



News and Events

April 2022

The Budget and the CCW Housing Proposal

As I have been saying for the past several months, this year's budget process has been extremely challenging, and a lot of credit is due to our Board of Finance and Woodbridge Board of Education for working together to complete the draft budget at a 1.99% mill rate increase.

Last year, the Board of Finance asked each department to submit a budget request as close to a zero percent increase as reasonably possible. The Woodbridge Board of Education's request came in at approximately 13.5%, which would have required a sizeable tax increase. Working together we were able to meet educational needs without an unacceptable increase in the mill rate. Our portion of the Amity Regional District budget increase is 5.66% and the total Amity increase is 3.99%.

Our excellent education system is one of the most important reasons people move to Woodbridge, and we want to maintain that high quality. At the same time, education takes up two thirds of the Town's expenses and any increase in education always has a major impact on our budget.

The Board of Finance will present its preliminary budget to the public on **Monday, April 18 at the Preliminary Budget Hearing**. I encourage ALL residents to attend — this is the most effective way for you to share your opinion and/or ask questions. Following this hearing the Board of Finance may make changes to its proposed budget, which will then be presented for adoption at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

The increase in the mill rate is primarily due to a long-term revenue problem. Expenses are growing but our grand list is not. We cannot continue to cut our way out of this problem. Between 2018 and 2021 the Town eliminated eight full-time positions and changed two full-time positions to part time. Between 2016 and 2021 the Town portion of the budget (not including the boards of education) decreased by 0.12%. Any



future reductions will impact services. This could mean fewer hours at the Library, fewer roads paved, less programs offered through Recreation or fewer resources for our seniors and at-risk residents.

New revenue is critical to fund our high-quality education and other important Town services. Areas for grand list growth include expansion of the commercial district and/or creating and allowing new and diverse housing.

The 2030 Task Force is charged with exploring ways to grow our grand list, and will soon make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to help with our business district. I am excited to learn more about their work and how it could help us bring more vitality and more businesses to the area. I will keep you up to date on this.

Simultaneously, the Housing Opportunity Study Committee is working on a State-mandated plan to diversify the Town's housing options. The committee requested (and the Board of Selectmen agreed) that the Board of Selectmen table our discussions with developer Arbor Haven about their proposal to purchase and put housing on the former Country Club of Woodbridge property until the Housing Opportunity Study Committee presents their preliminary Affordable Housing Plan.

As a reminder, the State of Connecticut has established a benchmark which requires 10% of all housing in each municipality be affordable or risk having developers control housing proposals. Currently, only 1.18 percent of Woodbridge homes qualify as affordable. We must provide housing which is affordable and not exclusionary.

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

At-Home Test Kits & N95 Masks

The Town of Woodbridge will be distributing free COVID-19 at-home test kits and N95 masks between Fri., April 1 and Thu., April 14 for Woodbridge residents while supplies last. This distribution will be by appointment only.

"We want to ensure that residents remain healthy and safe, especially throughout the April holidays and spring break and do not unwittingly expose their families and friends to

COVID-19," said First Selectman Beth Heller. "I thank our Human Services Department for providing these kits to Woodbridge residents at such an important time." Friday April 15 is the beginning of Passover week, Good Friday and Easter weekend, and the end of our public schools' spring break.

Residents in need of test kits, masks or both may call 203-389-3429 for an appointment. Proof of residency is required.

Mark Your Calendars

- **April 15 (Friday):** Town Offices, the Library and Transfer Station will be closed in observance of Good Friday.
- **April 18 (Monday):** Preliminary Budget Hearing, 7:30 pm at the Firehouse (100 Center Rd.).
- **April 23 (Saturday):** Earth Day Celebration. See page 2 for details.

Earth Day Event: April 23

Residents are invited to the Town's Earth Day/Spring Clean Event on Saturday April 23 from 10 am - 1 pm at Town Center Campus. There is no rain date.

The Town's second annual tag sale is seeking vendors (sign up on the Town website).

New this year is an electric vehicle car show. Owners and their EV cars will be available to answer questions.

