Update on Winter Projects

I’d like to update you on a few projects I’m focusing on this winter.

Recent comments have speculated about the unanimous vote of the Board of Selectmen to postpone the Special Town Meeting and Referendum. The meeting and referendum were postponed because the Board agreed that, in the interest of transparency, we should have a fully negotiated sales agreement in place, prior to the referendum vote. I hope that at our December Board of Selectmen meeting we will review the final agreement and decide on the dates for the Special Town Meeting and Referendum. Every household will receive a mailing with the date for a Special Town Meeting and the explanatory text for the Referendum.

At our November meeting, the Board voted unanimously to reserve money to engage a consultant to help decide how best to use the undeveloped land retained by the Town at the former Country Club property. I am committed to do this, whether or not the approximately 60 acres are sold for development of senior housing. I have proposed that a portion of the unsold land be used for a park.

I’m proud to announce the publication of the Town’s first-ever Holiday Guide, which highlights holiday events in November and December. This poster is the kick-off to seasonally themed posters that will showcase the many businesses, organizations and events we enjoy in Woodbridge. The next poster will focus on health and wellness events and promotions during January and February. If you’d like to be added to that poster, please contact Betsy Yagla at byagla@woodbridgect.org or 203-389-3403.

The Town plans to finish the next step of renovations at the Old Firehouse by the end of the year. The work is funded through a $500,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant. This work follows a 2006 fire. I believe it is finally time to review and decide uses for this building. We must make this decision before we can have an architect develop drawings, get a cost estimate, and find funding. I invite you all to think about how the Town should use the building. If you have ideas please reach out to my office at 203-389-3401 by Wednesday December 4 so I am able to share your ideas with the Board of Selectmen prior to our December 11 meeting. Hopefully the Board of Selectmen will soon make a definitive decision on the uses, so this project can move to completion.

As always, my door is open to all Woodbridge residents. Please feel free to call me at 203-389-3401, or email me at bheller@woodbridgect.org.

I wish everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season and a very happy New Year! — First Selectman Beth Heller

Important Dates to Remember

• Dec. 4: Amity Bond Referendum, Center Building gym, 4 Meetinghouse Lane, 6 am - 8 pm.
• Dec. 25, Jan. 1 & Jan. 20: Woodbridge Town Offices, Library and Transfer Station will be closed in observance of Christmas, New Year’s Day & Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
• Jan. 1 - Feb. 4: Taxes are due. Please see Notice on page 2 or call the Tax Office with questions, 203-389-3425.

Visit the Town website for all upcoming community events: WoodbridgeCT.org

New Faces, Familiar Vibe on Bradley Road

There’s a new face but a familiar vibe and goal in the historic building at 88 Bradley Road. The building, formerly known as the Children’s Divorce Center, which has been in operation for 40 years, was recently acquired by Carolyn Wilkes Kaas, a Quinnipiac University law professor.

Kaas was approached by Marcia Lebowitz, the founding director of the Children's Divorce Center 20 years ago. “She said, ‘I wish lawyers understood what children and families go through.’ Marcia has been teaching at the law school ever since. There’s been a move to change family law education and she was way ahead of the curve,” says Kaas.

Kaas wants the building to be a place for lawyers and mental health professionals committed to practicing family law in a child-focused way. The common space is homey. There’s a fireplace and comfortable chairs organized around a coffee table. Kids’ toys, books and art are on the walls.

Attorney Brendan Holt is currently the building’s only tenant. He’s made it a personal mission to help educate people that there’s a different way to go through a divorce. There are ways to do the same work outside the system with a therapist, certified financial professionals and collaborative attorneys or a mediator. In this alternative method the day a divorcing couple goes to court to make their agreement official could be their only court date.

Holt is holding a workshop Tuesday, January 7 at 7 pm at the Woodbridge Town Library to explain the different ways couples can go through a divorce, including mediation and collaborative law.

Read the full story on the Town’s Business page: WoodbridgeCT.org/Business.
Holiday Events and Safety Tips from the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Assoc.

**Notice from the Tax Office**

Woodbridge taxpayers are reminded that real estate, supplemental motor vehicle and personal property taxes are due January 1, 2020 and will become delinquent on February 4, 2020.

For delinquent payments, interest will be charged on the unpaid installment balance at the rate of 1.5% per month from the due date. The minimum interest charge is $2.

