

The Orange Times

When there's better writing, there's better reading.

Vol. 7 / Issue 4

www.TheOrangeTimes.com

April 12, 2018

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Milford Residents Decry Proposed BOE Cuts

By *Brandon T. Bisceglia*

Milford residents made it known to the city's Board of Aldermen at an April 4 public hearing that they were not pleased with a proposed \$361,500 cut to the Board of Education's budget request.

The BOE's overall \$93,596,655 budget request for the 2018-19 fiscal year had flagged the money for overdue maintenance and repairs. The Board of Finance, however, only gave the BOE \$93,235,155 in its budget recommendation.

That recommendation is now in front of the Board of Aldermen, which is holding a series of public hearings before a final budget vote scheduled for May.

Numerous residents spoke out against elimination of the funds. City resident Michael Brown argued that having the Board of Finance decide which projects are or are not needed amounts to directing the administration of another department and therefore exceeds the authority of that body's charter.

"I don't believe the Board of Finance members could know enough about the projects involved to inform them that they can be delayed until next year," Brown said, adding that the cut was "capricious and unaccountable."

Resident Kara Flannery rattled off a list of problems at school facilities, including a lack of air conditioning, worn floors, dingy blinds



Stock Photo from Shutterstock

and too few bathroom sinks in some restrooms. She noted that the schools had already delayed a number of needed projects the prior year.

"Milford needs great schools, because this is how families today choose where they live," Flannery said. "Young families looking to buy homes in our area are not looking that closely at our mill rate, but they are looking closely at our schools."

The Board of Finance's overall budget proposal for the city of \$210,193,398 would lower the mill rate slightly, from 27.79 mills to 27.74 mills. That's a 2.14 percent spending increase over last year's total, but steady

increases in Milford's tax base continue to keep the tax rate down, a trend the city has enjoyed for the last few years.

Several speakers said they were grateful for this financial stability, but didn't want it to come at the expense of needed expenditures.

Former Board of Education member Susan Krushinsky summed up the group's sentiment. "Our Board of Ed has been very fiscally responsible over the years, and \$361,500 is a small percentage of the overall budget," she said. "These are necessary projects, and if they're not done now, then they may end up costing us, the taxpayers, much more money in the future."

Turkey Hill Neighbor Wants School's Lights Out

By *Brandon T. Bisceglia*

A dispute between Orange's Turkey Hill School and a nearby resident came to a head April 3 during a meeting of the Town Plan and Zoning Commission that featured cameos from the schools' facilities director, the superintendent of schools and first selectman Jim Zeoli.

Pasquale Minore, who lives adjacent to the school, said that the lights at Turkey Hill flood his property every night, far in excess of what zoning regulations allow. He said they shine directly into his master bedroom, the master bathroom, the family room, his daughter's bedroom, and his deck.

"When I wake up to go to the bathroom during the night," he explained, "I'm blinded by the light."

Minore was backed up in his assessment in part by Zoning Enforcement Officer Paul Dinice, who had been out to the property and agreed that the lights were not in compliance. According to Orange's zoning laws, lighting should not exceed 0.5 foot candle at the property line.

Dinice said he had been in contact with members of the Board of Education and was recently shown a lighting plan that he said only partially addressed the requirements of

the regulations and did not reflect the current situation on the ground.

"I told them to make those other improvements, contact the neighbors, see if there's an agreement on everything," Dinice said. "But I did not accept this map because it did not address all the issues in my letter."

TPZC Chair Oscar Parente agreed that the lighting was certainly a problem. But he was unsure of what Minore wanted the commission to do for him.

"You're looking from the commission...for what?" he asked. "Are you looking for a cease and desist order?"

He added that it would be strange to have the commission fining the Board of Education.

The situation became even more muddled when Superintendent of schools Vince Scapetti next addressed the commission. He said he had gone out with Dinice when the complaint was first made, and at the time Minore had pointed to only one offending light. That light had been moved.

"As far as we knew at the time," he said, "I believed the matter was resolved."

When a second round of complaints arose, Scapetti said, Minore sent him a picture of the same light that had already been removed. Nevertheless, he said, additional lights had

since been adjusted.

"We did our very best to rectify this situation," he said.

Orange Public Schools Facilities Director Mike Luzzi threw another wrench into the discussion when he explained that the parking lot improvements that had resulted in the lighting problems were a town project – not a BOE project.

He further pointed out that years ago the lights had been turned off at night. But with the installation of security cameras and other security measures, the police and fire departments had recommended keeping them on.

Ultimately, BOE Chair William Kraut told the commission he would work with the town to get the lighting fixed. First, though, he said he would need a site plan with the proper illumination values.

"When you say, 'Get us a plan,'" Parente interjected, "it's not up to the commission." He said it would have to come from the town.

At that point, Zeoli, who had been sitting in the audience, spoke up from across the room. "The town will hire the lighting person," he said, promising they would have accurate lighting values available by the next commission meeting.

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News & Events

Orange Volunteers To Host Paper And Mattress Recycling Event

The Orange Recycling Committee will host a paper shredding and mattress recycling event Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to noon at the town's High Plains Community Center at 525 Orange Center Rd. At the same event, the Orange Community Women will be hosting a FUNDrive for clothes and household items. All services will be provided free of charge to residents of Orange.

The secure, on-site paper shredding service will once again be handled by local company Affordable Solutions. Residents may bring bags or boxes filled with documents for shredding, and volunteers from the Orange Recycling Committee will deposit them into the shredding truck. This service is funded by a \$500 grant from the Rotary Club of Orange. Residents may show their appreciation by donating to the Orange Rotary Scholarship Fund. Rotarians will be on hand to collect donations.

Residents are encouraged to bring tax papers, bills, receipts, statements, and documents that contain personal, financial and/or medical information. There's no need to remove staples or elastic bands, but clips should be removed for reuse. They should not bring paper that is already shredded, newspapers, notebooks, folders, or other papers that can go in regular residential recycling bins.

"We are thrilled to once again partner with the Rotary Club of Orange and The Orange Lions Club to offer these important environmental services to residents," said Mitch Goldblatt, chair of the Orange Recycling Committee. "Purging homes of these items and keeping them out of landfills helps our environment as well as tax dollars. This is a fun event that gives volunteers and residents an opportunity to work together for

a cleaner and more sustainable planet."

For the clothing and household item drive, residents are encouraged to bring clothing, shoes, towels, electronics, toys and games, kitchen items, sporting goods and more to the pavilion. This benefit will help support many community projects.

For the second year, residents may also bring mattresses and box springs for recycling. This free service is made possible through a partnership with the Mattress Recycling Council's Bye Bye Mattress Program. Dry mattresses of all sizes and box springs will be accepted. However, mattresses from futons/sofa beds or waterbeds; mattresses infested with bed bugs; wet, damaged or excessively soiled mattresses; and sleeping bag or mattress pads/toppers are not part of the program.

For residents who need assistance getting mattresses and box springs to the event, members of the Orange Lions Club will pick these items up from residences, given they are outside and dry or in a garage for easy access. Volunteers will not enter homes. Those interested in this service should contact Ken Lenz at 203-795-3906. The fee for pick-up is \$10 per mattress or box spring; payment is by cash or check to Orange Lions Charities, and all proceeds are considered charitable donations.

For the sixth time, the shredding event will help residents dispose of thousands of pounds of sensitive financial and medical papers in a secure, environmentally-responsible way. Adding mattress and box spring recycling last year proved a success, so it's expected that more residents will avail themselves of the opportunity this year.

For more information, visit orange-ct.gov/180/Recycling or the Facebook page at facebook.com/ORCinCT/.

The Night I Died At The Palace

The Palace Theatre actors are just getting ready to rehearse the final scene for their latest production of a murder mystery when they run into a snag. The director who also wrote the play is found dead onstage.

There's a lot of disbelief among the troupe until it becomes evident that the director is indeed dead and even worse, he owed several actors a lot of money. And then the tomboy actor Frances dies! Only she doesn't really die. The one thing they all are sure of is their director is dead

... or is he?

You can find out when you join us at the Orange Players production of The Night I Died at the Palace Theatre, by Pat Cook, directed by Amy Crow on Friday and Saturday April 27, 28 and May 4, 5 at 8 pm at the High Plains Community Center, Orange CT. Tickets are \$18 for seniors and children; \$20 for adults. Call 474-227-7547. Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois.

Orange Chamber Of Commerce Events

April 24 and May 22 – Morning Jolt: Coffee and conversation for area businesses. Start your morning off with coffee and conversation, meet other business members, share information and grow your business. Morning Jolt takes place from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at Eli's Orange at 285 Boston Post Rd. Bring your business cards and get ready to give your company a jolt. Here's an opportunity to talk about your business with like-minded professionals, expand your circle of influence, and have a cup of coffee. This program is free. All you need to do is call the Orange Chamber at 203-795-3328 or email your reservation to director@orangectchamber.com.

April 28 – Packet Pickup for Runners and Walkers: From 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., with

an opportunity to register before the race at the Orange Chamber of Commerce office at 605A Orange Center Rd. in Orange.

April 29 – The FIESTA Begins: Cohen & Wolf 5K Cinco de Mayo Road Race, with a 9 a.m. start at High Plains Community Center. The event will feature music, margaritas, tacos. It costs \$27 to run or walk. Pre-register at runsignup.com. Race day registrations are \$30.

April 29 – Kids Hot Pepper Scamper Run: Free at High Plains Community Center. Please register children at runsignup.com.

May 10 – Business After Hours: With the West Haven Chamber of Commerce at TGI Fridays at 348 Boston Post Rd in Orange. The event is from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person. To register email director@orangectchamber.com.

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News & Events

Duck Race Returning To Milford



The Milford Duck and Mayor Ben Blake at the Milford St. Patrick's Day Parade. *Contributed Photo*

The ducks are coming back.

The widely popular Milford Harbor duck race will return to Milford Harbor June 9 at noon. The event will be hosted by the Milford United Way and the Woodruff Family YMCA.

The race involves sending thousands of rubber ducks over the waterfall near the center of town.

The duck race started in 2008 attracted hundreds of people until it was cancelled

in 2016 by the previous sponsor, Catholic Elementary Schools, after several parochial schools in town closed.

Gary Johnson, President/CEO of the Milford United Way, said, "United Way and the Woodruff Family YMCA are so pleased that we are able to bring back this family friendly event to downtown Milford – the Duck Race – which had been absent for a few years. It should be a fun event, once again!"



Orange Lions Club members presented a grant to the Garden Club of Orange in March to purchase markers and labels for an herb garden in the center of town. From left: Nick Musante, Linda Bradford, Ellie Torello and Michael Muttitt. *Photo by Betty Hadlock.*

Orange Garden Club Receives Lions Club Grant

The Orange Lions Club has given a \$75 grant to the Garden Club of Orange.

