase tickets call 203-389-3441 x100, email snowflake@woodbridgefire.com, and visit woodbridgefire.com/snowflake-dance.

Town Offers Donation Program

The Town has two new donation opportunities for people looking to provide a lasting gift to the Town.

“One of my goals is to make the Town Center Campus a more attractive public gathering space,” says First Selectman Beth Heller. “These programs will help maintain and upgrade the look and feel of our Town Center, which is an important reflection on our town.”

The Board of Selectmen agreed to use one style of bench to provide a cohesive look to Town-owned properties.

The tree donation program came as Heller’s desire to replant the denuded area on Center Road. The Town is also seeking to replace trees on the Green.

Bench cost $2,800 for a 6-foot bench and $3,100 for an 8-foot bench. The price includes the cost of delivery, installation by the Town and a plaque on which the purchaser may have a message inscribed. The Town has identified several locations where benches are needed.

Forms for both programs are on Public Works’ and Recreation’s pages on the Town website, WoodbridgeCT.org.

The Town estimates that a donation of $600 or $700 will cover the cost of a tree, delivery, installation and plaque. More accurate pricing will be available in the spring. The Town hopes to begin planting trees in the spring if there is enough interest in the program.

New Salon Opens

Ceci’s Nails opened for business in the 214 Amity Road shopping plaza.

Ceci’s Nails, owned by Cecilia Bermeo, offers waxing, eyelash extensions, facials, manicures, pedicures and eyebrow threading. Bermeo has been in the nail business for 12 years (most recently at Blue Sky Nails in New Haven) and always knew she wanted to open her own salon.

The space is newly renovated (it used to be a bakery) and the result is relaxing and airy.

They accept appointments and walk-ins and are open 9 am to 7 pm, Monday through Saturday and 10 am to 5 pm on Sunday. For appointments call 203-939-6524.

REMEMBER: All dogs must be on a leash at all times on Town-owned properties including parks, trails, recreational fields and fitness areas.
Woodbridge residents are invited to explore and celebrate diversity at free events this winter organized by the Town’s ad hoc Community Council. The ad hoc Community Council was created to organize events and other opportunities for Woodbridge residents to interact, learn about each other’s culture, create community and celebrate Woodbridge.

Amity Regional High School Diversity in Action club members and other community members will read from Ta-Nahesi Coates’ book, Between the World and Me, at an event on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at the Amity Regional High School Library at 7 pm. Following the readings there will be a discussion about the book. The snow date is March 5.

The Woodbridge Town Library has extra copies of the book available for check out. The book, a National Book Award winner, is a deeply personal story about race which started as a letter to the author’s black teenage son about how to navigate living in America with black skin.

On Feb. 28, the Woodbridge Town Library will host a screening of I Am Not Your Negro at 7 pm as part of the Library’s regular film series. I Am Not Your Negro is an Academy Award nominated documentary that envisions the book that James Baldwin never finished, Remember This House. The film is an examination of race in America. Following the film the Community Council will lead a discussion. The snow date is March 14.

In January the JCC hosted a children’s book reading that explored lessons of kindness, inclusion and acceptance.

Tax Relief Programs

Woodbridge residents may file applications for the State and Town Elderly and Totally Disabled Tax Relief Programs by May 15, 2019 with the Town Assessor.

Residents eligible for State and Town tax relief programs include individuals who:
1. turned age 65 on or before Dec. 31, 2018; individuals on Social Security Disability are exempt from this age requirement.
2. hold full time residence in Woodbridge.
3. meet the State program income limits of $36,000 maximum for singles and $43,900 maximum for married couples.
4. meet the Town program income limits (for single or married) of $43,900 maximum to qualify for a $1,400 Tier 1 credit and $74,630 maximum for a $1,120 Tier 2 credit.

Proof of 2018 income and Social Security earnings is required. Tax relief is also available for veterans through a local veteran exemption offered through the Town. There is no age requirement and applications must be filed by May 15, 2019.

To qualify, honorable discharge papers (DD-214) must have been filed with the Town Clerk’s office by Sept. 30, 2018. The maximum income for this program is $61,000 for a single person or $68,900 for a married couple.

Applications for all programs will be mailed to residents who are presently on a program and need to refile. Tax relief program details and applications are available on the Assessor’s page of the Town website at WoodbridgeCT.org or by calling 203-389-3416.

