



## Coronavirus and Budget Update

This year, our Memorial Day was certainly different than in past years. Every year, I have been honored to join together with veterans and their families, and other Town residents as we hold a somber ceremony on our Town Green in front of the Lt. G. Bronson Bedworth Post No 2871 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Memorial. Woodbridge resident, Dr. Barry Josephs, has eloquently led us year after year, as we have paused to share moments of remembrance and respect. Memorial Day is about honoring the memory of the men and women who have sacrificed their lives for our country, as we reflect upon the ravages of war and honor the brave men and women who gave their lives to assure liberty at home and around the world. At this time, we also recognize the contributions and sacrifice of the families who have lost their loved ones. This Memorial Day, I spent a lot of time thinking about everyone whose lives have been lost to protect us — both during previous wars and battles, and those who are currently battling the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic. I long for the day when we can all come together again as a community, and I truly hope that we can honor our veterans together on Veterans Day this fall.



Last month, the Board of Finance met to adopt the July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 budget in lieu of convening the Annual Town Meeting. The Town budget process was altered this year in order to comply with the governor's executive orders, which do not permit in-person meetings. At my direction, the Board of Finance worked closely with our Finance Director to find ways to help our taxpayers. I know that many residents have been financially impacted by the pandemic. Please keep in mind that due to a recent revaluation, the Town's grand list lost value. When values decrease, the mill rate must increase in order to keep the Town's tax revenues stable. Even though property tax revenues are REDUCED by 1.02% in next year's budget, our mill rate will increase slightly to 41.53 to make up for the reduction in the grand list.

As you may also be aware, approximately two thirds of our budget is spent on education — one third to the Amity Regional School District and one third to the Woodbridge Board of Education. Under normal circumstances residents would have been invited to vote at referendum on the proposed Amity budget, but Executive Orders 7B and 7I allowed the Amity Board to vote directly to approve a 2.49% increase on their budget for next year.

Our tennis courts are now open, and a committee of Town staff are working through the logistics of bringing more employees who are currently working from home, back to the office. Additionally, we are thinking of ways to make library books available on a "no contact" program, and increasing virtual programming. I imagine this discussion will continue for some time, and I will keep you updated. I anticipate that even when we have most staff safely back working in their offices, we will continue to keep the doors closed to the public, except for the few things that cannot be done virtually. I also anticipate board and commission meetings being held virtually for quite a while.

As a reminder, please continue to stay home as much as you are able, and only venture out when necessary. Once we begin to open up, please remember to use our Woodbridge businesses and restaurants first, and safely. **I have been contacted by many folks who walk our trails in town asking me to remind all walkers, and especially runners, to wear masks at all times when coming within six feet of each other. By doing so you are showing respect for each other, and also protecting your neighbors and of course, saving lives.** Town residents in need of a cloth mask may call the Human Services Department at 203-389-3430 or 203-389-3429.

My door is "virtually" open to you all. Please don't hesitate to call me at 203-389-3401 or email me at:

[bheller@woodbridgect.org](mailto:bheller@woodbridgect.org). *Please stay safe Woodbridge!*

— *First Selectman Beth Heller*

## Tax Deferment Program

On April 22, 2020, per Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7S, the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Woodbridge adopted a Tax Deferment Program, for eligible taxpayers impacted by COVID 19, with application for taxes due July 1, 2020.

The deferment does not apply to taxes due prior to July 1, 2020. Escrow agents are still expected to remit tax payments per regular timetable that is by August 3, 2020 as the last day to pay.

The tax deferment applications are available at [WoodbridgeCT.org](http://WoodbridgeCT.org) on the Tax Collector page and on the OPM website. The application and all supporting documenta-

tion must be received at the Woodbridge Tax Office no later than July 1, 2020. The effect of this program is the equivalent of an extended grace period. The deadline to pay taxes for eligible taxpayers is deferred to October 1, 2020 without interest. Interest will be charged on any payments made by eligible taxpayers after October 1, 2020.

Please call the Tax Office at 203-389-3425 if you prefer to have an application mailed to you.