Lions Club Community Grants Committee Co-Chairs Nick Musante and Mihael Muttitt, presented the check to Linda Bradford, President of the Garden Club, and Ellie Torello, Horticulture Co-Chair, at a Lions Club reception in March.

The grant will be used to purchase metal markers and labels for the kitchen

herb garden at the historic Stone Otis House located in the center of town. The herb garden was recently restored under the direction of Maryellen Bspuda and members of the Garden Club. The addition of permanent markers will allow visitors to easily identify the 26 varieties of herbs planted.

For Garden Club membership information, call Joanne Friedrichs at 203-795-4244.

Police Departments To Crack Down On Distracted Driving

The Milford and Orange police departments are out in force until April 30 looking for distracted drivers as part of the "U Drive. U Text. U Pay." campaign, a high-visibility effort to enforce distracted-driving laws.

The departments are teaming up with the Connecticut Department of Transportation during the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Distracted Driving Awareness month to make sure all motorists keep their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel.

Violating Connecticut's distracted driving laws can be costly. Drivers who are ticketed

for this violation can be fined \$150 for a first offense, \$300 for a second offense and \$500 for third and subsequent offenses.

According to the NHTSA, 3,450 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2016. This is a 2% decrease in fatalities as compared to the previous year.

An analysis by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety of 2009-2012 data found that while more than 80 percent of drivers believed it was completely unacceptable for a motorist to text behind the wheel, more than a third of those same drivers admitted to reading text messages while operating a passenger motor vehicle themselves.



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Opinion & Editorial

In The House:

Assistance Deal Must Be Revisited



STATE REP. (R-114)
THEMIS KLARIDES

After months spent at the negotiating table with our Democratic colleagues last year, we reached agreement on a two-year budget deal that was, overall, in the best interests of Connecticut. Negotiations require give and take on both sides.

Five months later it was disclosed to the public that the city and members of Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's administration had been quietly working out the details of a contract between the City of Hartford and the state that allows the state to pay all of the city's outstanding debt for the next 20 years. No one at that negotiating table last fall ever uttered a word about a long-term commitment of hundreds of millions of dollars for Hartford. Republican and Democratic leaders agreed to a two-year horizon to provide the city with additional money to pay their debt service and help it get back on its feet.

The situation was analogous to a parent agreeing to co-sign a loan for a child who does not have good credit. The parent backs the loan with the understanding that the child makes the long-term payments.

At one point last fall, Hartford mayor Luke Bronin announced the city could only meet its obligations for the next two weeks and was likely headed for bankruptcy without any additional support from the state. No one wanted to see the Capitol City go bankrupt, and the business community said it should be avoided at all costs.

Republican leaders have had a swift response to this issue that was announced only one working day before the Hartford City Council approved the contract. We have said that if the city fails to live up to what was agreed to last fall and fails to make the payments beginning in the third year of the contract, the state will reduce Hartford's municipal aid. That would be a fair execution of the terms of the agreement.

Helping Individuals Who Need It Most



STATE REP. (R-117)
CHARLES FERRARO

I am proud to announce that the Human Services Committee in March passed legislation that will reform our state government and help those who need it the most.

Many states throughout the country are starting to seek public-private partnerships. In the Human Services Committee we passed legislation, Senate Bill 436, that would create a public-private partnership advisory council to explore and recommend cost efficiencies for state human services programs.

Steven Hernandez, the executive director for the Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors, praised the bill saying, "using these partnerships would encourage consistency and increase efficiency in the way the state agencies operate."

Another bill that we passed that will reduce waste in government is Senate Bill 246, which would limit automatic refills of prescription drugs covered under the Medicaid program.

The Department of Social Services has found that many automatic refills are unnecessary. This bill provides an opportunity for cost savings for the state.

We also moved forward legislation to help protect individuals with disabilities from abuse and neglect.

House Bill 5257 looks to reduce the amount of time a mandated reporter has to file a report of suspected abuse or neglect. And Senate Bill 244 will list behavioral analysts as mandated reporters.

All of these bills received bipartisan support from the committee. The House and Senate will need to take action on the legislation before it can become law.

I will be working with my colleagues to get these bills passed this session.

Combating Human Trafficking



STATE REP. (R-119)
PAM STANESKI

Milford and Orange are beautiful New England towns that have much to offer. We boast great schools, sound local governments, a plethora of cultural activities, and beautiful beaches and rolling hills – a quality of life many envy.

This is why I struggle with writing this month's column. Like you, I value our quality of life and want to protect it. But sometimes protecting it means facing the reality that there are activities that could tarnish that quality if left unchecked. I am referring to businesses that set up shop along the Post Road and mimic legitimate massage therapy establishments while covering up their real business: human trafficking.

It is regrettable that our proximity to New York City has lent itself to this unwanted activity (that appears to originate out of Flushing, New York) in our community, and unfortunate for legitimate massage therapists caught up in this fight when their work provides therapy for health and wellbeing.

To be clear, our local leaders, public health directors, and police departments are very aware of this and work collaboratively to combat human trafficking within our communities.

Policing and regulating is like a game of whack-a-mole, as the level of sophistication used by these operators is stunning. They operate like mom and pop shops, but are in fact connected to a national network. When one place is shut down, another place opens.

Connecticut has enacted criminal penalties for traffickers and formed task forces comprised of stakeholders to address the horrific practice of human trafficking. There are also many organizations that provide services and help for victims.

However, to build on this work and address the activities in our community, I met with the members of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association to discuss how they can help prevent their industry from being used to shield human trafficking. It was those discussions that prompted me to a request an amendment that would add a member of CTAMTA to the Trafficking in Persons Council, and it is why I support SB-301, which will increase initial education hours for licensure of massage therapists and require supervised clinical/internship experience. This is not a panacea to stop human trafficking – it is more complicated than that. Education, public awareness and enforcement will also help our anti-trafficking efforts.

The State Legislature statutorily created a Trafficking in Persons Council. The TIP Council's members come from diverse backgrounds, including representatives from state agencies, the judicial branch, law enforcement, motor transport and community-based organizations. The TIP Council is responsible for consulting with governmental and nongovernmental organizations in developing recommendations to strengthen state and local efforts to prevent trafficking, protect victims of trafficking, and prosecute traffickers.

As always, feel free to contact me on this or any matter that is of importance to you.

Smith Reelected As Milford DTC Chairman



Richard Smith, Milford's incumbent Democratic Town Committee chairman was reelected March 29 to an eighth term leading the party.

"It has, and continues to be, an honor to serve with and work with members of the Milford Democratic Town Committee as well as our friends in Orange and West Haven, with whom I have enjoyed a very productive and positive relationship over the years," Smith said.

"I am thrilled to have Karen Fortunati join me as Vice Chair," he added. "She is an incredibly bright and capable individual and I look forward to working with her and the entire leadership team of the DTC over the next two years."

Smith studied political science at Yale University with a concentration in American government. He also studied political science and public policy at Trinity College in Hartford.

Smith said he's worked on campaigns since he was in high school and hasn't missed a year yet.

"As of right now, I have served across from 10 different Republican chairmen in Milford over the course of my 14 years. I guess it's not as much fun over there," he joked.

"I was fortunate enough to be in this position as Milford Democrats found our footing and improved our messaging and our outreach to voters. Over my 14 years as chair we have won back majorities on the Board of Aldermen, Board of Education, Planning and Zoning and, of course, we elected a Democratic mayor."

Letters To The Editor:

To the Editor:

Connecticut is seeing more people running for state office than in recent memory, and most likely there will be Primary Elections on Aug. 14 to determine who will be on the November ballots.

As we've seen, elections matter and the people who run all levels of government impact our lives. Voters in the primaries will play an influential role in selecting which candidates will appear on the ballot in November.

Here's the important fact to know: you cannot vote in a primary if you are not a member of the party on the ballot. If you want to change your party affiliation from one party to another, there is a three-month waiting period to attain voting privileges in your new party. In order to vote in the August 14th primary, the deadline to switch from one political party to another is May 14.

We urge you to consider joining a party, or switch parties, in time to vote in the primaries. By not voting you're allowing someone else to choose for you.

Laura Fucci
Milford Speaks Out,
Milford

Notice Of Hearing: Town Budget

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the statutes in such cases provided, the Orange Board of Finance will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the High Plains Community Center Cafeteria, 525 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT 06477 relative to the expenditures and proposed budget of the Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending

June 30, 2019. Citizens may present oral and/or written comments. The proposed budget will be available for examination in the Office of the Town Clerk in the Orange Town Hall on Friday, April 20, 2017.

Dated at Orange CT this 5th day of April 2018.

Orange Board of Finance
Kevin Houlihan, Chairman

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Senator's Seat: Sen. Gayle Slossberg (D-14)

Columnists:

Joanne Byrne, Retirement	Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate	Raymond Spaziani, Wine
David Crow, Conversations	James Maroney, SAT Prep	Hon. Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas, Legal
Allison DePaola, Legal	Annamarie Mastrangelo, Flooring	Eric Tashlein, Finances
Pat Dray, Gardening	Marianne Miller, Lions Club	Fern Tausig, Hypnosis
Mark Fagan, Restaurant	Karen Panzer, Travel	Michele Tenney, Health
Steven Floman, Legal	Trish Pearson, Insurance	Trish O'Leary Treat
Peter Hechtman, Books	Tedra Schneider, Interior Design	Shaileen Landsberg, Volunteers

The Orange Times is published by The Orange Times LLC, P.O. Box 584, Orange, CT, 06477

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Giving Back

Lions And The Community

By Marianne Miller and Andy Yu



I met an Amity high school student named Andy Yu about a month ago. He attended an Orange Lions Club meeting via one of our enthusiastic members, George Lesko. Andy is interested in journalism, so we are working together and have labeled him “apprentice journalist” for our club. With permission from *The Orange Times* publisher, the following is Andy’s news release after attending our Easter Egg Hunt.

The Orange Lions Club organized their 56th Easter Egg Hunt on the grounds of High Plains Community Center on Saturday, March 24. The event officially started at noon, but 25 members of the Orange Lions Club arrived at various times in the morning to set up for the activities.

The Orange Lions Club has a long history of giving back to the community. The Easter Egg Hunt is one of many community activities and fundraisers that the club organizes for the Orange townspeople to enjoy. All funds are distributed to the people and organizations that need them.

The club has organized the Orange Easter Egg Hunt for a long time. George Lesko, on the board of directors, said, “We have done this Easter Egg Hunt for over 50 years.”

Each year, hundreds of people come. “I remember bringing my daughter here,” said one woman at the event. “Those are her children there.”

The actual hunt started at 1 p.m. in a dedicated, sealed-off area and was conducted in waves, with each wave for a different age group. Lion members guarded a wagonload of chocolate eggs and candy in the center of the

field, throwing them around for each group.

