



News and Events

August 2020

August News and Activities

I'm excited to share some good news with you: Recently the Town of Woodbridge received a credit opinion from Moody's Investor Services. The Town continues to be rated as Aaa, and the report says that Woodbridge "benefits from a stable financial position, supported by reliable property tax revenues, conservative budgeting and low fixed costs. The Town's tax base is somewhat limited, but resident income and wealth levels are very strong. Long-term liabilities are manageable." We thank both our Finance Director Tony Genovese and our Board of Finance members for their expert, thoughtful contributions to reducing our budget this year, and their vigilance and diligence as we go through our town budget process every year.



We are all aware of our "somewhat limited" tax base. That's why I recently announced the 2030 Task Force which will work on ways to grow and diversify our Grand List and make sure our Town remains fiscally stable.

I am asking the 2030 Task Force for a comprehensive, big picture plan to move forward into the next decade. We also need to continue to seek ways to become more attractive to new businesses, help our current businesses grow and succeed, and diversify our housing stock. I envision this committee recommending new policies, possibly making recommendations to our zoning regulations, a marketing campaign, capital infrastructure and other ideas that they might think would help our Town grow the tax base.

I am also working to create a committee to examine Equity and Diversity in Woodbridge. Following the Black Lives Matters rally and walk in June, I was moved to action to look at ways to make Woodbridge a more welcoming, equitable and diverse town. I hope to announce the membership of that group at the Board of Selectmen's August meeting.

In late July I participated in a Community Conversation with author Ed Gordon titled *Activism: How to Stand Up and Enact Meaningful Change*. We had a great conversation and

the Ad Hoc Community Council, which organized the event, plans to hold additional events this year focusing on diversity, inclusion, and collaboration. If you weren't able to participate, you can see a recording of the event on the Town website.

Our playgrounds, playing fields and tennis courts are open as well as the dog park. Please be sure to ALWAYS wear a mask and stay at least 6 feet apart from others. Our facilities are not sanitized so remember you are using them at your own risk.

Town offices, although still closed to the public, continue to provide excellent service to folks from a distance, keeping both residents and staff safe.

Despite the pandemic (or perhaps due to it), you have probably noticed that homes are selling very quickly now and you may have new neighbors. If so, please share with them the Welcome to Woodbridge packet on the Town's website (woodbridgect.org) under the "Community" section. Please also be sure to sign up for the Town's newsletter and share the link with others: tinyurl.com/WoodbridgeEnewsletter.

All board and commission meetings continue to be held virtually. The Town calendar (woodbridgect.org/calendar) lists all the upcoming board and commission meetings and meeting agendas. On each agenda is an explanation as to how to participate virtually in a meeting—either via a link or by watching on WGATV channel 79 or YouTube.

Despite the very positive news that the pandemic seems to be subsiding in Connecticut, I urge you to continue to remain cautious. Please continue to stay home as much as possible, wear your mask and wash your hands frequently, especially if you are in the over 65 population and/or vulnerable for other health reasons. My goal has been, and will continue to be, to keep Woodbridge safe!

As always, my door is virtually open to you. If you need to reach me please call 203-389-3401 or email me at bheller@woodbridgect.org.

— First Selectman Beth Heller

New! Register for Outdoor Activities

The Town's Human Services, Library and Recreation Departments have teamed up to provide socially distanced outdoor programming underneath canopies on the Library lawn during the pandemic.

All outdoor programming will require registration—space is limited. Masks are required and social distancing will be enforced.

Visit the Town's online calendar—



woodbridgect.org/calendar—to see details for upcoming programming or visit the respective department's web pages. Weather may cancel.

It is anticipated that the canopies will be up from August to November. One canopy will be on the Library lawn near Newton Road. The other will be in "the Grove" between the Library and Old Firehouse. A porta-potty will be on site for program attendees.

Town News

Legal Notice for Motor Vehicle Appeals

The Board of Assessment Appeals of the Town of Woodbridge will meet via a virtual meeting on Saturday, September 12, 2020 from 9 am - 12 pm to hear appeals relating to assessments on Motor Vehicles on the Grand List of October 1, 2019. All persons claiming to be aggrieved by the assessments made by the Assessor on said list is hereby warned to make their appeals to said Board of Assessment Appeals.

Applications can be obtained via email from the Assessor's Office or found online at woodbridgect.org on the Assessor's page under Board of Assess-

ment Appeals. All applications plus any evidence you would like to present to the board to substantiate why you feel the assessment is too high must be attached to the application and presented prior to the meeting.

All applications must be filled out prior to your appeal and returned no later than Monday, September 7, 2020 via email to bquist@woodbridgect.org or by mail to the Assessor's Office at 11 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525. The Town Hall is presently closed to the public. Any questions, call the Assessor's Office at 203-389-3416.

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Fire Department Burn Safety

Summer is a time for fun, but the Woodbridge Fire Department warns residents to be cautious when using fireworks, grills, and other potentially dangerous materials. Here is everything you need to know about keeping your family and home safe this summer!

Summer is the time to enjoy vacations, camping, and picnics; however, summertime also brings fires and burn injuries due to fireworks and outdoor cooking. Know how to prevent a burn while you enjoy outdoor activities:

- Wear short sleeves or roll them

up when cooking on the grill.

