Wishing everyone a very happy and healthy New Year!

As we begin the new year, I am reminded that our small town is at an important crossroads. The vote to sell approximately 1/3 of the former Country Club of Woodbridge (CCW) for senior housing will eliminate our debt from the purchase of the land and bring in much needed ongoing tax revenue.

Selling a portion of the former Country Club of Woodbridge for development would provide us with up to 120 homes for residents 55+. Instead of leaving Woodbridge for other towns with 55+ housing, residents will be able to remain in Woodbridge.

We need more tax revenue to lower the tax burden of our residents and selling a portion of the former Country Club of Woodbridge for development would provide us with an estimated additional $1.5M in yearly tax revenue once all the units are sold. Equally as important to increasing revenue is our continuous efforts to reduce expenses. We have consolidated many parts of our government and staff and will continue this important review. It should be noted that ~30% of our budget goes to the Amity Regional School district and the Town has no control over these expenses. Another ~30% percent of the budget goes to our exemplary Beecher Road School, which is one of our greatest assets.

We also need to ensure that Woodbridge is an attractive place for current and future residents and businesses. Lowering our tax burden is one way to be attractive, and offering meaningful programs and activities is another way. The Town will continue to own approximately 2/3 of the former Country Club property — about 95 acres — and we could create a beautiful park on the property. My vision is for a playground, sledding hill, gazebo/pavilion, walking trails and fishing pond. If we do not sell the property (for $5.4M), it will be difficult to convert the remaining land to a park or even properly maintain it.

We have limited options to raise revenue in our Town and approval of Senior Housing will significantly increase our Grand List which results in added tax revenue. I strongly believe taxpayers should have a say in whether Senior Housing is permitted at the former CCW at a Referendum on this very important issue as we cannot and will not move forward unless a majority of our voters approve.

The draft agreement between the Town and Insite/Wernert will be available for public review at Town Hall prior to the vote.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions or comments about this or other issues.

— First Selectman Beth Heller

Snowflake Dance Fundraiser: If staying inside has you going stir crazy, come on out and have some fun while supporting your volunteer fire fighters! The 21st Annual Snowflake Dance & Auction benefitting the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association (WVF A) is Saturday, March 7 at the JCC. The WVFA’s largest fundraiser of the year 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, please call (203) 389-3441 x100 or email snowflake@woodbridgefire.com. For more details, visit woodbridgefire.com/snowflake-dance.

Take the Walk Bike Survey

Take the Town’s survey about pedestrians and cyclists. In 2019 the Town of Woodbridge Complete Streets team identified local and State roads frequently used by pedestrians and cyclists.

Now the Town is asking for your opinion. Visit the Town website to see the Complete Streets map and share your thoughts via the survey at Tinyurl.com/ WoodbridgeWalkBike. Data gathered from this survey will inform a plan to make Woodbridge more pedestrian- and bike-friendly.

Calling all Artists!

Woodbridge-based artists are invited to a meeting on Thu. Feb. 20 at 9 am at Woodbridge Town Hall.

The Economic Development Commission wants to support local artists and wants to know how it could be most useful to them. Items to be discussed at the first meeting include a potential local makers’ market, the opportunity for coordinated local art shows and more.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Assistant Administrative Officer Betsy Yagla at 203-389-3404 or byagla@woodbridgect.org.

Mark your Calendar!

- February is “Love Your Local” business month. Remember to Shop, Dine and Try Woodbridge! View the Retail Promotion Guide on the Town website for specials offered throughout the month by Woodbridge businesses.
- Feb. 17: Woodbridge Town Offices, Library and Transfer Station will be closed for Presidents’ Day. Visit the Town website for all upcoming community events: WoodbridgeCT.org
Board of Assessment Appeals Notice

The Board of Assessment Appeals of the Town of Woodbridge will be holding their annual appeal meetings on:
- Thu., March 12, 6-9 pm
- Fri., March 13, 6-9 pm
- Sat., March 21, 9 am - 12 pm.

