COVID Updates and CCW Proposals

The COVID-19 Delta variant has increased the spread of the virus, especially among the unvaccinated. It is highly contagious and unfortunately, there is now a dramatic rise in cases among children. Given the new CDC guidelines strongly suggesting masks indoors, we now require masks inside Town buildings regardless of vaccination status to protect the public and staff.

Additionally, there will be no more in-person board and commission meetings until further notice. Getting vaccinated and wearing a mask is the best way to get out of this pandemic and to keep our community safe. The State maintains a list of COVID-19 vaccination sites at covidvaccinefinder.ct.gov and 211 maintains a list of testing sites—visit 211ct.org/covidtesting.

Despite the pandemic, we continue to move forward with two of my goals—improving our Town Center and finding a final use for the former Country Club of Woodbridge.

Last month we celebrated the State Bond Council’s $300,000 award to the Town to complete renovations of the Senior Center with a visit from Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, our State Legislators, Sen. Cabrera and Maroney, and Rep. Welander, and Bond Commission member State Rep. Dorinda Borer. I’m so pleased that our seniors will have the modern, safe, welcoming air-conditioned space they deserve. I thank everyone who helped move this forward.

The Board of Selectmen tabled the bonding referendum for renovating the Old Firehouse and new shed and roof refurbishment at Beecher Road School. I proposed this pause because I want to see Covid numbers decline before we schedule a non-emergency special town meeting and/or referendum. It is most important that we keep our residents safe.

I hope that soon we will ask residents to vote to convert the empty (since 2006!) Old Firehouse into a community center and create a storage facility for the Fire Department’s additional equipment. That will make our Town Center a more active and attractive space for all to use and help us create the sense of community so many residents desire.

At our August meeting, the Board of Selectmen heard from developers interested in purchasing the former Country Club of Woodbridge for $9 million and building approximately 145 homes—a mix of large single family homes, market-rate homes, affordable homes and age-restricted, all for purchase. They also plan to demolish the clubhouse, create a Town pool, a park, walk/bike paths and rehabilitate the tennis and volleyball courts for town use. They plan to deed back 50 acres of open space to the Town and protect existing trees. You can see the presentation on the Board’s page on the Town website.

In addition, there are two other developers interested in purchasing some land at the former club. Both have been encouraged to give us a proposal, and once we have something in writing from either or both groups, I will share it.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Town of Woodbridge for our comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. This means we have met the program’s high standards, which include demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure.” Congratulations to our Finance Department and our Board of Finance!

The Finance Department is creating a more user-friendly and interactive budget document. I anticipate it will be on our website by October. I believe this new format will help residents more easily see how their tax dollars are used. I encourage everyone to read the budget and audit to learn more about the Town. I also strongly encourage residents to get involved in the budget process. The budget is discussed and debated at public meetings for months before it is presented to the public at the Preliminary Budget Hearing in April and the Annual Town Meeting in May. There are many opportunities to make your voice heard and get answers to your questions: Town departments’ capital budget requests are due in November and the operating budget requests are due in January. The Boards of Finance and Selectmen discuss them shortly after they are submitted.

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

—First Selectman Beth Heller

Important Reminders!

- Mon., Sept. 6: Woodbridge Town Offices, Library & Transfer Station will be closed in observance of Labor Day.
- Sat. Sept. 11: 20th anniversary of 9/11 at the Fire Department; Craft Fair and Makers Market at Library parking lot.
- Thu., Sept. 23: Living Treasure Award Dinner will take place. See details on page 5.
- Housing Surveys Coming Soon! Resident feedback is important. Be on the lookout for a SCRCOG Regional Survey and a targeted Woodbridge community survey developed by the Housing Opportunity Study Committee.
Notice to File Exemptions & Personal Property Declarations

Notice to File Exemptions
Woodbridge residents are reminded to file exemptions by the dates noted below.
• Veterans must file honorable discharge papers (DD-214) by Sept. 30, 2021 with the Town Clerk’s office.
• Veterans with a disability rating from the VA must file paper work with the Assessor’s Office by Sept. 30, 2021.
• Certificates of Legal Blindness and Social Security Disability Certificates must be filed by Sept. 30, 2021 with the Assessor’s Office.
• Farms, Forest and Open Space applications are available in the Assessor’s Office and must be filed between Sept. 1 through Oct. 30, 2021. Please direct questions to the Assessor’s Office, 203-389-3416.

