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First Selectman's Corner

Here at Town Hall, budget preparation for Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017) is well under way. My top priorities, as always, are to assure the financial health of our Town and to protect the best interests of our taxpayers. This means crafting a budget that provides the outstanding K-12 education and first-rate Town services that residents expect, while closely monitoring and balancing costs to control the impact on our mil rate.

Our budget task this year will be especially challenging because we anticipate a significant increase in our share of the Amity Regional School budget. In large part, this is due to a shift in the ratio of student attendance: there are more students from Woodbridge and fewer from Bethany and Orange. Also, our debt service will increase as we begin paying for the Beecher Road School Energy Modernization and Security Enhancements project. I am confident that whatever the obstacles, the Board of Finance, the Board of Selectmen and our Town Department

Heads will work collaboratively to come up with a budget that finds the right balance: high quality services that we all rely on without causing sticker shock.

Other priorities for 2016 include continuing our commitment to clean energy and other "green" practices, our support for our local businesses and development of our commercial center; new and creative community-building activities; and enhanced communication between Town Hall and Woodbridge residents.

To stay up to date on Woodbridge news and events I encourage you to sign up for our email newsletter (sign up at tinyurl.com/WoodbridgeEnews) and follow us on Facebook (Facebook.com/WoodbridgeCT). As always, I welcome your ideas and feedback at escalett@woobridgect.org.



Ellen Scalett
First Selectman

Long Wharf & Library Partnership

Long Wharf Theater continued its partnership with Woodbridge Town Library and held three events related to the Shakespeare play, *Measure for Measure*. The library hosted the theater's costume director for a behind-the-scenes talk. The theater hosted Woodbridge residents at a pre-play reception on "Woodbridge Night." The library also held a Shakespeare workshop for teens and tweens.



Pictured, left to right: Elizabeth Nearing, Community Engagement Manager at Long Wharf; Katherine Ward, Program and Outreach Coordinator, Woodbridge Town Library; Ellen Scalett, First Selectman and Eric Werthmann, Director of Woodbridge Town Library.



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Cub Scouts



Cub Scouts Toy Donations with Scalettar, Canning and Pocwierz

Scalettar and Senior Center Director Lee Canning. They also presented new toys to benefit the Yale-New Haven Hospital "Toy Closet" to Ted Pocwierz of the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Department. The WVFD is the Pack's sponsor.



Cub Scouts receiving Bobcat Badge

In addition to presenting the service projects at this Pack Meeting in December, many new cub scouts received their Bobcat badge. It is the first badge a cub scout receives as he joins the Pack. The Bobcat ceremony was led by Boy Scout Troop 907, and signifies that the new cubs know the promise, law, and motto and their meaning and the cub scout sign, salute and handshake as well as the meaning of Webelos.

To join Cub Scouts email Michelle Mann: mrsmann@hotmail.com.

Woodbridge Pack 902 Cub Scout Troop presented their 2015 Service Projects of "Help a Neighbor" food donations for the Woodbridge Health and Human Services Committee with First Selectman Ellen

Services Committee with First Selectman Ellen

Save The Date Beth – Wood Baseball

Opening Day Ceremonies - April 30, 2015

Beth – Wood Baseball League {B – W} has been busy getting organized for the upcoming 2016 Season and it will not be long before our children will be out on the fields playing and enjoying this great game of Baseball.

Opening Day Ceremonies are planned for Saturday, April 30, 2016. This year the B - W will be celebrating its 44th Anniversary of providing a quality Baseball program in the Woodbridge and Bethany communities (founded back in 1972) – this event draws hundreds of families / friends / residents of Bethany and Woodbridge to the Town Center Green for a wonderful Ceremony that kicks off the Baseball / Softball Seasons. The Beth-Wood Softball Little League will once again be joining the B - W for this Ceremony, as they have done the past several years.

We expect many Local and State dignitaries to attend as in years past – Woodbridge & Bethany First Selectmen, State Senator Joe Crisco, State Representative Themis Klarides, among many others.

Many Community Groups like the Boy Scouts, Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association with various apparatus for the kids to see / explore (and they also do the cooking for us), the Beecher Road School Band marching our Players in, among many others who will again be present to support this huge community event.



