



News and Events

December 2021 / January 2022

Budget Season & Ongoing Project Updates

We are tentatively emerging from the pandemic and boards and commissions are now allowed to meet in person if they prefer, or continue meeting virtually, as allowed by the State through April 2022. If you'd like to attend a board or commission meeting check the agenda (on the Town website's "agendas and minutes" section) to see if its virtual or in person. Masks are required in all Town buildings and due to social distancing there may be limited audience seating.

As we begin budget season, it's important to remember that education takes up approximately two-thirds of the Town's annual operating budget. As the school districts' budgets continue to increase without a corresponding increase in new revenue sources such as new businesses and homes, the Town will be forced to cut services, cut education and/or raise taxes. None of these are palatable options and I anticipate hard decisions.

YOU have a voice in the budget process. Capital budget presentations and discussions begin with joint meetings of the Boards of Selectmen and Finance on December 2 and 7, followed by operating budget presentations and discussions in late January and February. EVERYONE is encouraged to attend these meetings to understand the process and share your thoughts with board and commission members or department heads.

Residents are also strongly encouraged to attend the Housing Opportunity Study Committee's informational session on December 6 at 7 pm at the JCC. This will be led by housing policy expert David Fink who will provide background on the Town's housing planning process, share best practices, and engage residents in shaping the Town's future.

The Arbor Haven proposal to develop the former Country Club of Woodbridge includes a diversity of homes, including affordable homes, senior homes and large single family homes. Additional housing will help grow the Town's grand list and bring in additional tax revenue. You can read the proposal on the Town's website on the "Board of Selectmen" page under the "Government" tab.



At the Board of Selectmen's November meeting we agreed to institute a bulk trash fee, starting February 1. The Board has been discussing the statewide looming trash crisis and how to respond. Within the next decade there will be a significant reduction in trash disposal capacity which will drive up costs for municipalities and their residents.

The Town's Transfer Station has a scale used to charge haulers bringing in residential trash. Starting February 1, the scale will also be used for residents and contractors bringing in "bulk" trash such as furniture and construction demolition. That fee will be \$0.10 per pound. Currently the Town charges \$20/cubic yard — in fiscal year 2021 we collected \$4,511 in bulk trash fees but paid out \$69,490 to haul and dispose of bulk trash. The new fee will cover the Town's costs.

In addition, the Town will no longer offer free bulk trash pickup five months a year. Starting in February it will cost \$50 per appointment, which will help cover the cost to run this program.

Also at the Board's November meeting we discussed an "unsafe order" from Building Inspector Andy Rizzo regarding the former Country Club of Woodbridge clubhouse. Mr. Rizzo toured the building and saw how vandals broke doors and windows to enter the building and cause damage inside the building. That tour led to an unsafe order requiring the Town to remove the building or make it safe. By the time the Board met, the building had already been secured and shortly thereafter we received a follow-up letter from Mr. Rizzo acknowledging that the work was to his satisfaction. **I want to be clear that the building is not in danger of collapsing** — rather it is an unsafe situation caused by vandals repeatedly entering the building and causing damage.

Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday season! As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions or comments. You can reach me at bheller@woodbridgect.org or at 203-389-3401.

—First Selectman Beth Heller

Important Reminders—Mark Your Calendars!

- **Christmas Holiday:** Town Offices and Library will be closed Christmas Eve & Day (Fri., 12/24 & Sat., 12/25). The Transfer Station will be **closed** Sat., 12/25 and **open** Fri., 12/24 from 8:30 am - 12 pm and Mon., 12/27 from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm.
- **New Year Holiday:** Town Offices and Library will be closed New Year's Eve & Day (Fri., 12/31 & Sat., 1/1). The Transfer Station will be **closed** Sat., 1/1 and **open** both Fri., 12/31 & Mon., 1/3 from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm.
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** Town Offices, Library, and the Transfer Station will be closed Mon., 1/17.
- **Woodbridge Taxes:** See Notice from the Tax Office highlighting important tax information, page 2.