The Easter Egg Hunt had many other activities, including a face painting and tattoo section with a professional face painter, Mary Ann Voss.

“We are fortunate to have Mary Ann Voss, from the West Haven Lions Club, here,” Lesko said. “She is a great help.”

A woodshop section, manned by the president of the Orange Lions Club, Fred Turner, and donated by Home Depot, allowed the children to make pencil boxes. The Easter Bunny arrived at the hunt in a police car at 12:31 p.m. A picture station with the Easter Bunny was set up in the gazebo, where the bunny stayed throughout the event posing for pictures and receiving hugs from the children.

There was also a coloring station with crayons, and the Yale Infant and Child Development group set up a table with information and activities allowing interested parents to sign up. A free refreshment station with coffee, pastries, and popcorn were included as well.

The Orange Lions Club gathered help from a variety of sources to put together this activity. PEZ, Home Depot, Julia’s Bakery, and the Orange town hall all gave a helping hand to make this year’s hunt possible. Four freshmen from Amity Regional High School – Carter Correia, Julia Scuccuglia, Aarush Garg, Riley Palazzo – and junior Nick Mastrangelo were on scene and helped with the various activities. With Easter so early this year, the weather was 45 degrees with 25 mile an hour winds, so it was cold. Next year, the event will be in April, so the Orange Lions are hoping for a warmer day.

Please call me at 203-795-3906 for questions or to join us.

Rotary At Home And Abroad

By Maria LaViola



It’s early April and I’m writing this article while the snow is falling outside; I can’t help but yearn for springtime. Merriam Webster defines springtime as “an early or flourishing stage of development – a season of growth.”

It was about this time last year when I walked into a Rotary luncheon unannounced to learn more about the organization and how I could get involved. My thoughts at the time were about how fortunate I had been: my last child was about to graduate from college, and both children were happy, healthy, and going to be living and working in New York City. While my job as a parent will last forever, I felt that I had succeeded in one of the most important milestones – helping my children become independent. It was now time for me to help others.

What I found at the first Rotary meeting I attended was a dedicated group of like-minded individuals that cares deeply about the Rotary motto “service above self.” Rotary members are committed to serving humanity and to making the world a better place. Many of us have a desire to make a difference in our own community and to contribute to the greater good. The Rotary Club of Orange provides many opportunities to do just that.

Rotary is an international organization as well, and while I was vacationing in Thailand with my family last March, we had the pleasure of taking a ride on an auto-rickshaw called a tuk tuk in Chiang Mai. While seated in the tuk tuk I looked up and noticed the gentleman peddling the tuk tuk had on a Rotary shirt. This surely was an

omen for me. That I could travel to the other side of the world and find a Rotary member was surely confirmation that I had chosen the right organization to give of my time.

Internationally, just a few of the projects that Rotary is involved with are: helping to eradicate polio; providing desks, school supplies, and other equipment to Nambale Middle School in Kenya, and providing clean water in parts of the world where it is scarce.

Locally, the Rotary club of Orange is involved with helping at a local soup kitchen, providing dictionaries to our second graders, and providing scholarships to high school seniors in town.

One important upcoming event to look out for is the Rotary Club of Orange Rose Sale on May 12, which celebrates Mother’s Day weekend. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to purchase roses for those special people in your life. It will take place at the High Plains Community Center at 525 Orange Center Road. All proceeds from the event will go toward supporting Rotary’s initiatives, both in the local community and abroad.

If you are longing for spring as I am and thinking that you would like to volunteer some of your time to a worthy organization, please consider stopping in to a luncheon for the Rotary Club of Orange. We meet every Friday at 12:15 p.m. at Race Brook Country Club at 246 Derby Ave. in Orange.

The Rotary Club of Orange is also providing an opportunity for several families that would be interested in hosting a 17-year-old exchange student (male) from Italy for a period of three to five months this summer. He will be arriving in late August. If you are interested, please go to exchange.student.org/EPLongTermExchangeProgram.cfm.



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Arts & Entertainment

“Art is intelligence having fun.” – Albert Einstein

by Patricia Miller

THE ORANGE PLAYERS (525 Orange Center Rd., Orange) will present their spring show, *The Night I Died at the Palace Theatre*, a mystery/comedy by Pat Cool, on the Friday and Saturday nights of April 27, April 28, May 4 and May 5 at High Plains Community Center. Performances will be at 8 p.m., but doors will open at 7:30 p.m. Patrons are encouraged to bring snacks and beverages to enjoy before and during the show and during intermission. Seating will be cabaret style, with tables and chairs set up for eating, drinking and socializing. The cast includes David Kaminski, Mallie Massarom, TJ Chila, Cyndi Consoli, Paul Templeton, Paula Lin, Thursday Savage, Nick Gachi, Charles Criscuolo, Vickie Blake, Hugh Tucker and Brittany Homa. Nine of the twelve-member cast have appeared in previous shows, some of them in several productions. The producers are Peg Meisenhelder, Joan Stenner, TJ Chila, and Cyndi Consoli. Set, lights and sound will be designed and overseen by John Miller. The play is set in the Palace Theatre, where the company is preparing to rehearse the final scene of their next production, *I Ain't Got No Body*, when the director and author of the play is found dead on the stage. Laughs, mystery and conflicts follow. Make a night of it – gather some friends and reserve a whole table.

ART IN THE LIBRARY (176 Tyler City Rd., Orange) presents the much-anticipated exhibit that every April features the work of Orange students from Mary L. Tracey, Peck Place, Race Brook and Turkey Hill schools. The art teachers in each of the schools select the work to be displayed. They coordinate with John Ulatowski of the Orange Youth Services and Art in the Library liaisons Audrey Galer and Barbara Tiven. There will be a reception on Thursday, April 12 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. These receptions are well attended and provide an opportunity to view the artwork and talk to the young artists. Make a point to visit this exhibit that showcases a large amount of work and the varied styles of Orange's young talent.

NEW HAVEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (500 College St., New Haven) presents “The Symphonie Fantastique” by Berlioz, conducted by David Amado, the third of the three finalists in the NHSO music director search, at Woolsey Hall on Thursday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. Also on the program are Ravel's “Piano Concerto” and Tsontakis's “Laconika.” Stewart Goodyear will be the piano soloist. Tickets for the concert can be purchased by calling 203-865-0831 or by going online to NewHavenSymphony.org.

Orange Arts and Culture Council will provide bus transportation to the NHSO concert through its “Hop the Bus” program. Seats on the bus can be reserved by calling 203-397-8915. The Hop the Bus program is sponsored by OACC with support from The Orange Foundation, the Orange Lions Club, and the State of Connecticut. The OACC believes that this program is a valuable one, serving the needs of the Orange population, while carrying out the OACC mission statement of “maintaining, supporting and promoting arts in our region.”

ORANGE ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL (1573 Boston Post Rd., Milford) will sponsor the return of “Dine Around” on Sunday, April 29 at 3 p.m. at Rustica Restaurant. Rustica is owned by Vincente Conteras and Chef Conchi, who own another successful restaurant of the same name in Chester. Dine Around is a program that OACC started a few years ago to provide a



Stage manager Liz Scott, director Amy Crow; Cyndi Consoli as Kalene, Charlie Criscuolo as Timothy, TJ Chila as Lois, Hugh Tucker as the detective and Nicolas T. Gachi as Luther
Photo by: Jackie Koral

social occasion and to patronize and celebrate area restaurants. It's a chance to enjoy excellent food and to socialize with old and new friends. The menu includes choices of appetizers, entrees, and desserts and costs \$42 per person, with tax and tip included.

AMITY CREATIVE THEATRE (25 Newton Rd., Woodbridge) returns with its spring blockbuster musical, *The Addams Family*. Based on the popular television show, the musical version brings back fondly remembered characters, including Morticia, Gomez, Wednesday, Pugsley, Grandma, and Lurch, Lucas, Mai and Alice Bienenke. The morbidly wacky Addams family is played by Ali Ashworth, Harrison Paek, Emily Killian, Martin Gnidula, Lilli Querker, Maren Westgard, Ben Kemp, Ryan Kennedy, Ryan Hemstock, and Alaina Dwyer. Additionally, there are Addams family ancestors and other roles played by a huge supporting cast. The play opened Friday, April 6 and continues on Thursday, April 12, Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14. Tickets sold quickly – if there are any left, you can get them at amitytheaterdepartment.com.

SHUBERT THEATRE (275 College St., New Haven) presents *Bright Star* on Thursday, April 26, Friday, April 27, Saturday, April 28, and Sunday, April 29. The show was created by Grammy, Emmy, and Academy Award-winning Steve Martin and Grammy Award-winning Edie Brickell and was nominated for five Tony Awards. *The New York Times* called this Broadway musical “a shining achievement.” Tickets are available online at Shubert.com, by phone at 203-562-5666 or at the Shubert box office.

HAVEN STRING QUARTET (700 Hartford Tpke., Hamden) presents its spring concert on Saturday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. The program, “Colors in Contrast,” will feature works by Mozart, Weinberg and Ravel. The Haven String Quartet serves as the permanent quartet-in-residence and as teaching faculty for Music Haven. It spearheads the organization's tuition-free strings program for youth. Music Haven provides private lessons, group classes, studio classes, chamber groups and an advanced chamber orchestra. All proceeds from HSQ concerts benefit programming at Music Haven. Tickets can be purchased online at musichavenct.org/haven-string-quartet/.

FAIRFIELD MUSEUM (370 Beach Rd., Fairfield) examines the experiences of eight immigrants in the exhibit, “An American Story: Finding Home in Fairfield County” through July 23. The show illustrates the premise that the story of America is built on the often poignant and fascinating stories of immigrants, some fleeing persecution or in search of a better life. The individuals featured in this exhibit came from Cambodia, Congo, Cuba, Hungary, India, Rwanda, and Syria. All have built new lives in Connecticut over recent decades. “The many immigrants from around the world seeking safety and opportunity have added to the fabric of our community,” says executive director Mike Jehle. The Fairfield Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 (\$3 for seniors and students, 5-year-olds and under are free). For additional information, call 203-259-1598.

WADSWORTH ATHENEUM (100 Main St., Hartford) features “Frederic Church: A Painter's Pilgrimage.” Hartford-born Frederic Church (1826-1900) was a master of the Revered Hudson River School, but he frequently traveled internationally, seeking inspiration for his landscapes from far-flung places. His lesser-known works are featured in this show, with painting sites in Egypt, Syria, Greece, Italy and Israel. For information, call 860-278-2760 or go to thewadsworth.org.