For additional information pertaining to Beth – Wood Baseball, please visit our web site at www.bethwoodbaseball.com

Tax Diversification Help Manage Retirement Income

Did you know that you may be able to contribute to both a traditional IRA and a Roth IRA? Contributing to both may allow you to benefit from both the tax deductions of the traditional IRA and the potential tax-free distributions of the Roth IRA.

And once you retire, this "tax diversification" can be especially valuable. If you have a variety of accounts, with different tax treatments, you could decide to first make your required withdrawals from a traditional IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored plan, followed, in order, by withdrawals from your taxable investment accounts, your tax-deferred accounts and, finally, your tax-free accounts.

Of course, in any given year, it might make sense to change the order of withdrawals, or take withdrawals from multiple accounts, to help reduce taxes and avoid moving into a different tax bracket.

Tax diversification can be beneficial. After consulting with your tax and financial advisors, consider allocating your retirement plan contributions to provide the flexibility you need to maximize your income during your retirement years.

Robert L. Condon, Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Woodbridge

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Rethinking Trash and Recycling

Commissioner Discusses Trash in Wisdom of Woodbridge Lecture



Rethinking trash and recycling was the theme of the second Wisdom of Woodbridge lecture.

Rob Klee, Commissioner of the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, gave his talk and engaged in a conversation with audience members at the JCC in mid November as part of the First Selectman's lecture series designed to invite Woodbridge residents to discuss their exciting professions, unusual talents and expertise in various topics.

"In Woodbridge we are lucky to have so many big thinkers," said First Selectman Ellen Scalettar. "I hope that this series will allow us all to share the wisdom of Woodbridge."

Klee discussed the state's current trash and recycling strategies and the success of recent recycling initiatives, including the addition of recycling paint. In its first year, Klee told the audience, the program collected 240,798 gallons of paint across the state. The oil-based paint was sent for fuel blending and burned for energy recovery while the latex paint was recycled back into marketable paint.

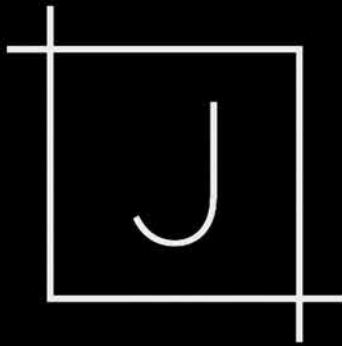
Klee also discussed internal conversations happening in his office on how to improve recycling rates statewide.

Klee shared his belief that "recycling is a shared responsibility and requires citizen engagement."

Klee's office will soon examine how much recyclable material is in our trash and how much trash ends up contaminating recycling. He's also exploring policies that shift the recycling responsibility to the manufacturer.

At the first lecture, held at the Woodbridge Town Library, Southern Connecticut State University President Dr. Mary Papazian discussed "Embracing the Future: Southern Connecticut State University and the Changing Higher Education Landscape."

A future lecture on March 22 is a talk by Yaron Baitch, Co-founder and CEO of AuthAir entitled "Hacked! Keeping your Identify Safe in the Information Age."



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Jewish Community Center



On Sunday, Jan. 10, the JCC of Greater New Haven, located at 360 Amity Road in Woodbridge, kicked off an exciting series of “Sunday Fundays” for members and their guests. In addition to the activities that happen every Sunday – family swim, open gym, family Zumba, teen-fit, and family movie – monthly specials on Feb. 7, Mar. 20, and Apr. 3 will add to the fun.

Bagels and Books with story book characters, a Jazz Brunch with the Neighborhood Music School, open houses for the Yeladim Early Learning Center and JCC Day Camps, the Annual Purim Carnival, and a Spring Fling Gift Show are just a few of the exciting programs offered as part of the special monthly series. The Membership office will be offering complimentary “Coffee and...”, and members are encouraged to bring a guest for free on each of the featured dates.

For more information please contact JCC Program Director, Mara Balk at marab@jccnh.org or (203) 387-2522 x300.

First Selectman Continues Business Visits

First Selectman Ellen Scalettar has been visiting local businesses to highlight them as part of the “Shop Woodbridge, Dine Woodbridge, Try Woodbridge” campaign. Additionally, the Town’s Economic Development Commission has been inviting businesses to its monthly meetings in order to learn about those businesses and why they chose Woodbridge.



First Selectman Visits Birchwoods

Recently, Scalettar visited Birchwoods at Oak Lane and a college consulting business, Janet Rosier’s Educational Resources.