Also new: The Beecher Road School Green Team is hosting a Buy No Clothing Swap — clean clothing in good condition can be dropped off through April 22 and will be offered free at the event.

There will be a craft materials swap. Bring some and take some! Materials in good condition only please.

The Lions Club is offering mattress pickup and delivery for recycling for a \$20 donation. Residents are also welcome to bring

their own mattress.

The South Central Regional Council of Governments is offering discounted compost bins and rain barrels to residents — they must be pre-purchased and picked up at the event. Link to purchase is on the Town website.

Friends of the Woodbridge Library will hold its annual book sale.

Take 2 Recycling, a certified electronics recycler, will accept electronic items, such as printers, TVs, DVD players, fax machines, phones, microwaves and other small appliances.

Goodwill will have a truck at the event to accept donations.

Residents are also asked to participate in Rid Litter Day and pick up roadside litter.

The Boy Scouts will hold their annual plant and garden sale.

See the Town website for more details.

Community Bike Ride

Celebrate National Bike Month with Woodbridge's first Community Bike Fun Ride on Saturday May 14. This non-competitive bike ride will follow the Town's new bike route. A shorter route is also available.

Interested cyclists should register on the Town website.

Helmets will be required, and costumes and bike decorations are encouraged.

After the ride there will be live music, lawn games and food trucks.

Details are on the Town website, woodbridgect.org.

Renter's Rebate Program

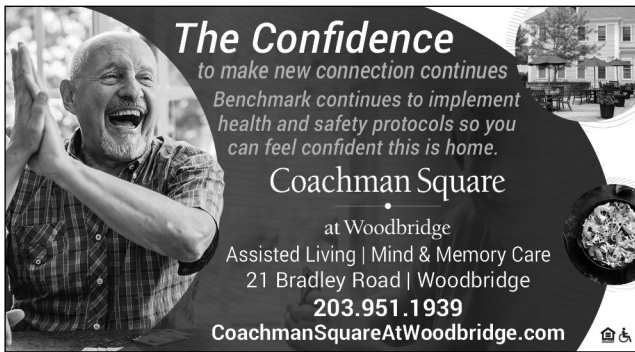
Applications for the Renter's Rebate Program may be filed with the Town's Assessor between April 1 and Oct. 1, 2022. To be eligible, Woodbridge residents must:

- have turned age 65 on or before Dec. 31, 2021. (Individuals receiving Social Security Disability must be 18 or older and meet requirements below.)
- be full-time Woodbridge residents.

- earn income not greater than \$38,100 for a single person or \$46,400 for a married couple.

Proof of 2021 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 2021.

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



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

Library hours: Monday through Thursday: 10 am to 8 pm; Friday & Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm

The Library will be closed Friday, April 15 (Good Friday). We will be open Saturday, April 16.

Woodbridge Town Library: Now Fine Free!

The Woodbridge Town Library is going fine free, which means patrons will no longer be charged fines for overdue items. The Library had been waiving all overdue fines since the start of the pandemic and the recognition that they create barriers to access led the Woodbridge Library Commission to vote to permanently eliminate all fines for overdue books, movies and other library items at its March meeting.

All existing overdue fines for Woodbridge Town Library items will be removed as well, but this will not include replacement fees for missing or damaged items.

"We want people in the community to be excited about coming to the Library, rather than worried about whether or not they owe a fine," says Library Director Eric Werthmann. "We want to encourage the use of the Library's materials, facilities and services."

The Fine Free movement is growing in the library world and

has been adopted by many local libraries. Currently there are almost 100 fine free libraries (52 percent) in Connecticut, including nearby libraries in Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Hamden, Madison, and New Haven.

Items will still have due dates, and patrons will still be responsible for returning books, movies and other borrowed items. If there's no hold on an item for another patron, the item will be renewed automatically up to two times. Patrons are still responsible for lost or damaged materials; they will be charged the value of the item so that the library can buy

a replacement copy. Overdue museum passes will have a \$5 per day late fee. The new policy applies only to items owned by the Woodbridge Town Library; fees may be charged by other Connecticut libraries (including those in the LION consortium) and may be applied to the patron's library account. Please see the Circulation Department with questions, or contact them: 203-389-3433, askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.



