



# News and Events

April 2021

## Town Budget & Community Events

Both the Boards of Selectmen and Finance have been working diligently on the next year's budget. A budget represents a Town's priorities and this year our priority is taxpayers. We've directed departments and commissions to be extra mindful of the financial impacts of the pandemic on taxpayers.

A Preliminary Budget Hearing will be held on Monday, April 19, when residents may ask questions or make comments. The Preliminary Budget summary will be mailed to every home in town, and the full preliminary budget will be on the Town website shortly.

Each year as we convene the budget process it becomes clearer to me that we need to grow and diversify our Grand List. Over the past few years, we have consolidated staff positions and reduced programs. We need to focus on growing revenue. This is why I created the 2030 Task Force and charged them with finding ways to create a healthier Grand List by 2030.

Another goal of mine is to create community through events and improving our public spaces. As more residents get vaccinated and as the weather warms up, we are planning to hold more outdoor events.

Read more about our Earth Day event and a planned concert series on page 2.

I am also excited to announce the new "Second Saturdays" series. From May through September the Town will host a free outdoor event on the second Saturday of the month. Events will include a chalk art party, a community tag sale, Friends of the Library book sale, a game day and a craft fair.

In addition to events, we continue to improve our physical assets, especially those outlined in the Woodbridge Town Center Campus Beautification Plan (see the plan on the Board of Selectmen page on the Town website). My goal is



to make the Town Center Campus an inviting public gathering space that encourages residents to linger and interact, creating a stronger sense of community.

Currently the Board of Selectmen is exploring how to accomplish some major goals in the plan, specifically finishing renovations at the Old Firehouse, and creating a beautiful, multi-purpose Community Center, completing renovations at the Senior Center and creating a sidewalk connecting

the high school with the Library. Other projects in the Beautification Plan include seating and signage. The planned bike route – paid for through a campaign with a matching grant – and improvements to the Grove are also part of this vision.

Our buildings will reopen to the public on Monday April 5. Town Hall will be open regular hours; other buildings may differ. We're excited to welcome you back! Masks and social distancing are required, of course. Please see details on the Town website.

Finally, I want to address the two senseless mass shootings in Georgia and Colorado that have saddened us once again. We cannot become inured to these tragedies and allow this to become the acceptable status quo. One or both of these horrific events may have been motivated by hate. The Town of Woodbridge stands with Governor Lamont in condemning "in the strongest of terms – the recent violent acts of racism and hate committed against Asian Americans that we have seen across our country." An attack against anyone based on race, religion, ethnicity, gender, or sexual preference is an attack against our most fundamental values as Americans and an attack against us all. We cannot remain silent.

Please feel free, as always, to reach out to me at 203-389-3401 or [bheller@woodbridgect.org](mailto:bheller@woodbridgect.org).

—First Selectman Beth Heller

### Save the Dates!

- **Monday, April 19, 7:30 pm:** Preliminary Budget Hearing.
- **Monday, April 26, 5:30 pm:** Virtual Tick Workshop with CT State Chief Entomologist, Kirby Stafford, III, PhD, hosted by CUPOP. For viewing and participation, see the CUPOP Agenda on the Town website, [woodbridgect.org](http://woodbridgect.org).

## Vaccination Assistance

Assistance with COVID-19 vaccine appointments is available through the Human Service Dept. Residents 45+ may email [jglicksman@woodbridgect.org](mailto:jglicksman@woodbridgect.org) for links and phone numbers to access vaccination appointments. Homebound residents in need of a vaccine may use <https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/homebound> to submit information or call Human Services, 203-389-3430. Residents unable to drive or find a ride to their appointment, may call Human Service for assistance.


## Income Tax Assistance

File 2020 taxes virtually with VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) from your home. VITA offers free tax help to people with disabilities, limited English, low to moderate income and senior citizens. The program is offered through the Human Services Dept. in partnership with the IRS and the CT Association for Human Services (CAHS). If you have a camera phone and an email address visit [GetYourRefund.org/WBSC-CT](http://GetYourRefund.org/WBSC-CT). If not, call 203-389-3429 for an intake interview. A VITA volunteer will schedule a drive-through appointment for document scanning to begin tax preparation.