Birchwoods opened to the public in January 2015 and the restaurant, wedding and party venue has quickly taken off. Birchwoods rents the upper floor of the clubhouse from the golf course. During the active golf season the restaurant (and the golf course) is open to the public. Birchwoods hosts weddings, private parties, and events throughout the year such as dance parties, paint nights, comedy shows and holiday celebrations.

The business is a family affair. Danielle and Pasquale Lavorante partnered with Danielle’s sister and brother-in-law Trish and Victor Calabrese. Together, they came up with the name Birchwoods after noticing all the birch trees on the grounds. Danielle’s parents frequently help out and the menu features many of her grandmother’s recipes from Italy.

“My family feels like people are celebrating their intimate gatherings in our home,” Danielle said. “This is something we always wanted to do.”



First Selectman Visits Janet Rosier

Janet Rosier’ Educational Resources is located in Rosier’s home. Rosier got her start in the college consulting business when her son was getting ready to go to college. She “handed him off” to a friend who was in the business. In the process she started to work with her friend and receive training from him. Rosier hung out her shingle as an Independent Educational Consultant in 2003.

Her clients come from all over Connecticut, out of state and some International students as well. These students attend public, private, boarding and parochial schools.

Ideally, she says, she’d start working with a student in the 9th grade to help them choose their high school curriculum and tailor it to their skills and interests. “It’s important to balance a rigorous curriculum with good grades and sanity,” she says. Most of her clients begin in their sophomore or junior year. “They need to be ready to hit the ground running in their senior year,” she says. Some colleges begin reviewing applications in the summer before senior year; others have deadlines as late as February.

In addition to helping choose high school curricula and monitoring academic progress, Rosier helps students develop a list of colleges for them to visit. After the visits she debriefs the student and tweaks the list. Later, she will prepare students to write their essays, and then critique the applications and essays.

Woodbridge Events Quarter 1, 2016

Woodbridge Police

Participate in “No-Shave November” Fundraiser



Officer RJ Scott

On Nov. 1st members of the Woodbridge Police Department began growing beards to participate in the “No Shave November” charity fundraiser for cancer research.

The goal of the No-Shave November is to grow beards as a way to embrace our hair, which many cancer patients lose, and to

raise money to educate about cancer prevention, save lives, and to aid those fighting the battle.

All Department personnel were recently given permission to partake in the event should they so desire, with the participants agreeing to maintain a professional, neat appearance in light of their public service status.

The Woodbridge Police Union has set up a team to track all monetary donations, and has agreed to match dollar for dollar all contributions made by participating police and dispatch personnel. More than \$1,000 was collected donated to the American Cancer Society.

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Woodbridge Job Bank

Teens Need Jobs in Woodbridge

The Woodbridge Job Bank has numerous teenagers who are experienced in leaf raking, tutoring, babysitting, pet care, and other odd jobs. Many have completed the American Red Cross Babysitters Training Course. If you are a Woodbridge resident and would like more information, call Woodbridge Youth Services at 203-389-3429.

Snow Shoveling

Please plan ahead. If you wish to hire a teen from the Woodbridge Job Bank for snow shoveling, contact Woodbridge Youth Services at 203-389-3429 to be matched up with a student who will contact you when it snows to schedule a time to get your walkways cleared.

Woodbridge Job Bank for Woodbridge Residents

Woodbridge teens between the ages of 13 and 18 who are willing to work and want to earn money should contact Woodbridge Youth Services at 203-389-3429 to learn how to join the Job Bank. Parental permission is required to join. Jobs may include raking, childcare, pet care, snow shoveling, housework, tutoring, and other odd jobs. We help teens find work with Woodbridge residents who need a hand around the home or office. It's a great way to build responsibility and gain work experience close to home.

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Conservation Commission Continues Monthly Hikes



Jason Morrill, Frank DeLeo & Ellen Scalettar

The Conservation Commission has been hosting monthly guided hikes since October to introduce residents to Woodbridge's many miles of walking trails and open space.

The walks are held the first weekend of the month. Details about future scheduled

walks, including date, time and location, will be announced through the Town's email newsletter (sign up at tinyurl.com/WoodbridgeEnews), Facebook page (Facebook.com/WoodbridgeCT) and website (www.woodbridgedct.org).