April Events

For more information on these April programs, stop into the library, visit our website, or call the Reference Desk at 203-389-3434.

Tax Free Retirement - Wednesday, April 6 at 5:30 pm

In-person Virtual Art Tour - Wednesday, April 6 at 7 pm at the Center Building, Room 16

Time to Pivot - Wednesday, April 13 at 6:30 pm

Writing Group - Tuesday, April 26 at 3 pm

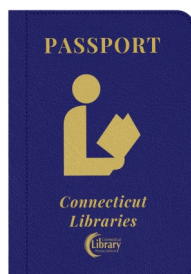
7th Annual Peeps in the Library Diorama Contest

We're back once again with our seventh annual Peeps in the Library Diorama contest! Registration open to all ages through Friday, April 8. Completed dioramas can be dropped off up until Saturday, April 16 (reminder—library is closed 4/15). Voting will take place the week of April 18. See the Reference Desk for your starter package of Peeps and for more information.

Passport to Connecticut Libraries: Win Up to \$150!

To celebrate National Library Week (April 3-9), the *Passport to Connecticut Libraries* Program (hosted by the Connecticut Library Association) invites you to visit over 140 participating Connecticut public libraries within the month of April. Take the opportunity to explore each library's architecture, ambiance and collection, in a program similar to the Connecticut Wine Trail Passport.

To participate, visit the Woodbridge Library on April 1 or after to pick up your Passport and list of participating libraries. More information will be given to you at that time. Return your completed Passport at the program's



end to be entered into drawings for a chance to win a \$150 Visa gift card for adults (18 and up) and a \$100 Visa gift card for children (under 18).

Questions? Contact Jen Sullivan, Head of Adult Services (and coordinator of this statewide program) by calling 203-389-3487 or emailing jsullivan@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

Need a card? Stop by the Circulation Desk any time we are open, with proof of Woodbridge residency. Questions about library cards or your account can be directed to askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org or 203-389-3433.

Town Calendar

Woodbridge Happenings

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

- 4/1 **6th Grade BethWood Bash!** 7 pm
Amity Middle School-Bethany
- 4/2 **Live Music at 10selden**, 6:30 pm
- 4/3 **Elm City Folk Festival at 10selden**, 1-9 pm
- 4/3 **JCC Wag & Walk**, 1 pm
contests, music & more; 360 Amity Road
- 4/6 **Tax Free Retirement Workshop**, 5:30 pm
Library Meeting Room
- 4/6 **Art Tour Viewing**, 7 pm
Center Building, Room 16
- 4/9, 16, 23 **Boy Scout Troop 907 Fundraiser**, 9 am - 3 pm
garden/flower sale; Old Firehouse
- 4/9 **Spring Food Drive!** 9 am - noon
Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 81 Center Rd.
- 4/12 **Home Alone Class for ages 9-12**, 10 am
Library Meeting Room
- 4/13 **Climate Change Discussion**, 6:30 pm
led by author Steve Hamm, Library Meeting Room
- 4/14 **Spring Drive-thru Lunch**, 12 pm
for ages 60+, The Woodbridge Center
- 4/21 **Unstuck Mini**, Library Meeting Room, 6 pm
discussion led by Cindy Kane & Lauren Haas
- 4/22 **8th Graders - Join the Party!** 7 pm
Amity Regional High School
- 4/23 **Earth Day Celebration**, 10 am - 1 pm
Library lawn, Grove & Center Building parking lot
- 4/29 **Paint Party!** for AMS-Bethany students, 2:30 pm
Amity Middle School-Bethany
- 4/29 **Beth-Wood Baseball Community Movie Night!** Woodbridge Town Green, 6 pm

Library News

From the Children's Room

For more information and registration where necessary, please visit our website.

Indoor Story Time Has Returned!

Join us on the carpet in the children's room for fun stories, music, and props! Every Wednesday at 10:30 am, for infants to age 3 and their caregivers. Registration is not necessary.