Meetings will be held at Town Hall to hear appeals relating to assessments for Real Property & Business Personal Property on the October 1, 2019 Grand List.

Written applications are mandatory, no appeal will be heard without one. Applications may be obtained from the Assessor’s Office, Monday - Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. All original applications must be filled out and returned to the Assessor’s office no later than 4:30 pm, February 20, 2020. All persons filing proper applications shall be notified by March 1 of the day, time and place of their appeal hearing.

It is necessary to appear in person or send a duly authorized representative who must bring written evidence of authorization and their own personal identification. If appealing the assessed value of your property, you must present documents as evidence in support of your claim or an appraiser’s analysis of your property value based on 2019 (the revaluation year) comparable sales. Comparable sales are those of similar style, size and location and must be from the year 2019.

Please call the Assessor’s office at 203-389-3416 with Board of Assessment Appeals questions.

Tax Relief Programs

Woodbridge residents may file applications for the State and Town Elderly and Totally Disabled Tax Relief Programs by May 15, 2020 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, 2019; 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 $37,000 maximum for singles and $45,100 maximum for married couples.
4. meet the Town program income limits (for single or married) of $45,100 maximum to qualify for a $1,400 Tier 1 credit and $76,670 maximum for a $1,120 Tier 2 credit.

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, 2020.

To qualify, honorable discharge papers (DD-214) must have been filed with the Town Clerk’s office by Sept. 30, 2019. The maximum income for this program is $62,000 for a single person or $70,100 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 - woodbridgetownlibrary.org

The Library will be closed Monday, February 17 for Presidents’ Day.

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

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Courtesy Renewals to Start February 1

The Woodbridge Town Library will begin to offer courtesy renewals to our patrons on February 1, 2020. The change was recommended by the LION Consortium which is committed to sharing, expanding and promoting excellent library resources and services. Courtesy renewals mean that a few days before checked-out items are due, all that are eligible will be automatically renewed.

Materials will not be eligible for courtesy renewals if:
- another patron has a hold on the item.
- the item has reached its maximum number of allowable renewals.
- renewals are not allowed for the item (e.g. museum passes or items in a bestseller collection).
- The relevant patron’s account is expired or suspended.

This service does not apply to downloadable or streaming materials. Only items owned by the Woodbridge Town Library, or those of another LION library that have enacted courtesy renewals, will automatically be renewed.

Library staff will be happy to answer any renewal questions—stop by at any time.

Special February Holiday Programs for Adults

Welcoming the New Year

The vibrant and dynamic Phoenix Performing Arts will usher in the Chinese New Year (Year of the Rat) on Saturday, February 15 at 1:30 pm. The members are committed to deliver quality dancing, music and martial arts to serve their communities over the past decade. They have a broad spectrum of Chinese classic and modern dancing styles including, but not limited to Classical Dance, Minority Dance (Tibetan, Mongolian, Dai, Miao, Korean and Yi dance, etc.) and Folk Dance (Fan, Handkerchief, Ribbon, and Umbrella dance, etc.). They also present traditional Chinese musical instruments and Martial Arts. Please register online or at the Library.

Valentine’s Day Celebration

Kim Larkin from Klassic Kreations is back—and this time with wine! A Perfect Pairing will be featured Monday, February 24 at 7 pm. This belated Valentine’s Day celebration is a fun, educational program highlighting the history and health benefits of dark chocolate and wines with insights from Kim’s commercial chocolatier background. Included in the program is trivia, a cheese board primer and a wine bottle display. Chocolates, food, and wine pairing samplings are provided. Due to alcoholic beverages that will be served, attendees must be age 21 and up. Please register online or at the Library.

Thursday Night Film Screenings

Join us at 7 pm in the meeting room; no registration required. More information on each film is available on our website or at the library.

February 6: Harriet, 125 minutes; PG-13
February 13: Motherless Brooklyn, 144 minutes; R
February 20: Joker, 122 minutes; R
February 27: Roma, 135 minutes; R

Coming in March

March Madness Adult Reading Game: Monday, March 2 through Tuesday, March 31. Information and sign ups start at the end of February.