THE YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART (1180 Chapel St., New Haven) continues the exhibit of “The Paston Treasure: Microcosm of the Known World,” through May 27. April 3 was the opening of an exhibition by Celia Paul, a contemporary British artist. This exhibition is the first in a series of three curated by Pulitzer Prize-winner Hilton Als, a staff writer and theatre critic for *The New Yorker* and Associate Professor of Writing at Columbia University. The current display focuses on Paul's recent works that express intimacy and inwardness. Two ensuing exhibits will feature Lynnette Yiadom-Boakye and Njedeka Akunjulli Crosby, also British artists. Als maintains that contemporary British art has had a global impact, defining an aesthetic that puts the personal in the forefront. The artists are inspired by the figurative. Following the final exhibition in 2020, the center will publish a volume of

Als's personal reflections of the three artists. The Paul exhibition runs until August 12.

LONG WHARF THEATRE (222 Sargent Dr., New Haven) has announced the 2018-2019 season and is currently accepting renewals or new subscriptions. The season includes *The Roommate*, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Miller*, *Mississippi*, *An Iliad*, *A Doll's House, Part 2* and another play yet to be announced. Call 203-787-4282 or go to longwharf.org for more information.

LONG WHARF THEATRE (222 Sargent Dr., New Haven) has a special attraction coming: it's *Crowns*, written and directed by Regina Taylor and running from Friday, April 13 to Sunday, May 13. When a Chicago teen is sent to live with her grandmother in South Carolina, she finds herself on a powerful journey toward discovering her place in the world and in her family. Inspired by the best-selling book, *Crowns* weaves faith and fashion into a joyous coming of age musical. It is a celebration of resilient, triumphant African American women and their church hats. Call 203-787-4282 or go to longwharf.org for more information.

YALE REPERTORY THEATRE (1120 Chapel St., New Haven) also has subscriptions on sale for the 2018-2019 season. The season includes *El Huracan*, *The Prisoner*, *Twelfth Night*, *Cadillac Crew* and another play to be announced this spring. Go to yalerep.org or call 203-432-1234 for more information.

GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE (6 Main St., East Haddam) will present *The Will Rogers Follies* from Friday, April 13 to Thursday, June 21. Will Rogers was the heart-warming humorist who spun a rope, poked fun at headlines and never met a man he didn't like. The rags to riches story of America's beloved stage, screen and radio star bursts to life as a Zeigfield Follies style extravaganza. Family, fame and fate are center stage in Will's rise from obscurity to stardom. In this show he is surrounded by vivacious showgirls and a slew of cowboys. The show won the Tony for best musical and captures the American spirit at its up-tempo best. For tickets, call 860-873-8668 or go to goodspeed.org.

Have an event, an idea, or a comment?
Send it to patmiller605@sbcglobal.net.

The Book Club:

Chutzpah, Hubris And Horror In The Wild East

Bill Browder, *Red Notice*, Simon & Schuster, 2015

Not only is this *New York Times* bestseller a riveting tale but it is all true. Our hero and author, Bill Browder, makes an unlikely investment fund manager. His grandfather, Earl, was the head of the American Communist Party during the late thirties and early forties, and the other male descendants are mathematical geniuses. How else to rebel except by putting on a suit and heading for business school? Browder felt his destiny was linked to Eastern Europe, and this feeling surfaced just as the Berlin Wall began to fall, leaving a lot of opportunity for asset picking in the "Wild East."



PETER HECHTMAN

directors had already looted their firms. Browder bet otherwise and, based on purchase of such undervalued assets, he made huge profits for his investors.

But protection of investments requires oversight and occasional challenges to corporate malfeasance. This is where the trouble began. Various organs of law enforcement began breathing down Browder's neck. After much evidence that he would be unable to fight this harassment within the Russian legal system, Browder liquidated his Russian holdings and managed to convey his staff and partners to the safety of England.

Except for one of his lawyers. Sergei Magnitsky was a Russian patriot who operated on the principle "since I didn't do anything wrong, nothing can happen to me."

If the first half of the book reads like a farce of frontier capitalism, the book's second half is a tragic human rights drama.

Sergei Magnitsky eventually died of torture and medical neglect in a Russian prison, and a committee of his torturers was convened to investigate and exonerate themselves.

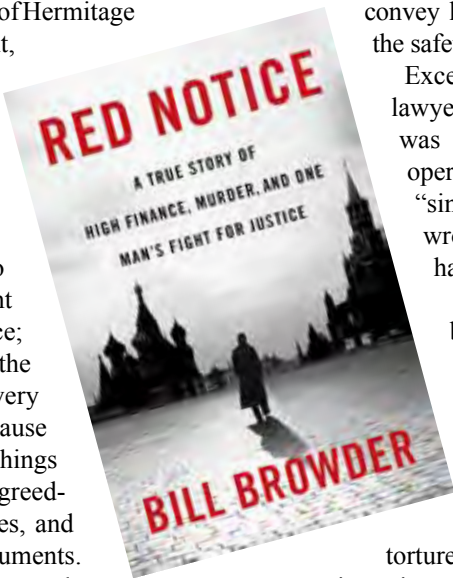
Browder's attempt to gain some

posthumous justice for his colleague focused on the passage in the US Congress of what has since become known as the Magnitsky Act, a law which punishes government officials deemed guilty of human rights abuses by freezing their American assets and depriving them of entry visas. You may recall that Putin responded to this law by forbidding adoption of Russian orphans by American families.

If the narrative of pursuing justice in Russia is about banging one's head against a wall, then the pursuit in the US is like negotiating a labyrinth with its multiple sources of power and influence.

This book has Hollywood movie written all over it. Indeed, Browder has signed a contract to produce a film version of *Red Notice*. The Kremlin is reported to be waiting eagerly for its release, and the film's producer is reported to have stocked his medicine cabinet with antidotes to all major poisons.

Peter Hechtman is the founder and owner of The Book Maven. Peter can be reached at thebookmaven@sympatico.ca.



In his capacity as head of Hermitage Capital Management,

Browder learned several things about business in Russia:

1) The economy is dominated by a handful of oligarchs well connected to Russian President Vladimir Putin's office; and 2) nobody plays by the rules. This later discovery was important because investment requires things like transparency, agreed-upon auditing procedures, and access to court documents. Absent such procedures, the stock prices of Russian companies were grossly undervalued. To put it simply, Russian investors believed the company

Orange's Home Depot Plaza Sells To Equity Group

The Home Depot Plaza in Orange has sold for \$16.25 million to a private equity group, according to a report March 27 by HartfordBusiness.com.

The report did not name the buyer of the property. The prior owner was RPAI Properties of Oak Brook, Illinois.

In addition to anchor tenant Home Depot, the 135,643-square-foot plaza on Route 1 includes such business as Five Guys and Work 'N Gear.

"Even with the contraction of retail nationally, this sale demonstrated the ongoing high demand for select major retailer anchored plazas," said Mike Richetelli, President of Colonial Properties, Inc. in Orange. "Although a significant vacancy occurred in the plaza with the exodus of Crunch Fitness, the value of Home Depot as a AAA credit anchor tenant was attractive to many investors on a national scale and caused this plaza to trade at a substantial sale price."

Milford's Beth-El Center To Hold Gala And Auction

The "Light the Way" Annual Spring Gala to benefit the Beth-El Center homeless shelter and soup kitchen in Milford will take place Saturday, June 2 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The annual event will take place at the Mill River Country Club at 4567 Main St. in Stratford and

will include dinner, dancing, as well as silent and live auctions.

Tickets for the Gala are \$100 per person. Enjoy a festive evening while helping the homeless and hungry in the community. To secure reservations, please visit bethelmilford.org or call 203-876-0747.



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Home & Garden

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Challenging The Home Inspection

Each buyer will hire a home inspection company when they are in contract to purchase a property. This is the first task the buyer has to do after their escrow check is received by the listing agency.

Perhaps they have researched online what an inspector looks for during the evaluation time frame. The prospective purchaser will follow their inspector around the building, inside and out, focusing on each specific tiny reference, which can seem overwhelming. As the three hours continues, the buyer may ask questions while the assigned inspector carefully explains the information. He or she may have an individual interpretation of issues in the home, and at this point the buyer may put their own spin on what they hear. Small issues may start to seem larger than necessary. Each item requires attention. In other words, as the buyer is embarking on ownership they worry about these items. Will they know how to maintain, repair, or upgrade with building materials? Are any environmental issues outstanding?

In many instances the question of the age of an item, such as the roof or furnace, is

pertinent to the overall inspection as these are expensive items. If the upkeep was meticulous then the age can be just a number. The realtor can help the buyer further research the client's concerns. Perhaps the furnace was diligently serviced yearly and the roof checked.

Inspectors sometimes make a mistake. Perhaps they misread a date or an estimate or they do not see the repair reports listed next to the furnace. Many times, damage in an attic ceiling is old, and the inspector's job is to bring attention to it. He will put in his report that the area needs further evaluation by a professional. The bottom line is that buyers come to quick conclusions and sometimes this negativity blossoms into the cancellation of a contract.

For instance, a drainage underground gutter could be draining into the ground, yet the inspector has no way of knowing if it is clogged or clear. Some inspectors will state that the home is older and downspouts



BARBARA LEHRER

should be replaced, causing a possible unnecessary expense.

Roofs are the most problematic, because many inspectors use binoculars or condition in the attic to assess the roof. A crawl space is another unknown: if no one can really get into it, but it is dry with proper insulation and ventilation, is it okay? Some inspectors will move on; others will note a possible issue. A similar question arises with accessing attics with hatch openings, or insulation that is blown into the attic. Is it possible there is vermiculite with asbestos? Hopefully the answer is no until proven otherwise. Do you get a test to see what the product is?

Inspectors have a hard job. They worry about lawsuits and missing possible problems. By covering their own company, sometimes they surge ahead with overly zealous interpretations.

Do not panic, Mr. Seller.

The homeowner is usually forced to do further evaluation. He wants the sale and

at the same time he wants to make sure his home is okay and that the issues brought to him are accurate. Most sellers are brought to attention when the report states a problem; no one needs to take the inspector's word for it. The buying and selling agents assist the process by quickly getting professional resources to confirm or deny the repairs noted in the inspection.

This is the process. Everyone goes through it. Perception and communication coupled with specialists who are familiar with the area questioned can put to bed any issues brought to the attention of the buyers by the inspector. The inspection is not cheap, and the buyers want to know what they are buying. The sellers can question and take it upon themselves to find out what is going on with their own home and in this manner help the buyers feel confident in their purchase.

Speak up, be kind and you will sell your home to someone who will love it as you did.

If you need more information on these issues, email Barbara.Lehrer@cbmoves.com.

Milford Garden Club To Feature Noted Floral Designer

The Milford Garden Club's May 8 program will feature Alice Luster, noted Federation of Garden Clubs floral designer. After the presentation, members and guests will make their own designs which she will photograph as a fun souvenir for each person.

