May Happenings

As the weather warms up, our lawns and gardens spring back to life. But among your cultivated plants and flowers, you may have also noticed some "invasive" plants which have been moving into our wooded areas, meadows, and backyards here in Woodbridge, just as they have across the New England states.

Invasive species are defined as plants that are non-native (or alien) to the local ecosystem, and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm. Getting to the root of the problem is often difficult as it is a very time-intensive task to remove these plants from your property and prevent their regrowth.

Invasive Plants Workshop
The Commission on the Use of Publicly Owned Property (CUPOP) is kicking-off a series of informational workshops on topics related to protecting the environment.

Invasive Plants will be the topic on Tuesday, May 7th (from 6 pm to 8 pm) at the Town Library. Come learn how you can support, sustain, and restore plant species diversity in Woodbridge, and help maintain the health and resilience of the Town’s environment.

Rescheduled Rid Litter Day
Due to rain, we had to cancel Rid Litter Day on April 28th but I am pleased to announce that we have rescheduled for Saturday, June 1st — when several local organizations are coordinating their events in the Town Center campus. On this same day the Friends of the Library is holding its annual book sale in the Library, the Garden Club is holding its plant sale in the Grove, and the Dog Park Cooperative is organizing a dog walk that will start and end near the Old Firehouse.

Rid Litter Day will be celebrated (from 11 am to 1 pm) in this same area and we will encourage residents to pick up trash and beautify the roadsides all around town. This type of coordinated effort is part of my goal to make our Town Center a more friendly and welcoming area with events to bring residents together.

Memorial Day Ceremony
I hope to see you at one of these events, or at our annual Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 27th at 11 am at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Monument in front of the Center Building (4 Meetinghouse Lane). In case of rain the ceremony will be held inside at the Center Building gym.

- First Selectman Beth Heller

Mark Your Calendars!

- May 6: Town Election — Remember to vote! Polls are open 6 am - 8 pm at the Center Building gym (4 Meetinghouse Lane).

- May 8: Amity Regional School District Budget Referendum — Vote at the Center Building gym (4 Meetinghouse Lane), 6 am - 8 pm.

- May 11: Annual One Big Dog Animal Respite Fundraiser, Birchwoods at Oak Lane, 6-10 pm. Tickets may be purchased at the Woodbridge Animal Shelter and the Town Clerk’s Office at Woodbridge Town Hall. Event proceeds will benefit the Woodbridge Regional Animal Shelter.

- May 18: HazWaste Central at the Regional Water Authority (90 Sargent Dr., New Haven) will collect hazardous waste items through Oct. 26, Saturdays, 9 am - noon. (Closed holiday weekends.)

- May 20: Annual Town Meeting at the Center Building gym (4 Meetinghouse Lane), 7:30 pm.

- May 27: Memorial Day Ceremony at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Monument in front of the Center Building (4 Meetinghouse Lane), 11 am. (Rain location is the Center Building gym.)

- May 27: Woodbridge Town Offices and Transfer Station will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

- June 1: Rid Litter Day, Garden Club’s annual Plant Sale, Friends of Library annual Book Sale and the Dog Park Cooperative’s first Mutt Strutt for canines and humans. Check the Town’s online calendar for time details for each event: woodbridgect.org/calendar.aspx.
Officer Lalli Welcomed

Newly hired officer, John Lalli, was officially sworn in as a member of the Woodbridge Police Department during the March 12 meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners.

Officer Lalli joins the Department after completing a distinguished career with the New Haven Police Department.

In welcoming and congratulating him on this new chapter of his career, Chief Frank Cappiello stated that Officer Lalli brings with him strong interpersonal communication skills, coupled with years of law enforcement knowledge and expertise.

New Food Truck Opens

Woodbridge has a new food truck, Street N’ Savory.

Owner Jake Heffernan had a revelation one day while making risotto for himself: This is what I want to do.

He’d worked as a bartender and in restaurants so he was familiar with the food business. He enrolled in culinary school and has been cooking professionally ever since including at high end restaurants in New Haven and Fairfield counties. “I jumped around a lot to absorb as much as I could,” he says.

When Heffernan began exploring opening a restaurant he quickly realized that opening a food truck would take less startup capital and require less staff.