Applications may be filed with the office of the Assessor at Town Hall (11 Meetinghouse Lane), Mon. through Fri. between 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.
Library News

Library hours are Mon. through Thu., 10 am - 8 pm and Fri. & Sat., 10 am - 5 pm. Visit the library website 24/7 to access digital resources - www.woodbridgetownlibrary.org

The Library will be closed Monday, February 18 in observance of Presidents’ Day

Coming to Woodbridge: The Simpsons’ Springfield

With The Simpsons now in its 30th season of television, join us Monday, March 4 at 7 pm to meet Connecticut native Mike Reiss, a former head writer for the show and author of the new book Springfield Confidential. Enjoy a humorous presentation with plenty of Simpsons trivia and show clips as well as a Q&A. Registration is required; please register online or at the library.

Reiss has won four Emmys and a Peabody Award during his twenty-eight years writing for The Simpsons. He ran the show in Season 4, which Entertainment Weekly called “the greatest season of the greatest show in history.” In 2006, Reiss received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Animation Writers Caucus. Reiss has written jokes for such comedy legends as Johnny Carson, Joan Rivers, Garry Shandling…and Pope Francis! For his comedic contributions to the charitable group Joke with the Pope, in 2015 Pope Francis declared Reiss “A Missionary of Joy.”

Ancestry.com Solves Family Mystery, Inspires Book

Ana Aurea was swept away from a tiny agricultural village in Puerto Rico to a crowded snow-covered urban street in Hartford on her wedding day in January 1952. She endured a long, painful struggle to establish her true identity as the daughter of a wealthy Puerto Rican sugarcane plantation owner.

Years later, Ana’s daughter, Madelyn Colón, used Ancestry.com (at the public library) to unravel her family's mysteries. Her research prompted her to write her mother's story, Ana Aurea: The Story of Ana Garnier Colón.

Ana Aurea is part gripping mystery, part loving memoir about race and class, capturing both Hartford and Puerto Rico at a tumultuous time of economic and cultural change. Madelyn will visit the library on Wed., Feb. 6 at 7 pm and will share her research and writing process, including her use of Ancestry.com. More of Ana’s story will be revealed, and copies of her book will be available for purchase and signing. Please register online or at the library.

Discover the clues to help solve your family mysteries with Ancestry Library Edition, available in the library on the public computers. One of the largest online family history resources available, it provides unprecedented access to family history via documents that record the lineage of individuals from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, and more.

Please stop by the information desk with questions or for assistance with this valuable tool!

Still Time to Sign Up for Adult Winter Reading

The Adult Winter Reading Program continues through February 28. Read books, write reviews, and enter the reviews to be eligible for weekly drawings to win prizes! This year an optional, online way to submit book reviews has been added. Drawings will be held every Thursday. For information and to register, visit the Information Desk.

“Get Toasty Thursdays” has also returned as part of the Winter Reading Program. All are welcome to enjoy cocoa and cookies in the library’s lobby, Thursdays at 5 pm.
Library News

Children’s Events

Babies Session (0-18 months)
Every Wednesday, 10:30-11 am
Join us for songs and rhymes, fun for little ones.
No registration required.

Ready to Read (18-36 months)
Every Thursday, 10:30-11 am
Find out how talking, singing and reading build vocabulary and a love of books! No registration required.

Preschool Storycraft (3-5 years)
Every Saturday, 11-11:30 am
Join us for a literature based program and art project!
No registration required.

Eager Readers Book Group (Grades K-2)
Monday, Feb. 11, 4:30 pm
Stop by the Children’s Desk to pick up a copy of this month’s title, and to register. Read the book at home and then come for a book discussion and craft.

Sneak Peek Club (Grades 4-6)
Thursday, Feb. 21, 5:30-6:30 pm
Get first dibs on new books at the library, make snowball bath bombs, and have a snack. Please register online or at the Children’s Desk.

Lion and Lamb Craft (Ages 4 and up)
Saturday, Feb. 23 at 3 pm
Will March come in like a lion or a lamb? Make one or the other at our paper bag workshop. Please register online or at the Children’s Desk—space and supplies limited.

Swinging through the Stacks
Mini-Golf Event
Friday, March 8, 6-9 pm: Adult Par-“Tee”
Saturday, March 9, 10 am - 5 pm: “Fore” Families

More information at the library and online. Questions?
Contact the Friends of the Woodbridge Library:
WoodbridgeCTFriends@gmail.com or 203-389-3493.