Notice from the Tax Office

Woodbridge taxpayers are reminded that Real Estate, Supplemental Motor Vehicle and Personal Property taxes are due Jan. 1, 2022 and will become delinquent on Feb. 2, 2022. For delinquent payments, interest will be charged on the unpaid installment balance at the rate of 1.5% per month from the due date. The minimum interest charge is \$2.

The Tax Office is open 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Mon. through Fri. (closed Jan. 1 and 17). The office will be open Sat., Jan. 29, 9 am - noon and Tue., Feb. 1, 8:30 am - 7 pm. (PLEASE TAKE THE WEATHER INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN PAYING AT THE LAST MINUTE.)

If paying in person, bring your entire bill so it may be stamped as your receipt. For mail payments, enclose your check, the entire bill and a self-addressed stamped envelope for a return receipt. The payment must be postmarked at a US Post Office by Feb. 1, 2022. Credit card payments may be made online (only) through the Town website. There is a fee charged for this service. Please read the details carefully.

Failure to receive a bill does not exempt you from payment of tax or penalty, per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130, 12-146. Please call Woodbridge Tax Collector Pat Crisco with any questions at 203-389-3425.

Holiday Safety Tips

The Woodbridge Police Department offers holiday safety tips:

- Always lock your car doors.
- Do not leave anything in plain view on the seat of your car.
- If you will be away, make arrangements for your mail and use timers for lights, both inside and outside of your home after dark. Avoid posting about your travels on social media until you return.
- Watch out for your neighbor's property and report any suspicious activity or persons to the Police Department without hesitation.
- When driving, put the cellphone away and make sure every person in your vehicle is buckled up! Use a designated driver.
- Sending Packages: Insure your packages; request a signature upon delivery; request tracking and delivery confirmations. When sending a package, let the recipient know when to expect it.
- Be wary of anyone who refuses to provide details of their organization's mission, but pressure you to donate right away. Require proof that your donation is tax deductible. Do not send donations in cash or by wire transfer. Do not allow the caller to send a delivery person to pick up the donation. Give only to charities you trust.

Public Works Snow Reminders

Public Works shares winter storm tips:

Vehicles should be parked off the road during winter storms.

If you have a concern about snow accumulation on your street, call Public Works at 203-389-3420, or the Police at 203-387-2511.

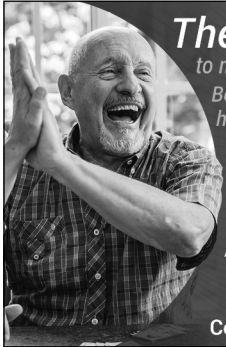
It is against Town ordinance to plow, push or throw snow and ice into the street or sidewalks.

The Town will replace a mail-

box or post, only if it is directly struck by a Town snowplow.

The weight of wet snow can knock off or break mailboxes and posts. In these cases, the owner is responsible. Check your mailbox and post to make sure both are secure. A secured protective shield may help deflect snow from the mailbox and post.

To avoid lawn damage, install snowplow guide markers along the edge of your property.



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Visit the Library website 24/7 to access digital resources - woodbridgetownlibrary.org

Art Returns to the Library in January

Local artists sought for exhibitions

As the library slowly begins to return to pre-pandemic operations, art exhibits are planned to start in January. Like before, a different artist will be featured each month in the Meeting Room. A few months have already been booked, but additional artists are sought for the rest of 2022 and into 2023. This is a great way for newer artists to get exhibition experience or for seasoned exhibitioners to have another venue to show off their art. All types of two dimensional art accepted: painting, drawing, photography, etc. Interested potential artists may fill out the form on our website (just search "art exhibit") or email Kira Edic, kedic@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.



Be sure to visit the Meeting Room as it turns into an art gallery!