For those who do not file a deferment application or are determined to be ineligible for the program, taxes as in the past are due on July 1, 2020 and are past due if not paid by August 3, 2020.

## Woodbridge Police Department Joins "Neighbors App by Ring"

The Woodbridge Police Department has joined the "Neighbors App by Ring" in an effort to deter crime in our community by assisting neighbors to connect and stay informed about what is going on around them. While this app will not be monitored by law enforcement 24/7, it provides the Police Department with an additional platform of real-time crime and safety information sharing by viewing, and responding to videos that have been posted. It also enables the Police Department to submit requests for videos to help with active investigations of incidents that may have occurred.

Homeowners do not specifically need Ring devices to participate, as content from any type camera

system can be uploaded to the Neighbors App. The Neighbors App does not provide police with the addresses at which any of the devices are located and no user information is shared, unless the user chooses to do so and provides their expressed consent. The user has sole control of what content they want to share when engaging with others.

The app is free of charge, easily accessible, and participation does not require ownership of a Ring device. It can be downloaded by text to "staysafe" to 555888, or by clicking on <https://store.ring.com/neighbors>.

Please remember to Dial 911 for all Police, Fire, and Medical emergencies.

## Woodbridge Fire Dept. Safety Tips

Please follow the safety tips below when barbecuing this season.

- Propane and charcoal grills should only be used outdoors.
- Place grills away from the home, deck railing and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill.
- Remove grease or fat buildup from grills and trays below the grill when cleaning.
- Never leave the grill unattended.
- Check propane grills for leaks

with a soapy water solution.

- For charcoal grilling, if you use starter fluid only use charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquid to the fire.
- Ensure coals cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container and keep them away from structures.

If you have any grill or fire safety questions, feel free to contact the office of the Fire Marshal at 203-389-3445.

## June is Dog License Month

Dog owners are reminded that June is Dog License Month in Connecticut. Due to the pandemic, residents are being requested to remit payment via mail for dog licenses rather than making payment in person. Reminders have been recently mailed to existing dog license holders.

Fees remain at \$8 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$19 for dogs that are not spayed or neutered.

Please mail the copy of the license, rabies certificate (if necessary) and check made payable to

the Town Clerk, and address envelopes to the Town Clerk's Office at 11 Meetinghouse Lane. Beginning June 1, the dog license, tag and clip will be mailed once payment is received. Licenses are valid for one year, from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

There will be a \$1 late fee per month for licenses requested after August 1, 2020.

Everyone in the Town Clerk's office wishes good health for you, your family and your pets and hopes this will all be over soon.



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## Human Services

**Woodbridge Youth Services announces Chalk Art Challenge** for Woodbridge and Bethany families. Let's fill our towns with beauty and color! Make a chalk picture on your driveway or sidewalk to celebrate spring, thank our essential workers, or depict your feelings. Share your artistic talent or pavement poetry with Youth Services for a chance to win gift cards to our local businesses. Please email your art photo by June 26 to [npfund@woodbridgect.org](mailto:npfund@woodbridgect.org); include family name(s), address, and phone# to be reached. Photos and family names may be shared with the community. No addresses will be published. For information, call 203-389-3429. Thanks to a generous donation from Bailey, Moore, Glazer, Schaefer, and Proto, LLP, we can provide gift cards to support local businesses. Donations of gift cards and financial support for this and other programs to benefit youth are appreciated. See the Town of Woodbridge website for more details.

**Job Bank:** Residents who wish to hire teens for outdoor work (with social distancing), and responsible teens who wish to join the Job Bank should call 203-389-3429 for more information.

**The Woodbridge Center** announces two televised exercise classes! Tune into local access TV Channel 79 or watch online via YouTube channel at [wgatv79](http://wgatv79.com).

- **Exercise with Laurie** on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning June 9, 10 am. Please send \$20 to The Woodbridge Center per every ten classes you watch in order to defray the instructor cost—note “exercise” on the check memo line.