Right now he does all the cooking and that’s the way he likes it. The menu is in-season gourmet-inspired street food. It’s a fusion of Caribbean and Asian flavors mixed in with Mediterranean food. For example, a Cuban sandwich gets an Italian riff with the addition of capicola ham and pickled fennel. A Mexican street taco is topped with jerk chicken and a Caribbean slaw.

Heffernan and his partner, Michelle Riley, offer full-service party planning. She’s an experienced event planner and they can provide everything including the invitations, decor themes and, of course, the catering.

Street N’ Savory had its debut in March at the New England Brewing Company. He plans to be at the Woodbridge Summer Concerts on Tuesdays in July.

For a calendar of where the food truck will be, visit the Street NSavory Facebook or Instagram pages. For more information, visit StreetNSavory.com.
Hello Instagram, Shoutbomb & New Catalog; Technology Changes to Keep Patrons Informed

Libraries and technology—rarely does one hear the first word without the second in the current library climate. At the Woodbridge Library, staff are always striving both to stay on top of the latest trends and changes to technology, and also to convey this information to patrons. In this spirit, the Library would like to share a few updates on some of the technological platforms that have been offered to patrons.

First, the Library is thrilled to announce the return to Instagram! After a longer-than-expected hiatus, the Library’s account is back up and running on this social media platform for sharing pictures. Follow Library@woodbridge townlibrary to see what’s being posted. The account will be used for pictures of programs, new releases of books and DVDs, everyday snapshots of library life (#LibraryLife), and more! An Instagram account is not needed; simply visit: instagram.com/woodbridge townlibrary. 

Second, if keeping track of due dates and checked out items can sometimes be a challenge, consider signing up for text messages via Shoutbomb. This service sends texts directly to patrons’ phones about their library accounts, including holds that are available, items due soon, and overdue items. Simply text the word SIGNUP to (860) 345-1307. Then reply to the messages from Shoutbomb with a library card number. Multiple cards can be applied to one phone number—a great feature for households with more than one card. The service works on any phone with text capability; a smart phone is not necessary. There is no charge for Shoutbomb, but regular text messaging rates still apply.

Finally, users of the LibAnywhere app may have noticed that Woodbridge Town Library/LION consortium catalog searches are no longer working. When LION switched catalog software late last year, it no longer fed data to the LibAnywhere app. At this time, there is no app for the new catalog software. Patrons are encouraged to bookmark the Library’s catalog page in the web browser on their device and use that for searching: wd.catalog.lionlibraries.org/.

The Library hopes patrons enjoy these products—both for information and entertainment. If they haven’t been tried yet, take a look! Please contact the Reference Desk with any questions by calling (203) 389-3434, emailing wbrstaff@lioninc.org, or stop by the Library!

Hello 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 - woodbridgetownlibrary.org

The Library will be closed on Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day.

Adult Programs

Registration is required for all programs in order for Library staff and the presenters to know the number of people to expect for each event. Online or in person registration is appreciated. Thank you!

Lovely, Luscious Mother’s Day with Robin Glowa
Wed., May 8 at 7 pm
She’s back! Robin Glowa, The Conscious Cook, returns to the Library. Perfect for brunch or lunch, this menu will provide inspiration for a lovely and luscious celebration of Mom! Samples and recipes provided. Due to an alcoholic beverage that will be served, attendees must be age 21+. Registration is required; this is a very popular program and space is limited.

A Passeggiata (Stroll) Through Italy: Past, Present and Future
Wed., May 22 at 7 pm
Mariann Millard will “walk” participants through the richness and diversity of Italy to appreciate its geography, language, cuisine, culture, politics and economics. Understand not only Italy’s complex past and present culture, but about its future. Participants wishing to travel to Italy will leave with a better understanding of how to travel successfully among Italians to fully enjoy their experience. Mariann, a dual citizen of the United States and Italy, will enhance the experience by including tidbits on her family history, her work as an international tour director, finding long-lost Italian relatives, and learning and speaking Italian as an adult.