The Kerry Boys return in time for St. Patrick’s Day! Wednesday, March 11 at 7 pm. Space is limited.
Children’s Programs

Nutmeg Book Club
Thursday, February 13 at 5:30 pm
Pick up a copy of Unbound by Ann E. Burg and come ready for a discussion! We will have a snack from the book and make constellation lanterns. For grades 4 to 7. Registration required—online or in person at the Children’s Desk.

Valentine’s Day Craft
Friday, February 14 at 3 pm
Make and take a heart tree to give to your valentine! For ages 3+ with adult. No registration required, just drop in!

Math Maniacs
Tuesday, February 18, 2 to 3:30 pm
Join us for a fun afternoon of math! Play board games, enjoy a snack, and test your problem-solving skills! For grades K to 6. Registration required — online or in person at the Children’s Desk.

Save the Date for the Rescheduled Date!
Jay Mankita’s Playful Engineers
Traveling Makerspace
The December date was cancelled due to weather, but Jay Mankita will be here on Friday, March 20 at 1 pm! Spend your day off from school designing, building, and testing your own contraptions. The Playful Engineers is a traveling makerspace for ages 5 and older, with parents/caregivers. Please register online or at the Children’s Desk.

Long Wharf Theatre Pass Program
The Woodbridge Town Library is pleased to participate in the popular Long Wharf Theatre Pass Program again! The Long Wharf Theatre Library Pass helps libraries in Connecticut increase the opportunity for their patrons to see Long Wharf Theatre performances. The next batch of tickets will be released in early March for The Chinese Lady, which starts on March 18.
As in years past, only one pass will be given out per performance date. Each pass is good for two adult tickets. Please stop by the reference desk to see the performance calendar. First come, first served. No holds. You must bring your valid Woodbridge Library card to check out the pass. All performance dates subject to availability and are not guaranteed available. Please see the reference desk with any questions.
February 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.

2/4 Chinese New Year Party! Egg drop soup, teriyaki glazed salmon, vegetable lo mein, fried rice, egg rolls
2/6 Mushroom bisque, home style beef stew, bowtie pasta, chocolate pudding pie
2/11 Italian wedding soup, cheese lasagna roasted zucchini, blueberry cobbler
2/13 Five onion soup, herb roasted turkey, corn bread stuffing, garlic green beans, apple pie
2/18 Pumpkinsoup, meatloaf with gravy, mashed potatoes, garlic toast, sautéed zucchini, banana cake
2/20 Potato leek soup, stuffed shells marinara, garlic green beans, Italian bread, peanut butter brownie
2/25 Beef orzo soup, oven fried chicken, baked yam, creamy spinach, glazed lemon pound cake
2/27 Escarole and bean soup, veal bruschetta, baked potato with sour cream, garlic broccoli, carrot cake

If dining-in and taking left overs, please bring a container. The fee for each to-go container is $.50.
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). Current session ends Feb. 28. Fee will be prorated for those joining late. Next session begins March 13. 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. Current session ends Feb. 28. Fee will be prorated for those joining late. New session begins 3/6 and runs 12 weeks for $75. 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:** (Note Change!) The book club meets the 1st Tuesday of each month, 11 am at the Library. The next meeting is Feb. 4. The book will be *Less* by Andrew Greer. The following meeting is Mar. 4 and the book will be *Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. New members are welcome.

**Art Class:** Class meets each Wed., 10 am - 12 pm, The Center café. Class is taught by local artist Graham Dale. Current session ends 3/11. Fee will be prorated for those joining late.

**Tuesday Movies:** Following lunch in The Center lounge at 1 pm: 2/4 *Overcomer*, 2/11 *Harriet*, 2/18 *Playing With Fire*, Film Favorite: 2/25 *LBJ*.

**Thursday Movies:** Oldies, musicals, classics following lunch in The Center lounge, 1pm.

**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. No reservations needed.

**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.

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**Woodbridge Center News**

**Nosh & Knowledge Lecture Series**

The Woodbridge Center’s monthly lecture series continues with valuable information. Check time and location for each lecture as they vary.

