

## COVID Update & Town News

Happy Healthy New Year wishes to you all! I remain hopeful that this year will bring an end to this horrific pandemic.

Our Human Services Department is working hard to help get residents age 75+ vaccinated. We've recently learned that due to the limited vaccine supply it is unlikely we will be able to hold more than one or two small vaccine clinics in town. The advice we are receiving changes frequently—please be patient as we navigate this system. As soon as we have more information, we will share it with you!

Residents 75+ are currently eligible, and those age 65-74 will become eligible for vaccination shortly followed by ages 16-64 with comorbidities and frontline essential workers. Everyone in these groups should visit [ct.gov/covidvaccine](http://ct.gov/covidvaccine) for State vaccine updates and details on how to sign up for an appointment. Those who are currently eligible may also call Griffin Hospital directly for their site in Shelton (203-433-3394) or Yale New Haven (1-203-688-1700). If you need help navigating these resources call the Human Services Department at 203-389-3430 or 389-3429.

COVID-19 positive cases in Woodbridge are the worst they've been since the pandemic began nearly a year ago. Please wash your hands, wear your mask, practice social distancing and get tested! The Town is offering one more free walk-up COVID testing event—Sunday Feb. 14 from 1:30-4:30 pm at the Center Building Gym (4 Meetinghouse Lane). I encourage you to take advantage of this program. These free tests are to help identify people who are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic. If you have been exposed to COVID-19 or think you have symptoms, please call your doctor.

Our Boards of Finance and Selectmen are beginning the process to set the budget for the coming fiscal year. We have directed departments and commissions to be extra mindful of taxpayer dollars this year due to the financial impacts of the pandemic.



I encourage you to take the Economic Development Commission's short online survey about consumer habits and the kinds of businesses you'd like to see in town. The survey is available to view on the commission's page on the Town website ([woodbridgect.org](http://woodbridgect.org)) and it will help inform the commission's future work. The commission is also launching a program to encourage residents to "love your local" this February. Show some love to your local businesses this February by writing positive reviews of local businesses on the Town's weekly Facebook/Instagram posts and/or writing Google or Yelp reviews and send them to [byagla@woodbridgect.org](mailto:byagla@woodbridgect.org). Each week review writers will be entered into a drawing for \$25 in Woodbridge Bucks which can be used at participating businesses. Love your local and Shop, Dine, Try Woodbridge!

As you probably know, the Town Plan & Zoning Commission is continuing hearings to consider an application to amend the Zoning Regulations and the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development to permit multi-family housing in most of the Town's residential districts, with affordable units. You may view the application, other documents, and videos of both Public Hearings on the Town Plan & Zoning Commission page on the Town's website, [woodbridgect.org](http://woodbridgect.org).

You may watch the hearings live on local access cable Channel 79, on the WGATV 79 YouTube channel or via Webex—the meeting agenda includes the link. I am confident that the Zoning Commission will review the application in a fair, thorough, and thoughtful way, and provide an opportunity for all sides to be heard. I am equally confident that Woodbridge will remain the wonderful community that we have all come to love.

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](mailto:bheller@woodbridgect.org).

—First Selectman Beth Heller

## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

In partnership with the IRS and the Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS), Woodbridge Human Services is offering VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)—free tax help to people with low to moderate income, senior citizens, as well as people with disabilities and limited English. Volunteer preparers are annually trained and certified to IRS standards. This year's program will look a little different

due to COVID-19. Participants with a camera phone and an email address should visit [GetYourRefund.org/WBSC-CT](http://GetYourRefund.org/WBSC-CT). Taxpayers unable to access a camera phone or email are encouraged to call Woodbridge Human Services at 203-389-3429 to schedule an intake telephone appointment with a tax preparer and directions for drive-through document scanning.

### Mark Your Calendars

- Valentine's Day (Sun., Feb. 14): COVID Testing at the Center Building gym, 1:30-4:30 pm.
- Presidents' Day (Mon., Feb. 15): Town Offices, the Library and Transfer Station will be closed.

## Town News

# Board of Assessment Appeals Notice

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The Board of Assessment Appeals of the Town of Woodbridge will be holding their annual appeal meetings on:

- Wed., March 3, 6-9 pm
- Fri., March 5, 6-9 pm
- Sat., March 6, 9 am - 12 pm

Meetings will be held virtually to hear appeals relating to assessments for Real Property & Business Personal Property on the October 1, 2020 Grand List.

**Written applications are mandatory**, no appeal will be heard without one. Applications and instructions are located on the Board of Assessment Appeals page on the Town website at [woodbridgect.org](http://woodbridgect.org). Original applications must be filled out and returned to the Assessor's office **no later than 4:30 pm on February 19, 2021**. All persons

filings proper applications shall be notified by March 1 of the day, time and access information for their appeal hearing.

You or a duly preauthorized representative must appear virtually. (Written authorization and the representative's personal identification must be provided prior to the hearing.) If appealing the assessed value of your property, you must present documents with application 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.**

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, 2021 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, 2020; 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 \$37,600 maximum for singles and \$45,800 maximum for married couples.
4. meet the Town program income limits (for single or married) of \$45,800 maximum to qualify for a \$1,400 Tier 1 credit and \$77,860 maximum for a \$1,120 Tier 2 credit.