Adult Offerings

Adult Winter Reading is going to be *chill* this year! Read books and complete challenges to earn tickets between Jan. 10 and Feb. 28, which can then be exchanged for prizes. For more information, call or email the Reference Desk.



Tech help is available to Woodbridge residents, including troubleshooting smartphones, tablets, and laptops; setting up an email account; learning to attach documents to emails; and more. Appointments are required. To book a half hour session with a librarian, please call or email the Reference Desk. (We can always answer quick tech questions on a walk-in basis, but to have one-on-one dedicated help, appointments must be made.)

Gingerbread Houses

Gingerbread House Decorating is back!

Thursday, Dec. 16, choose your session: 4 pm or 6 pm. No charge this year! Stop by the Reference Desk to see if there are any spots



available, or feel free to call or email to check availability. Space is limited. All ages welcome, however the event is best for ages 3 and up. More information on our website.

From the Circulation Dept. — About Items on the Hold Shelf

The Woodbridge Town Library and LION consortium policy is to keep requested items on the hold shelf for **7 days**. The shelves are cleared daily for items that have been on the shelf longer than 7 days. If you have multiple items on hold and they have not all arrived at the library, remember to pickup items that have arrived. **Items**

on the hold shelf longer than 7 days will be cleared regardless if you are waiting for other items to arrive. We advise that you pick up your holds as soon as possible when you are notified, instead of waiting for all of your holds to arrive. Please call the Circulation Department with any questions. Thank you.

Saturdays are Back!

The Library is now open Saturdays, and weekday hours have been expanded:

Monday: 1 pm to 7 pm
Tuesday: 10 am to 5 pm
Wednesday: 10 am to 5 pm
Thursday: 10 am to 7 pm
Friday: 10 am to 5 pm
Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm

Contact Us...

Adult Services/Reference: 203-389-3434
reference@woodbridgetownlibrary.org
Children's Department: 203-389-3439
childrens@woodbridgetownlibrary.org
Circulation/General Info: 203-389-3433
circulation@woodbridgetownlibrary.org
Not sure who you need?
askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org

December & January Holiday Closings

• **Christmas Eve:** Friday, December 24 • **Christmas Day:** Saturday, December 25 • **New Year's Eve:** Friday, December 31
• **New Year's Day:** Saturday, January 1 • **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:** Monday, January 17

Woodbridge Happenings

Registration may be required & space may be limited. For event details go to: woodbridgect.org

- 12/1- **Brown Fitness Annual Coat Drive**, all month donation drop off: 245 Amity Road
- 1/1 **Stuff a Cruiser-Toys for Tots**, 9 am - 3 pm toy drop off: D'Andrea's (Starbucks) Plaza
- 12/6 **Public Housing Information Forum**, 7 pm at Jewish Community Center, 360 Amity Road hosted by Housing Opportunity Study Committee
- 12/7 **Snowmen Craft Workshop for 55+**, 11 am The Center café
- 12/9 **Care Kits for the Homeless**, 12:30-2:30 pm kit drop off: Youth Services, 4 Meetinghouse Lane community service opportunity for teens
- 12/10 **Paint Party! for AMS students**, 2:30 pm at Amity Middle School-Bethany West Cafeteria
- 12/16 **Holiday Drive-thru Lunch**, 12 pm for ages 55+, The Center Building portico
- 12/16 **Art Soirée at Crest Lincoln**, 6 pm 185 Amity Road
- 12/18 **Full Moon Craft and Winter Walk**, 4 pm begins with craft at The Grove
- 1/14 **Shoulder & Rotator Cuff Health**, 11:30 am virtual presentation by Kyle Branday MSPT, for 55+
- 1/18 **Evidence-Based Lifestyle Change**, 1 pm program for ages 60+, Center Building-Room 16

Town Calendar events will be highlighted here.

Woodbridge businesses and organizations are encouraged to add events to: woodbridgect.org/calendar.

Interested in placing an ad in this newsletter?