The Tax Office is open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday (closed January 1 and 20). For your convenience, the office will be open Saturday, February 1, 9 am - noon and Monday, February 3, 8:30 am - 7 pm. If making payment in person,

bring your entire bill so it may be stamped as your receipt. For mail payments, enclose your check, the entire bill and a self-addressed stamped envelope for a return receipt. Credit card payments may now be made online (only) through the Town website at WoodbridgeCT.org. There is a fee charged for this service. Please read the online information carefully.

Failure to receive a bill does not exempt you from payment of tax or penalty, per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130, 12-146.

Please call Woodbridge Tax Collector Pat Crisco with any questions at 203-389-3425.

**Holiday Events**

Santa & Mrs. Claus - The Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association (WVFA) will host Santa and Mrs. Claus at the firehouse on Sat., Dec. 21, 12-3 pm. The event is free and everyone is welcome. Reservations are not required to see Santa. Bring a camera to capture the moment! Letters may be sent to Santa at: santa@woodbridgefire.com

Car Seat Clinic - During Santa’s visit, a car seat clinic will be held. Car seats will be installed by appointment. Contact Tina at (203) 389-3441 x100 or email tdellavalle@woodbridgefire.com.

Toy Drive - The WVFA is collecting toys for the Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital Toy Closet. New, unwrapped toys may be dropped off Mon. - Fri., 8 am - 4 pm in the firehouse lobby at 100 Center Rd. Toys and gifts for all ages (newborn through adolescent) are needed, but used and plush toys cannot be accepted due to infection control policies. Toys will be collected through Dec. 20.

**Winter Safety Tips**

- Choose flame resistant or retardant decorations.
- Keep candles 12 inches away from items that burn.
- Blow out lit candles and turn off light strings and decorations before bedtime or leaving home.
- Be sure a cut Christmas tree is watered daily and is at least three feet away from any heat source.
- Keep items that can burn three feet away from a fireplace, wood stove or space heater.

**Fundraiser**

The WVFA annual fundraising mailing to residents will take place within the next few weeks.

**Save the Date!**

The 21st Annual Snowflake Dance & Auction benefitting the WVFA will be held Sat., March 7.

For more information visit woodbridgefire.com and facebook.com/WoodbridgeFire.
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

Upcoming Holiday Hours: Tuesday, December 24: 10 am to 2 pm; Wednesday, December 25: CLOSED; Tuesday, December 31: 10 am to 4:30 pm; Wednesday, January 1: CLOSED; Monday, January 20: CLOSED

Friends of the Woodbridge Library Holiday Book Sale
Saturday, December 7, 12-4 pm

Shop our inventory of gently-used books, as well as book-themed gifts: bookmarks, candles, and mugs! Pairing suggestions will be offered to match our books with your gifts! Free gift wrapping is available.

The Friends of the Library is a not-for-profit organization, with dedicated volunteers who organize events in support of the Library. Contributions from the Friends provide the Library with books, programs, equipment, and professional training for staff that would otherwise not be funded. The Friends’ support of the Library covers hundreds of activities for all ages from preschool story times to cooking demonstrations, movie nights, and statewide museum passes. Shopping the sale helps the Library!

December Thursday Night Films at 7 pm
Library meeting room; registration not required.

Dec. 5: After Auschwitz, 83 minutes; NR
Dec. 12: The Peanut Butter Falcon, 93 minutes; PG-13
Dec. 19: Blinded By the Light, 114 minutes; PG-13
Dec. 26: Where’d You Go, Bernadette, 104 minutes; PG-13

Stay tuned for January titles! Check our website, call the reference desk at 203-389-3434, or stop by the Library for a schedule.

Save the Date! Holiday Concert at the Library on Wednesday, December 18 at 7 pm
Enjoy the evening as Suzuki Music School of Orange performs holiday songs, carols and classical pieces. Please register.

January Adult Events

Understanding and Navigating Divorce and Child Centered Parenting Plans in Connecticut
Tuesday, January 7 at 7 pm
Relationships, circumstances and children are unique, and the approach to an emotionally challenging life event like divorce or parenting plan modification should be well informed. Attorney Brendan Holt will discuss ways to approach divorce, such as mediation and "collaborative“ divorce, which move beyond traditional lawyer-dominated negotiations. With the right information you can more than merely "survive" the process; you can empower yourself to create a strong, sustainable and fulfilling life for your family and your children. Please register.