Monday Night Craft for Adults, Teens & Tweens

Ms. Beth and Ms. Jen will host an evening crafting with felt, paper, vintage trims, wood and more! All supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your own things too. We will teach you how to make beautiful felt roses, and you’ll leave with a lovely decoration for yourself or someone special.

Due to hot glue being used, this program is not appropriate for children under 10 years old. Children ages 10 to 12 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

The craft evening will be held on Mon., Feb. 4 at 6:30 pm in the Library meeting room. Please register online or at the Information Desk.

Massaro at the Library
Winter Series Continues

Plan to join us Wednesday, Feb. 13 from 6-8 pm for a Pre-Valentine's Day Potluck! Come celebrate your love of local, healthy food with friends and neighbors in the community. Bring a dish (savory or sweet) to share, its recipe, and serving utensils. If possible, please bring your own plate, bowl, cup, napkin, and utensils to lessen waste at the event. We will bring the drinks, as well as some disposable plates, napkins and utensils for those who have not brought their own.

Register online or at the library. Need some inspiration? Stop by the library for a full range of cookbooks from cultures all around the world.

Remember to save the date for Wed., March 13 to attend the Ingredients for Change Panel Discussion, from 6-8 pm. Details to follow.

February Film Screenings

All film screenings are on Thursdays and start at 7 pm, in the library’s meeting room. No registration required.

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<th>The Hate U Give</th>
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<th>I Am Not Your Negro*</th>
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* Co-sponsored by the ad hoc Community Council of the Town of Woodbridge to examine and celebrate diversity. Discussion to follow.
Woodbridge Center News

Emergency Shelter

Many thanks for assistance and support of the First Selectman, the Police Dept., Fire Dept., Dept. of Public Works, Building Maintenance Dept., AMR, District Animal Control, staff of the Human Services Dept., Brookdale Woodbridge and town volunteers who all worked together during the recent ice storm and power outages.

The Emergency Shelter, operated by the Human Services Dept., served 58 residents and gave phone support to 41 others on the Emergency Call List. If you, or a someone you know, would benefit from being placed on the Emergency Call List, please contact the Human Services Dept. at 203-389-3429. For emergency shelter and assistance during power outages and storms, call the Woodbridge Police Dept. at 203-387-2511.

Elder Scams


Christine Buck, Legal Investigator at the Office of the CT Attorney General, will present information on March 5 at 12:30 pm about how to prevent these crimes, what to do if you are a victim and who to contact.

February Lunch Menu

Lunch is served Tue. and Fri. at The Center café, at 12:15 pm. Cost is $3 for dine-in meals, $4 for take-out. RSVP is required by noon one day prior. Meals include bread, juice, coffee/tea and dessert.

2/1 Assorted sandwiches, tuna, egg, crab
2/5 Chinese New Year! Chicken stir fry, won ton soup
2/8 Beef pot pie, soup
2/12 Valentine’s Day! Seafood Newberg, Strawberry Short Cake
2/15 Swedish meatballs over egg noodles
2/19 Taco Tuesday! Make your own tacos, black bean soup
2/22 Vegetable quiche and soup
2/26 Manicotti, meatballs, garlic bread

RSVP is required one day prior unless otherwise noted.

Feb. 5: Chinese New Year! Enjoy a great meal and a cultural program to celebrate the lucky year of the pig. Begins at 12:15 pm in the café.

Feb. 5: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), 9 am - 12 pm, Tuesdays through April 9. VITA is a free tax preparation service available to low-income individuals, people who have a disability or those who speak limited English. Appointments are made through Human Services and The Woodbridge Center and are available Tuesdays, 9 am - noon. Call for information on required documents and to make an appointment.

Feb. 6: Diabetes Prevention Program ongoing Wednesdays from 10-11 am in the Center lounge. See page 6 for more details on this life-changing program!

Feb. 6: Art class begins—don’t forget to RSVP. Details on page 6.

Feb. 12: Valentine’s Day celebration! Entertainment provided by John Paolillo at 12:15 pm, a delicious Seafood Newberg lunch and strawberry shortcake – join us!

Feb. 13, 26: Tech Wednesdays from 2:45-3:45 pm at the Woodbridge Library. Learn new skills on iPads, smart phones and e-readers. Classes are held in collaboration with the Woodbridge Library. Staff will guide participants through navigating operating systems, mastering messaging, discovering downloadable books and other materials, as well as taking photos and maintaining proper storage techniques. Registration for this free class is required.