"One of my goals has been to create and promote community events to bring residents together," said First Selectman Scalettar. "I thank the Conservation Commission for volunteering their time to highlight one of the Town's great resources and provide a healthy outdoor group activity."

In October, Commission Chair Jason Morrill led the first walk through the woods behind the Massaro Community Farm during the farm's annual Family Fun Day.

The second hike was led by Commission member Frank DeLeo at the Bishop Estate trail loop. The third hike, in December, was led by Commission member Tom Kenefick. The hike began at the Center Road Ballfield and followed the blue trail to the Fitzgerald Tract and looped around the field.

In January, DeLeo co-led a walk with the West River Watershed Coalition through Regional Water Authority property at the source of the West River. The Commission plans to resume walks in the spring.

WAC Swimmers Recognized at Top 16 CT Swimming Awards Banquet

Congratulations to Woodbridge Aquatic Club (WAC) swimmers who were recognized for their outstanding performances at the Annual Connecticut Swimming Awards Banquet at the Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville, CT on November 1, 2015. These swimmers each achieved a Top 16 Connecticut time in an individual event within their age group during the 2014-2015 short course and the 2015 long course seasons.



Pictured left to right: (front row) Kate Alvarado, Katherine O'Connor, Sophia Velleco, Isabel Barry-Ruiz, Head Coach Dave Reilly; (middle row) Coach Debbie Druyff, Claire Yuan, Abby Maoz, Olivia Velleco; (back row) William Zhu, Benjamin Clemens, Colin Roy, Kevin Yanagisawa. Missing from photo: Tyler Roy.

Gayle Slossberg - Woodbridge Veterans



Our nation's veterans have served and sacrificed and I am committed to improving the critical services

they receive and ensuring they are properly recognized. One of my earliest roles as an elected official was to serve as Senate Chair of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. I was particularly proud to have created Connecticut's Wartime Service Medal, which is available to anyone who served in the armed forces during a time of war and was a Connecticut resident at the time, or who currently lives here.

I recently hosted a ceremony with state Department of Veterans' Affairs Commissioner Sean Connolly to present more than 100 area veterans with Connecticut's Wartime Service Medal. If you were unable to attend this ceremony but believe that you may be eligible for the medal, please contact my office at 860-240-0482.

Senate Democrats led passage of a tax cut for military veterans this year. Veterans will no longer pay Connecticut income tax on their military retirement pay. State law used to provide for a 50 percent exemption to retired members of the Armed Forces; now there is a 100 percent exemption. Not only

is this the right thing to do for those who fought to defend our freedoms, it also helps keep veterans in our state. Many of today's growing businesses are looking to hire highly skilled workers with strong leadership abilities, qualities that most veterans possess.

Our veterans have sacrificed so much to preserve our way of life. It is important that we not only thank them for their service, but stand up for them when they need us. I am proud of everything we have done in this state to make life better for our veterans, but it will never be enough to equal everything they have done for us.

Gayle Slossberg, State Senator, 14th District

Rotary Club Visits Beecher Road School

On December 14th, three members of the Rotary Club visited the third grade students of Beecher Road School: Andrew Skolnick, Mary Ellen LaRocca and Tony Anastasio. Assistant Principal, Analisa Sherman, facilitated the event.

Every third grader was gifted with a brand new dictionary. Mr. Skolnick spoke with the third grade students and told them that although the world of learning has changed, the one thing that hasn't changed is the dictionary that he uses every day. Students were encouraged to look up the word civic and read the definition. Mr. Skolnick then pointed out that all of the words on the page from citizenship at the top and civilize on the bottom are all related.

All of the third graders eagerly began looking through their dictionaries and the excited murmurs as they found new words and compared their discoveries with their classmates filled the room.

The Beecher Road School community extends a sincere thank you to the Rotary Club for their generous and educational donation to our students.

Spring Belts

The most important fashion accessory this spring is the belt. If a woman wants to update her current look without purchasing a new wardrobe, the belt is one of the least expensive ways to bring her wardrobe a new look. Belts can give any wearer a more polished look.

Choose a similar colored belt within a printed dress to break up the print. Add a pop of color to a light colored blouse and dark colored skirt. A loose fitting dress can be transformed into something more fashionable. Make it the focus of any look. Add color and texture.

