GFWC Women's Club Honors American Heart Month By Wearing Red



Pictured: GFWC Women's Club Members Wearing Red for American Heart Month.

North Haven: On February 7 the GFWC Women's Club of North Haven commemorated American Heart Month at the North Haven Senior Center by wearing red. American Heart Month is celebrated each year to raise awareness of the importance of preventing cardiovascular disease. The Women's Club, a service organization, has been in existence for over 13 years serving North Haven and other communities and working to support community needs. The Women's Club is active between September and June of each year.

In September the Women's Club held a working session to put together "purple purses" containing toiletries and other necessities for women in domestic violence safe houses. In October the club donated these "purple purses" to BHcare, the Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services (UCDVS) in CT. October also is Breast Care Awareness month. The Club as well as the medical profession strongly urge women to begin to obtain mammograms at an earlier age and get them regularly each year. In October the Women's Club also donated a substantial donation of diapers, wipes, infant clothing and other items to Mary and Joseph's place for families in need.

January saw the donation of a load of school supplies to Clintonville Elementary School, North Haven. Donation of these supplies is especially welcomed in January or February when school supplies are low and school budgets are spent.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international organization with clubs in every state in the continental US and in many countries including the Ukraine. The GFWC is committed to volunteer activities enhancing the lives of others. The Women's Club is open to women 18 and over who are interested in making a real difference in their community through community service projects.

The Club welcomes new members and invites anyone interested in finding out about the Club to attend a meeting. Contact Pam Lerner at (203) 281-3090 for additional information about our club and meetings. Join us at one of our meetings. Come, meet and make friends and enjoy some social time as well. Our meetings are held at the North Haven Senior Center at 189 Pool Road on the first Friday of each month between September and June at 10:00 am. Our members would enjoy meeting new people. Like us on Facebook at GFWC Women's Club of North Haven. You may also contact us at gfwcnh@gmail.com.

I WAS JUST THINKING.....
By Sally J. Buemi
Selectman, Town of North Haven

I was just thinking about the budget proceedings thus far. I know many of you are concerned about what the new mill rate will be because of the reval. assessment increases. (as a reminder, the deadline to file an appeal of your new assessment is February 20, 2025). I promised to keep you informed so here is what we know so far.

The expenditure budget has two main parts – Education and Town Government. The Town Government includes public works, police, library, fire, recreation, etc. The current year budget total is $128.5 million. Approximately half of this total is for Education, and the other half for Town Government.

On February 1st, the Board of Education presented their proposed budget for next year. Their proposal is $68.4 million which is $4.4 million more than the current year, a 6.99% increase. It is too soon to give final numbers on the Town side because the Board of Finance (BOF) has not yet completed their budget workshops. The BOF will meet February 19th to complete the Town workshops.

On March 19th, the BOF will meet to determine an initial recommended budget to be presented at the Public Hearing on April 7th. This public hearing is extremely important. Your comments and questions matter. The BOF meets again on April 16th to finalize the proposed budget that will be voted on at the May 20th Referendum. The public hearing may have an impact on this final budget proposal, so please attend. I will keep you updated.

I also want to talk to you about an important Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 25th at 6:00 PM in the upstairs conference room at Town Hall. Use the back entrance. There are two matters on the agenda; both relate to Town Ordinances.

First, we have Chapter 192, a new proposed Ordinance to offer volunteer firefighters an incentive. This incentive is a stipend, or payment, ranging from $1,250 to $2,000 per year depending on fire call responses.

It is important to know we already have an Ordinance (Chapter 184-14) that gives volunteer firefighters a tax abatement, or credit, for taxes owed to the Town. The abatement offered in Chapter 184 has the same range of $1250 – 2,000 depending on the percentage of fire call responses. However, only those volunteers who live in North Haven are eligible for the abatement benefit. The purpose of the new incentive program in the proposed ordinance is to give our non-resident volunteer firefighters a benefit for their dedicated service to our community. I fully support this new incentive program for our volunteers. It is my hope that it will help attract and retain new volunteers, and incentivize more call responses.

The second issue on the agenda is to consider adopting amendments to Article X of Chapter 184 – our Elderly Tax Freeze Ordinance. This Ordinance was originally adopted in 2016 by a very close Town Meeting vote. The ordinance gives tax relief to eligible elderly homeowners, over 70, living in Town at least 5 years, and who meet income and asset regulations. If fully eligible, the house taxes would be frozen at the rate in the first year of eligibility. So even if the mill rate goes up, the house taxes would stay the same.

This existing Ordinance, unfortunately, lapsed in 2020. The purpose of this proposed amendment is to renew the program, at least through 2030. However, there is one other very important change. This new tax relief proposal has something that was not in the original. It has what is known as a "claw back" provision. This means the tax relief given is deferred, and all past benefits would be paid to the Town in the following circumstances: sale or transfer of the property, death of the homeowner, or the homeowner is no longer eligible to receive the benefits.