- Use long-handled barbecue tools.
- Keep a three-foot safe zone around grills, fire pits and campfires.
- Attend public fireworks displays; this leaves the lighting to the professionals.
- First aid for burns:
 - Place the burn in cool water for three to five minutes.
 - Cover the burn with a clean, dry cloth.
 - See your doctor if the burn is larger than your palm.

Sand Volleyball Anyone?

The Sand Volleyball Court at 50 Woodfield Drive is now open. Use of the court requires a permit available through the Recreation Office. Residents may take out a permit for group use.

COVID-19 safety rules must be followed while using the Town athletic



court including the use of masks and six feet social distance protocol. Court net and lines are not sanitized—use at your own risk. Players must bring their own volleyball.

To obtain a permit, call 203-389-3446 or email

recreation@woodbridgect.org.

Human Services

The Woodbridge Center

Call 203-389-3430 or email jglicksman@woodbridgetown.org

Join in for exercise in one of two new outdoor spaces. **Exercise** class meets at 10 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Aug. 3 at the Bocce tent (between The Center parking lot and the Old Firehouse). Class is a \$2 drop in fee.

Craft group is back! Starting Aug. 6 from 9:30-11:30 am at the Newton Road canopy. There will be chairs, tables, and social distance!

Memoir Writing Project: Contact The Center to get started on your project. Entries will be bound for each participant and a copy of the collection of stories will be available at the Library. Entries must be submitted by Sept. 30.

Transportation for medical appointments is available for those 60+ or disabled. Call to arrange transportation.

Meals: Seniors may reserve frozen meals (\$4/meal) by noon on Monday for delivery to your home on Tuesday.

Youth Services

Call Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3429 for information or to register. E-mail npfund@woodbridgetown.org

Job Bank: Residents who wish to hire teens for outdoor work (with social distancing), and responsible teens who wish to join the Job Bank should call for more information.

Two Day Red Cross Babysitter Training: Training will take place 9 am - 1pm, Aug. 11 (virtually) and Aug. 12 (under the Newton Road canopy, outside the Library). Training is for ages 12-18. Social distancing measures will be in place and masks are required. The fee is \$60 for residents, \$65 for non-residents. Space is limited. Rain date is Fri., Aug. 14.

Chalk Art Challenge: Winners will be listed on Town website. See the Town of Woodbridge website and Facebook to learn about future programs.

First Selectman's Youth Award: Congratulations to Alexander (AJ)



Pocwierz awarded 2020's First Selectman's Youth Award for his dedication to the Town of Woodbridge.

First Selectman Beth Heller presented AJ with a plaque, and Scott Zimmerman from Peoples United Bank offered him a \$200 check. AJ was commended for his many volunteer hours as a Junior Firefighter in the Volunteer Fire Department. His diligence in replacing several wooden footbridges in town parks earned AJ his Eagle Scout status. Alexander has also contributed to the medical team for the Special Olympics ensuring the safety of athletes.

Sports Clinic & Cooking Offered by the Recreation Dept.

Remember to register! There is still time to register for the Multi Sports Clinic for skill drills and a variety of fun sports activities. Clinics will run Aug. 3-7 from 9-10:30 am for grades 2-5 & 10:45 am -12:15 pm for grades 6-8. Email Camp Director Nick Dottori at wrsummercamp@gmail.com or call the Recreation Office at 203-389-3446.

Clinics will take place at Pease Park. Masks



will be required and social distancing measures will be taken. There will be daily temperature checks upon arrival. For the safety of all, anyone with a 100 degree or over temperature will not be able to participate in the clinic.

Back by popular demand—the Food Explorers Virtual Cooking Camp will run August 17-21 for ages 7-13 from 9 am to noon.

Interested in volleyball? See page 2.

August Library News & Events

The Library staff is in the building, available by phone and email to assist residents with digital resources, research, and other questions. Phones/emails are answered Monday-Friday, 10 am - 5 pm. Reach us at 203-389-3433 or email askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org.

We hope you are enjoying Park & Pickup that began last month. Thank you for your patience! Park & Pickup is our contactless, curbside pickup for library materials. Call, email or place holds on your online account—please wait until you receive a call or an email from the Library saying your order is ready for pickup. Messages in your online account are not always accurate.

The book drop is OPEN! Items

checked out before the shelter-in-place were extended through July 1, 2020. Now that staff is in the building, items will not be extended further, but no late fines will be charged. Items will be quarantined 72 hours before being checked in and removed from your account. Thank you for returning your items!

Coming Soon: expanded homebound delivery service and loans of our digital conversion equipment.

Stay informed by visiting woodbridgetownlibrary.org, signing up for weekly eblast newsletters and following us on Facebook and Instagram.

Join us for the following...

Imagine Your Dragon Story Challenge (open to all ages): Write a story

about dragons and turn it in to the library for a prize! Booklets and information are available outside the library. Challenge ends Fri, Aug. 14.

End of Summer Reading Celebration with Bubble-ology: The Secret Science of Soap! Mon., Aug. 17 at 2 pm. This in-person program will be OUTSIDE with activities and prizes to follow the program—bring your summer reading logs and a chair or blanket! Registration is required and will be limited due to social distancing guidelines.

From the Friends of the Library: Please save donations until the fall. Donations left outside the Library will be destroyed due to limited space to safely quarantine items.

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