Define your waistline. Hourglass shaped women can show off their curves cinching their waist with a belt. Boyish and athletic figures can benefit by wearing a belt with a fuller bottom. Apple shaped women look great wearing a belt higher on the waistline at their thinnest part making the waist look super-skinny. Pear shaped women can wear the belt lower on the hips and blousing out the top.

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Preserving the Past ~ Growing our Future



Massaro Community Farm has positioned itself as an important member of our community – as a working organic farm, as a supporter to those in need with food donations, and as a public space where individuals come to learn and engage. Since

its transition from a family-run operation to a community farm, it's become clear that having a farm in our neighborhood doesn't just mean growing healthy fruits and vegetables, it means:

- A healthier, more active community
- Training and job creation
- Education about our environment and how to protect and nurture it
- Re-learning where our food comes from and what it takes to make it grow
- Renewable energy
- Bringing like-minded people together, and so much more.

However, this kind of endeavor only survives through

community engagement and partnership, and our constituents have demonstrated their support of Massaro Community Farm evidenced by our success to date. Please join us as we celebrate Massaro Community Farm's 100th anniversary by making a contribution to our Centennial Campaign, visiting the farm or attending one of our many special events, or by volunteering in 2016.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming activities. Check our website (www.MassaroFarm.org) for the most up-to-date calendar and sign up to receive our newsletter.

February 18th, 7pm – Screening of “To Make A Farm” at the Woodbridge Town Library, an award-winning documentary on what it takes to run a small farm, followed by a discussion with guest farmer and advocate Susan Mitchell on the future of farms in CT.

March 13th, 2pm – Massaro Community Farm Annual Meeting.

March 26th, 10am – First Beekeeping Workshop of the Season.

Woodbridge Town Library Events

Adult Programs

Pierce Campbell Trio presents The Look of Love Jazz Concert

Thursday, February 10 @ 7pm

The Pierce Campbell Jazz Trio features Pierce Campbell (of the Kerry Boys) on guitar and vocals, Tony Pasqualoni on acoustic bass and Loren Everts on keyboards. They will be performing classic jazz Love Songs for Valentine's Day from artists like Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett. With excellent vocals, improvisation and a stellar song selection, they have an energy and sound that will engage you right from the start. Bring your voice and sing along! Please register at the Circulation Desk, by phone at 203-389-3433, or online at www.woodbridge.lioninc.org.

Special Massaro Farm Centennial Film Screening and Discussion

Thursday, February 18 @ 7pm

Join us for a film screening of “To Make a Farm” followed by discussion on the both the importance and future of small farms in CT with guest farmer Susan Mitchell. Please register at the

Circulation Desk, by phone at 203-389-3433, or online at www.woodbridge.lioninc.org.

Fondue with Robin Glowa

Tuesday, March 1 @ 7pm

Join Robin Glowa, the Conscious Cook, for a healthy take on fondue. Samples and recipes provided. Please register at the Circulation Desk, by phone at 203-389-3433, or online at www.woodbridge.lioninc.org.

Children's & Teen Programs

Take Your Child to the Library Day

Saturday, February 6, 2016

Join us to celebrate the fifth annual Take Your Child to the Library Day. Join us at 10:30am for stories and crafts for ages 3-5 and again at 2pm for a special performance by Pumpernickel Puppets, who will be performing The Lion and the Mouse and Three Billy Goats Gruff. Registration required for Pumpernickel Puppets (ages 3 and up). Please register online.

Beecher Road School Art Exhibit

Can you judge a book by its cover? Beecher Road School students designed

colorful covers for their favorite books. The artwork is on display in the Children's Department of the Woodbridge Town Library through February.

Read a book...make a craft!

The Library offers two weekly storycraft programs:

Saturday Storycraft for ages 3-5

Weekly 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Children hear a different story each week and create a matching craft.

Tuesday Storycraft for children in grades K-3

Weekly 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Children listen to a more sophisticated story and construct their own crafts based on a specific theme.

We also offer crafts for tweens and teens each month. These require online registration.



Youth Services After School Programs

Woodbridge Youth Services offers after school programming at Amity Middle School- Bethany Campus

Digital Photography for Teens -with instructor Melanie Stengel - former New Haven Register Staff Photographer

Class will begin February 11th. This is an introductory class on digital photography for students who want to get the most out of their digital cameras and improve their photographic skills as well as for those more experienced students who want to enhance their skills. Continuing students will be able to extend their skills through new projects. The class will be offered Thursdays in the computer lab at the Middle School from 2:25pm-3:55pm. The late bus is available on Thursdays at 4pm.