Call 203-389-3489 or email tbelenskiwoodbridgect.org.

From the Children's Room

Storytime continues for children from 18 months to age 3 on Wednesdays, **INSIDE** on the second floor in the Children's Department. Registration is not required. Storytime begins promptly at **10:30 am**.

We will be bringing back our **Baby Rhyme Time** for newborns to 18 months on **Tuesdays at 10:30 am**, beginning **Dec. 7**.

Thursday Craft Time will continue through the winter from **4 to 4:30 pm** in the Children's Department. Suitable for ages 3+, online registration is required.

Poetry Craft began the week of Thanksgiving, and space is filling fast! Pick up a bag with a poem written by an Indigenous American, and make a craft inspired by the poem using the materials in the bag. The bags will be available once every 3 weeks and can be picked up in the Children's Department. Online registration is required, please include name and age of each child.



Stay tuned for the return of our **Saturday Storycraft** program for ages 3 to 5, in addition to special **Saturday afternoon programs** for early to mid-elementary age children, and for take home crafts throughout the winter. Check our website for updates!

Socialize with us!

Facebook: [woodbridge.town.library](https://www.facebook.com/woodbridge.town.library)

Instagram: [@woodbridgetownlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/woodbridgetownlibrary)

TikTok: [@woodbridge_town_library](https://www.tiktok.com/@woodbridge_town_library)

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

The Resident Assistance Fund (RAF): To better assist Woodbridge residents in need, the Human Services Department has updated the Food and Fuel Fund with a new policy and a new name. The RAF, funded entirely by local donations, is not an entitlement; it is an emergency program only. The Department is grateful for local support of this fund and the important work it accomplishes.

Many thanks to the **Woodbridge Recreation Department** for their generous donation to the RAF following the 39th Annual 5K Road Race and Fun Run.

Medicare Open Enrollment: The Medicare program can be challenging to navigate. If you have questions or need information, please call Human Services to speak with certified CHOICES counselor Judi Young. Open enrollment continues until Dec. 7. CHOICES is Connecticut's program for health insurance assistance, outreach, information and referral, counseling, and eligibility

screening. Counselors provide Medicare recipients with non-biased, free health insurance counseling. Changes take effect on Jan. 1, 2022.

Energy Assistance Program: Human Services is accepting appointments for residents applying 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.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), Tuesdays starting Feb. 8 through Apr. 12, 9 am - 12 pm. VITA is a free tax service available to low-income individuals, people who have a disability, and those who speak limited English. For required documents and an appointment, call 203-389-3429.

Emergency Preparedness: In the event of a weather emergency or power outage, elderly residents and those with disabili-



ties are encouraged to register for the Emergency Call List by calling the Human Services Department.

Two COVID Booster vaccine clinics in November provided nearly 80 appointments for Woodbridge residents, and employees. Woodbridge resident Mary Lacey, 100, receives her booster shot as her son Mike provides support at the recent clinic in the Center Building gymnasium co-hosted by QVHD. Appointments to weekly booster vaccine clinics are available through Human Services.

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 programs.

The Oct. 28 Halloween Health Fair included 14 vendors. The Center is grateful for their generous sponsorships.



The Willows' Alyssa Ulrich greets Center clients, Adair Luciani, Lillian Malkus and Ruta Majumdar at the Halloween Health Fair held Oct. 28.

Holiday Drive-thru Luncheon, Dec. 16, 12-1 pm: The Rotary Club is generously sponsoring this festive and enjoyable drive-thru. A delicious meal from Lasse's Catering of stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes, and fresh vegetables will be provided along with mini pastries for dessert. RSVP by Dec. 9. Space is limited.

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 - 4 pm. Call to arrange car or wheelchair accessible van transportation. 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 stew, Shepherd's pie, chicken parmesan, crab-meat stuffed sole, vegetable lasagna, and fresh Cobb salad with grilled chicken breast. There is a two meal minimum order. Meals include roll and dessert.