In-person Story Craft Returns Saturday April 2

A special story time session just for children ages 3-5. We will gather in the craft room for stories followed by a simple craft. Registration is not necessary; come every week or when you can!

April Eco Crafts—Starts April 4.

Every Monday at 5 pm throughout April come make a craft using biodegradable or recycled materials! Craft is for Grades 3 and up. Online registration is required.

Thursday Craft Time—Starts April 7.

Every Thursday at 4 pm, show up for a make and take craft. Registration is not required; craft for ages 3+.

Make a Pine Cone Bird Feeder—Saturday, April 9

Drop in to the library any time from 2- 4 pm—no registration necessary.

Spring Break Sloth Craft—Monday, April 11 at 3 pm

Ages 4+; online registration is required.

Spring Break Raptor Show—Wednesday, April 13 at 2 pm

Live, in person—raptors in the library! Online registration is required; all ages welcome.

Make a Flying Peep Catapult—Saturday, April 16 at 2 pm

A STEAM activity featuring your favorite spring time candy! Activity is for ages 5+. Online registration is required.



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



An American Red Cross Blood Drive was held at the Center Building gym recently. The event was co-hosted by The Nicole Donzello Foundation and Woodbridge Human Services. Many thanks to the residents who collectively donated 40 pints of blood.

Federal At-Home Covid Test Kits: If you've already ordered free at-home test kits, you may order four more. Visit COVIDtests.gov to place your second order. As before, just enter your name and mailing address. If you haven't ordered any kits, you may order eight tests but you must place two orders.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA): In partnership with the IRS and the CT Association for Human Services (CAHS), the Senior Center offers free tax preparation through VITA. Taxpayers with low to moderate income, senior citizens, and people with disabilities or limited English have four options to safely and accurately complete 2021 tax returns.



VITA volunteer Michelle Ditzian works with a client to prepare 2021 tax returns.

If you have access to a computer and internet, you can complete your own tax return through MyFreeTaxes.com. Pre-

parers can complete your return either virtually or in person. If you have a camera phone, you can virtually access Woodbridge VITA tax preparers through GetYourRefund.org/WBSC-CT without leaving home. If you don't have access to technology, call Human Services for a drive-through or in-person appointment. Last appointments on 4/12.

Energy Assistance Program: Human Services accepts 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 Human Services.

Food Pantry: Residents in need may contact Human Services for access to non-perishable food each month. If you would like to donate to the Food Pantry, these items are currently needed: baking mixes, cooking oil, snack foods, laundry detergent, dish soap, and deodorant.

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.



Sponsors Debbie Schlegel of the Holli Shanbrom Team-Coldwell Banker Real Estate, Carol Davino-Coachman Square, and Rebecca Lavi also of the Holli Shanbrom Team-Coldwell Banker Real Estate, spread St. Patrick's Day cheer at the St. Patrick's Day drive-thru lunch.

Drive-thru Lunches:

Spring Drive-thru Luncheon for those over 60 years of age: Celebrate longer days and bursting blooms at the next drive-thru on April 14, 12-1 pm. Lunch includes: choice of curry chicken salad with mango chutney or seafood salad sandwich, ancient grain salad, and pineapple upside down cake for dessert. This drive-thru is generously sponsored by the law firm of **Resnik and Resnik** and **The Linden at Woodbridge** with **Hamden Rehabilitation and Health**

Care providing a spring treat. No charge. Please RSVP by April 7.

Mother's Day Drive-thru Luncheon: watch for more information about the May 5 Mother's Day drive-thru.

Services:

Tech Tue. and Thu., 2:45-4:15 pm: Need some help navigating your computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone? Call to sign-up for a 1:1 session in The Center's computer lab with patient, knowledgeable, Amity High School student volunteers. No fee.

Transportation for medical appointments is available for those age 60+ or with a long-term or short-term disability, Mon. - Fri. from 9 am - 4 pm. Transportation for local grocery shopping, banking, and pharmacy pick-up is also available. Call to arrange car or wheelchair accessible van transportation. Vehicles are cleaned between each use.