Annual Personal Property Declarations Due November 1:
Businesses, professionals and farmers are reminded to complete and return forms to the Assessor’s Office by Nov 1. Declaration forms must also be filed for owners of:
• non-CT or unregistered motor vehicles
• horses, ponies & thoroughbreds
• mobile manufactured homes not assessed as real estate
Call the Assessor’s Office at 203-389-3416 if a Declaration form was not received.

Shredding, HazWaste & Bulk Pickup
Shredding and HazWaste Satellite Collection will take place Sat., Sept. 11, 9 am to noon at the Woodbridge Transfer and Recycling Station, 85 Acorn Hill Ext. Shredding is for Woodbridge households only. HazWaste procedures are a paperless, limited contact process. To use the satellite collection you must electronically submit a HazWaste Central Registration Form prior to going to the Transfer Station. The form is on the Town website, woodbridgect.org. Use the Government tab, choose Departments M-Z, choose Transfer and Recycling Station, choose Household Hazardous Waste Program. Then click “this electronic document” and submit the form to HazWaste Central.

The Bulk Pickup Program will take place during October and November. As in the past, bulk pickups must be scheduled in advance—Tuesday's only. This is a very popular program with limited spots that fill very quickly. Please schedule a pickup as soon as possible by calling the Dept. of Public Works at 203-389-3420.

Back to School Driving Safety Tips
As the school year is about to begin, plan on increased traffic due to school buses and parents driving their children back and forth to school. The Woodbridge Police Dept. encourages drivers to be responsible, patient, slow down and pay attention. To ensure everyone’s safety please remember to:
• Familiarize yourself with the school’s drop-off/pick-up procedures and protocol.
• Look out for children in school zones, near playgrounds, parks, and in residential areas.
• Put down the phone—driving and cellphones don’t mix!
• Maintain a greater following distance when behind a bus to ensure you can stop—traffic must stop when the yellow or red bus lights flash and the stop arm is extended.
• Stop far enough back from a bus to allow children space to safely enter and exit. Ten feet around a school bus is the most dangerous.
• Be alert at all times!
Fall Into the Library: September is Library Card Sign Up Month

Lots of myths swirl around about libraries: what’s inside, who uses them, why do they still exist? Woodbridge Town Library staff came up with some reasons to get a library card, as well as why you should come back to visit if you already have a card.

1. You’re eligible to get a card just by living in Woodbridge. All you need to show us is proof of residence (piece of mail, utility bill, etc.).

2. It’s provided for under the LAW! The CT General Statutes dictates that every state resident have access to a public library—for free! (CGS, Chapter 190 has all the details if you’re curious—remember, always cite your sources.)

3. People still read! Every day, staff handles requests for new titles and sends orders to wholesalers to get the books delivered here. We also can get items for you from other libraries within the state, including some universities.

4. We have much more than books. Our DVDs and Blu-rays include feature films to documentaries. Magazines from celebrity gossip to political theory are available as are audiobooks, graphic novels, and newspapers, not to mention novels, and newspapers, not to mention all of our digital resources. (See #7).

5. We have educated and trained staff who know how to find the perfect book better than an algorithm. We can also assist you with fact-finding with more relevance than your internet browser search bar.

6. Working from home and need a printer or a fax machine? We have them, at very low cost.

7. You can take the library with you: home or away. Our digital services offer ebooks, magazines, movies, audiobooks, and more. All you need is your library card and your favorite device. Our website outlines all of our FREE services. Need help or want to know more? Call or stop by the reference desk.