The program begins at 1 p.m. at the DAR Chapter House at 55 Prospect St. in Milford. There will be a \$5 guest fee. Contact 203-874-7470 for more information. Potential members and guests are always welcome. Additional information is available at milfordctgardenclub.org/.

Kite Fly Returning To Milford

The Milford Living Magazine's twelfth annual Kite Fly will take place this year at noon on May 6 at Walnut Beach. It has become a rite of spring, with friends and families looking skyward as their kites go aloft. As is tradition, the Connecticuters will

be attending with their spectacular kites and helpful hints for novice fliers.

The annual Kite Fly is a fun filled event for people of all ages. For more information visit milfordliving.com.

Just Floored:

New Flooring Trends Blend Home And Business

Colors and patterns in flooring are forever changing, and that means they are changing in the commercial world as well. Luxury vinyl tiles and carpet tiles have become extremely popular, and the styles are very attractive. The industry has come such a long way, and these products have become close to maintenance-free.

We are used to seeing standard vinyl composition tile products in hallways and speckled carpet in offices, but now you can opt for a wood plank LVT or a carpet with a pattern like stripes or swirls. You can even mix and match patterns and colors to add a more custom feel to your space. These products can also be installed on diagonals as well as standard installation patterns.

With the demand of more attractive products to use in commercial spaces, the industry has created a more durable product to withstand the traffic and has added colors and styles to reflect some of the styles that were once only available for residential use.

Wood patterns continue to be a favorite in the LVT world. Not only can you find your standard wood colors, but you can also find wood planks in blues, blacks, and reds. Sizes and widths vary as well, providing endless possibilities. Carpet tiles are also offered in a plank style. Carpet tiles are a great option for use in a game room or playroom, where durability is key. As opposed to broadloom carpet, if a square or plank of tile gets damaged you can replace that single piece instead of an entire carpet.

Wall coverings are making a huge comeback as well. We have talked about



ANNAMARIE MASTRANGELO

using wallpaper again in your homes as an accent wall, or even in a small bathroom to dial up the drama. Clients are now requesting wallpaper in corridors and offices. It adds texture and depth to the space without costing a ton. Once again, durability is a question, but companies like MDC Wallcovering gave us an answer: beautiful, durable and affordable wall covering.

Another breathtaking trend that we will be seeing a lot more of is the introduction of Laminam. Laminam is extra-large format tile that is measured in feet, not inches. It is only a few millimeters thick and can be installed in places where tile was never an option before. This large format tile allows for a seamless look with a fraction of the grout lines. Laminam can be used to create a stunning accent wall or can be used in showers at your home. It is offered in a variety of colors, one of our favorites being a faux calacatta marble. Laminam is made of porcelain, so it is much more durable than natural marble but looks just as beautiful.

For years we have been seeing the more industrial look of commercial spaces transferring into our homes, with concrete countertops and industrial lighting fixtures. Now we are seeing the softer look moving into the commercial scene. Clients are loving the look and feel. It is more inviting and helps set your space aside from others. Which new trend is your favorite?

Annamarie Mastrangelo is founder/owner of A.A.I. Flooring Specialist. She can be reached at amoreinteriorsllc@gmail.com.

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Home & Garden

Room 911:

Don't Compound an Error

One of the challenges of working out a design or decorating plan for a client is to help them not compound an error. I can't count the number of times I've heard a client say, "We hate the wall-to-wall carpeting and we hate the drapery but we cannot afford to get rid of them. You'll just have to work around it."

That request is very hard to accommodate, at least for me. When you are considering redoing a living room, family room or any other room, you also have to take into consideration all the other rooms that are visible from that area. The objective of a well-decorated house is to make the rooms flow into one another and not looked chopped up.

About ten years ago, I went along with a client who had just bought a new house.

The bones of the house were excellent, but for some reason beyond my comprehension, a shag green carpet (not just any green, but

chartreuse green) went up the stairs into the hallway from which there were from bedrooms. The very first thing I mentioned is that the dated carpeting would have to be ripped up. It was ugly, dirty and the wrong color to fit with any of the bedrooms' décor, unless they kept every bedroom door closed. In addition, they needed to get rid of the wrought iron spindly bannister and replace it with a wooden one in a more contemporary or simple style.

After much discussion, including my mentioning the importance of always, if possible, starting with a neutral canvas (walls, windows and floors) and then from there building out to furniture placement, fabric colors, lamps, artwork arrangement,



TEDRA SCHNEIDER

and so on, the couple decided that down the road they would change the carpeting. But not now. The husband made a figurative line in the sand by saying everything cost too much, they were trying to do this on a shoestring budget, not one more penny would be going into removing anything. Period.

How could I change their minds? It's hard to keep blocking out something that was such an eyesore. Luckily, I had some very large neutral rug runners that I temporarily put down on the upstairs corridor, and that permitted me to have each bedroom painted in complementary colors. All blended well if doors were left open and the neutral carpet runners served as the common denominator.

They were thrilled when they saw the

bedrooms. Each room had been painted using different neutrals. The quilts, bed coverings, bed pillows, textured shades and furniture each gave off a calming, simple elegance. After much "oohing" and "ahing," I was happy that they were so pleased. But I knew the moment of truth was at hand when I said, "Could you please help me remove the runners from the hallway and help carry them to my car?"

Once they saw the hideous chartreuse shag rug again, the wife wasn't just shouting but shrieking, "Bob, call the contractor immediately and get this horrible thing ripped up in the hallway and off the stairs. Now! Not tomorrow! Now!"

Then I heard the two loveliest words in the English language: "Yes, dear!"

Tedra Schneider can be reached at: restagebytedra@gmail.com

The Garden Spot:

Plant Spring Bulbs For Summer Blooms

Sometimes time just seems to fly by and suddenly you realize that you didn't plan for mid and late summer bloom in the garden. Many of us will solve this problem by planting annuals, but there are also a number of summer-blooming bulbs that can be planted in the spring.

Bulbs are low-effort, typically perennial, and can be some of the most dramatic features of your garden. If you have some bare spots in your flower beds, you can put some bulbs in between the perennials, and even between these annuals, and enjoy them year after year.

Your first consideration should be the environment of the area you wish to fill in. How many hours of sun does the area get? Bulbs that are labeled full sun need a minimum of six hours of direct or very lightly filtered sunlight to perform well. Some of these include lilies, gladiolus, allium and dahlias. Other bulbs are shade lovers. Most of the bulbs labeled for shade can grow with

some early morning sunlight, but won't do well in the heat of the midday sun. These include caladium and begonias. They can provide a great pop of color in the shady corner of your garden. Both sun loving and shade loving bulbs will also do well as part of a container garden, although not in the same container!

Most bulbs for spring planting are from tropical climates and should be planted after the last frost, when the soil temperature is about 55 degrees. Bulbs of all types also prefer to be in soil that drains well, since they tend to rot in wet areas. Every type will have a different planting depth, which should be indicated on the packaging. If the instructions are to plant three inches deep, the top of the bulb would be at the three inches depth. For example, if the bulb itself is two inches, and the planting instructions say



PAT DRAY

plant three inches deep, you need a hole of five inches for that bulb. Look at the bulb and you'll see a more pointed end. This is the top, which should be planted upwards. Cover it with soil, tamp lightly to eliminate air pockets, water it, and you're all set to enjoy some summer bloom in your garden.

One of my favorite places to purchase bulbs is Colorblends at 747 Barnum Ave. in Bridgeport.

It is a small, family-owned business that has been importing bulbs from Holland for over fifty years. The warehouse is a great

place to visit, and the staff is extremely knowledgeable. Colorblends sells wholesale to the trade, but also to gardeners with a \$50 minimum order. I've never gotten a bulb there that I didn't love.

Colorblends has a Spring Open House from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sat., April 21 at 893 Clinton Ave. in Bridgeport. Visit the display garden, which is a collaboration between the Colorblends team and distinguished Dutch garden designer Jacqueline van der Kloet. It's a wonderful way to enjoy the beauty of spring.

Pat Dray is a past president of the Orange Garden Club.

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Business

Your Finances:

Deciding To Rent or Own

After the 2008 financial crisis it became trendy to declare that renting a home is better than buying, turning conventional wisdom on its head. The truth lies in the details: Either

renting or buying can be better, depending on your circumstances, location and timing.

In Connecticut, home sales have picked up, but the median sale price statewide lags about

15 percent lower than the peak of \$295,000 in 2007, according to year-end media reports. While the slow pace of recovery has been bad news for people who bought near the peak, it's good news for potential homebuyers. Still, home prices are just one factor in a complex set of considerations when you contemplate buying a home, and sometimes renting makes more sense.



ERIC TASHLEIN

Having a place to live costs money, and it generally costs far more money to own than to rent. Renting simply means you are paying the bare cost of living in a physical space.

If you are trying to decide whether to buy or rent, you have to crunch the numbers. There are several calculators online designed to show you the long-term costs of buying a property.

Owning your own home entails a number of extra costs, starting with upfront closing costs and a hefty down payment. Other costs include mortgage interest, property taxes, insurance, utilities, maintenance and repairs, including fresh paint and new appliances periodically. You also have to take care of your lawn, arrange for trash pickup, pay for pest control, and pay for water and sewer service. Mortgage interest alone can inflate the real price of a home by tens of thousands of dollars over the years (some of which you may recoup via tax deductions).

The benefits of owning a home are many, starting with a sense of stability. You don't have a landlord who may raise the rent or decide to turn the building into a condominium complex. Ownership also means that your home may turn out to be a good investment, since homes can increase in value over the years. And don't forget the mortgage tax deduction.

On the other hand, renting an apartment or house frees you from worry over repair bills and maintenance, and offers you the freedom of moving without having to sell your existing home. That big down payment? Now you can invest that money. The idea that renting is "throwing away your money" is a myth.

The bottom line is this: It can make sense from a financial standpoint to buy a home only if you plan to live there at least several years. That allows time for the home's value to appreciate, giving you a chance to recoup closing costs and other added expenditures. If you can't afford a house yet, then renting can give you time to save up the funds to one day become a homeowner.

Eric Tashlein is a Certified Financial Planner professional™ and founding Principal of Connecticut Capital Management Group, LLC, 67 Cherry St., C-2, in Milford. He can be reached at 203-877-1520 or through www.connecticutcapital.com. This is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as personalized investment advice or legal/tax advice. Please consult your advisor/attorney/tax advisor. Registered Representative, Securities offered through Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a Broker/Dealer, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment Advisor Representative, Cambridge Investment Research Advisors, Inc., A Registered Investment Advisor. Cambridge Investment Research Inc., and Connecticut Capital Management Group, LLC are not affiliated.

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Getting To Know You:

An Invitation To Sit A Spell

I'm no expert and I've not done any research, but it seems somewhere along the way people's communication got flat and, as a result, the world got flat.