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# Town News

## Earth Day—April 24

Clean out your closets this Earth Day – residents are invited to bring many recyclable and reusable items to the Library lawn on Saturday April 24, 9-11 am. Masks will be required.

The Town, in partnership with the South Central Regional Council of Governments, is offering discounted compost bins and rain barrels to residents. Use this link to purchase: [scrcogcomposter-sale.company.site](http://scrcogcomposter-sale.company.site). Any resident who purchases a compost bin and/or rain barrel may pick it up at the Earth Day event.

Friends of the Woodbridge Library will be accepting donations of children's books, adult books and puzzles. The Friends will only accept clean books without odors or smoke damage. Please limit donations to four boxes per household.

The Recreation Dept. will collect sports equipment and lawn

game donations to be used for summer camp or other programs.

Take 2 Recycling, a certified electronics recycler, will accept electronic items and the Bye Bye Mattress program will accept mattresses and box springs. Goodwill will accept household items.

Residents are also asked to help pick up roadside litter. Trash bags and a list of roads in need of attention will be provided. Public Works will collect the litter bags left roadside the following week.

Woodbridge residents may drop off prescription and over-the-counter drugs to the Drug Take-Back Box located at the Woodbridge Police Dept. Items accepted include pills, ointments or patches, pet medication and vitamins. Not accepted are syringes, thermometers, inhalers, lotions or liquids, aerosol cans, hydrogen peroxide or medications discarded from businesses or clinics.

## Woodbridge Unplugged

The Woodbridge Town Library and Town of Woodbridge are organizing outdoor acoustic concerts this May and June. The Woodbridge Unplugged concerts will be a fun, free and safe way for residents to come together, enjoy each other's company and listen to local talent.

Local nonprofessional musicians looking to play in an informal setting for a modest fee are



encouraged to fill out a short survey on the Town website, [woodbridgect.org](http://woodbridgect.org).

## Renter's Rebate Program

Applications for the Renter's Rebate Program may be filed with the Town's Assessor between April 1 and Oct. 1, 2021. To be eligible, Woodbridge residents must:

- have turned age 65 on or before Dec. 31, 2020. (Individuals receiving Social Security Disability must be 18 or older and meet requirements below.)
- be full-time Woodbridge residents.

- earn income not greater than \$37,600 for a single person or \$45,800 for a married couple.

Proof of 2020 income and Social Security earnings are required along with copies of receipts or cancelled checks for all rent and utilities (excluding phone and cable) paid in 2020.

Please call the Assessor's office at 203-389-3416 with questions or to have an application mailed to you.



## Human Services

### The Woodbridge Center:

**The Center is for everyone 55+!**

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

### **Spring Drive-thru Earth Day Lunch:**

Thu., Apr. 22. Enjoy curry chicken salad with mango chutney or seafood salad sandwich, ancient grain salad & pineapple upside-down cake. Sponsored by The Linden of Woodbridge. Sea-glass art craft provided by Hamden Health & Rehab. Entertainment by Pierce Campbell. RSVP by Apr. 14.

**In-person programs resume!** Masks are required. Temperatures will be taken. All classes held outside. For inclement weather, classes will be inside with social distancing. Call to sign-up.

**Craft group:** Thu., 10 am - 12 pm, beginning Apr. 15.

**Painting for Pleasure with Graham**

**Dale for all levels:** Wed., 10 am - 12 pm,

beginning Apr. 28. Ten weeks for \$60 (no class May 5).

**Exercise with Laurie:** Tue. and Thu., 10-11 am, beginning Apr. 27. Drop-in fee is \$2.

**Pickleball:** Inside play will resume May 10, Mon. - Fri., 12:30-3:30 pm. Advance court sign-up is required.

**Targeted Strength Training with Michele Tenney:** Zoom session continues through Apr. 25, Mon., 9-10 am. Fee is \$5/class.

**Get to the Point of Health** free lecture series via Zoom. Next lecture topic is *Decreasing Systemic Inflammation* presented by Dr. Morris on April 16, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Call for details.

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

**Delivered Meals:** Order Mon. for Tue. delivery, \$5/meal.

### Youth Services:

Please call 203-389-3449 or email [npfund@woodbridgect.org](mailto:npfund@woodbridgect.org) or [youthone@woodbridgect.org](mailto:youthone@woodbridgect.org).