8. We are a hub of activity. Libraries aren’t as quiet as you may remember, but are more like gathering places many days. We host programs, bringing the arts, lectures, and other performers to town, both to entertain and educate. We post flyers and display information about upcoming local events, programs, and services—that you may not see elsewhere!

9. We can provide you with help for your devices. We’re closer than the Genius Bar and you don’t have to battle Broadway parking. *wink* Call or stop by the reference desk for more information. (Appointments may be required depending on staff availability.)

10. We miss you! There’s a universal joke that every library’s staff sits and reads all day. Not true! We are here to help guide you to the right resources and correct information. We may not be able to answer specific questions (especially medical and legal) but we can put you in the direction of someone who can.

Hope to see you soon!

Upcoming Events

The Joe Carter - Jeff Fuller Brazilian Jazz Duo performs on the library lawn on Thursday, Sept. 2, 6 pm, rescheduled from August 12. A celebration of the music of Brazil—Samba, Bossa Nova, Choro, Baiao and more. Held on the Library lawn. Free, no registration required.

Thursday Night Movies throughout September on the Town Center Green:

- September 9:  Coco
- September 16:  Raya and the Last Dragon
- September 23: In the Heights
- September 30:  Green Book

Movies begin at sunset (approximately 6:45/7 pm), in front of the Gazebo. Registration is not required. Bring blankets, chairs, and snacks—don’t forget the popcorn. All are welcome!

One Book, One Town Title

Our One Book, One Town Title is American Like Me: Reflections on Life Between Cultures by America Ferrera. The book contains thirty-one stories about life between cultures, told by actors, comedians, athletes, politicians, artists, and writers, who are also immigrants, children or grandchildren of immigrants, indigenous people, or people who otherwise grew up with deep and personal connections to more than one culture. Each of them struggled to establish a sense of self, find belonging, and feel seen. Ranging from the heartfelt to the hilarious, their stories shine a light on a quintessentially American experience and will appeal to anyone with a complicated relationship to family, culture, and growing up.

Copies now available at the reference desk. More information to follow on upcoming events relating to the book.
Town Calendar

Woodbridge Happenings
Registration may be required. Go to: woodbridgect.org

9/2  Brazilian Jazz at the Library, 6 pm
   The Joe Carter-Jeff Fuller Brazilian Jazz Duo
9/3-4  Live Outdoor Concert at 10Selden, 7 pm
9/5  Live Music with Round Two, 2 pm
   Savino Vineyards
9/5  Massaro’s Annual Dinner, 4:30 pm
   Massaro Farm, take-home option available
9/9  Town-wide Picnic (rsvp: 9/2). 12 pm
   for residents, town employees & first responders
9/10-11  Live Outdoor Concert at 10Selden, 7 pm
9/11  Paper Shredding & HazWaste, 9 am
   Transfer Station
9/11  Craft Fair/Makers Market, 10 am
   Library, Center Building Parking Lot
9/12  Castle Sponge Wars & Meet & Greet, 1 pm
   Camp Whiting, hosted by Cub Scout Pack 902
9/12  Live Music with Round Two, 2 pm
   Savino Vineyards
9/15  Diabetes Prevention for age 55+, 6 pm
   via Zoom with Griffin Health
9/16  A Breath of Calm Yoga, 6 pm
   Savino Vineyards
9/17-18  Live Outdoor Concert at 10Selden, 7 pm
9/18  Wonktober Fest! 1-9 pm
   New England Brewing
9/19  Swing Into Fall Music & Family Picnic, 1 pm
   New England Brewing
9/19  Live Music with Round Two, 2 pm
   Savino Vineyard
9/20  Street N’ Savory Cooking Demo, 11:30 am
   for ages 55+, The Center or via Zoom
9/23  Living Treasure Award Dinner, 5:30 pm
   Woodbridge Firehouse

Library News
Children & Teens

Outdoor Storytime: Every Wednesday, 10:30-11 am. Meet at the picnic tables; no registration required. Feel free to bring chairs or a blanket. Suitable for babies through Pre-K. We’ll meet until it is too cold (below 50°C).

