



# News and Events

September 2020

## Tropical Storm Isaias & September Highlights

I thank everyone for their patience and for reaching out to each other, as neighbors and friends, during the aftermath of Tropical Storm Isaias. I'd also like to thank our volunteer Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works Department, Human Services staff and Animal Control Officers for responding promptly and professionally to all our residents during and after Tropical Storm Isaias. During the height of the storm our emergency responders answered close to 200 calls with reports of wires down, trees down and trees crashing through homes. Folks needed help, and everyone stepped up. It took over a full week for all residents to have their power reconnected and internet/cable reestablished.

Unfortunately, it is anticipated there will be several more storms this hurricane season. Please prepare! Make sure you have bottled water and empty jugs to fill up water from the Town's water spigots. Purchase canned foods that do not need to be heated, like fruit, peanut butter and tuna. If you haven't yet, visit [www.ctalert.gov](http://www.ctalert.gov) to receive future emergency updates from the Town. The statewide system reaches everyone with a landline and you can also sign up to receive notification via cell, text or by email.

If you are elderly, have a health issue, are disabled or know someone who falls into these categories, please sign up for the Human Services' emergency call list. During emergencies, the department calls these residents to ensure they are safe and to offer help. To be added to the list please call 203-389-3429.

Regarding the pandemic, I have heard from parents that they are still seeing people at Pease Place Playground not wearing masks. Per Governor Lamont's Executive Order, anyone over the age of two should wear a mask when not able to maintain a 6-foot distance. I am putting everyone on notice now: If I continue to hear complaints about this we will have to re-close the playgrounds.

This year, because of the pandemic, it will be incredibly important to get a flu shot. We will host a drive-thru Flu Clinic provided by VNA Community Healthcare on Oct. 20 from 11 am - 2 pm, **by appointment only**. Contact



<https://connecticuthomecare.org/flu/> or 866-474-5230 for reservations. Call for information on accepted insurance. The Human Services Department has also provided an "Ask the Nurse" program for questions about COVID-19 or other health concerns. The VNA Community Healthcare nurse is available to area residents for a virtual visit by appointment, or in-person at the Guilford and Hamden offices on an as needed, case-by-case basis. Call 866-474-5230 to schedule an appointment.

The Woodbridge Food and Fuel Pantry has seen much more use this year due to the pandemic. Thank you to Coachman Square of Woodbridge—they are hosting a *Stuff the Bus* event to benefit our food pantry on Sept. 9 from 10 am to noon at Coachman's Square, 21 Bradley Road. For a list of needed items please call 203-389-3429, and remember: no expired items.

As I have noted before, I was greatly moved by the Black Lives Matter Rally held on our Town Green in June. Recently, I appointed members to an Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusion. I have asked them to identify and assess issues related to diversity and inclusion, prioritize the identified issues and determine steps that would ameliorate problems identified and enhance diversity and inclusion in our Town. They will be reporting frequently to the Board of Selectmen and I will keep everyone up to date on their recommendations.

The Board of Selectmen also appointed Lor Ferrante Fernandes to the Board of Education at our last meeting—she replaces Dr. Steve Fleishman who recently resigned. Having someone with Lor's educational background (she is a former teacher and principal and still tutors students) is incredibly useful, as local Boards of Education are tasked with tough choices this year that will have major impacts on all families and residents.

My door is virtually open to you—I can be reached at 203-389-3400 or [bheller@woodbridgect.org](mailto:bheller@woodbridgect.org). Thank you and please stay safe!

— *First Selectman Beth Heller*

## Election 101: Voter Registration Information

The Secretary of State's office will mail applications for absentee ballots to all registered voters in September.

You may register to vote three ways: online at [www.voterregistration.ct.gov](http://www.voterregistration.ct.gov), by mail by using the voter registration form on the Registrars' page on the Town website ([woodbridgect.org](http://woodbridgect.org)) or in person (call 203-389-3448 to make an

appointment).