“Reconnecting with Earth” Course Being Launched
Wednesday, January 8 at 6:30 pm
Join this information session to find out how to participate in a community-led course called “Reconnecting with Earth”. At the course learn how our cultural beliefs and personal values affect the way we view and treat the Earth. We will discuss how our own well-being is inextricably linked to the well-being of our planet, as well as discover a deeper respect for the Earth and a renewed commitment to act. The course is co-hosted by the Town of Woodbridge’s ad hoc Sustainability Task Force, the Woodbridge Town Library and Massaro Community Farm, and uses the Northwest Earth Institute’s curriculum. For more information, please check our website, call the reference desk, or stop into the Library.

Lotus Flower Lantern Craft Workshop
Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30 pm
Members of the Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project (“KSCPP”) will present a workshop on making a lovely lotus flower lantern using colorful paper and wire frames. After the class, short documentaries on Korea will be shown and traditional Korean refreshments will be served. KSCPP is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness of Korean history and culture. Please register, space and materials are limited.

Taking Resilience Skills Off the Blackboard: A Workshop of Practical Tools with Lorri Danzig
Monday, January 27 at 7 pm
Lorri will give an interactive presentation on the theory behind resilience and the skills necessary to build it. What it looks like to put these skills into action is effectively illustrated using personal examples and excerpts from Lorri Danzig’s memoir My Father the Fish: Rendering Life’s Hardships Spiritual. Please register.
Library News

Circuitry and Contraptions
Interested in circuitry or making contraptions? Come enjoy one or all of these programs at the Library

littleBits Drop In Programs
Drop in to explore the world of circuitry with littleBits and see what you can build. No registration required. Best for ages 7 and up. Join us at one or all sessions! Three session are being offered. All sessions start at 3 pm: Mon., Dec. 2; Sat., Dec. 21; and Sat., Jan. 25.

Jay Mankita’s Playful Engineers Traveling Makerspace
Design, build and test your own contraptions with Jay Mankita at the Library on Mon., Dec. 30 at 2 pm. The Playful Engineers is a traveling makerspace for ages 5 and older, with parents/caregivers. Please register online or at the Children’s Desk.

December & January Children’s Programs
Please register online or in person at the Children’s Desk.

Nonfiction Club (Grades 3-6)
Tue., Dec. 3 at 5:30 pm: Birds
Tue., Jan. 7 at 5:30 pm: The Ice Age
Check out a nonfiction book about each month’s theme and come ready to discuss what you learned! We’ll enjoy a snack and make a craft too. This program is a collaboration between Beecher Road School and the Woodbridge Town Library.

Nutmeg Book Club (Grades 4-7)
Thu., Dec. 12 at 5:30 pm: The Van Gogh Deception
Thu., Jan. 16 at 5:30 pm: Greetings from Witness Protection
Read a 2020 Nutmeg nominee book and come ready for a discussion, snack, and activity. Pick up a copy of each month’s book at the Children’s Desk and come ready to discuss.

Eager Readers K-2 Book Group
No December meeting!
Session 1: Mon., Jan. 6 at 4 pm
Session 2: Sat., Jan. 11 at 3 pm
* *Please choose only ONE session that works best for you.**
In January, we’ll be reading Earmuffs for Everyone by Meghan McCarthy. Books are available to check out at the Children's Desk.

Save the Date! Take Your Child to the Library Day is Feb. 1
CactusHead Puppets will return to the Library on Saturday, February 1 to perform The Bremen Town Musicians at 2 pm, followed by a rod puppet workshop for ages 4 and up. More details to come; stop by the Library or visit our website.

Young Children’s Events

Baby Rhyme Time (0-18 months)
Every Wednesday, 10:30-11 am
Songs and rhymes, fun for little ones.

Rhythm and Rhyme (18-36 months)
Every Thursday, 10:30-11 am
Find out how talking, singing and reading build vocabulary and a love of books!

Preschool Storycraft (3-5 years)
Every Saturday, 11-11:30 am
A literature-based program and art project for this age group.
December & January Lunch Menu

Lunch is served Tue. and Thu. 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.