The course will cover camera basics while working through creative assignments on composition, natural and artificial light and color. Students will work in Adobe Photoshop in the computer lab learning professional techniques to maximize their photography. Participants will print their best photos each week to build their portfolios. Weekly projects will allow plenty of time for experimentation. A materials fee of \$80.00 per student must be paid in advance. A discount for siblings and financial assistance may be arranged for qualifying families. For more information, to

sign up and complete a permission slip, please call Youth Services at 203-389-3429.

Fun Fitness Cooking – with Culinary Institute of America trained Chef Maggie Lyon

Class will begin February 2nd. Learn how to cook and gain a recipe for lifelong healthy living! This 10 week class will be offered in the Middle School's kitchen after school Tuesdays from 2:25-3:55pm. The late bus is available on Tuesdays at 4pm. Class is limited to 12 participants. Students will receive a notebook with recipes, nutrition and food safety information, a glossary of techniques and terms and an apron. We'll start with basic skills and techniques and enhance the fundamentals to help develop a lifetime of great cooking and creativity. Continuing students will be able to extend their skills through new recipes.

A great after school activity! The materials fee of \$100.00 per student must be paid in advance. A discount for siblings and financial assistance may be arranged for qualifying families. For more information or to sign up please call Youth Services at 203-389-3429.

Want to advertise in Woodbridge Events? Call Nancy Salk at 203.219.3282

Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD)

QVHD is the public health department for the towns of Bethany, Hamden, North Haven and Woodbridge. Visit Our Website, www.qvhd.org for information related to your health.

QVHD To Begin A Community Health Assessment

The health of a community is not just the absence of illness or disease. Rather, the health of a community involves all aspects of life, including economic, recreational, environmental, cultural and spiritual aspects. In order to make sound decisions about what is needed for a healthy community, there must be an understanding and a systematic examination of the current health status.

Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD), the public health department for Bethany, Hamden, North Haven and Woodbridge, is initiating a community health assessment (CHA) for the district. This will be the first time a formal initiative has been undertaken. QVHD will be forming a coalition of community partners to look at health indicators for the district in order to identify strengths and weaknesses of the community and subsequently adopt strategies to address community health needs. A CHA will lead to a Community Health Improvement Plan. The ultimate goal of this project is to improve the health of district residents. Visit the QVHD website, www.qvhd.org, for more information and to learn how you can be part of this exciting project and have your voice heard.



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Woodbridge Garden Club

The Garden Club of Woodbridge was organized in 1933. Its purpose is to promote interest, education and involvement in individual and civic gardening activities of all kinds, including horticulture, floriculture, arrangement of flowers, bird life and conservation activities. To this end garden club members are active in maintaining the gardens and plantings in the public parts of Woodbridge. Also, members hold a fund raiser annually in order to present a scholarship to a Woodbridge high school senior who is planning to major in botany, horticulture or a related college major.

The Woodbridge Garden Club is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., the New England Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc., and the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. Every year, garden club members compete at the Connecticut Flower Show in Hartford with floral arrangements and horticulture specimens. This year on Saturday, May 14th, the Garden Club of Woodbridge will be holding a plant sale in the grove behind the old firehouse. Please join us at any of the following events:

Tuesday, April 11, 2016 - The Garden Club of Woodbridge presents "The Great Botanic Gardens of the World" with the Garden Club of Bethany. Speaker: Dr. Richard Benfield, Central Connecticut State University geography professor named the world's leading authority on garden tourism. Location: Bethany Town Hall, 40 Peck Road, Bethany, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 3, 2016 - The Garden Club of Woodbridge presents a field trip to "The Glebe House Museum and Gertrude Jeckll Garden," 149 Hollow Road, Woodbury CT. Those interested in visiting please RSVP to Barbara Bessinger 203-389-7709 before April 3, 2016.

Thursday, June 7, 2016 - The Garden Club of Woodbridge presents "Award Winning Floral Industry Educator". Speaker: Michael Derouin, Director of Floral Design at McCardees in Greenwich. Location: First Church of Christ, 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, 11:45 a.m. Light luncheon prior to program, \$5 guest fee.