I am happy this Elderly Tax Relief program might be coming back. We will see at the Town Meeting how people feel about the changes. Please Attend!!

You can reach me at sbuemi5@comcast.net.

North Haven Memorial Library February Programs

To register for a program at North Haven Memorial Library (17 Elm St.), visit our website at www.northhavenlibrary.net or call us at (203) 239-5803. ***Registration is required for all programs except for those noted otherwise.***

All Month Long! Conversation Hearts Scavenger Hunt: All Ages. No Registration Required. Love is in the air. Can you find all 10 conversation hearts hidden in the Children's Department?

Toddler Time: Wed., February 19, 10:30-11am. Age Group: 2-3 yrs. Parent/Caregivers and their toddlers will interact with books, learn fingerplays, and sing.

Guided Meditation: Wed., Feb. 19, 10:30-11:30am. Community Room and Zoom. Join Johanne Vannelli as she leads us through a mindfulness and meditation session.

Romance Book Club: Wed., Feb. 19, 6:30-7:45pm. Community Room and Zoom. For the month of February, we will be reading and discussing *Hooking Him* by Aurora Rose Reynolds.

Baby Rhyme Time: Thurs., Feb. 20, 10:30-11:15am. Ages: 0-24 months. No Registration Required. This program brings caregivers and babies together to nurture bonds and increase awareness of the child's development.

Must See Movie - *Storming Caesars Palace*: Thurs., February 20, 1:30-3pm. No Registration Required. Chronicles the extraordinary life of Ruby Duncan, an activist who fights the welfare system and becomes a White House advisor. Runtime: 86 mins.

Creation Station - Pink Fluffy Slime: Thurs., Feb. 20, 4-5pm. Ages: 3-10 yrs. with an Adult. No Registration Required. This week: It's slime!

Kids Who Code: Thurs., Feb. 20, 6-6:45pm. Age Group: Grades: 3rd-5th. Kids Who Code is a national program that is on a mission to change the image of what a programmer looks like.

Silent Book Club: Thurs., Feb. 20, 6:30-7:30pm, Community Room and Zoom. This is a "bring your own book" activity – no assigned reading and no pressure. Come for refreshments and an hour of quiet to focus on your latest read. Afterwards you are welcome to chat and share titles, but the hour of reading time is strictly sweet silence.

Dance Party: Fri., Feb. 21, 10:30-11am. Age Group: 12-24 mos. to 5 yrs. Join us for this loosely structured dance party to burn off some extra energy, sing, dance and play with instruments.

Puzzle Off: Sat., Feb. 22, 10:15am-2:30pm. Open to all puzzle lovers, join the speed competition at the North Haven Library. Register as a team or as an individual that will be assigned to a group. Teams of 4 to 6 will compete against each other to complete an identical 1000 piece puzzle. This year we will have two categories: Intermediate and Advanced! You will not be able to register online. Groups must register at the Information Desk OR call (203) 239-5803. Competition begins at 10:15am. Beverages and snacks will be provided.

Pokémon Club: Sat., February 22, 10:30-11am. Ages: 6-11 yrs. No Registration Required. Play Pokémon with your peers and make new friends! Be sure to bring your own cards. *Trading is welcome at the players discretion and is not monitored by library staff.

• • • •

WANTED: Collector buying old photographs from the 1800's on glass, tin or paper, of people, places or things; (203) 915-7662 •

The Tax Guy

Fast, Accurate, Experienced

Thomas Fortuna

When it's time to file your tax return, you want experience, accuracy and a personal relationship

1822 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, Connecticut 06514
Email: Tom@TheTaxGuy.us
Office: 203-684-3512 Fax: 203-936-6606

Call now for an appointment!

203-684-3512



Upcoming Events at the Garden Club of Woodbridge

The Garden Club of Woodbridge meeting on April 1st will have a presentation by Kelsey Fisher, Ph.D regarding "Meadow Gardens." Kelsey is a scientist who researches insect movement and dispersal ecology, pollinator conservation and agriculture pest management.

Location is the Woodbridge Town Library, 10 Newton Road, Woodbridge and will run from 7-9pm. Open to the public with a $5 guest fee.

For more information, please contact Mary Jane: wpurcell@snet.net.

• • • •

FOR SALE: Men's L.L.Bean tan lightweight hooded jacket, size tall extra large $50; (203) 605-2615 •

K of C Pinta 5 Council Delivers Blankets And Socks To Masters Manna Food Pantry And Resource Center



Pictured: Knights of Columbus Pinta 5 Council of Wallingford Don Lee, Robert McKenzie, and Michael DeMusis deliver 153 Blankets and 1277 pairs of socks from Blanket and Sock Drive to Masters Manna Food Pantry and Resource Center of Wallingford on February 8th.