Fall Drop-In Crafts: Thursdays between 3-4 pm. Outside in front of the library. Begins September 9 until mid-to-late October. Ages 3 and up. No registration required! Held indoors if raining.

Support Friends of the Library

Interested in supporting the Friends of the Library? Here are a few ways to lend your support:

- Shop the Tiny Bookstore in the Meeting Room any time you’re in the library!
- Bookstore Alley has reopened; shop whenever the library is open to the public. (Honor boxes available for your monetary contributions in both locations.)
- Shop Amazon via Amazon Smile.
- Make a donation to the Friends via PayPal.

Woodbridge Happenings (continued)

9/24-25  Live Outdoor Concert at 10Selden, 7 pm
9/25  Live Music at Coachman Square, 1 pm
9/26  Walk to End Alzheimer’s, 9 am
   Join The Center Team at Ken Strong Stadium
9/26  She Shine’s Artisan Market, 12 pm
   New England Brewing
9/30  A Breath of Calm Yoga, 6 pm
   Savino Vineyards

For newsletter ad space, email tbelenki@woodbridgect.org

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   The time to join our family is NOW.

Take advantage of all the J has to offer. Contact membership today at membership@jccnh.org or call (203) 387-2424.

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   Personal Care

203.298.9700
www.visitingangels.com/woodbridge
Human Services News

To reach Woodbridge Human Services call 203-389-3429 or 203-389-3415 or email humanservices@woodbridgect.org

Living Treasure Award & More!

Living Treasure Award: The nominees for the 2021 Living Treasure Award are Andy Esposito Jr., Nate Case and Lor Ferrante Fernandez. Congratulations to these three outstanding community members who embody the spirit of volunteerism. You may honor their contributions by attending the event on Sept. 23. Contact Human Services to buy tickets. Gradual ads, business ads and memorial contributions are welcome. Visit woodridgect.org/05/living-treasure-awards for the ad form.

Energy Assistance Program: Human Services will accept applications starting Sept. 13 for residents to apply for the 2021-2022 CT Energy Assistance Program administered by TEAM, INC. Income eligibility requirements must be met. For information, or to schedule an appointment, call Judi Young at 203-389-3429.

Adopt-A-Family Program: Human Services seeks sponsors for the Adopt-A-Family program. The program provides food baskets for the December holidays to Woodbridge families in need. Basket distributions will take place early December. If interested in sponsoring a family, call by Oct. 29. Gift cards are welcome.

Two Flu Clinics: Flu clinics are scheduled for Oct. 14, 11 am - 1 pm and Oct. 21, 11 am - 3 pm in the Center Gym. Both quadrivalent and regular doses will be available. Pre-registration is required. Call for information on participating insurance.

Emergency Preparedness: In the event of a weather emergency or power outage, elderly residents and those with disabilities are encouraged to register for the Emergency Call list by calling Human Service.

Renovations at The Center

Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, left, State Representative Mary Welander, State Senators Jorge Cabrera and James Maroney, and Representative Dorinda Borer, member of The Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, recently toured The Woodbridge Center with Jeanette Glicksman, Human Services Director. The tour follows the State Bond Commission’s announcement of $300,000 awarded to The Woodbridge Center for renovations. Thanks to Governor Lamont, Lt. Governor Bysiewicz, the Woodbridge Delegation and Representative Borer, Beth Heller and her team for their efforts on behalf of the residents of Town of Woodbridge.

Woodbridge Center News

The Center is for everyone 55+!

Please call 203-389-3430 or email kmoriarty@woodbridgect.org with any questions or to register for classes.

Luncheons

The Center continues to come together over delicious meals thanks to the generosity of our sponsors.