12/3 Split pea soup, stuffed cabbage, mashed pot., carrots, brownie
12/5 Baked fish with crumb topping, red pot., roasted veg., chocolate cream pie
12/10 Holiday Luncheon sponsored by the Rotary Club, RSVP by 12/3
12/12 Ginger carrot soup, herb roasted turkey with cornbread stuffing, garlic green beans, garlic bread, apple pie
12/17 Minestrone soup, meatloaf with gravy, mashed pot., sautéed zucchini, cake
12/19 Pasta fagioli soup, chicken parm., garlic green beans, capellini aioli, apple crisp and Hannukah gelt!
12/24 Closed for Holiday
12/26 Closed for Holiday
12/31 New Year’s Eve Lunch! Chicken marsala, mashed pot., pineapple upside down cake
1/2 Italian wedding soup, eggplant rollatini, rice pilaf, garlic bread, choc. pudding
1/7 Onion soup, cilantro-lime salmon, mashed pot., roasted zucchini, blueberry cobbler
1/9 Ginger carrot soup, chicken picatta, mashed sweet pot., apple square
1/14 Minestrone soup, spaghetti and meatballs, garlic toast, ambrosia
1/16 Potato leek soup, crab cakes with remoulade sauce, toasted orzo, cake
1/21 Escarole and bean soup, veal bruschetta, baked potato, carrot cake
1/23 Harvest soup, lemon-rosemary chicken, yams, garlic broccolini, lemon pound cake
1/28 Split pea soup, fish with lemon and white wine sauce, rice pilaf, brownie
1/30 Mushroom bisque, pot roast, mashed pot., spinach, chocolate cream pie

Please bring a plastic container for your left overs. Each to-go container is $.50.

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

RSVP is required one day prior unless otherwise noted.

Dec. 2: AAA Roadwise Driver program 9 am -1 pm in The Center lounge. This nationally recognized defensive driving course may qualify attendees for a discount on auto insurance. Check with your auto insurance provider to verify if you are eligible for a discount. The class is offered at no charge. RSVP is required.

Dec. 2: Trip! Mini holiday shopping trip to Chrisandra’s Country Store in Oxford, then lunch at New England Young at Heart prepared by Elim Park Health Care followed by a holiday themed craft of homemade cards! Fee is $20 including transportation. Van leaves at 10:30 am and returns by 2:30 pm.

Dec. 3: Decluttering Your Home with Lorri Cavaliere of A Family Affair Estate Liquidation Services. Lorri will share her expertise during the senior lunch program, 12:15 pm.

Dec. 4: Amity Referendum, no Pickleball.

Dec. 10: Annual Holiday Luncheon sponsored by the Woodbridge Rotary Club. Lunch is served at 12:15 pm in the Center Building gym. Lunch includes antipasto, stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes and cheesecake with strawberry sauce. Entertainment will be provided by Paula Pettinella. There is no cost for this luncheon but reservations are required by Dec. 3 and space is limited.

Jan. 14: Lunch entertainment at The Center café with Mary Conway begins at 12:15 pm.


Jan. 28: Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau will be commemorated at The Center with a viewing of the documentary Paper Clips at 1 pm in the lounge.

Feb. 4: Celebrate Chinese New Year, the year of the rat, with entertainment by Pierce Campbell at 12 pm.

Feb. 4: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), Tuesdays, 9 am - 12 pm through Apr. 14. VITA is a free tax preparation service available to low-income individuals, people who have a disability and those who speak limited English. For required documents and to schedule an appointment call 203-389-3429.

Feb. 11: Valentine’s Day lunch with entertainment by Jim Sheehan at 12:15 pm.
Ongoing Programming

Calling all poker, canasta and spades players—call The Center and share your interest. The Center will put a group or a game together!

T’ai Chi with Bill Banick, Fridays 10-11 am in the Center Building, Rm. 16 (beginner, intermediate levels). New session begins 12/20. Fees will be prorated for those joining late. This class is designed to increase balance and stability, prevent falls and help manage arthritis. Ten weeks for $50.

New! Gin Rummy: Thursdays, 1-3 pm, in The Center café, no reservation needed.

Weekly Craft Group Thursdays, 10 am - 1 pm, in The Center lounge. Calling all knitters and crocheters to join the group. No RSVP necessary. Consider donating your unused, clean yarn and circular knitting needles (sizes 6, 7, 8) to The Center.

Yoga for Healthy Aging Class meets Fridays, 11:45 am - 1 pm, in the Center Building, Rm. 16, with instructor Julie Luciani. New session begins 12/6 and runs 12 weeks for $75. Class fee will be prorated if joined late. Class combines seated and standing postures and is safe for all.

Mahjong: Mon. & Fri., 10 am, Center Building, Rm. 13 for advanced players; Rm. 11 for beginner and intermediate.

Exercise with Laurie: Workout includes a combination of strength training, cardio, flexibility and balance. Bring weights if you have them. Class meets in the Center Building gym on 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 Library. There is no December meeting. The next meeting is Jan. 14 (note 2nd Tuesday). The book will be Miracle Creek by Angie Kim. New members are welcome.