The deadlines for this year's November election are: Oct. 27 at midnight for **online registration** and **mail-in** voter registration applications must be post-marked by Oct. 27.

A special registration session on November 2 from 9 am to 5 pm is for those whose situation by age, residency or

citizenship changed between October 27 and Nov. 2. The location will be noted by signs on the Town Hall front door.

Election Day Registration will be offered in the Senior Center cafeteria in the Center Building. You must have proof of identity AND residency for EDR.

*See the Town's website for full story.*

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## Notice to File Exemptions & Personal Property Declarations

### Notice to File Exemptions

Woodbridge residents are reminded to file exemptions by the dates noted below.

- Veterans must file honorable discharge papers (DD-214) by Sept. 30, 2020 with the Town Clerk's office.
- Veterans with a disability rating from the VA must file paper work with the Assessor's Office by Sept. 30, 2020.
- Certificates of Legal Blindness and Social Security Disability Certificates must be filed by Sept. 30, 2020 with the Assessor's Office.
- Farms, Forest and Open Space applications are available in the Assessor's Office and

must be filed between Sept. 1 through Oct. 30, 2020. Please direct questions to the Assessor's Office, 203-389-3416.

### Annual Personal Property Declarations Due November 2:

Businesses, professionals and farmers are reminded to complete and return forms to the Assessor's Office by Nov 2. Declaration forms must also be filed for owners of:

- non-CT or unregistered motor vehicles
  - horses, ponies & thoroughbreds
  - mobile manufactured homes not assessed as real estate
- Call the Assessor's Office at 203-389-3416 if a Declaration form was not received.

## HazWaste & Bulk Pickup

The annual **HazWaste Satellite Collection** at the Woodbridge Transfer and Recycling Station will take place Sat., Sept. 12, 9 am to noon. Due to Covid-19, procedure have been changed to a paperless, limited contact procedure.

To use the satellite collection you must electronically submit a HazWaste Central Registration Form **prior** to going to the Transfer Station. The form is on the-Town website, [woodbridgect.org](http://woodbridgect.org). Use the **Government** tab, choose **Departments M-Z**, choose **Transfer and Recycling Station**,

choose **Household Hazardous Waste Program**. Then click "**this electronic document**" and submit the form to HazWaste Central.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the **Bulk Pickup Program** was suspended for most of the season. There will be a bulk collection in November only. As in the past bulk pickups must be scheduled in advance—Tuesday's only. This is a very popular program with limited spots that fill very quickly. Please schedule a pickup as soon as possible by calling the Dept. of Public Works at 203-389-3420.

## Project Safety Tips from the FD

As you begin fall painting projects, beware that wet rags can ignite and begin a fire.

**How can rags start a fire?** Oil-based paints and stains release heat as they dry. If the heat is not released in the air, heat builds up and can cause a fire. Water-based finishes will not have this issue.

### Rags wet with paint and stain.

- Never leave cleaning rags in a pile.
- Hang the rags outside or spread them on the ground away from

buildings. Weigh them down so they do not blow away.

- Place dried rags in a metal container with the cover secured. Fill the container with a water and detergent solution to break down the oils.
  - Keep containers of oily rags in a cool place, avoiding direct sunlight and other heat sources.
- Stay fire safe. For more information and safety tips, visit [woodbridgefire.com](http://woodbridgefire.com) and follow us at [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

## Human Services

### The Woodbridge Center :

Call 203-389-3430 or email [jglicksman@woodbridgect.org](mailto:jglicksman@woodbridgect.org)

**Classes under the canopy:** All classes require masks and social distancing.

- **Exercise with Laurie** meets at 10 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the green canopy. There is a \$2 drop in fee.
- **Craft group** meets Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 am at the white canopy. Bring your lawn chair or chair cushion!
- **Art Class** with Graham Dale is back! Wednesdays from 10 am - noon at the white tent. Bring your own supplies, table easels will be provided. This 6-week class runs Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14, rain date Oct. 21 with a \$30 fee. Checks may be made payable to The Woodbridge Center.