Annual “Indoor” Picnic: The Center extends its gratitude to Chief Cappiello and the Woodbridge Police Dept. for not only co-sponsoring the Annual “Indoor” Picnic drive-thru on July 29, but for grilling and helping in a variety of ways. A generous sized meal and summer fun bag donated by Hamden Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center was enjoyed by all who attended! Pierce Campbell added an entertainment treat for those who stayed to eat at The Center.

Luau Drive-thru: Coachman Square of Woodbridge co-sponsored this delicious drive-thru on Aug. 19 while Hamden Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center added fun decorations and random gift card prizes.

Annual Town-wide Picnic: Join us on Sept. 9 (rain date Sept. 10) as Coachman Square of Woodbridge in partnership with The Center gives back to the community they call home. Town residents, employees and first responders are welcome to enjoy outdoor BBQ fare, refreshments, bocce, shuffleboard, and entertainment provided by Paula Pettinella. The picnic will be at the Grove—no charge to attend. RSVP by 9/2.

Services

Transportation for medical appointments, grocery shopping, pharmacy pick-up, and activities at The Center is available for those 60+ or with a disability, Mon.-Fri. from 9 am - 2:30 pm. Call to arrange car or wheelchair accessible van transportation. Vehicles are cleaned between each use. Masks are required.

Meals: Seniors may reserve healthy, well-balanced, flash frozen meals complete with a protein, starch, vegetables and fresh fruit for $5/meal. Order by noon on Monday for delivery to your home on Tuesday. Choose from a wide variety of options including beef brisket, chicken piccata, crabmeat stuffed sole, vegetable lasagna, and fresh Cobb salad with grilled chicken breast. Meals include a roll and dessert. There is a minimum order of two meals please.

New meal options! Frozen soups are now available for $1 per 10 oz. container. Varieties include: Italian wedding, beef orzo, carrot apple, sweet potato bisque, and more. Call 203-389-3430 to place your soup order with meal or minimum order of five soups.

Looking for company? Call Senior Social Worker Judi Young to arrange for a friendly visit, 203-389-3429.

Medical Loan Closet has durable medical equipment available to loan to residents including walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs and more. Call for details.
Upcoming Events/Activities

Diabetes Prevention Zoom Program, Sept. 15 from 6-7 pm: Learn how to change your lifestyle to prevent T2 diabetes. Join Rachel Gordon, MS of Griffin Health for 16 weekly sessions and 6 monthly follow-up sessions to make a change for life. To register for this no-cost class, call 203-732-1369 or rgordon@griffinhealth.org.

Living Treasure Event, Sept. 23 from 5:30-8 pm: Details on page 5.

Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Sept. 26 at 10 am: Join The Center’s Team, Motrin in Motion-Woodbridge, for the Walk to End Alzheimer’s. Show your support with a donation and/or walk with the team on Sunday (9 am registration) at Ken Strong Stadium in West Haven. Call for details including how to register to receive a free t-shirt.

Learn to Play Bridge Class, Oct. 13 at 1 pm: Interested in a refresher or learning to play bridge? Call for more about this 6-week course.


AARP Smart Drivers Course, Oct. 18 at 9 am - 1 pm: Review defensive driving and other skills; $40 for an 8-week session, and will be prorated as needed.

Ongoing Activities

Hobbies/Social:

Bridge: Wed., 1-4 pm in The Center café.
Computer lab is open Mon.-Fri., 10 am - 2 pm. One hour use per day/person. Two person limit in computer lab. Printing is available (first 5 pages free). Preregistration is required.
Craft Group meets Tue. and Thu. in The Center lounge, 10 am - 12 pm. Bring your current knitting or crocheting project to work on while enjoying a lovely time socializing.
Mahjongg: Center Building Rm. 13. Mon., Fri., 10 am-noon.
Pinochle: Mon., Wed. & Thu., 1:30-4 pm, The Center lounge.
Bocce, shuffleboard, pool, and ping pong: Call The Center to arrange for use or to put your name on a list with others of like interest.