DAVID CROW

I think it happened when we all got caught up in our cell phones. Maybe staring at that two-dimensional viewport into the online world, waiting for others to "like" our latest Instagram witticisms was what caused it. Maybe it happened when it got easier to "text me" rather than "call me." Or maybe I'm just getting to a spot in my life when things have changed and I didn't change with them as rapidly as I used to.

Well, I'm not that old. At least I don't think I'm that old. And it doesn't seem that long ago when I sat on my grandparents' front porch in the hazy, hot and humid Ozark summer gloaming and listened to people actually talk to one another. I'm not talking about the chatting while in line at the deli kind of talk. Come to think of it, that kind of talk has fizzled out as well. But what I mean is what my grandparents called in their colorful hillbilly vernacular "sit a spell and visit" conversations.

Every summer night after supper my grandparents went out to the porch and sat together on their porch swing. Some nights we would just sit quiet and listen to the cicadas singing in the Missouri oaks, but other nights the neighbors would wander up and it would happen. Somewhere in between "how-you-doing" and "good night" a conversation between neighbors would break out.

I remember all manner of topics being discussed, from the merits of apple pie to the deficiencies of Zenith color television sets. I remember heated discussions on local politics and laughter at new jokes. But mostly I remember neighbors talking with each other in a way that, for the most part, seems to have quietly slipped behind the façade of Facebook.

I'm not alone in this sentiment. Every time I mention it to people they all seem to recall something similar to the story I just told. Maybe it happened on their front stoop or

around the sway backed picnic table in the backyard, but it always happened. No one is sure where it went, but, especially lately, its absence is noted by all.

I mentioned this very thing to a man I met not too long ago. We were supposed to meet for coffee at nine o'clock at a Dunkin Donuts, but thanks to the vagaries of modern cellular communication we wound up at different Dunkin Donuts at

exactly the same time. It seemed that my scheduling our meeting "at the Dunkin Donuts on the Post Road" lacked a touch in the specificity department. Thanks to his persistence we got that problem worked out and we met up.

What ensued was a simple conversation between two neighbors. We spoke for about an hour and learned a few things about each other. We talked over all kinds of topics and shared a good laugh or two. By the time we shook hands we had each become more three-dimensional, more human to each other. It was time well spent, and with some luck I might get to chat a little more with him at some point.

The result of that conversation is the idea for this column. This column is about getting to know my neighbors here in Orange and Milford one conversation at a time. With the way things are going in the world I'd say we're all about due for a chat. Maybe along the way the world will get a little less flat. So here is my invitation to everyone reading this column. If you've got the time and the inclination, send me an email at Sit.a.Spell.and.Visit@gmail.com and we'll meet up and talk about whatever is on your mind. I promise I'll do better with coordinating the meetings in the future.

David Crow lives in Orange with his wife and three children. He practices law and he asks everyone to call him "Dave." Only his mother and his wife call him "David," and only when they're mad at him. You can contact Dave at Sit.a.Spell.and.Visit@gmail.com. He'll always find a half hour for a good chat.

Orange Mart & Deli Opens In Town Center

Harry's back. The Orange Mart & Deli recently opened for business at 661 Orange Center Rd. in Orange. The site was formerly Orange Center Convenience.

According to Selly Patel, daughter of store operators Harry and Alu, the property's landlord, Frank Rogers, offered the space to the family because they are Orange residents and years earlier it was the site of their first store. Their youngest son, Romi, also works at the store.

"We have all kinds of things; Boars Head meat, cold cuts, sandwiches, cigarettes, milk, candy, ice cream, chips, Green Mountain Coffee," said Selly Patel. "We promise the customers to get excellent service."

The Orange Mart & Deli can be reached at 203-298-4702.

Milford Attorney Selected As James W. Cooper Fellow

Jonathan D. Berchem, a Senior Partner at the statewide law firm of Milford-based Berchem Moses PC, was recently selected to become a James W. Cooper Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation, a collection of the State's most outstanding lawyers, judges and teachers.

Devoting their time and talent to sponsor projects like the History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession, a Truancy Intervention Project in New Britain schools, and a mentoring project through Hartford Promise, the Fellows work to address matters concerning the legal profession, the administration of justice, and the rule of law in society.



The Rotary Club of Orange, hosted Ukrainians participating in the congressionally-sponsored Open World program in late March. The visitors stayed in the homes of Rotarians and toured locations related to community activism and volunteering. Photo by Glen Pierson

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Lifestyle

On Your Mind:

Regaining Control When You Feel Anxious

Have you ever experienced the feeling of anxiety? Adrenaline rushed through you, your heart pounds, your mouth becomes dry, your muscles get tight, your stomach feels queasy and all your thoughts are negative and scary.

Although there is a difference between feeling anxious and having anxiety, it feels the same when you are experiencing it. The difference is simple; if the situation is stressful or frightening, the feeling is normal and appropriate. That is feeling anxious. If the feeling is an old familiar feeling triggered by something that is not a 'real' danger, you are experiencing a phobia or a triggered memory of something that happened in the past. The danger has long since passed but your brain just doesn't realize it.

Thoughts create feelings, and even thinking about something that frightens you will begin the adrenaline flowing though nothing scary or dangerous is actually

happening. Understanding the role of adrenaline in anxiety and the science of the mind, you can easily learn to disrupt the old patterns and shut off the adrenaline that is causing the scary feeling.

The unconscious mind doesn't know the difference between reality or fantasy. That is why it's effective to use hypnosis, the direct communication with the unconscious mind, to change the patterns that get triggered. When you realize that thoughts and feelings aren't 'things,' you can begin to control them. Similar to changing the channel on a TV, you can change the thought in your mind by replacing it with another thought.

There is a theory in therapeutic psychology that says the best way to get over a phobia is by creating the uncomfortable situation and



FERN
TAUSIG

facing it straight on so you can see that it's just an irrational fear. That technique has been effective because it creates a new belief about the experience; the mind learns a new response to the trigger.

I like hypnosis better because it is not traumatic. They both teach you how to use the mind so one can be empowered to control those uncomfortable, unwanted thoughts.

The point is that no one needs to suffer with anxiety. There are many ways to 'rewire the brain' to respond differently to situations. Anxiety is one of the most common issues I deal with as a hypnotist. The results are remarkable, but it doesn't happen in one session. People often have unreasonable expectations about hypnosis and expect it work like magic. The issues can be deep seated. It requires

persistence to obtain the desired results. Anxiety medication, in my humble opinion, should be a last resort. It merely wallpapers over the root cause without correcting it. Anyone can learn about the science of the mind and the body and can begin making the required changes in their mind to feel in control.

The first way to begin to shut off the adrenaline is to take long, slow, deep breaths. Breathe in to the count of five, hold that breath for five, and exhale to the count of 10. If you do this four or five times, you will immediately feel the physical and emotional changes. Find a place in your mind that always brings a pleasant and safe thought to turn to when unwanted feelings begin to appear.

Fern is a certified hypnotist, lifecoach and health educator. She can be reached at www.myhealinghypnosis.com.

Travel Matters:

Adventure And Expedition Travel

Bucket lists often include destinations like the Galapagos Islands or Australia. For 2018, the top travel destinations include New Zealand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Iceland. Adventure travel is alive and well, and new technology has enabled travel suppliers to create some fascinating ways to explore these destinations.

Tauk, known for their high-end itineraries, has now partnered with BBC Earth for experiences called Tauk Earth Journeys – from the wild plains of Africa to the tropical jungles of the Amazon. Completely immersive, these adventures are hands-on, with guests using actual field equipment to become their own version of BBC's filmmakers, creating videos for each destination.

With all the advances in expedition cruising, bucket lists can now include Antarctica and the Northwest Passage. In fact, many travel gurus are calling expedition

cruising the hottest trend for 2018 travel. Ships range in size from carrying 16 to just over 100 passengers in most of these areas, with passengers getting on and off smaller Kodiak ships to explore the wildlife in their natural settings. From exploring Antarctica on Hurtigruten on the world's first hybrid powered ship (designed by Rolls-Royce) to luxury expeditions on Silverseas (with your own personal butler) to three different types of Galapagos expeditions on Celebrity, the choices are mind-blowing.

For example, Ponant, the French maritime company, is offering new Explorer ships with "Blue Eye" – the world's first underwater, multi-sensory lounge. Two glass portholes shaped like whale eyes give a unique



KAREN
QUINN-PANZER

perspective on the marine world, with the walls outfitted with giant digital screens showing real-time footage from underwater cameras and a state-of-the-art sound system.

For warmer climes, Paul Gauguin Cruises and Windstar offer soft adventures in the South Pacific, including Tahiti and the Society Islands, with authentic island luaus and native dancing lessons. Princess Cruises has teamed up with Discovery at Sea and Animal Planet to offer shore excursions like Deadliest Catch and Shark Week, along with onboard experiences such as top deck stargazing.

If you're looking for more "down-to-earth" family adventures, kids can become a knight for the day with visits to Buckingham Palace and the British Houses of Parliament. Or become a gladiator for the day at

Gladiator School at the Coliseum in Rome. Until recently, European river cruises were a purely adult affair, but now Adventures by Disney has partnered with AmaWaterways to present family adventures on the Danube.

Adventure guides, with training in varied backgrounds like teaching, corporate training or tourism present culture with a kid-friendly twist. Examples include singing "Do Re Mi" while running through the same park in Salzburg, Austria where the Sound of Music was filmed or discovering the mysteries of the Hungarian-invented Rubik's Cube by bringing young local experts from Budapest on board to teach insider puzzle strategies.

Creativity partnered with new technology results in travel experiences that are nothing short of life-changing. The world is our oyster.

Karen Quinn-Panzer is the owner of Dream Vacations Quinn Panzer Travel. She can be reached at kpanzer@dreamvacations.com.

Here's To Your Health:

The Benefits Of Cross Training

Many of us find an exercise routine we like and then stick to it like glue. While regiments and continuity are valuable, there is a fine line between that and the definition of insanity: doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. I've seen people perfect one specific line of exercise, such as running or cycling. Yet when the same person is thrust into a cardio circuit or boot camp class, they almost max out their heart rate and find the class extremely difficult.

Muscle has memory and if you're not changing up your workouts or your regular weight training routine, you're not a fit as you may think. It amazes my clients that just the small adjustment of doing upper body first when

we usually workout lower body first, how winded they get. They feel I've increased their weights or done something different. However, all I did was simply "trick" muscles that were expecting the same routine into thinking we were doing something new.

We need to have our workouts challenge us. We also need our workouts to keep us fit. Fitness means having good endurance, strength and flexibility. We do indeed need be versed in all three, not just one or two. A runner who does nothing in the way of weight training or yoga is not fully fit



MICHELE
TENNEY

no matter what their finish time is. A weight lifter who cannot touch his/her toes or run a mile is in the same boat with the runner.