**Annual Picnic Lunch – Sept. 22:** Drive-thru style! Box lunches will be provided from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm; RSVP no later than Sept. 15, space is limited. This event is co-sponsored by

Coachman Square of Woodbridge. Woodbridge seniors may call for reservations and menu. Drive-thru pick-up is in front of The Woodbridge Center and requires masks.

**Transportation** for medical appointments and local shopping 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. Meal price will increase to \$5 per meal beginning Oct. 6.

### Human Services:

Call Social Worker Judi Young at 203-389-3429.

Starting Sept. 14 Woodbridge residents may call for an appointment to apply for **CT Energy Assistance** program administered by TEAM Inc. Income eligibility requirements must be met.



Red Cross Baby Sitting Instructor Anna Mauhs works with a group under the outdoor canopy.

### Youth Services:

Call Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3429 or email to register or for information: [npfund@woodbridgect.org](mailto:npfund@woodbridgect.org)

### Red Cross Babysitter Training:

The open-air class held 10 students who learned childcare basics and first-aid.

**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.

## Virtual Cooking Class, Yoga & More!

**Remember to register!** There is still time to register for the Food Explorers Virtual Cooking Class. Class runs Mondays from Sept. 14 through Oct. 12 (no class Sept. 28 & Oct. 12), 4-5 pm for ages 7-13. The cost is \$65.

September brings new sessions of Yoga. Join instructors Bill Banick or Diane King for fall yoga programs. Tai Chi will be offered by Bill Banick as well. Call the Recreation Office at 203-389-3446 for times and days available.



The Recreation Dept. will continue to offer virtual programs. For a complete list of programs, go to: [woodbridgect.org](http://woodbridgect.org)

Tennis permits are available. Woodbridge residents may reserve a tennis permit for a specific date and time. Permits are available up to three weeks in advance.

Due to social distancing protocol, the annual 5K Road Race and Fun Run has been cancelled. For more information, call 203-389-3446.

## September Library News & Events

**Long Overdue Items:** Please return outstanding items as soon as possible, even if they are BILLED on your library account. No replacement costs will be charged, but the items need to come back. The book drop is open 24/7; items will be quarantined for 96 hours, in accordance with new guidelines.

**Park & Pickup:** You may continue to place holds by phone, email, and online. Please remember to wait until you hear from us before coming to the Library to pick up your order.

**Staff is here to help:** Have a question about digital resources? Need help with research? Looking for your next great read? Phones/emails are answered Monday-Friday, 10 am to 5 pm. Reach us by phone at 203-389-3433 or email us at

[askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org](mailto:askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org).

Join us for the following...

**Outside Storytime:** Meets near the picnic area outside the Library. Mondays for ages 4+ & Wednesdays for ages 18 mos. - 3 years. Both start at 10:30 am; siblings welcome!

**After School Outdoor Program - Leaf Art:** Join us outside at the Library picnic tables each Monday from 3:30-4:30 pm to collect leaves, create crayon leaf rubbings, and turn them into a beautiful piece of art! For ages 4+. No registration required, just meet us outside starting September 14.

**Early Autumn Enjoyment with Robin Glowa** on Mon., Sept. 15 at 7 pm via Zoom: It's a wonderful time for enjoying seasonal ingredients. Join Robin Glowa,

"The Conscious Cook" for creative recipes showcasing early autumn crops.

**From the Friends of the Library:** Shop the mini outdoor bookstore in front of the Library on the honor system.

**Book Donation Days!** Mon., Sept. 14 and Thu., Sept. 17, from 12 to 3 pm. The Friends of the Woodbridge Library will accept some of the books you have been saving! Donations will be accepted only on these two days. In order for your donations to help us, PLEASE respect the following:

- no more than 4 boxes per household
- bring books to the side door of the Library meeting room (between the two parking lots)
- books in excellent condition only.

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