Frozen Soups: \$1 per 10 oz. container: Italian wedding, hearty vegetable, lemon chicken rice, matzo ball, sweet potato bisque, and more. Call to place your order, 203-389-3430.

Medical Loan Closet: Durable medical equipment is available to loan to residents including walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs and more. Call for details.

Friendly Visitor: Looking for company? Call Judi Young, Senior Social Worker, at 203-389-3429 to arrange for a friendly visitor.

Job Bank: Residents may call Nancy Pfund, Youth Services Director at 203-389-3429 to request a student worker. Schedule helpers now for fall clean-up, snow shoveling, and more.

Updates:

Facebook/e-blasts: Follow us on Facebook (The Woodbridge Center, Woodbridge CT) and be sure you are on our email blast list for current updates and local information.

Look for January information details in the Woodbridge Town News and email blasts as this newsletter is a combined December/January issue.

Woodbridge Center News

The Center is for everyone 55+! Preregistration is required for all programs and masks are required inside all Town buildings. Call 203-389-3430 or email kmoriarty@woodbridgecenter.org to register or for more details.

Upcoming Activities

Tech Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:45-4:00 pm: Need help navigating your computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone? Not sure where to start? Want to know more about what features you aren't using? Call 203-389-3430 to sign-up for 1:1 sessions in The Center's computer lab with patient, knowledgeable, Amity High School students. No fee.

Snowmen Craft Workshop, Dec. 7, 11 am - 12 pm, in The Center café: Hamden Rehabilitation and Health Care Center once again provides everything you need, including all supplies and instruction, to create a fun craft — this time adorable snowmen. Pre-register by Dec. 3 for this fun class. Space is limited. No fee.



Uganda comes to the Center Building gym as Rita Wagner shared cultural customs and traditions from her homeland on Nov 12.

Start 2022 focusing on your health with these new programs!

Balance/Flexibility Class: Wednesdays beginning Jan. 12, 9-10 am in the Center Building gym. Led by Michele

Tenney, this class welcomes all fitness levels to improve necessary balance and flexibility through a combination of exercises, core work, and stretching. Bring a yoga mat and yoga strap. (Yoga straps are available from instructor for \$10.) The 8-week session fee is \$40.

How To Strengthen Your Shoulders and Avoid a Rotator Cuff Injury:

Jan. 14 from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm on Zoom. Just in time for snow shoveling and spring training, Kyle Branday, MSPT, of Amity Physical Therapy, will discuss movement mechanics of the shoulder, common injuries, and prevention of shoulder dysfunction, pain, and dreaded rotator cuff repair. No fee.

Evidence-Based Lifestyle Change Program

Come to an informational session on Jan. 18, from 1-2 pm in the Center Building, Room 16, to explore and discuss the Evidence-Based Lifestyle Change Program in detail and provide answers to questions. This program, a \$1,200 annual value, will be provided **AT NO COST to everyone 60+ years of age** as it is sponsored by Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging (WCAAA) and non-profit Monitor My Health (MMH) in an effort to promote good health. The pro-

gram includes 22 coach-led weekly sessions on healthy eating, physical activity, weight loss, stress management, diabetes prevention, and more. You will also participate in aerobic exercise sessions, individual sessions with a registered dietitian, and health-centered cooking classes.

Following the information session, the program will meet Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 25 from 1-2 pm, in the Center Building, Rm. 16.

Ongoing Activities

Hobbies/Social:

Bridge: Wed., 1-4 pm in The Center café.

Computer lab is open Mon.- Fri., 10 am - 2 pm. Two hour use per day/person. Two-person limit in computer lab. Printing is available (first 5 pages free). Preregistration is required.

Craft Group: Tue. and Thu., 10 am - 12 pm, in The Center café. Bring your current knitting or crocheting project to work on while enjoying a lovely time socializing.