Meals: Healthy, well balanced, flash frozen meals are available for **\$5.25/meal**. Order by noon on Mon. for delivery to your home on Tue. Choose from a wide variety of options including

chicken parmesan, crabmeat stuffed fish, eggplant rollatini, chicken pot pie, vegetable frittata, and fresh Cobb salad with grilled chicken breast. Meals include a roll, fresh fruit, and dessert. Two meal minimum. Frozen soups are available for **\$1.50** per 10 oz. container. Varieties include: Italian wedding, beef orzo, chicken noodle, and many more. Call 203-389-3430 to place your order.

Friendly Visitor Program: Call Judi Young, Human Services Social Worker, at 203-389-3429 to arrange for a friendly visitor.

Medical Loan Closet: Medical equipment is available for lending, including walkers, wheelchairs, knee rollers, shower chairs and more. Call for details.

Job Bank: Residents may call Nancy Pfund, Youth Services, 203-389-3429, to hire a student worker. Schedule helpers now for spring clean-up, and more.

Updates:

Facebook/e-blasts: Follow us on Facebook (The Woodbridge Center, Woodbridge CT) and call to sign-up for email blasts for The Center updates.

Woodbridge Center News

The Center is for everyone 55+! Preregistration is required for all programs and masks are required for all Center programming until Woodbridge's COVID positivity rate is in the yellow zone for three consecutive weeks. Call 203-389-3430 or email kmoriarty@woodbridgecenter.org to register or for more details.

Special & New Activities



Participants enjoy the Wadsworth Museum's Virtual Art Tour: Women Artists: A Women's History Month Spotlight

Free in-person Virtual Art Tour Series viewing co-hosted with the Woodbridge Town Library: Experience art history via the oldest public art museum in the US. Come view the Wadsworth Virtual Art Tour series. Each tour will feature a different docent-led theme. Call 203-389-3430 to register. The two remaining tours in the series include: **4/6/2022 @ 7 pm: Milton Avery: A Special Exhibit** (Center Building, Rm. 16). **5/11/2022 @ 1 pm: Impressionists** (in the Library's Meeting Room).



An Amity High School volunteer assists a Woodbridge resident on the laptop during a Tech Tuesday session.

New! Indoor Cornhole: Sign-up today to participate in this part skill, part luck, all fun activity! Toss a beanbag onto the slanted board get 1 point, in the hole-you get 3 points. This is a game everyone can play! All levels are welcome. Mondays, and Fridays, 10-11:30 am in the Grove, weather permitting. Wednesdays in the Center Building gym beginning April 1. Call to register.

Tag Sale: It's time to gather your unwanted items and turn them into cash! On April 23, from 10 am to 1 pm, as part of the Town's Earth Day Celebration, The Center will host a tag sale in the Grove. There is a fee of \$10 for each space which includes one, six-foot table. Space is limited, call The Center to reserve your spot.

The History of White House Entertainment with Alan DeValerio: Come to this interesting presentation, co-hosted with the Library, as former White House butler Alan DeValerio gives the inside details about all the preparations involved in White House entertaining, and how it has evolved over the years from FDR to the present. Presentation with Q&A will take place May 5 from 11 am - 12 pm in the Library's Meeting Room. No charge.

NEW! Free T'ai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance 24-Week Program

Improve your balance, mobility and daily functioning to prevent falls while increasing tone and flexibility with this evidenced-based therapeutic movement program. Participants will meet twice a week with local instructor Bill Bannick. No previous T'ai Ji Quan experience is necessary. All fitness

levels are welcome!

Beginning April 26, this program will be offered Mondays and Fridays from 10-11 am in the Center Building gymnasium. Minimum class size is 12.

Ongoing Activities

Hobbies/Social:

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

Computer lab is open Mon.- Fri., 10 am - 2 pm. 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, crocheting, or needlepoint project to work on while enjoying a lovely time socializing.

Pinochle: Mon., Wed. & Thu., 1:30-4 pm, The Center lounge.

Exercise: Not sure if an exercise class is a good fit? Try a complimentary class first.

