

November 2020

Town Buildings Reopen; Cell Tower Update

Due to COVID-19, we are NOT gathering for our annual Veteran's Day ceremony this year. This somber ceremony, organized by local veteran Dr. Barry Josephs, is an important reminder of the sacrifices veterans have made for our country. On behalf of the Town, I extend our deepest thanks and gratitude to all our veterans and their families. Take a moment to thank a veteran for their service.

We opened Town buildings for in-person appointments beginning on Monday, October 26. Our doors will remain locked, and folks will be allowed in only **by appointment**. As we enter the colder months, it is important that we give people the opportunity to come in from the cold and meet face-to-face as necessary.

Masks and social distancing remain **mandatory**, and we have added hand sanitizing stations at the main entries to our buildings.

There are no plans to resume in-person meetings or allow outside groups to use Town buildings at this time. We are keeping a watchful eye on the coronavirus numbers. They have been rising statewide and locally as well. We have had 8 new cases reported over the past month — all from private residences. We remain in constant contact with the Quinnipiac Valley Health District, and will advise the public if the need for operational changes becomes necessary.

Please continue to social distance, wash your hands and wear a mask! If you are out in our Town, and you see someone not wearing a mask please ask them politely to put a mask on. If you feel uncomfortable asking, please call the police non-emergency number at 203-387-2511 for further



assistance. WE ALL MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE.

In mid-July the Town was notified of a proposed **private transaction** between residents at 118 Newton Road and Cellco Partnership DBA Verizon Wireless, of their intent to construct a new cell tower at 118 Newton Road in Woodbridge to "fill existing wireless service gaps."

Under Connecticut State Statutes, cell towers are specifically exempt from local Zoning Ordinances and are solely under the jurisdiction of the State Siting Council. The Town Plan and Zoning Commission and the Board of Selectmen have no authority to approve or disapprove the cell tower.

I believe that this cell tower does NOT belong in a residential neighborhood, and we are constantly working to seek an alternate location that provides the needed service, but does not impact any residential neighborhood in our Town. The Town has also hired an attorney to guide us through the process. I will continue to keep residents updated on this very important matter.

I must again extend a special thank you to our Town Clerks and Registrars of Voters for all the many months of work they have put into providing us all with the opportunity to vote, either by absentee or in person. I would encourage everyone to do so.

As always, my door remains virtually open to you. If you need to reach me please call 203-389-3401 or email me at bheller@woodbridgect.org.

—First Selectman Beth Heller

Election Day is Tuesday Nov. 3

Polls will open for the election on Tuesday Nov. 3 from 6 am to 8 pm at the Center Building gym, 4 Meetinghouse Lane. Masks and social distancing are required. Single use pencils will be provided.

There will be three lines — one for the 14th district; one for the 17th and one for Election Day Registration. For EDR, please

bring proof of residency AND photo ID.

Absentee ballots may be turned in until 8 pm at the ballot box outside Town Hall (11 Meetinghouse Lane).

See the Town's website for full story, including details on Election Day Registration and a list of streets in each voting district, www.woodbridgect.org.



Mark Your Calendars!

- **Election Day (Nov. 3):** Polls are open 6 am - 8 pm at the Center Building gym, 4 Meetinghouse Lane.
- **Veterans Day (Nov. 11) & Thanksgiving Holiday (Nov. 26-27):** Town Offices and the Library will be closed. The Transfer Station will be **closed** Nov. 11 & 26 and will be **open** Friday & Saturday, Nov. 27 & 28.
- **December/January Newsletter:** Please expect this issue in mid-December.

Town News

Application for Proposed Zoning Regulation Regarding Multi-Family & Affordable Housing

At its regular meeting on October 5, 2020, the Town Plan and Zoning (TPZ) Commission formally received an application by **2 Orchard Road LLC and Open Communities Trust, LLC** for amendments to both the Zoning Regulations and the Town Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

A link to the full application as submitted can be found on the TPZ webpage of the Town Website at:

<https://www.woodbridgect.org/189/Town-Plan-Zoning-Commission>

The amendments to the Zoning Regulations to add a new Section 3.4 allowing, subject only to the issuance of a Zoning Permit, in all of the town's Residence Districts/Zones: A, B, T3-C, T3-D and T3-BB, the construction of a multi-family structure so long as that structure meets the bulk and dimensional standards that currently apply to single-family homes and multi-family use can be safely served with water supply and sewage disposal in accordance with applicable public health and building codes.

The applicant's proposed POCD amendments are as stated in the application "to align the POCD" with the Town's obligations under Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-23.

At its October 5, 2020 meeting the TPZ scheduled a public hearing on the foregoing application for Monday, November 30, 2020 beginning at 6 pm via WebEx. The official notice of the public hearing will be posted at a later date in accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order # 7I and will include specific details on public participation in the public hearing.

Contact the TPZ Commission Office at 203-389-3406 or email ksullivan@woodbridgect.org with questions.

Note: Members of the TPZ Commission should not be contacted directly regarding this or any other application that comes before them since that is considered ex parte communication and can result in the contacted Commissioner having to recuse themselves from participating in the public hearing.

Interest-Free Home Repair Loans Available

The Town of Woodbridge Housing Rehabilitation Program provides funds for low and moderate income homeowners to make needed repairs to their homes.

