

Community Spirit this Holiday Season

As we approach the holiday season and the close of the year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the strength and spirit of our community. It's a time for gratitude, and I am deeply grateful and honored to have been reelected to serve as your First Selectman. This year's election was a close one, and a powerful reminder that every vote truly matters. I extend my sincere thanks to all who participated in the democratic process.

I especially want to acknowledge our poll workers, registrars, and election officials for their dedication and professionalism. Their commitment ensured a smooth, transparent process from start to finish, including a canvass. These individuals work long hours with little fanfare, and their efforts uphold the very foundation of our local democracy.

In the spirit of civic engagement, I encourage residents to stay involved beyond Election Day by attending public meetings, signing up for e-news updates, volunteering, or simply sharing your ideas. One of the best ways to strengthen our community is to participate. Government works best when it reflects and understands the voices of the people it serves.



In addition to the election, this fall brought exciting progress in Woodbridge. I'm proud to share that we earned Bronze certification through Sustainable CT, recognizing our work across a broad range of priorities including environmental protection, equity, and resident engagement.

We're also closing out the year with two important new grants. One will fund environmental remediation evaluation at the former Country Club of Woodbridge property, an essential step toward responsible long-term use of this valuable land. The second supports efforts to explore food scrap diversion and composting options at the Transfer Station, part of our growing focus on sustainable waste management.

These achievements further our progress towards a vibrant, responsible, and future-focused Woodbridge. They are also tangible outcomes of the behind-the-scenes work, strategic planning, and community collaboration happening every day.

I look forward to continuing this work together in 2026 and beyond. Wishing you a peaceful holiday season!

~ First Selectman Mica Cardozo

Holiday Event at the Firehouse

On Sat, Dec. 13, the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Assoc. will host Santa and Mrs. Claus from 9 am to noon. New unwrapped toy donations will be collected for the Yale New Haven Hospital Toy Closet. Everyone is welcome to this free event—reservations are not needed. Bring a camera to capture the moment!



Letters to Santa may be sent to santa@woodbridgefire.com.

A Car Seat Technician will be on hand to properly install car seats by appointment only. To schedule, call 203-389-3441.

Important Reminders!

Nov. 28, Fri. & Dec. 6, Sat.: Police Dept. Stuff a Cruiser Event, 9 am - 3 pm. Two drop off locations—see above.

Dec. 13, Sat.: WVFA Holiday Event at the Firehouse, 9 am - noon. See above.

Jan. 1, Mon.: Deadline for Veterans to file Tax Exemption Application. Details on page 2.

Jan. 1, Mon.: Taxes become due Jan. 1. See important tax information on the bottom of page 2.

Jan. 10, Sat.: Woodbridge Volunteer Fair in the Center Building gym, 11 am - 3 pm. Details on page 3.

Feb. 3, Tue.: Save the Date! Opioid Prevention Training at the Woodbridge Library, 7:15 pm. Details on page 3.

Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve - Dec. 24, Wed.: The Transfer Station will close at noon & the Library will close at 2 pm.

Christmas Day - Dec. 25, Thu.: Town Offices, Library, & Transfer Station will be closed.

New Year's Eve - Dec. 31, Wed.: The Library will close at 4:30 pm.

New Year's Day - Jan. 1, Thu.: Town Offices, Library, & Transfer Station will be closed.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Jan. 19, Mon.: Town Offices, Library, & Transfer Station will be closed.

Stuff a Cruiser Toy Drive

The Stuff a Cruiser event will take place at two locations this year! The Police Dept. has partnered with Katz's Deli and Starbucks (D'Andrea's Plaza) since the start of the program and this year with Monro Auto Service (Amity Road). To benefit **Toys for Tots**, new unwrapped toys may be dropped off from 9 am - 3 pm to D'Andrea's Plaza on **Sat., Dec. 6, or** Monro on Fri., Nov. 28. Also, pet supplies will be collected at Monro for the **Woodbridge Animal Shelter**.



Town News

Mantras Market is Open



Buddy DeGennaro
Broker
Woodbridge Office



Cell: 203-710-2548

Email: buddy.degennaro@cbrealty.com

Web: buddydegennaro.cbintouch.com

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Mantras Market is open! This unique business is a market by day to shop for organic, local produce along with prepared meals made on site, and imported and specialty items. In the evening, it becomes a gathering place to enjoy a "Farm to Table" meal made with the finest local, seasonal ingredients.

Mantras business owner Julian Brown and his team represent the true essence of "Farm to Table". Julian, trained under multiple Michelin-starred chefs, is thrilled to bring this culinary experience to Woodbridge. He has worked with

high-profile clientele, taught cooking classes ranging from intimate to large scale corporate events, and has meticulously planned and executed corporate functions, catered events, and weddings.

In October, Mantras celebrated its Grand Opening with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Julian (center) and his family and friends were joined by First Selectman Mica Cardozo and Barry Cohen of the Amity Chamber of Commerce.

Matras Market is located at 9 Lucy Street. To learn more, visit mantrasmarket.com.

Veteran Tax Exemption Applications Due

The Woodbridge Assessor reminds eligible veterans to file the Permanently & Totally Disabled Veteran with 100% Service-Connected Disability Rating Tax Exemption Application with the Assessor's Office **no later than January 1, 2026**. The qualifying Veteran Administration documentation must be submitted with the application.

Applications must be filed each year. Applications were mailed to veterans who have previously filed for this tax exemption. For exemption details and to print the application, go to [Veterans Exemptions](#) from the Assessor page on the Town website. Applications are also available in the Assessor's Office at Town Hall.

Call 203-389-3416 with questions or for more information.