- **Accessible Gentle Yoga** with Julie Luciani, airs on Mondays at 11 am beginning June 8. Join in for health and wellness in the comfort of your own home! Please send \$5 per class watched to The Woodbridge Center.

**Music Bingo:** Listen up! No really, listen...Bingo is about to get musical starting June 17! Numbers on bingo cards have been replaced with song titles. Call

to hear 30 seconds of a song from the 50's or 60's. Figure out the title and look for it on your card to mark it off. When you get four in a row, yell “BINGO!” This event is accessible via phone. Call The Center for details, 203-389-3430.

**Memoir Writing Project:** Everyone's story is different and each creative process unique. Use memoir writing to write down interesting memories and include letters, postcards, photos, recipes, etc. Contact The Center to get started on your project. Entries will be bound for each participant and a copy of the collection of stories will be available at the Library. Entries must be submitted by September 30. Many thanks to Bailey, Moore, Glazer, Schaefer and Proto, LLP for their generous sponsorship.

**Transportation** for medical appointments is available for those 60+ or disabled. Call to arrange transportation.

**Meals:** Seniors may reserve meals (\$4/meal) by noon on Monday for delivery to your home on Tuesday.

## Distance Learning Offered by the Recreation Department

The Recreation Dept. continues to work with our instructors and vendors to build on our distance learning/online courses, some of which are free of charge, and for all ages. Go to [WoodbridgeCT.org](http://WoodbridgeCT.org), click on Recreation Programs in the Services tab, then click “Current Programs” for a weekly list of Online Programs and Adult Program updates or use this



link: [WoodbridgeCT.org/512/CurrentPrograms](http://WoodbridgeCT.org/512/CurrentPrograms).

Virtual programs include but are not limited to: cooking, stretching, arts & crafts (see artwork on left), short stories, first aid, yoga, T'ai Chi, piano, voice, hip hop, and more. To register, contact Theresa at: [woodbridgetownpool@gmail.com](mailto:woodbridgetownpool@gmail.com) or [recreation@woodbridgect.org](mailto:recreation@woodbridgect.org).

## June Library Events & More

The Library continues to add new virtual programs throughout June and beyond, as we figure out social distancing requirements. Stay informed by visiting [woodbridgetownlibrary.org](http://woodbridgetownlibrary.org), signing up for weekly eblast newsletters and following us on Facebook and Instagram.

Residents can keep busy by using our latest online service, Creativebug! This digital subscription offers thousands of FREE classes and instructions on all sorts of arts and crafts, taught by the makers and artists. To get started, go to [creativebug.com/lib/woodbridgetown](http://creativebug.com/lib/woodbridgetown) and set up YOUR account using your library card number. See all of our digital products: [woodbridge.lioninc.org/wtl-at-home-digital-resources](http://woodbridge.lioninc.org/wtl-at-home-digital-resources)

**Adult and Children's June Programs:** “Join Us” by registering on our website. Invitations to join events will be sent a few days prior to the program.

- **Virtual New England Legends** - Thu., June 4, 7 pm: Gather ‘round the virtual campfire with Jeff Belanger, one of New England's premier storytellers for a tour of haunts, monsters, aliens, and weird history from our region.

- **Strawberry Season** - Wed., June 10, 7 pm: Strawberry Season is here! Join Robin Glowa, "The Conscious Cook", for a celebration of strawberries, one of nature's sweetest crops. You'll discover new ways to prepare this naturally nourishing berry in your kitchen.

- **Cactushead Puppets Paper Bag Princess Workshop** - June 19, 11 am:

Visit our website for details on what you'll need to create your own puppet.

**Message from the Friends of the Woodbridge Library:** The well-loved June Book Sale will be postponed. Stay tuned for a new date!

Also, the Annual Appeal/Newsletter will not be mailed this year. We appreciate your support, but believe this is not the time to ask for donations.

While the Bookstore Alley is closed, please continue to gather your donations of gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles until we are once again able to accept them. In the interim, enjoy the many online opportunities available through the Library, many provided through funding by the Friends.

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