Exercise: Not sure if it’s a good fit? Try a complimentary class first.

NEW Aerobic Class: Come enjoy a complete workout to a variety of music. Highly recommended instructor, Laura Richling, comes with over 15 years of experience teaching fitness classes along with a master’s degree in music that results in an enjoyably choreographed aerobic, cardio and strength training workout. Preregistration is required for this class offered Tue. and Thu., outdoors in the Grove (The Center café during inclement weather), 10-11 am. Bring your own 1 or 2 pound hand weights to use during the class. There is a $3 fee paid at the beginning of each class.

Pickleball takes place Mon. through Fri., 12:30-3:30 pm in the Center Building gym as well as 7 days/week on the outdoor courts. Advance court sign-up is required for indoor and outdoor play. All levels welcome. Call for more information.

Targeted Strength Training is offered on Mondays outdoors in the Grove (The Center café during inclement weather), 9-10 am. Led by Michele Tenney, this exercise class uses exercise bands to focus on strengthening specific muscle groups to help increase balance, stability, and flexibility. Bands are available for purchase through the instructor. The class fee is $40 for an 8-week session, and will be prorated as needed.

Zumba Gold: Who says exercise can’t be fun? Join instructor Amanda Aranzullo for this fun “dance party” as she introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on all elements of cardiovascular health, muscular conditioning, flexibility and balance. No prior Zumba experience required. Classes are held Fridays, 9-9:45 am in the Grove (The Center café during inclement weather). The fee for an 8-week session is $40, prorated as needed.

Virtual Programs:

AAA Defensive Driving Course offered virtually every Tue., 10 am - 2 pm. Free for all. May qualify you for an auto insurance discount, www.AAA.com/DefensiveDriving.
Red Cross Babysitting instructor Anna Mauhs shared valuable information with the eleven students who attended the recent Babysitter Training hosted by Youth Services. Students learned about leadership, feeding, diapering, and basic first aid. Teens are always excited to learn how to prevent and respond when a child or adult is choking. The Red Cross Babysitting handbook offers questionnaires for the parents to complete and information on how to build a babysitting business. Call 203-389-3464 to be notified of the next class. Various Red Cross trained students are enrolled in the Woodbridge Job Bank, and will be available to babysit.

Youth Services plans to create a student group to help develop better middle school afternoon and evening programs. Call 203-389-3449 or email youthonne@woodbridgect.org to attend meetings and use your creativity to design new events and activities with your interests in mind.

In an effort to prevent our youth from obtaining alcohol, Youth Services, in conjunction with the Bethany-Orange-Woodbridge Drug/Alcohol Action Committee, (BOWDAAC) will be involved in a local campaign to share information and training opportunities with local business owners who sell or serve alcohol.

BOWDAAC promotes healthy lifestyles and applies for an annual Local Prevention Council Grant to support prevention programs in the tri-town area. Interested residents may call for more information.

Join the Recreation Department’s 39th annual 5K Road Race/Children’s Fun Run on Saturday, October 2.

The Fun Run will begin 9 am at Fitzgerald Tract, the Cornfield on Beecher Road. Fun Run registration is $20.

The 5K Road Race will begin 10:30 am at the Town Center on Meetinghouse Lane. Race day registration will begin 8 am. The registration fee is $40. If you pre-register before September 17, the discounted fee is $30.

Event proceeds will benefit both the Woodbridge Food & Fuel Fund and Recreation Programs for the Woodbridge community.

Immediately following the race will be the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity & Inclusion’s community event, Woodbridge Like Me. Stay tuned for event details.

In-person yoga has returned with Instructor Bill Banick. Classes take place Mon. through Fri., 8:30-9:45 am. Tuesday night sessions are 5:30-6:45 pm. Classes will take place in the Center Building, Room 16 or outside weather permitting.

Yoga with Diane King will continue with Monday and Wednesday morning and evening classes.