Girl Scout Troop 60164



Woodbridge Girl Scout Troop 60164 presented First Selectman Ellen Scalettar and Youth Services Director Nancy Pfund with several boxes of

food collected for the Woodbridge Health and Human Services Department "Adopt a Neighbor" food drive, presented in early December. This was part of the 2015 service project for the Kindergarten through Second Grade girls of Troop 60164, led by Laura Cowan. The girls also went caroling and visiting at Brookdale Assisted Living in mid-December. Daisies and Brownies earned citizenship, community, kindness and caring badges for their service projects.

Interior Design

Interior Design is often thought of as a luxury service. It's hard enough keeping up with the financial and time demands of home ownership in general, so why bother investing more into the way your home looks and feels if it is functional for you and your family? The short answer is that it can make you feel better and happier in your home, and improve your quality of life.

The most basic essence of Interior Design is the creation of a space where you can feel happy. Happiness can result from seeing a favorite color on the wall, or sinking into a soft and comfortable sofa, or from introducing light and brightness into spaces where you spend a lot of time, especially in these dark winter evenings after a long day of work. Your home is a roof over your head, but it is also the space in which you raise a family, entertain guests, and live your life. Why not enjoy it?

Good Interior Designers will be able to quickly learn your style and tastes, and will create a design solution that fits within your budget. This can range from choosing the colors for wall paint and throw pillows, to the selection of furniture and furnishings, to complete renovations. In the end, it's about creating happiness for the client.

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Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Department Happenings

Snowflake Dance

The 17th Annual Snowflake Dance & Auction benefitting the WVFA will be Saturday, March 5, 2016 from 7:00pm to midnight at the Woodbridge Club. Enjoy a great night out and support your volunteer firefighters. Bring your favorite food and drinks - we provide beer, music and dessert. Silent and live auction items (VISA/MC/AMEX accepted). Tickets are \$25 per person/\$175 for a table of 8 – call (203) 389-3441 x100, email snowflake@woodbridgefire.com, or visit www.woodbridgefire.com and www.facebook.com/woodbridgefire for tickets and more information.

Fire Safety & Prevention Day in memory of Eva Ryan Block

Our 5th Annual Fire Safety & Prevention Day will be held Saturday, April 9, 2016 from 10am-2pm. Learn fire safety, touch a

truck, see equipment demonstrations, try on gear and more at this FREE event!

The WVFD hosted Santa and Mrs. Claus at the firehouse and brought them to visit residents of the Southbury Training School and to visit and deliver gifts to needy families in the community. The WVFD also conducted their annual Toy Drive for the Toy Closet at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital -- delivering approximately 1,000 donated toys! Thanks to everyone who donated toys!

Delivering Toys to Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital

The WVFD is an organization of men and women dedicated to serving our community as First Responders to fire suppression, rescue, medical emergency (EMT level), and hazmat incidents 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We are currently welcoming new members --

if you are 18 years of age or older and interested in finding out more about serving your community as a volunteer firefighter call (203) 389-3441 or stop by the firehouse on a Tuesday night at 7:00pm. Training, turnout gear, and equipment are provided. We also have a Juniors program for youths ages 15-17.



Delivering toys to Yale -New Haven Childrens Hospital

First Selectman Initiates Woodbridge Person of the Month

First Selectman Ellen Scalett initiated a Woodbridge Person of the Month Recognition program to spotlight the many Woodbridge residents, volunteers and employees who go above and beyond the expected in their dedication and commitment to Woodbridge and its residents.



Bob Tucker

In November Bob Tucker, architect and Assistant Scout Master of Boy Scout Troop 63, was recognized; in December the volunteer Friends of the Woodbridge Library earned the recognition; and in January the recognition went to Rita Gedansky. "There are so many people who make Woodbridge a wonderful place to live, and I hope to thank as many as possible through this program," Scalett said

Tucker approached the Board of Selectmen about building a pavilion in memory of Alfredo Canepari, a Boy Scout who passed away last year from leukemia. Canepari and his family were very active in the Boy Scouts, Tucker says, and "this seemed like a good fit."

The pavilion was paid for with funds raised by the Boy Scouts for this purpose and built at Camp Whiting, a Boy Scout camp located on Town-owned property. Tucker, a principal with the firm Huestis Tucker Architects LLC, located in Woodbridge, designed the pavilion which was built this fall by a group of volunteers and dedicated at a moving ceremony this month.



