

Woodbridge Moves Forward – Progress & the Road Ahead

Most people think in terms of calendar years. In local government, it is “fiscal years,” and Woodbridge's 2026 Fiscal Year begins in just a few weeks, on July 1st. This milestone has me reflecting on what we have accomplished in the current 2025 Fiscal Year and thinking about the future, which is how I spend most of my time as your First Selectman.

However, before I proceed, I would like to announce that our Board of Finance has approved our Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, which includes a 4.78% tax increase and a mill rate of 36.62. Now, about that progress.

Last year, when I took office with the newly elected Board of Selectmen, we identified a [clear set of goals and projects](#) that we felt were essential to Woodbridge’s future.

I’m proud to report that, thanks to the incredible efforts of our volunteer boards, commissions, and committees, as well as the outstanding work of our town departments, many of those projects have either been completed or are well underway for completion.

Building Momentum on Infrastructure

Our **Fire Department Storage and Training Facility** is nearly complete, funded almost entirely with grants. This is an important addition to our emergency services and a long-overdue investment in our firefighters, considering this facility was part of the original plan for the new firehouse.

Renovations converting our old firehouse into a Community and Cultural Center are underway and are expected to be completed later this year. The building has been used for storage since it was damaged over a decade ago.

The CCC renovation, fully funded by grants, will restore the building to serve as a valuable third space for our community—a place where residents of all ages can gather, socialize, and host events, adding new life to this gateway to our historic Town Center.

We’re also making visible progress in our historical Town Center. **New sidewalks and dark sky lighting** are scheduled to be completed this summer, enhancing safety and accessibility while making our Town Center more welcoming. This is also a grant-funded project.

And I’m pleased to share that we’ve **successfully addressed the asbestos issue in the Center Building**, ensuring that it’s safe and ready for continued use.

Planning for Tomorrow

One of the most important projects we’ve been working on is the [Beecher Road School Feasibility Study](#), which is now nearing completion. This study will guide our decisions about the future of our school facilities- both from an academic space and infrastructure perspective - and help us determine how to phase and prioritize other major town projects responsibly.

We're also close to completing both our [Plan of Conservation and Development](#) and the [CCW Master Plan](#)—two comprehensive plans that will serve as blueprints for the next decade of land use, preservation, and responsible development in Woodbridge.

Our **Town Planner** has been actively assessing zoning in our business district, and we are collaborating with our Economic Development Commission and 2030 Committee on strategies to promote thoughtful growth and economic vitality. This is a critical area of focus, and I'm excited to note that we are beginning to see results from the work being done.

Transformative Investments

We've initiated the engineering and planning phase for an \$8,000,000 transit-oriented development grant. The [Woodbridge Business District Connectivity Project](#) has tremendous potential, focusing on enhancing the attractiveness of the Town's business district to businesses and consumers.

Infrastructure has been a key area of focus in planning and engineering, including sidewalks, light posts, crosswalks, and traffic management. On **June 16th**, an Open House will be held to share updates and gather input on this initiative.

We're also proud to have approved a **land lease that could generate as much as \$80,000 annually for our Town, supporting a [solar farm on the landfill](#) at the Transfer Station. This takes a meaningful step forward in productively utilizing Town property and enables** added sustainability and clean energy.

And, in a wonderful milestone for our cultural life, we've appointed [Woodbridge's first-ever Poet Laureate](#), celebrating the arts and creativity that make our town special.

Navigating a Challenging Year

All of this has taken place during a [state-mandated revaluation year](#), which resulted in an unprecedented increase in real estate values—approximately 54% on average—and understandably, a great deal of concern about rising property taxes.

The Board of Selectmen and I recognize this, and we are **evaluating [tax assistance programs](#)** while continuing to seek meaningful ways to help those most in need. I firmly believe that fiscal responsibility also encompasses being compassionate and responsive to the people we serve.

Looking Ahead

As we continue moving forward, we recognize that Fiscal Year 2026 will bring a new set of priorities and challenges that we must navigate thoughtfully and strategically.

At the top of the list is the potential **renovation of Beecher Road School**, a vital project that will necessitate ongoing community engagement, meticulous planning, and coordination with other capital projects.

Likewise, planning for a much-needed **new or renovated Police Department Facility** will ensure our public safety professionals have the necessary infrastructure to serve our community effectively.

We'll also continue the **Center Building modernization efforts** to assess future use and improvements. The former **CCW property** remains a focal point for our long-term community development goals, and we anticipate transitioning from planning to action as the master plan is finalized.

Important matters of housing will be addressed, including the legal landscape and the development of smart, balanced housing that respects what we care about in our town while meeting state requirements and community needs.

We will continue to work closely with the South-Central Region Council of Governments and other groups, such as [CT Main Street](#), **on revitalizing our business district**.

Additionally, we will make necessary revisions to our Charter, initiate pool and facility assessments, and undertake several other operational and strategic projects—all with an eye toward enhancing efficiency, transparency, and quality of life services for our residents.

To me, this progress and recognition of the challenges ahead of us reflect a community that is planning for near-term action; our Town must stay on a solid and positive path forward, guided by mutual respect, responsibility, strategic investment, and a shared vision for the future. We can and we must work together.

I thank every resident who serves every department that delivers, and every neighbor who supports this work. Your commitment is building a stronger Woodbridge.

We've made great progress, and we still have important work ahead. I'm excited for what's to come, and I remain committed to moving our town forward, together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mica Cardozo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mica" and last name "Cardozo" clearly distinguishable.

Mica Cardozo, First Selectman