Woodstock: A 50th Anniversary Celebration
Tue., May 28 at 7 pm
Craig Harris transports attendees back to 1969 with rare recordings, archival video, insightful storytelling, group singing, and guided music-making all in celebration of Woodstock’s 50th anniversary! The August 1969 Woodstock Exposition of Music and Art continues to reverberate cultural ripples and this program will not only stir memories but provide new perspective.
Library News

Nonfiction Club

Thursday, May 16 at 6 pm for grades 3 to 6

Don’t bug out! Check out a library book about insects, read it, then write down a cool fact that was learned. Get ready to share the book and the fact, have a snack, and make bug boxes! Please register online or at the Children’s Desk and let staff know of any food allergies.

Children’s Events

May Film Screenings

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

May 2: Can You Ever Forgive Me? 107 minutes; R
May 9: At Eternity’s Gate 111 minutes; R
May 16: The Mule 116 minutes; R
May 23: On the Basis of Sex 120 minutes; PG-13
May 30: Widows 128 minutes; R

Planning Vacations and Staycations?

Be an informed traveler! The Library recently acquired a large number of new, updated travel guides, with locations spanning from very local to international. All travel guides circulate for three weeks and can be renewed if there is no other patron waiting, providing plenty of time for research. If the Library does not own a particular title or destination, it may be available to be sent from another library. The travel section is on the first floor, past the Reference Desk.

Save These Dates!

Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale: May 30 - June 4

Great items, great prices, great cause! Shop from hundreds of gently-used books in all genres. DVDs and CDs too! The Friends spend the entire year carefully curating the donations, providing shoppers with items in fantastic condition, all at very reasonable prices. Buying something at the book sale supports the Friends, which in turn supports the Library. All funds raised go towards Library programs and technologies.

Donations in good condition are gladly accepted and may be dropped off inside the Library when it is open.

For more information, check the Library’s website, contact the Friends at woodbridgetfriends@gmail.com or (203) 389-3493.

Summer Reading Starts June 18

Both the Adult and Children’s Departments are gearing up for a fantastic summer. This summer’s theme is “A Universe of Stories.” Programs are being planned now—there will be movies (indoor and outdoor), crafts, food demonstrations, book-related activities and more! The entire staff looks forward to welcoming residents to the Library and signing them up for summer reading challenges—for adults and children. More information will be announced as summer draws near. Stay tuned!

Eager Readers Book Group (Grades K-2)

Monday, May 13, 6:30 pm

Stop by the Children’s Desk to pick up a copy of this month’s title, Storybook Knight, and to register. Read the book at home and then come for a book discussion and craft.

Children’s Events

Babies Session (0-18 months)
Every Wednesday, 10:30-11 am
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 year olds)
Every Saturday, 11-11:30 am
A literature based program and art project. No registration required.

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If a staycation is in the works, take advantage of the Library’s collection of museum and park passes, which provide admission discounts (or even free admission). Many can be reserved and printed online—go right from home without needing to stop at the library first. The full list of museums is on our website: woodbridge.lioninc.org/museum-passes/.

Contact the Reference Desk with any questions: (203) 389-3434, wbrstaff@lioninc.org, or stop by the desk.

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May 16: The Mule 116 minutes; R
May 23: On the Basis of Sex 120 minutes; PG-13
May 30: Widows 128 minutes; R
**Breakfast at 10 Lecture Series**

May 22: Estate Planning and Asset Protection with Guertin and Guertin, LLC. This program was created to help people learn how to protect their most valuable assets (i.e. a home) from financial devastation of a long-term stay in a nursing home, creditor issues, and/or lawsuits, by utilizing an irrevocable Asset Protection Trust. Lectures are held at 10 am in Center Building, Room 11.

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**Free Lunch!**

May is bring a friend to lunch month! Bring a friend who has never come to The Woodbridge Center’s lunch program and they’ll eat for free! RSVP required 24 hours in advance.

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**Thursday Lunches**

The Center’s Friday lunch program will move to Thursdays beginning, June 6 at 12:15 pm in The Center’s cafeteria. Friday movies will move to Tuesdays at 1:15 pm starting June 4 in The Center lounge. Join in and make new friends or reconnect with old friends.

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**May 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.