So the question is what does a fully fit person's workout week look like? The ideal week would have at least three to five days of cardio, one or more of yoga or Pilates workouts and two to three days of weight training. Weight training should never be done on back-to-back days unless you're splitting up muscle groups. Your muscles need at least 24 hours of recovery time after weight training. If you're not a gym person, there are

plenty of wonderful at home DVD workouts. Brisk walking is a great cardio workout as well.

Now you know I'm going to tell you to not eat processed foods, bump up those veggies and drink your daily requirements of water, right? Of course you do. You can't leave your food out of the equation of being whole and healthy. Spring has sprung, so let's take a deep breath of some fresh clean air and get a move on. You can do it. I believe in you, but it's more important for you to believe in yourself. You are worth it.

Michele O'Brien-Tenney is a personal trainer and nutritionist. She can be reached at 203-668-2969

Legislation To Stop Collection Of Inmate Good Time Credits Moves Forward



State Reps. Themis Klarides and Nicole Klarides-Ditria testify with Marianne Heffernan, the sister of Joyce Stochmal, in support of House Bill 5465 on March 28 in the Judiciary Committee. *Contributed photo.*

The Judiciary Committee April 2 passed legislation, House Bill 5465, introduced by House Republican Minority Leader Themis Klarides and fellow Republican Nicole Klarides-Ditria that aims to prohibit criminals who were sentenced prior to the abolishment of good time credits from continuing to collect such credits.

The sisters co-authored the legislation in 2017 after learning that David Weinberg, a convicted murderer sentenced to 60 years in prison for the murder of Joyce Stochmal, was able to continue to collect good time

credits towards a reduction of his sentence.

Weinberg was released from prison in 2017 through a sentence modification. The court took into account these 12 plus years of credits in determining that he had served almost 40 years of his 60-year sentence. In fact, he had only been in prison for 26 years.

"It is tragic what happened to Joyce Stochmal, and her family; having to watch her killer walk out of jail because he obtained good time credits is not right," Klarides said. "Violent offenders should not be allowed to continue to collect

these good time credits. I hope we can get this legislation passed in both chambers this session."

"We should be protecting our communities from violent offenders not letting them back on the streets early," Klarides-Ditria added. "This legislation will help protect our communities and make sure no one has to watch a violent criminal get out of jail early."

House Bill 5456 will now head to the House for a vote. Before it become law, it must pass both the House and the Senate.

Wine Talk:

Wines from Down Under

The Australian wine industry is dynamic. It is the world's fourth largest exporter of wine, with only 40 percent of production consumed domestically. Americans import 17 percent of all wine consumed from Australia, making it the number three nation behind France and Italy.



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

The major wine regions are in the southern portion of Australia, which is the cooler part of the country. Major vineyards are in Victoria, Western Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania and Queensland. Wine regions in each of these states produce different wine varieties and styles depending on the climate, soil types, and the particular terroir (the unique nature of the soil and the minerals within the soil that give the wine a unique character and taste). The wines must include 85 percent of the varietal to be labeled with the varietal name.

Major wine types produced include Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Pinot Noir for the reds. The whites include Riesling, Chardonnay, Sauvignon blanc and Sémillon.

No grapes are indigenous to Australia. Winemaking there dates back to 1788, when the governor brought some cuttings from South Africa to the penal colony of New South Wales. Cuttings were later brought in from France and Spain. But it wasn't until central Europeans emigrated there around the 1850s that the wine industry developed. In 1873 Australian Shiraz (Syrah) was awarded first place in an Austrian competition, and the reputation of Australian wines started to take hold.

In the late nineteenth century competition a Shiraz was compared in a Paris competition to fine Bordeaux. When that occurred, Australian wine exports started to develop. It wasn't until after World War II that Australian wines became a world player, though. The US has seen tremendous growth in imports since 1990. In 2000 Australia exported more wine to the UK than to France for the first time in history. It has rapidly become a world leader in both quality and quantity produced.

In recent years organic and biodynamic wines have been increasing in popularity. In 2004 Australia hosted the First International Biodynamic Wine Forum in Beechworth, Victoria. This brought together biodynamic wine producers from all over the world. Despite the overproduction of grapes, many organic and biodynamic growers have enjoyed continuing demand thanks to the premium prices winemakers can charge for their organic and biodynamic products. This is especially true in Europe.

Australian wine makers have developed some very popular and unique blending techniques that have produced some fantastic results. The blending of 65 to 75 percent Shiraz with Cabernet Sauvignon has produced a big red wine with a long tannin finish. The Australians call it a "Shaz-Cab." They also blend a wine they call G-S-M. This is a blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvedre. This is a classic Côtes du Rhône blend similar to the famous Châteauneuf-du-Pape wines. The wines are generally full-bodied, rich, raisiny, and powerful.

Australian wines are reasonably priced, very well made, and abundant here in southern Connecticut. I like the brand 19 Crimes; it has the picture of a famous Australian criminal on the label. They range around \$10 to \$20 and can be purchased at Wine & Liquor Outlet at 528 Boston Post Rd. in Orange, as well as at Friendly Liquor Shop at 240 Broad St. in Milford.

Ray Spaziani is the Chapter Director of the New Haven Chapter of the American Wine Society. He teaches wine appreciation classes at Gateway Community College and for the Milford Board of Education Adult Ed Program, and is a member of the International Tasting Panel of Amenti Del Vino and Wine Maker Magazine. He is an award-winning home wine maker. Email Ray with your wine questions and wine events at Realestatepro1000@gmail.com

Orange FD Chief Retires, New Officers Sworn In



The Orange Volunteer Fire Department. Seated from left: Vaughan Dumas, Charles Sherwood, Michael Esposito and Daniel Johnson. Standing from left: Joseph Duplinsky, Daniel Cole, David Tufano, and Logan Marsh. Contributed photo.

Orange Volunteer Fire Department Chief John Knight stepped down during the department's annual dinner March 14, at which new line officers for 2018-2020 were sworn in.

As previously reported by *The Orange Times*, Knight stepped down from the position of chief after serving four years in that role. He will continue to be an active member of the department. He has more than 40 years of membership in the department, rising through the ranks of lieutenant, captain, assistant chief, deputy chief and finally chief. His grandfather was a founding member of the department in 1925 and held the title of chief for 20 years. His father and brother also held the title of chief of the department.

At the annual dinner, department Chaplain Tom Bartis gave the oath of office to the new line officers: Chief Vaughan Dumas; Deputy Chief Charles Sherwood; Assistant Chiefs Michael Esposito and Dan Johnson;

Captains Joseph Duplinsky and Daniel Cole; and Lieutenants Eric Auscavitch, Daniel Abrams, David Tufano, and Logan Marsh.

In addition to the operations officers, administrative offices were filled. Taking their oath of office were: Secretary Peter Daniel; Corresponding Secretary Lisa Kaplan; Treasurer Jonathan Lynn; and Assistant Treasurer Arthur Williams.

Firefighter of the year awards were awarded to Peter Daniel and Charles (William) Laudensalger.

Unit Citation awards were issued to firefighters who worked as a team, performing firefighting duties that resulted in exceptional mediation of an incident: Ken Mitchell; Donald Foyer; David Gagel; Steven Douglas; Tom Astram; Nicholas Brown; Robert Panapada; Nicholas Volta; David Kish; Drew Panapada; Dan Abrams; Eric Auscavitch; Joseph Duplinsky; and Daniel Cole.

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Profiles

Those Who Give:

Enriched by Helping Others

Eileen Schuman is a lady who has made a huge difference in the local area. Born and raised in New York City before moving to Connecticut as a young adult, then becoming a Milfordite 35 years ago, Schuman has a passion for interpersonal relationships and service.

For many years, Schuman worked in healthcare administration in high-level managerial positions with Connecticut-based healthcare plans. While she worked and raised a son along with her husband, Robert, she went back to school to complete her undergraduate

studies in business administration. She earned her MBA from Sacred Heart University.

"It took a while, since I was working and raising my son, but my goal was to finish college before he was ready to begin it," Schuman said. She succeeded, graduating before her son started college.

While at Sacred Heart, Schuman, along with many of her peers, recognized that there was really no platform for women to communicate with one another on professional, career, and many other important topics. She was instrumental in forming the Sacred Heart Women's Center, which still exists today.

"We saw a need for women to have an arena to collaborate; sometimes it was as simple as being able to offer encouragement; sometimes we'd have speakers on particular topics or even group discussions," she said.

Once finished with school, although she was still working, Schuman found that she suddenly had a great deal of free time. "That's when I began volunteering in earnest," she said.

At that time, Schuman became a volunteer with the Milford Rape Crisis Center. She was trained and certified as a rape crisis counselor, and while she said it was sometimes difficult, "It was really more rewarding than anything. To be able to help someone through that is powerful." She also was a member of the center's board of directors.

Schuman additionally became involved with the Agency on Aging and was certified as a volunteer with the CHOICES program, assisting seniors with Medicare problems. She continues to be the area resource and helps many Medicare beneficiaries navigate the issues that may arise with their policies.

Another volunteer opportunity Schuman



SHAILEEN LANDSBERG

embraced is that of an ESL volunteer through the Literacy Volunteers of Southern Connecticut.

"I helped a family from Iran who knew no English, and now they have their green cards and a child in school here," she said. "Also, I helped a student from Mongolia learn English and become a working, active member of the community!"

Currently Schuman is an active volunteer at the Beth El Center in Milford, cooking and serving meals in the center's soup kitchen and sitting on the board of directors.

She smiled as she described all she does there. "I'm on the program committee, assessing how well we are meeting the needs of the residents, and on the gala committee, which is going to be on June 2."

Schuman, who several years ago received the Woman of Substance award, was very clear about how she feels about volunteering.

"I get to meet people from all different walks of life, whether it is in the soup kitchen, the dining room, or through the CHOICES program," she said. "I would never have had these experiences otherwise. My horizons have expanded. Volunteering enriches me, lets me help others, and I owe them so much."



Eileen Schuman Photo by: Shaileen Landsberg



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We anticipate a monthly meeting followed by a complimentary lunch starting May 2018

More Info at
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UNH Offers Free GenCyber Security And Forensics Camp

The University of New Haven's Tagliatela College of Engineering will offer, for the second year in a row, Connecticut's only GenCyber security and forensics camp for high school students, the GenCyber Agent Academy.

The academy, sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the National Security Agency, will be offered to 20 girls and 20 boys free of charge. The students must be entering ninth through 12th grade in the fall.

The camp will take place on the campus of the University of New Haven from July 24 to 29 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day.

Full-time faculty in the university's Cyber Forensics Laboratory will teach the program. The group's work exposing flaws in various phone apps has been featured worldwide.