Feb. 14: The grand opening of the Meetinghouse Café has been cancelled and will not reopen at this time.


Feb. 26: Lunch entertainment with Jim Sheehan begins at 12:15 pm. RSVP required.

Mar. 4: AARP Safe Driver Class 9 am - 1 pm in The Woodbridge Center lounge. Fee is $15 for AARP members, $20 for non-members. Reservations are required.

Woodbridge First Selectman Beth Heller presents a citation to Mary Ellen LaRocca for her 30 years of continuous service to the Town during the lunch program at The Woodbridge Center.
Breakfast at 10
Lecture Series

Feb. 27: Cooking for 1 or 2 and Proper Freezing Techniques with Elaine Marcucio and Penny Pompa of New England Young at Heart. Learn how to navigate recipes without having to eat leftovers all week—unless you so choose! Freezer-friendly foods, proper containers, and food storage will be discussed. RSVP is requested. All lectures are held in The Woodbridge Center lounge.

Mar. 27: Adding Years to Your Life & Life to Your Years with Louis CoFrancesco, DC, of CoFrancesco Chiropractic & Healing Arts. RSVP is requested.

Change for Life!
Diabetes Prevention Program

Beginning Feb. 6, Diabetes Prevention will be offered as an ongoing program that will meet regularly on Wednesdays from 10-11 am in The Center lounge. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention–National Diabetes Prevention Program can help individuals make a change for life! This program will offer lifestyle changes to help prevent Type 2 diabetes. Groups meet for 16 weekly sessions and six monthly follow-up sessions with a trained lifestyle coach.

There is no fee associated with this program but you must register. This program costs up to $500 at other facilities! The program is sponsored by Griffin Hospital, Area Agency on Aging of South Central CT. To register, please call The Woodbridge Center at 203-389-3430.

Ongoing Programming

New! Weekly Craft Group begins Mar. 21 (Thu.) from 10 am - 1 pm in The Center lounge. Calling all knitters and crocheters to join the group. No RSVP necessary.

New three month session!
Yoga for Healthy Aging Class begins Feb. 22 and meets Fridays, 11:45 am - 1 pm, in the Center Building, Rm. 16, with instructor Julie Luciani. Class combines seated and standing postures and is safe for all. Please register to reserve your spot—12 sessions for $75. The class fee will be pro-rated if joined late.

Mahjong: Mon. & Fri., 10 am, Center Building, Rm. 11.

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.

Book Club: The book club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, 11 am at the Woodbridge Town Library. The next meeting is Feb. 26 and the book will be Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver. New members are welcome.

Art Class: Class begins Feb. 6 and meets each Wed., 10 am - 12 pm, in The Center café. The class is taught by local artist Graham Dale. Call to register. The ten week class is $60 and will be pro-rated for those joining late.

Friday Movies: Following lunch in The Woodbridge Center lounge at 1 pm: 2/1 Bad Times at the El Royale,
2/8 The Hate U Give, 2/15 Dog Days, 2/22 Favorite Film Friday: Nebraska.

Ask the Nurse: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, 11 am - 12:30 pm, blood pressure screenings, weight and conversation with a registered VNA Community Healthcare Nurse in The Center lounge.

Duplicate Bridge: Mondays, 9:30 am, in the café.

Bridge: The Center’s Wednesday bridge group invites new members! Join in for a friendly card game. No reservations—just come to The Center lounge.

Pinochle: Mon., Wed. or Thu., 1-4 pm, in The Center lounge. Come any day—the group looks for new players and is willing to bring rusty players up to speed!

Pickleball: Meets Mon-Thu. in the Center gym for group play, 12:30-2:30 pm and Fri., 12:30-3:30 pm. Paid annual members may arrange playing times with other players through the Doodle scheduling tool. Annual membership is $20 for Woodbridge residents and $25 for non-residents. Equipment is available on a first come, first served basis.

Bocce: Begins again in April, Tuesdays from 11 am - 12 pm at the bocce court in the picnic grove behind the Old Firehouse.

Calling all poker, canasta and spades players—call The Center and let us know if you are interested and we’ll put a group or a game together!
Youth “Have a Heart” Party

On Friday, Feb. 8, Woodbridge and Bethany 7th and 8th grade residents are invited to hang out with friends, play games, dance to music by a DJ and snack on refreshments. Party from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Amity Middle School-Bethany’s cafeteria.