### **Red Cross Babysitter Training:**

Apr. 13 & 14, 9 am - 1 pm for ages 12-18. Learn safety, childcare and basic first aid. Fee: \$60 residents, \$65 non-residents. Space is limited.

### **First Selectman's Youth Award**

**Nominations:** Honor a teen for service within Woodbridge by April 12. Use Nomination Form on the Town's website. Gift sponsored by Peoples Bank.

**Job Bank:** Call to hire teens for outdoor work. Resident teens may join now to earn cash.

**Vaping Cessation for Teens** run by Yale Research Team. Call for details.

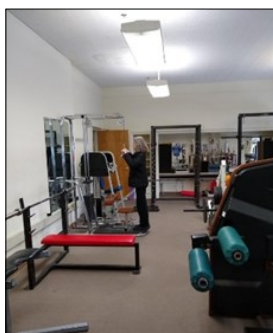
**Snow Art Photos:** See website.

**Save the Date! Chalk Art Challenge & Games for Families, Sat., May 8.**

## Rain or Shine Summer Camp & Fitness Center

**Woodbridge Recreation Summer Camp** will run June 28 - Aug. 6, 9 am - noon at Beecher Road School South for campers entering grades 1-8. Camp will offer a wide range of activities including athletics, arts and crafts, drama, swimming and more. Space is limited. Please register online via the Town website at [woodbridgect.org](http://woodbridgect.org).

**Tennis permits** will be available starting April 15. Town residents may reserve a tennis court permit for a specific date and time. Permits are available up to three weeks in advance. Call the Recreation Office at 203-389-3446 or email [recreation@woodbridgect.org](mailto:recreation@woodbridgect.org).



The **Town Fitness Center** is reopening to Woodbridge residents on Sat., April 10. The fitness center will be open Saturdays and Sundays to Woodbridge members by reservation only; drop ins are not accepted. Resident seniors over 65 are free. Call 203-389-3446 Mon. through Fri., 8 am - 4 pm, to make a reservation for one of the following time slots: 8-9:30 am, 10-11:30 am, 12-1:30 pm. Space is limited to 6 residents per slot. Masks must be worn at all times and members must adhere to social distancing.

## Library News & Events

Visit our website or call us for updates!

### **Library Services:**

- Park & Pickup in the meeting room: Mon. & Thu.: 10 am to 7 pm; Tue./Wed./Fri.: 10 am to 5 pm.
- Phones and emails are answered by staff Mon.-Fri., 10 am to 5 pm. You may place holds, ask questions, find out information, and more.
- Search "WTL at home" on our website to access thousands of digital items: books, audiobooks, databases, and more! Visit [woodbridgetownlibrary.org](http://woodbridgetownlibrary.org)

### **Our Annual Peeps Contest is Back!**

Stop by the Meeting Room between April 14 to 23 to vote for your favorites!

**Woodbridge Unplugged:** The Library and Town of Woodbridge are organizing

informal outdoor acoustic concerts on Thursday evenings in May and June. Nonprofessional musicians willing to play for a modest fee are encouraged to fill out a short survey on the library or town websites.

**Save the Date for a Special Event on Sun., June 6!** The Friends of the Library will host an outdoor program in the memory of Barbara Rader, longtime member and a past president of the Friends. Dr. Mark Schenker of Yale will lecture. More details to come.

**Outdoor Owl Program** with Horizon Wings Raptor and Rehabilitation Center will be held Wed., April 14 at 1 pm (during spring break). More information on our website.

### **Creativebug Offers Crafting & Art**

**Video Instruction:** Keep your hands active and your mind engaged with our crafting video database. Find the link on our website, or visit [creativebug.com/lib/woodbridgetown](http://creativebug.com/lib/woodbridgetown). Your library card is needed to register and explore!

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

Adult Services/Reference:

203-389-3434

[wbrstaff@lioninc.org](mailto:wbrstaff@lioninc.org)

Children's Department:

203-389-3439

[childrensprogram@lioninc.org](mailto:childrensprogram@lioninc.org)

Circulation/General info:

203-389-3433

[askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org](mailto:askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org)

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