Reminder from the Tax Office

Real Estate, Personal Property and new Supplemental Motor Vehicle Taxes are due Jan. 1, 2026. Postcard reminders with important information will be mailed in early December.

Payments received **after** Feb. 2, will be charged interest on unpaid balance at the rate of 1.5 % per month. The minimum interest charge is \$2.

As a reminder, payments that are not received by March may be referred to a State Marshal for collection. Specific details may be viewed on the [Tax Collector page](#) on the Town website, woodbridgect.org.

For in person payments, the Tax Office will be open weekdays, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (closed Jan. 1 & 19). On Mon., Feb. 2, the office will be open 8:30 am to 7 pm.

Credit card payments will be accepted via the Town website only. There is a fee for the service. Go to the [Tax Collector page](#) to make a credit card payment, to review the Legal Notice, and to review important Tax information. Call Tax Collector Pat Crisco with questions at 203-389-3425.

Failure to receive a bill does not exempt taxpayers from payment or penalty, per CT General Statute 12-130, 12-146.



The Center's Holiday Luncheon

Celebrate the holidays with a free **Holiday luncheon** at The Woodbridge Center on Dec. 18, from 12 - 1 pm. Enjoy



a delicious hot lunch catered by Lasse's Restaurant and live music performed by Shawn Taylor. Lunch will include stuffed chicken breast, roasted potatoes, vegetables, and dessert. This event is sponsored by The Rotary Club of Woodbridge for Woodbridge (and a limited number of Bethany) residents, ages 55+. RSVP by December 11, 203-389-3451.

For events, & more information, call 203-389-3451, stop by The Center, or email kmoriarty@woodbridgect.org.

Human Services Opioid Prevention Training

On February 3 from 6 to 7:15 pm, residents are encouraged to attend a free Naloxone training session at the Woodbridge Library. Learn the signs of an opioid overdose, how to administer Naloxone, and more about the opioid

crisis. Naloxone will be supplied to attendees. Call 203-389-3429 to register.

The Human Services Dept., along with the Alliance for Prevention and Wellness, brings this educational program to the Woodbridge community.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program Begins February 3

VITA provides free tax preparation service to low-income individuals, people with disabilities, and to those who speak limited English. Call Human Services in January to reserve an appointment, 203-389-3429.

Youth Services Holiday Giving Programs

Toys 4 Kids and "We Care Bags" for **un-housed people** are underway at the Youth Services Dept. Donations are welcome and appreciated.

For **Toys 4 Kids**, drop off new, unwrapped toys

at the Library by Dec. 15 and for **We Care Bags**, fill resealable bags with personal items (snacks, gift cards, toiletries, socks) and bring bags to Youth Services. Call 203-389-3464 for details.

Food Pantry Program

Residents in need are encouraged to call 203-389-3429 for the Food Pantry Program. Thanks to the recent Food Drive organized by Boy Scout Troops 63 & 410 and the generosity of our community, more than 6,000 pounds of food now stock the pantry shelves.

Recreation News

Youth Basketball Leagues

Register now for youth basketball leagues—space is still available!

The boy's **Classic League** for Grades 4-6 begins Tue., Dec. 2. The **Junior High League** for Grades 7-9 begins Thu., Dec. 4. Both leagues run from 6-8 pm. The \$240 fee includes a team t-shirt.

The girl's **Basketball Clinic** for grades 4-7 begins Fri., Dec. 5 from 6-7:30 pm. The Clinic Fee is \$75.



All leagues will take place in the Beecher Road School South Gym. To register, visit our [Registration page](#) on the Town website at woobridgect.org.

Resident Assistance Fund Donation

Recreation's 43rd annual 5k Road Race and Children's Fun Run, held in October, had another successful turnout. The Recreation Commission voted to donate \$4,000 in proceeds from the event to the Residents Assistance Fund.

The Resident Assistance Fund, funded exclusively through donations, is designed to help eligible Woodbridge residents in need.

For program details and requirements as well as to make donations, call the Human Services Department at 203-389-3429.

Library News



Are you looking to get involved in your community but aren't sure where to start? Join us for our first ever Community Volunteer Fair on Saturday, January 10 from 11 am to 3 pm in the Center Building Gym!

This event will feature representatives from several nonprofit organizations located in Woodbridge and the surrounding area. Attendees can drop in, chat with representatives from different groups, and learn all about the work these organizations are doing to make our community a great place to live! Explore different volunteer opportunities and find out if your skills are a good fit for their needs.

High school students looking to fulfill volunteer hours and families looking to volunteer together are also welcome to attend, as many organizations will take volunteers who are under 18.

Whether you're looking to save lives, help those in need, or just file some paperwork once in a while, you're sure to find a volunteer opportunity that works for you.

Do you represent a nonprofit in

need of volunteers and want to be part of the fair? Please contact Donna Faryna in Adult Services Department for details. You can reach her by email at dfaryna@woodbridgetownlibrary.org or call (203) 389-3466. Participation is a great opportunity to introduce your work to the larger community and network with other nonprofits with similar goals.

Department Phones & Emails

Adult Services: 203-389-3434

wbrstaff@lioninc.org

Children's Dept.: 203-389-3439

childrensprograms@lioninc.org

General Info: 203-389-3433

askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org

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- **Close fireplace dampers** when not in use to prevent heat escape
- **Reverse ceiling fans** to push warm air down
- **Check and replace furnace filters** monthly for better airflow
- **Use LED holiday lights** and put them on a timer to save energy
- **Insulate outlets and switch plates** on exterior walls



And remember: gifting moments and memories is better for the planet (and often more fun!).

Let's celebrate the season with warmth, purpose, and sustainability.

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