- **5/3** Cinco de Mayo Celebration with cheesy taco pasta, flan
- **5/7** Mother’s Day Lunch baked, stuffed chicken breast
- **5/10** Eggplant parmesan with pasta
- **5/14** Pork loin with roasted potatoes, coleslaw and biscuits
- **5/17** Corned beef Rueben with sweet potato fries
- **5/21** Swedish meatballs over egg noodles
- **5/24** Corned beef hash with eggs and home fries
- **5/28** Chicken pot pie casserole
- **5/31** Assorted sandwiches: egg, tuna with side salad

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**Special Programming**

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

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Woodbridge First Selectman Beth Heller, center seated, and the staff of the Human Services Department honored award winners at the 31st annual Volunteer Tea. Special awards were distributed to several volunteers in recognition of outstanding service to the community.

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**RSVP is required one day prior unless otherwise noted.**

- **May 3:** Cinco de Mayo celebration! Join in for Mexican treats at lunch!
- **May 3:** Campaign visit with members of the Republican slate for municipal office who will speak and serve lunch at 12:15 pm in the café.
- **May 6:** Center closed for Municipal Elections. Vote! 6 am - 8 pm.
- **May 7:** Memory Matters with VNA Community Healthcare & Hospice begins 12:20 pm in The Center café. Learn why exercising your brain is as important as exercising your body, find out how to maintain brain function and dispel the myths of memory loss and aging. RSVP if requesting lunch ($3 lunch served at 12:15).
- **May 8:** The Center is open. Amity Referendum—Vote! 6 am - 8 pm.
- **May 12:** AARP Safe Driver Training, 9 am - 1 pm, Center lounge. $15 - members; $20 - non-members. RSVP required.
- **May 13:** Senior art exhibit and reception, “The Art of Aging” sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging.

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**May 20:** Lunch Bunch – Join in for lunch with friends at Carmines di Vega in New Haven. Transportation is provided by The Center ($3) or meet us. Self-pay at the restaurant.

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**May 21:** Lunch entertainment with Jim Sheehan begins at 12:15 pm. RSVP required.

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**May 22:** Senior Prom, sponsored by New England Young at Heart, 11 am - 3 pm at Aria in Prospect. Event includes dancing, raffles, appetizers and a three-course meal. Transportation provided by The Woodbridge Center ($3). Tickets are $28. RSVP is required by May 3.

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**May 27:** Center is closed for Memorial Day. Join the Memorial Day Ceremony (details on page 1).

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**May 28:** Acuity Hearing Solutions, free hearing screenings, 11 am, followed by informational talk at 12:30 pm. RSVP required for screenings.
Living Treasure Committee Meets May 9

Here’s a chance to get involved with the 2nd annual Living Treasure Awards event. The first meeting of the planning committee will be May 9 at 9 am in The Center cafeteria. We’re looking for individuals who would like to build on last year’s success.

The event is a fundraiser for The Woodbridge Center which honors community-minded Woodbridge residents for their dedication to the Town and for their years of community service. The event also includes a silent auction, a program and a delicious dinner.

Donations of silent auction items, purchase of ads in the program book and table sponsorships are available by calling The Center at 203-389-3430 or emailing jglicksman@woodbridgect.org.

Welcome New Staff

Stop by The Center or give a call to meet the newest staff member—Kristy Moriarty. Kristy is a Woodbridge resident who volunteered at The Center during the past year. Kristy will take The Center’s part time assistant job available following Mary Ellen “Mel” Lucuk’s April retirement. Please extend your warmest Woodbridge welcome to Kristy!

Ongoing Programming

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

**Weekly Craft Group** Thursdays, 10 am - 1 pm, in The Center lounge. Calling all knitters and crocheters to join the group. No RSVP necessary.

**New session! Yoga for Healthy Aging Class** meets Fridays, 11:45 am - 1 pm, in the Center Building, Rm. 16, with instructor Julie Luciani. New 12 week session begins May 17. Class combines seated and standing postures and is safe for all. The class fee will be pro-rated if joined late (12 sessions for $75).

**Mahjong:** Mon. & Fri., 10 am, Center Building, Rm. 13. *Note new location.

**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 Building 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 May 28 and the book will be *Lost Roses* by Martha Hall Kelly. New members are welcome.