Friends of the Library

The Friends—President Dale Chodos, Mary Lee Barker, Barbara Radar, Donna Lehman, Barbara Lichtman and Mia VonBeeden—recently reorganized, relocated and re-opened the used bookstore, which helps to raise extra money for the Library. The work took six months and "Bookstore Alley" is now in the corridor of the mezzanine level of the Library.

The Friends of the Library help fund all of the Library's adult, teen and children's programs, museum passes and services. Additionally, funds help buy equipment and technology for all to use.



Rita Gedansky

Rita Gedansky served for 14 years on the Amity Regional District Board of Education. Before being elected to the Board, she was a social studies teacher at Amity Junior High for 16 years. Her experience as a teacher and a parent—and now grandparent—of Amity students gave her a holistic view of issues that came before the Board of Education.

Gedansky and her husband Stan have also been steadfast supporters of Amity athletics. If you know a Woodbridge employee, resident or volunteer who's gone above and beyond expectations, please nominate that person for this award by contacting Betsy Yagla at byagla@woodbridgect.org or 203-389-3403.

Signs That Your Child Is Struggling With Math

New math ideas come at students daily in school. Math builds from one concept to the next, so falling behind becomes worse as the year progresses. If a student is struggling to keep up in math, it's important to act now. "When kids get stuck on math, they don't speak up. They often sit there, fall behind, become frustrated and eventually give up. The first step is recognizing that a problem exists. These are six signs that suggest a child is struggling with math.

- Math grades lagging, but good grades in other subjects.
- Low self-esteem about math.
- Missing key milestones. Addition/subtraction should be mastered by end of 2nd-3rd grade, multiplication/division by end of 3rd-4th grade, fractions by end of 5th-6th grade.
- Physical signs like finger counting suggest poor number facts retention.
- Teacher comments like "not working up to his/her full potential"
- Child seems "bored" with math.

If a child shows such signs, the options parents have are: seeking help from the student's teacher is a first choice. Offering close help with homework is another. Enrolling student in an after-school math program is a third option.

Mohie Eldin y Mohie Eldin, Mathnasium of New Haven

Peripheral Neuropathy

Peripheral neuropathy is a condition in which the nerves become damaged, resulting in tingling, numbness, pain or loss of feeling in the feet and hands. This condition can cause severe complications. A lack of feeling in the feet, may prevent a person from feeling pain or temperature changes. This can lead to serious wounds, injuries and infections.

Anyone with peripheral should be diligent about getting regular foot checkups. This is an area in which we specialize. Approximately 20 million people in the US live with this issue. There are many causes of peripheral neuropathy. They include alcoholism, and traumatic injury from repeated stress. The most common cause is diabetes mellitus in which chronically high blood glucose levels damage the peripheral nerves.

There are various symptoms of this disease. Some patients have the inability to perceive foot pain or temperature changes. Other patients experience progressively worsening tingling or numbness that spreads from the feet into the legs. Some patients experience a sharp pain, while others report muscle weakness and problems with coordination.

When you begin to experience these symptoms you should seek medical treatment immediately.

Early diagnosis and treatment can prevent additional damage. The treatment may include the use of medication to minimize pain and tingling, as well as nerve stimulation therapies.

Dr. Sean Lazarus, West Haven Foot and Ankle

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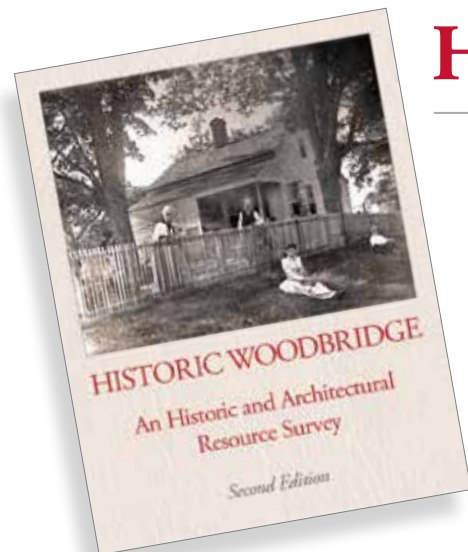
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