Aerobics Class with Laura Richling: Tue. and Thu., 10-11 am, Center Building gym. 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 payable at the start of class.

Pickleball: Mon. through Fri., 12:30-3:30 pm, in the Center Building gymnasium. All levels are welcome. New players please call to register or for more information.

Call Youth Services for information: 203-389-3429. Email npfund@woodbridgect.org or youthone@woodbridgect.org.
Like us on Facebook: Woodbridge-Youth-Services-Woodbridge-CT

Beth-Wood 6th Grade Party-April 1

Youth Services is planning an event for the sixth grade residents of Woodbridge and Bethany and other 6th graders who attend Bethany and Woodbridge schools to meet at Amity Middle School-Bethany on Friday, 4/1 from 7-9 pm for a fun party with a DJ, games, pizza, and raffle

prizes. Be sure to check out our website and Facebook for more information. Fee is \$7 to be paid at the door. Call to register at 203-389-3429.

Adult Volunteers are needed: Register students, chaperone, and help with food. Contact Youth Services to help.

Home Alone-April 12

Class for ages 9-12 from 10 am to 12:30 pm to be held in the Woodbridge Library meeting room. Students will learn about answering the door or phone, responding to emergencies, and making healthy snacks. Police and Fire Departments provide information about calling 911

and fire safety. Discussion of house rules and internet safety are included.

Students receive an information packet to share with parents. Snack and water provided. Advance payment of \$15 and permission form will reserve your spot. Call to sign up early as space is limited.

Reminder! The First Selectman's Youth Award nominations are due April 4. Call 203-389-3429 for details.

8th Graders — Join the Party, April 22!

Orange and Woodbridge Youth Services with assistance from the Town of Bethany are working together to provide 8th graders from the three towns a fun evening. Students will play some giant

games, have a blast with the DJ, and eat great pizza. Party will be held 7-9 pm at Amity High School. Fee of \$7 to be paid at the door. Adult volunteers are needed. Call for information.

Paint a Spring Scene-April 29

Paint a beautiful spring scene for your home or as a gift (Mother's Day is next month).

Join instructor Samantha Woodruff in Amity Middle School-Bethany's cafeteria

after school from 2:30-4 pm to create your masterpiece. Cost is \$25 including materials and snack. No artistic talent is required. Call or email for more information. Space is limited, so sign up now.

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.

Recreation Camps

Woodbridge Recreation Summer camps will run June 27 through Aug. 5, 9 am - noon at Beecher Road South School for campers entering grades 1-8. Camp offers a wide range of activities including arts and crafts, drama, fitness, and more.

Camp (Grade 1-8)	Residents	Non-Residents
6 Weeks:	\$600	\$650
5 Weeks:	\$550	\$600
4 Weeks:	\$500	\$550
3 Weeks:	\$450	\$500
2 Weeks:	\$375	\$450
1 Week:	\$275	\$400

Cooking Camp

Don't miss out! Join Food Explorers for a tasty cooking camp on April 12, 2-4 pm. The half-day session is \$55/camper.

You'll learn about food and cooking with Miss Lara and make two delicious snacks—pancake skewers and 7-layer dip! Each child will make



their own portion. Recipes are nut free but contain dairy and eggs.

Volleyball Teams Wanted!

Spring and Summer Volleyball league teams are wanted!

Woodbridge Recreation will run a Spring/Summer Volleyball League, both indoors and outdoors at the sand court. There is room for two more teams with a minimum of six players per team. To register a team or questions please email Jim Franco, jfranco@woodbridgect.org.

Congratulations to the team Bump, Set, Spike for winning the Fall/Winter League Tournament.



Summer Chess Camp

Chess Camp will run the week of July 18-22 for 1st-5th graders (6-12 year old campers). This fun, instructional camp will take place between 12:30-3:30 pm each day during this camp week. The fee for the 15-hour camp is

\$210 per camper.

The student to teacher ratio for Chess Camp is never more than 14 to 1. Register soon as there is limited space. At least 10 students need to be registered for Chess Camp to take place.

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