Mahjonn: Mon. and Fri., 10 am - 12 pm, in Human Services, second floor.

Pinochle: Mon. and Thu., 1:30-4 pm, in the Center Building, Room 16. Beginners are welcome!

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

Aerobics Class with Laura Richling: meets Tue. and Thu., 10-11 am, in the Center Building gym. Come enjoy a complete aerobic, cardio and strength training workout to a variety of music. Bring your own 1 or 2 pound hand weights, if you have them, to use during the class. There is a \$3 fee paid at the beginning of each class.

Pickleball: Mon. through Fri., 12:30-3:30 pm, in the Center Building gym as well as 7 days/week on the outdoor courts. New players please call to register. All levels are welcome. Call for more information.

Targeted Strength Training with Michele Tenney: Mon., 9-10 am, in the Center Building gym. 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 with Amanda Aranzullo: Fri., 9-9:45 am, in the Center Building gym. Who says exercise can't be fun? This fun "dance party" focuses on all elements of cardiovascular health, muscular conditioning, flexibility and balance. No prior Zumba experience required. The fee is \$30 for a 6-week session and is 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.

Call Youth Services for information: 203-389-3429. Email npfund@woodbridgect.org or youthone@woodbridgect.org.

Middle School Paint Party

The after-school paint party on Friday, Dec. 10 (12/17 snow date) is for middle school students who will enjoy having a snack and painting a beautiful winter scene. Create your masterpiece with step-by-step instruction from artist Samantha Woodruff. Supplies and snacks will be provided.



Cost is \$20 per student. Class runs 2:30-4:30 pm in the Amity Middle School-Bethany West Cafeteria. Take home your canvas to enjoy or share as a holiday gift. Parent permission form and pre-payment are required. Space is limited and masks will be required. Photo is not the actual scene to be painted.

Stop The Vaping! Yale's Vaping Cessation program can help high school students to quit the habit. The virtual program offers financial rewards for progress in the effort to end the use of harmful substances in the vape oils. Teens also receive a note pad to use for checking in with Yale. To join the program and receive the support needed please call Youth Services for more information. Students are encouraged to call for assistance.

We Care Kits for the Homeless

Teens are invited to help the homeless this holiday season by making kits of essentials to donate to our local shelters. Your kit should be a minimum of a gallon size, zip lock or drawstring bag. You may decorate the bag or insert a card.



Requested items: travel-size toiletries, feminine hygiene products, hats, gloves, socks, underwear, tissues, wipes, hand sanitizers, masks, band-aids, water, mints, \$5 gift cards, granola or protein bars, fruit cups (spoons),

flashlights, peanut butter crackers, lip balm, etc.

Drop off time to Youth Services is Thursday,

December 9, between 12:30-2:30 pm or by appointment. Call for directions. We approve community service hours for completed

kits. Bring your community service form for approval (if needed).

Thanks to those who participated last year as your donations of over 800 kits were greatly appreciated. Let's help the unfortunate with our message of hope.

Recreation News

Call Recreation at 203-389-3446 or email Recreation@woodbridgect.org. Register at woodbridgect.org. Select Recreation Registration at the homepage on the Town website to register and view the lineup of program options.

Road Race Donation to Residence Assistance Fund



The Woodbridge Recreation Commission voted to donate \$4,000 from the Road Race to the Residence Assistance Fund formerly the Food and Fuel Program. Pictured above from the Road Race that was held on Oct. 2 are First Selectman Beth Heller, Recreation

Director John Adamovich, and Recreation Chairman Andrea Weinstein.

We thank all those who turned out for this wonderful event, and extend sincere gratitude to the event sponsors and our main sponsor Coldwell Banker for their generosity.

Summer Concert Performers Wanted

Musical acts interested in performing for the July 2022 Concert Series should contact the Recreation Department Office in December and January. New acts interested in performing are requested to send a website link to the Recreation Department at recreation@woodbridgect.org.