Proof of 2020 income and Social Security earnings is required.

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, 2021.

To qualify, honorable discharge papers (DD-214) must have been filed with the Town Clerk's office by Sept. 30, 2020. The maximum income for this program is \$62,600 for a single person or \$70,800 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](http://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.

# Town News

## Human Services

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### **The Woodbridge Center**

Please call 203-389-3430 or email [kmoriarty@woodbridgect.org](mailto:kmoriarty@woodbridgect.org)



The Woodbridge Center has a new Director! Woodbridge resident Kristy Moriarty has been named Woodbridge Center Director.

**Zoom Classes:** Sign up to receive a weekly zoom link for Targeted Strength Training, begins Feb. 8 and/or YOPA (a combination of yoga, pilates, and stretching), begins Feb. 9. Also offered is Tai Ji Quan through the VNA. Mindfulness Class returns via zoom with Dr. Jennifer Botwick. Call for details.

**Get to the Point of Health** is a new zoom lecture series beginning Feb. 19, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. QVHD will kick-start the series with an "Update on

COVID." Please call for details.

Sign up for the drive-thru St.

**Patrick's Day luncheon** on 3/17 from 12-1 pm. Please call by 3/10. This event will feature a traditional holiday meal.

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

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

### **Human Services: 203-389-3429**

Appointments are being accepted for **Woodbridge** residents to apply for **CT Energy Assistance Program** administered by TEAM Inc. Income eligibility requirements must be met. Please call department social worker Judi Young at 203-389-3429.

### **Youth Services:**

**Job Bank:** The Job Bank offers jobs to residents (ages 13-18) who would like to earn some extra cash. Most jobs are

currently outdoors due to COVID-19. To join the Job Bank call 203-389-3464 or email [npfund@woodbridgect.org](mailto:npfund@woodbridgect.org). Residents who wish to hire teens for outdoor work (with social distancing) may call for more information.

Youth Services encourages teens to make **Gratitude Baskets** for school personnel/health care workers. Team up with friends virtually, purchase some small gift cards, comfort items, and snacks for the team captain to organize and deliver to Youth Services by appointment through 2/26. Community service hours will be approved.

Families are invited to get out on a snowy day and create snow art. Email a photo of your creation with your name, address, and phone by 2/16 to join the **Snow Art Competition**. Prizes will be awarded.

For details, call 203-389-3449 or email [youthone@woodbridgect.org](mailto:youthone@woodbridgect.org).

## Recreation News: Saturday Programs, Yoga, & Town Pool

**Winter Outdoor Youth Saturday Programs** will run Jan. 23 through March 27. Grades K-2 will meet 9-10 am; Grades 3-6 will meet 10:30-11:30 am. Activities include soccer, no-touch flag football, and stickball. COVID-19 rules and regulations will be followed. Temperatures will be taken and anyone with over a 99.9° temperature may not participate. Medical clearance according to CDC guidelines is required to rejoin the program.

**Youth Saturday Basketball and Gymnastics** are planned to begin January 30 as follows:

**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.

There is time to join Bill Banick's ongoing **Adult Yoga Sessions**. Call 203-389-3446 for days and times.

The **Town Pool** is open Saturdays and Sundays for adult swim to Town residents or members by reservation only; drop ins are not accepted. For reservations, call 203-389-3446 during office hours.

It is time for membership renewals. **Pool Memberships** are available to new and renewing members—get a full year at a half year price. Join or renew at [woodbridgect.org](http://woodbridgect.org). Residents over 65 are free.

## Library News

The library is again closed to the public. Call or visit our website for updates!

**Expanded Park & Pickup Service** remains in the meeting room, which can be entered via the side door. New hours: Mon. & Thu.-10 am to 7 pm; Tue., Wed., Fri.-10 am to 5 pm. Please wait until you hear from us before coming to the library to pick up your order as your online account is not always accurate! Returns are accepted 24/7, either in our new, inside book drop, or in the slots outside to the left of the front door.

Phones and emails are answered by staff Mon.-Fri.,10 am to 5 pm. Place holds, ask questions, and more—even while we are closed!

**New Program! Poetrycraft for ages 3-8**, registration required. Twice a month, take home a copy of a poem from the book *The Proper Way to Meet A Hedgehog*, along with a coordinating craft kit. Read and discuss the poem together, then make a piece of art using the materials provided. More details available on our website.

**Adult Services** is here to assist with reading and listening suggestions! If you're in a reading slump and want something new or want to challenge the staff to see what they'd select for you, call or email us! We will ask a few questions to get started and then we'll get back to you with a bunch of (hopefully)

new-to-you titles!

**Attention Book Clubs:** Tired of spending money on a book you'll read once and possibly not like? The Library has nearly 50 book club sets of popular titles. Take out one copy, the full set, or anything in between. Contact the Reference Desk or see the list of sets here: <https://wd.catalog.lionlibraries.org/MyAccount/MyList/1436>

### **Department phones/emails:**

Adult Services/Reference: 203-389-3434 [wbrstaff@lioninc.org](mailto:wbrstaff@lioninc.org).  
Children's Department: 203-389-3439 [childrensprograms@lioninc.org](mailto:childrensprograms@lioninc.org).  
Circulation/General info: 203-389-3433 [askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org](mailto:askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org).

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