**Art Class:** New session begins May 8. Class 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 Center lounge at 1 pm: 5/3 *Can You ever Forgive Me?*, 5/10 *At Eternity’s Gate*, 5/17 *The Mule*, 5/24 *On The Basis of Sex*, 5/31 *Favorite Film Friday: It Happened One Night* (1934— with Claudette Colbert and Clark Gable)

**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.

Calling all gin rummy, poker, canasta and spades players—call The Center and share your interest. The Center will put a group or a game together!
Woodbridge-Bethany 6th Grade Party

Woodbridge and Bethany 6th grade residents are invited to meet and party in the gym together on May 10 from 6:30-8:30 pm at Amity Middle School-Bethany at 190 Luke Hill Road.

The DJ will play top hits and get kids moving with awesome challenges and games. A giant inflatable and photo booth are sure to bring fun and laughs. Pizza and snacks are on the menu, and everyone gets a free raffle ticket for amazing prizes. Kids won’t want to miss this event. Cost is $5. Please call 203-389-3429 to register and get an extra raffle ticket.

Addiction and the Road to Recovery

On Monday, May 13 from 7-8:30 pm, Stephen Hill will present the story of a young man’s battle with drug addiction and journey to recovery at High Plains Community Center, Orange Center Road in Orange. This event is free to the public and is sponsored by Orange Youth Services, Woodbridge Youth Services, and the Milford Prevention Council.

Subject matter is appropriate for middle school and high school students, as well as all parents and guardians.

Doors open at 6:30 pm for refreshments. To attend, please call Jessica Simone 203-891-4785 or register at stephenhillorange.eventbrite.com.

Youth Services Needs Volunteers on May 10

Parents, college students, and high school upper classmen are needed at this event for registration, chaperoning, serving food, etc. Email Youthone@WoodbridgeCT.org or call 203-389-3429 to help.

Teens: Need Cash?

Join the Job Bank to earn some money. We’ve got odd jobs like raking, weeding, planting, yard clean-up and babysitting. Call 203-389-3429 or email NPfund@WoodbridgeCT.org for details.

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.

Pre-School Camp

Are you looking a summer program for your preschooler? The Recreation Dept. will offer a summer camp for children 3½ - 5 years of age that offers diverse age appropriate activities for a fun-filled summer including: arts and crafts, ball pit, swimming, water slide and outdoor water games, drama, athletics and playground fun.

Pre-school campers will have weekly theme days such as pajama day with a teddy bear pancake breakfast, Halloween in July, and other fun surprises. The camp has visitors such as Whitney Waterworks and a band of exotic animals, as well as visits from the Town Librarian for a weekly story time. Camp trips include The Children’s Museum of New Haven and Amity Bowl, where the campers will have exclusive use of their facilities. A school bus ride completes the fun and provides a wonderful experience to prepare those entering kindergarten.

Camp is staffed with certified teachers, college students majoring in early childhood development, and high school students with child care experience. With excellent camper to counselor ratio, the camp offers a nurturing environment dedicated to making a fun and memorable camp experience.

Camp runs June 24 - Aug. 2 (except July 4), Mon. - Fri., 9 am - noon with snack. Optional curb side drop off and pick up are available along with extended hours for before and after camp child care.

For camp details or to sign up, visit Jim at the Recreation Office or call 203-389-3446.

Summer Basketball Camps

Summer basketball camps with Amity High School (AHS) coaches will be offered this summer. Boys’ basketball camp, led by AHS Coach Mike Brady, will run July 15-19 (Mon. - Fri.), 1-4 pm, for ages 8 to 14. Girls’ basketball camp, led by AHS Varsity Basketball Coach Michelle Shoop, will run from July 8-12 (Mon. - Fri.) 1-4 pm, for ages 8 to 14. The fee for either camp is $185.

Triathlon Reminder

Save the Date! Join the Logan Testa Memorial Triathlon on Saturday, June 8 at Beecher Road School (40 Beecher Rd.), 9am. At this family event, children will compete in three athletic timed events: swimming, biking and running. Register online or at the Recreation Dept. by Friday, May 17. Due to the amount of preparation for this event, no registrations will be accepted after May 17.