One of the benefits of this program is that the money goes out as 0% interest loans. Loans are not due and payable until the house changes title. For homeowners who cannot obtain funds through bank loans, this program is a wonderful option that re-

quires no out of pocket costs. The program also allows the Town to establish a revolving loan fund in perpetuity to provide assistance to additional residents who need home repairs. Over the years we have replaced failed furnaces, roofs, windows, and septic systems, as well as entrance ramps and bathroom modifications.

Please contact Pat Crisco, Town of Woodbridge Tax Collector, at 203-389-3425 for applications and further information.

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The Woodbridge Center

Please call 203-389-3430 or email kmoriarty@woodbridgect.org

The Craft group will move indoors to the café beginning Thu., Nov. 5 from 9:30-11:30 am. Exterior building doors will remain locked. Please RSVP for this group to gain access. Masks must be worn at all times, physical distance will be maintained and a health screening will be provided.

The **Thanksgiving drive-thru luncheon** will be held Nov. 12 from 12-1 pm. Those 60+ may RSVP by Nov. 5 to get a delicious, traditional holiday meal by Lasse's Caterers. Many thanks to Coachman Square, the Woodbridge Police Union, The Linden and Bailey, Moore, Schaefer, Glazer, and Proto, LLC for their generous sponsorship of this event.

The **Holiday Luncheon**, generously sponsored by the Rotary Club, will be held on Dec. 8 from 12-1 pm. Woodbridge residents 60+ may RSVP for this

Human Services

drive-thru event by Dec. 2. Space is limited.

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

Meals: Seniors may reserve frozen meals (\$5/meal) by noon on Monday for delivery to your home on Tuesday.

Human Services

Appointments are being accepted for **Woodbridge** residents to apply for **CT Energy Assistance program** administered by TEAM Inc. Income eligibility requirements must be met. Call department social worker Judi Young at 203-389-3429. Residents may also apply for the **Toys for Kids** program and **Holiday Basket** program. Sponsors are needed to participate in the Adopt-A-Family program to provide holiday food baskets to families in need for the December holidays. To adopt a family, contact the Human Services Dept. at 203-389-3429.



Woodbridge Police Officer Vinny Lynch and Youth Services Director Nancy Pfund recently instructed the Home Alone Class.

Youth Services

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 for more information. Contact Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3429 for information or email npfund@woodbridgect.org.

4 on 4 Basketball, Youth Programs & Pool Open Weekends

Join the Winter Leagues and Programs offered by the Recreation Department!

Leagues - Space is limited to 24 in the two co-ed basketball leagues: **4 on 4 Classic Basketball League** for Grades 4-6, Tue., 6:30-8:30 pm; **4 on 4 Junior High Basketball League** for Grades 7-9, Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. A girls' basketball league is being offered in conjunction with the JCC for Grades 2-6. Games are played Sundays at the JCC with practice Friday evenings at the Beecher gym.

Youth Saturday Programs - Basketball and gymnastics will be offered Saturdays. **Basketball:** Grades K-3, 12-1 pm;



Grades 4-8, 1:30-3 pm. **Gymnastics:** Grades PreK-1, 8:30-9:15 am; Grades 2-6, 10-11 am. Space is limited to 16.

COVID-19 regulations will be followed. Temperature will be taken—any one over 99.9° will not be allowed to participate and will need medical clearance according to CDC guidelines in order to return.

The **Town Pool** is open weekends for adult swim to Woodbridge residents or members only. Reservations are required. Call the Recreation Dept. at 203-389-3446 during office hours to make a reservation. Drop ins are not accepted.

Library News & Events

For the latest updates, please visit our website or call us!

Browsing hours at the Library start **Thursday, Nov. 5**. Our doors will be open for browsing: Tuesdays, 11 am - 3 pm; Thursdays, 4-7 pm; and Fridays, 1-4 pm.

A limited number of people will be allowed inside; please keep visits to 30 minutes, come only if you are feeling well, and you MUST wear a mask while in the library. More will be explained when you arrive.

Computer use **by appointment only** starts Tuesday, Nov. 10, during browsing hours. To book a 45 minute computer reservation, please call or email the Reference Desk. We look forward to

welcoming you back into the building!

Phones and emails are answered by staff Monday - Friday, 10 am to 5 pm. You may place holds, ask questions, find out information, and more even when we are not open for browsing!

Park & Pickup continues, with tables now in the meeting room. Enter the Library via the side door to find your items. Hours remain Monday & Thursday, 11 am - 7 pm, and Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 11 am - 4 pm. Please remember to wait until you hear from us before coming to the Library to pick up your order. Your online account may not always be accurate!

The **Children's Department** is delighted to provide materials for home-

work assignments and pleasure reading/listening via Park & Pickup or during browsing hours. Place holds via your online account, or contact us if you need suggestions or ideas.

Outside Storytime, near the picnic area next to the Library, will continue until temperatures are too cold: Mondays for ages 4+; Wednesdays for 18 mos. - 3 years. Both start at 10:30 am; siblings welcome!

Department phones and emails:
 Adult Services/Reference: 203-389-3434
wbrstaff@lioninc.org.
 Children's Department: 203-389-3439
childrensprograms@lioninc.org.
 Circulation/General info: 203-389-3433
askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

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