Performers that have previously applied to perform in the concert series may just send an email to reactivate their application. If anyone would like to recommend a musical performer for the summer concerts, please contact the Recreation Office at 203-389-3446, or email us at recreation@woodbridgect.org.

Register for Winter Programs

Registration for winter programs has begun. Check our website for a complete listing. Visit our office 8 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday or register online at woodbridgect.org.

Adult programs include Tai Chi, yoga, and badminton with ongoing registration. Stay tuned—new adult table tennis (ping pong) will be coming soon on Wednesday evenings.

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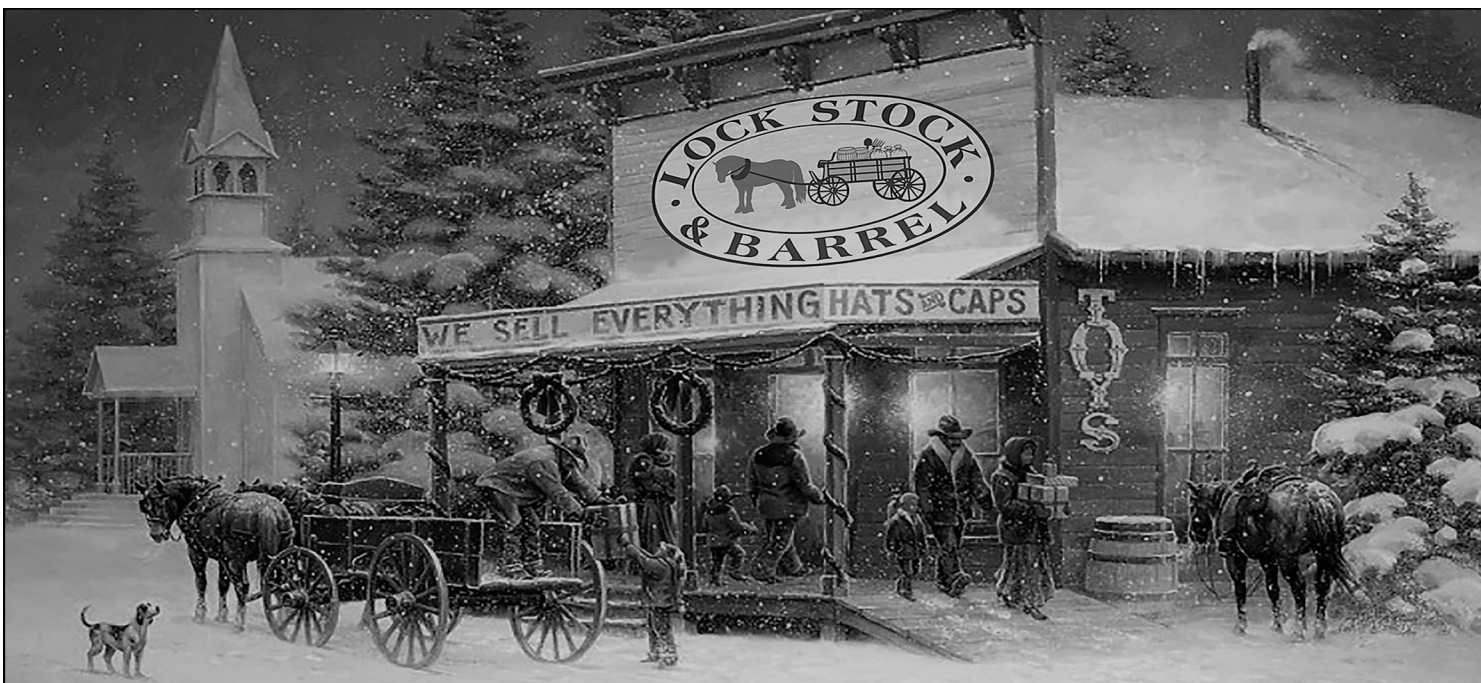
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