Tuesday Movies: Following lunch in The Center lounge at 1 pm: 12/3 Where’d You Go Bernadette?, 12/17 The Peanut Butter Falcon., 12/10, 12/24, 12/31 no movies due to holiday schedule. January movies to be announced.

Thursday Movies: Oldies, musicals, classics following lunch in The Center lounge, 1pm. No movie 12/26.

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. A nurse is not available on 12/3.

Duplicate Bridge: Mondays, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, in The Center 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 café, 1-4 pm.

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 Building gym for group play, 12:30-2:30 pm and Fri., 12:30-3:30 pm. Paid annual members may arrange playing times with others. Annual membership is $20 for Woodbridge residents and $25 for non-residents and is due in January. Stop by the office to make payment.
**Youth Services News**

**Kindness Klub**

Seventh and eighth graders are invited to make fleece blankets for the Life Haven homeless shelter on Tuesday, Dec. 17 (Dec. 19 snow date) at the Amity Middle School-Bethany cafeteria from 2:25 - 3:55 pm. Snacks, materials, and music provided. No artistic ability required. Join this free event to make a warmer winter for families in need. For more information, please call 203-389-3429 or email Youthon@woodbridgect.org. Permission form is required. See Town website.

**Toys 4 Kids**

Toys may be donated for TEAM at the Woodbridge Library until Dec. 13 to make a child’s holiday a little brighter.

Income eligible residents who need holiday toys for children 12 years of age and under, should call Youth Services at 203-389-3429. Applications are accepted through Dec. 13.

**Fuel Assistance**

Families may apply for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program administered by TEAM, Inc. Residents can call 203-389-3429 for eligibility guidelines and to schedule an appointment to apply.

**Thanksgiving & Sharing**

A big thank you to Boy Scout Troop 63, with help from Troop 907, for collecting over 2,800 pounds of food for the Woodbridge Food Pantry. The hard work and dedication of these young adults will help Woodbridge residents throughout the year. To make a donation to the Woodbridge Food Pantry, please contact Woodbridge Human Services at 203-389-3429.

Many thanks to those who volunteered to sort and shelve the food for the pantry.

**Save The Date! Mardi Gras Party**

Feb. 21 (snow date, Feb. 28)

Bethany-Orange-Woodbridge eighth grade students, save the date for a night of fun at Amity High School. Stayed tuned for more 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.

**New Program! Winter Running Club**

The Winter Running Club, designed to introduce students to walking/running for fitness and to gain confidence in performance, will begin December 2. Students will learn running concepts including stretching, pacing, hydration and nutrition.

The club will meet Mon., Wed., and Fri., at 7:15 am in the Beecher Rd. South gym. Weather permitting, there will be activities on the Kucinski Memorial Loop.

Call 203-389-3446 for details.

**Winter Activities**

There is still time to register for winter leagues and programs. Most programs begin the week of Dec. 10.

While registrations for the boys and girls basketball leagues remains open, space is limited. Please register online.

Other winter programs include: Bricks4kidz, chess, Clay Date, Coding Club, floor hockey, guitar lessons, gymnastics, indoor tennis, indoor soccer, Kumon – reading or mathematics, Little Scientists, taekwondo and piano lessons. Adult programs include badminton, yoga with instructors Diane King or Bill Banick, and T’ai Chi.

**Amazing Athletes of Central CT**

will be a new program for ages 2 1/2 through 6 beginning in January. Each week skills from two different sports will be emphasized.

For registration or information on any program, contact the Recreation Dept. at 203-389-3446, or register online at WoodbridgeCT.org. Click on the online registration link in the middle of the page.

**Summer Concert Performers and Sponsors**

Musical performers interested in the July 2020 Woodbridge Town Green Concerts should contact the Recreation Dept. in December and January. New acts should send a CD, DVD or website link to the Woodbridge Recreation Dept. at 11 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525. Prior years’ performers may email for application reactivation. To recommend musical acts, call 203-389-3446, or email Recreation@WoodbridgeCT.org.

Each year, the Town seeks corporate sponsors to help defray the concerts’ cost through donations that are greatly appreciated. All Woodbridge households receive fliers advertising the concerts, and acknowledging the generosity of sponsors. Sponsors will be recognized at the concerts and they will be posted on the Town website at WoodbridgeCT.org. For sponsor information, call 203-389-3446 or email Recreation@WoodbridgeCT.org.