The $5 entry fee includes a free raffle ticket for cool prizes. Bring $1 donation to make a Valentine craft for a friend or relative.

Register in advance and receive an extra raffle ticket. Call 203-389-3429 or email Youthon<wbr/>e@WoodbridgeCT.org. Proceeds raised from crafts will be donated to the American Heart Association as February is American Heart Month.

Adult volunteers are needed. To register, please call 203-389-3429 or email Youthon<wbr/>e@WoodbridgeCT.org.

Nominations Sought for 20th Annual First Selectman’s Youth Award

If you know a Woodbridge youth who has worked to improve the Town of Woodbridge or assisted its residents, consider nominating that deserving youth. The Nomination Form can be found on the Youth Services page of the Town website or call the office at 203-389-3429.

Principals, teachers, fellow students, neighbors, group leaders, etc. are encouraged to make nominations. Parents or family members may not nominate a relative. Nominations are due by March 11.

Community Service Aids Children

Teens at Amity Middle School-Bethany generously worked after school to create Bot Buddy drawings on dominoes and make blankets for donation to children in treatment at Yale-New Haven Children’s Hospital.

Job Bank Needs Teens

Woodbridge teens willing to shovel snow are needed. Students can gain work experience and earn money by helping residents with odd jobs, babysitting, or animal care as members of the Woodbridge Job Bank.

To join and schedule an interview call 203-389-3429 or email NPfund@WoodbridgeCT.org. Residents may call Job Bank to hire Woodbridge teens at 203-389-3429.

Recreation News

Call Recreation at 203-389-3446 or email Recreation@WoodbridgeCT.org. Register at WoodbridgeCT.org. Select Recreation Registration at the homepage on the Town website to register and view the lineup of program options.

Spring Program Registration Begins

Registration for Woodbridge Recreation Spring Programs will begin on Wed., Feb. 20. A large line-up of programs are being offered to appeal to children of all ages including: bowling, basketball, chess, flag football, golf, guitar lessons, gymnastics, Clay Date, Kids Dig Farms, Kumon, Little Scientists, piano lessons, running club, sign language, swim lessons, Taekwondo and tennis. Most programs begin the week of March 25.

For registration information, contact the Woodbridge Recreation Dept. at 203-389-3446, or visit the Town website to register online at WoodbridgeCT.org. Select Recreation Registration on the website homepage.

Children’s Programs
• Basketball: Tue., Grades K-2, Mar. 26 through May 21
• Basketball: Thu., Grades 3-6, Mar. 28 through May 23
• Bowling: Mon., Grades K-6, Mar. 25 through June 3
• Bricks4Kidz (lego): Wed., K-6, Mar. 27 through May 29
• Chess: Thu., Grades 3-6, Mar. 28 through May 23
• Clay Date: Mon., Grades 1-6, Mar. 25 through June 3
• Flag Football: Wed., Grades 3-6, Mar. 27 through May 29
• Guitar: Thu., Grades 3-6, Mar. 28 through May 23
• Gymnastics: Sat., PreK-6, Mar. 30 through May 25

• Kids Dig Farms at Massaro Community Farm: Thu., Ages 9-12, Mar. 28 through May 23
• Kumon (math or reading): Mon., Grades K-6, Mar. 25 through June 3
• Little Scientists: Tue., Grades K-5, Mar. 26 through May 21
• Piano: Mon., Grades K-6, Mar. 25 through June 3
• Running Club: Mon., Wed. & Fri., Grades 3-6, Apr. 22 through June 7
• Swim: Tue., Age 3 & up, Mar. 26 through May 21 or Thu., Age 3 & up, Mar. 28 through May 23
• Tennis: Mon., Grades K-6, Apr. 22 through June 3 or Sat., Grades K-6, Apr. 27 through June 1
• Taekwondo: Mon., Grades K-6, Mar. 25 through June 3 or Wed., Grades K-6, Mar. 27 through May 29

Adult Programs
To offer flexibility with participation, registration for adult programs is ongoing.
• Badminton: Wed., ongoing
• T’ai-Chi: Wed., ongoing
• Yoga (Gentle with Diane King): Mon. or Wed., ongoing
• Yoga (with Bill Banick): daily weekday morning classes as well as Tue. evening classes, ongoing