**Feb. 26: Medical Marijuana—Unraveling the Mystery** with Canna Care Doc, Education Center in Milford. Lecture begins at 6 pm in the Woodbridge Library.

**Mar. 25: Chronic Disease Management** with Cary Carpino, R.N., Griffin Hospital Senior Health & Wellness Coordinator at 10 am. This lecture will be followed by a 6-week class: *Live Well with Chronic Health Conditions*.

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**Starting the New Year with 2020 Vision**

Sisters Dottie Malerba and Ann Adamovitch enjoy the Intergenerational New Year’s party at The Center. Local residents have lunch with the 4-year-olds from the Woodbridge Childcare Center once each month.

Join in for great lunches and entertainments at The Center or take a meal-to-go. Lunches are served Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:15 pm. Please call 203-389-3430 to reserve a spot by noon one day prior.
Mardi Gras Party
(for 8th grade students only)

On Friday, Feb. 21, Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge 8th grade residents are invited to celebrate Mardi Gras with friends and meet some new friends.

Dance to music by a DJ, grab a photo at the Selfie Station, and snack on refreshments. Party from 6:30-8:30 pm at Amity High School’s cafeteria. Prize for Best Hat.

The $5 entry fee includes a free raffle ticket for cool prizes including a drone donated by the Woodbridge Police Union. Register in advance and receive an extra raffle ticket. Call 203-389-3429 or email: youthone@woodbridgect.org.

Nominations Sought for 21st Annual First Selectman’s Youth Award

If you know a Woodbridge youth who has worked to improve the Town of Woodbridge or has 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.

Volunteers Needed

Adults, college students, and junior or senior high school volunteers are needed for the Mardi Gras Party on Feb 21. Please call to register at 203-389-3429.

Teens Help Homeless

Teens in the Kindness Klub at Amity Middle School-Bethany generously worked after school to make blankets to donate to the Life Haven homeless shelter for women and children.

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 Ice Skating Rink

The Town’s new ice skating rink is located at the Center Road tennis courts at 149 Center Rd., managed by the Recreation Dept. and is open for daily use from dawn to dusk throughout the season, weather permitting. The Recreation Dept. will provide lighting on selected Friday and Saturday evenings from dusk until 8:30 pm. Dates are listed on the Town’s website. “The Recreation Department would like to thank the Fire Department for providing the water for the ice skating rink,” said Recreation Director John Adamovich.

Spring Registration

Registration for Woodbridge Rec. Spring Programs will begin on Thu., Feb. 20. Most programs begin the week of March 30.

Programs include: bowling, basketball, ultimate team sports, Clay Date, gymnastics, Kids Dig Farms, Kumon, Little Scientists, piano lessons, running club, swim lessons, tennis and taekwondo.

Also available are adult programs including badminton, yoga, and T’ai Chi. Zumba will be added to the adult classes offered this spring.

For registration information, call 203-389-3446 or register online at woodbridgect.org. Visit the website for program schedules. Date and time highlights for children’s programs are as follows:

Basketball:
Tue., 3/31-5/26; Grades K-3
Thu., 4/2-5/28; Grades 4-6

Bowling:
Mon., 3/30-6/8; Grades K-6

Bricks4Kidz:
Wed., 3/11-5/27; Grades K-6

Clay Date:
Mon., 3/30-6/8; Grades 1-6

Ultimate Team Sports:
Wed., 4/1-6/3; Grades 3-6

Gymnastics:
Sat., 4/4-5/30; Grades PreK-6

Kids Dig Farms:
Thu., 4/2-5/28; Ages 9-12

Kumon - math or reading:
Mon., 3/30-6/8; Grades K-6

Little Scientists:
Tue., 3/31-5/26; Grades K-5

New Program! Private swim lessons are now available. Contact Pool Director Theresa Bahner at woodbridgetownpool@gmail.com. Lessons are available in single lesson, five pack or ten pack.