To be considered for the campships, students must write a 500-word essay about why they want to attend the camp and must have a letter of recommendation from a teacher. Applications to the CyberGen Agent Academy are due by May 15.

No previous experience in computing is necessary. Campers will be provided with different levels of training based on the students' experience.

"At the University of New Haven's Tagliatela College of Engineering, we embrace teaching cybersecurity concepts starting at a young age," said Ibrahim Baggili, the camp director and the project's principle investigator. "We are passionate about involving underrepresented minority students in this effort and teaching skills to the future generation of the cybersecurity workforce that will protect our nation."

The camp is a first chance for teens to look at cybersecurity and consider working toward a career in a job market that has one million job openings this year.

The camp will be supported by lead instructor Liberty Page, a computer science instructor at the university with many years of experience in teaching science in Connecticut public schools, and Frank Breiting, assistant professor of computer science and the university's hacking team mentor.

Activities at the camp will include an introduction to Python programming, cyber forensics, virtual reality, network defense and hacking concepts, investigating drones, and learning from experts in the field about their careers and their jobs. Students will also participate in a cyber competition and a scavenger hunt.

Speakers will also discuss what is necessary for a career in cybersecurity and forensics and how to apply to colleges.

Participation in the camp includes three meals a day. Funding for transportation is also available.



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Senior Living

Retired and Rejuvenated:

Continuing Care Retirement Communities An Option

I know people who have researched where they might want to live the last years of their lives. Planning and considering all options is a good idea. Continuing Care Retirement Communities is one such option.

In 2010, there were approximately 1,900 CCRCs in the United States. The top ten states with the greatest number of CCRCs are Pennsylvania, Ohio, California, Illinois, Florida, Texas, Kansas, Indiana, Iowa, and North Carolina, in that order.

Typically, seniors move into a CCRC while they are still independent, with few health risks or healthcare needs, and they remain there until the end of their lives. CCRCs are communities that provide multiple levels of care in multiple buildings on the same campus. With multiple levels of care, a person is able to live in the same place even if they need more care later on. This gives peace of mind and freedom to enjoy the present without worrying where they will go should their health care needs change in the future.

Continuing care retirement communities are attractive for seniors who find themselves living in increasing social isolation as they age, and who want to be in an environment with other people of similar age along with having the comfort of knowing their long-term health care needs will be met.

Levels of care typically include independent living, assisted living, dementia care, rehabilitation, and skilled nursing. Independent living is ideal for seniors who are ready to downsize from a larger home to one that offers minimal maintenance and upkeep. Assisted living is the right choice for people who need extra help with daily activities



JOANNE BYRNE

from qualified staff who can help manage medication, dressing and bathing.

There are legitimate concerns that one should consider when choosing a CCRC. Entrance fees range from a few hundred dollars to more than \$1 million. Although financial meltdowns are rare, there have been cases in which retirement homes have had to raise monthly fees or reduce services.

One of the things to look for when choosing a CCRC is the occupancy rate. If the facility has had a 90 percent occupancy rate for the past few years, it suggests that the place is doing something right. This is especially important at CCRCs that promise refunds, because you (or your heirs) often won't get the refund until someone has moved into your unit.

Lately, many CCRCs have been increasing their monthly fees by three to four percentage points a year. If you see anything more than that, ask for an explanation. Many communities issue bonds to fund improvements, and Fitch Ratings evaluates them. Ratings of AAA to BBB should bring a measure of comfort.

You also want a community that brings in more cash than it spends. Pay attention to

cash operating expenses as a percentage of cash operating revenue. Is the CRCC spending enough on upkeep? Does their annual statement show capital spending that compares with the line showing depreciation? Does the place look outdated? Find out if the CCRC performs a regular actuarial valuation, which gives a sense of whether it has reserves to meet its promise of housing and health care for the rest of your life.

Lastly, check out how involved the residents are in making major financial decisions. Residents should hold a couple of seats on the board, or at least on an advisory council.

Joanne Byrne served as Senior Services Coordinator for the Town of Orange. She is now actively and happily retired. Email her at joannebyrne41@gmail.com to share your thoughts on retirement.

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Planning Ahead

From The Bench:

Spring Cleaning Of Your Estate Planning Documents

It is that time of year when the daylight lasts longer, we clean out our closets, we look forward to flowers blooming and trees budding. It is a perfect time to look at your estate planning documents and advance health care directives.

This is a primer on exactly what estate planning documents and advance directives are. The more commonly known document – a last will and testament – directs how you would like your assets distributed after your death. If you have no will, your assets are distributed as stated in Connecticut statutes. Did you know that if you are married and have children, even minor ones, that your spouse does not necessarily inherit all your assets under the laws of intestacy?

With a last will and testament, it is common that a married couple leaves their assets first to each other. In the absence of a will, it is

possible that the children will inherit some of these assets.

A last will and testament should also provide for guardianship of any minor children and proper distribution of assets if your spouse does not survive you. You should designate a guardian who you believe will raise your child as you would. You may also consider distribution of assets to children to occur at a later age – perhaps after college rather than immediately. Funds can still be used by a designated trustee for education, support, and medical needs, but giving a large inheritance outright to a young adult is not always wise. It's called the "red Corvette" phenomenon. A rush to buy an expensive fancy fun thing...and then



HON. BEVERLY K. STREIT-KEFALAS

all the money is gone.

Often confused with a last will and testament is a living will. A "living" will is just that – an expression of your own will while you are living. It is a health care directive to direct medical treatment at the end of life. It is a critical expression of what you would do if you were able to say it yourself but because of your medical condition – a terminal, permanent vegetative state – you can't say it. It is an "advance" directive because you say what you want in advance of possible terminal conditions.

Depending on your age, health, and other factors, you may or may not want CPR performed. You may or may not want a feeding tube or to be on a ventilator. What

is critical is that you talk to your doctor about what all these "end of life" medical treatments are and then you direct your own medical treatment. You may also include designation of a health care agent to act as your advocate and to designate a conservator should you need one.

If there is no health care directive, family members must make emergency decisions in a vacuum of not always knowing what you would want. The strain on family is tremendous and sometimes the pain and suffering they endure cannot be overcome.

So "clean out your closet" by making sure your papers are up to date and your wishes expressed.

The Hon. Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas is a Judge of Probate for the Milford-Orange Probate Court. She can be reached at judgebeverly@aol.com.

Insuring Your Future:

What Do Health Insurance Agents Do January-September?

Now that the open enrollment period for individual, Medicare and many group health insurances is from October to December, people might wonder what insurance professionals do the rest of the year. The answer is: plenty.

First, we answer questions and handle problems with claims and coverage that come up throughout the year. This is the value of having an agent, as opposed to calling the 1-800 number only to wait on hold and explain your problem over and over.

Second, we update clients on changes and news that impact their coverage. One such issue involves the Medicare Savings Program, which provides help to those on Medicare. This program assists with the Medicare Part B premium, prescription drug costs and other medical expenses,

such as copays. The 2018 budget that was proposed by the Connecticut legislature and the governor changed the eligibility requirements such that over 100,000 people would no longer qualify for assistance. Thanks to the overwhelming outcry of beneficiaries and their families, the legislature took action to delay any changes until July 1 so they could consider alternative areas to cut. While not completely resolved, it did keep the current benefits intact. As we learn more about any impending changes, we will reach out to our clients to alert them to speak up.

Third, insurance professionals help with special election periods. When there is a



TRISH PEARSON

loss of group benefits due to the loss of a job, divorce, relocation or other reason (other than non-payment of premium), people can qualify for a special election period. This is a period outside of open enrollment when people can make a change in their insurance. There is a 30 or 60-day window in which to exercise a change in plan. Loss of a state plan such as HUSKY or other special assistance is also a qualifying event.

Fourth, we advise about other types of insurance, including life, disability and long-term care. There is no specific time period when one must sign up for these types of insurance. There are advantages to speaking

with an insurance professional outside of the open enrollment period as we have more time to focus on the best plan.

Finally, people turn 65 every day and become eligible for Medicare. There is a 60-day window before and after that birthday to sign up for a Medicare Advantage or a supplemental/prescription drug plan. A certified agent can assist with understanding how Medicare works and with choosing appropriate supplemental coverage.

We are very busy throughout the year and available to help with problems, questions and life's little surprises.

Trish Pearson is a licensed independent insurance agent and certified long term care specialist. Contact her at 203-640-5969 or trishpearson281@gmail.com.

Milford Education Foundation Holding 'Chair-ity' Kickoff In May

The Milford Education Foundation will hold a kickoff event for its third biennial Chair-ity Auction on Wednesday, May 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Milford Center for the Arts at 40 Railroad Ave. At the kickoff event, the 14 Adirondack chairs that were built by Milford Public Schools students and decorated by youth groups will be unveiled. The auction itself will take place on Friday, June 22.

The youth groups engaged in painting

the chairs include both Foran and Law's Interact clubs; a group from the Academy; West Shore Middle School's Wave; Foran's Natural Helpers Club; the YMCA; Harborside Middle School's STEAM Club; Law's AP art classes; the Boys & Girls Club; East Shore Middle School; and Camp Happiness.

At the kickoff event, the designers will share their inspirations for the chairs they have created. The 14 chairs will be hosted at

locations around the city between the kickoff and the auction.

"This fundraiser for the MEF is one that brings together in a wonderful way so many parts of our great city," said board member Christina Prete, who is the chairperson for this year's auction. "The students build the chairs, various youth groups paint the chairs, establishments around the city display the chairs and local business (gives) support with sponsorships and silent auction items."

Proceeds from the Chair-ity will help to expand the MEF's Teacher Mini Grant program. Since its start in 2013, the foundation's mini grant program has awarded nearly \$50,000 to Milford Public Schools teachers.

The June 22 Chair-ity auction will be held at the Milford Yacht Club. Only 150 tickets are available. They can be purchased through the MEF website at MilfordEdFoundation.org.

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Beth-El Center's New Executive Director Named

Beth-El Center's Board of Directors announced March 27 that Jennifer Paradis will be the center's new executive director, replacing Toni Dolan, who is retiring June 1.

Paradis has committed her career to the non-profit sector, serving in a variety of roles for several community non-profits over the past decade, with a drive to provide quality and efficient services to low-income individuals and families. She has served as Beth-El Center's Director of Programs and Facilities since June 2015.

The announcement said Paradis has provided many valuable contributions to center, including the updating of internal organizational systems which have maximized and increased shelter and soup kitchen program outcomes. She's also responsible for creating a staff development and training program which ensures that residents and patrons of the Center receive high-quality, informed services.

"I am so incredibly proud of the work we do every day at the Beth-El Center," Paradis



Jennifer Paradis
Contributed photo

said. "Toni Dolan's leadership has provided this agency with the solid foundation needed to continue our development and growth. Our commitment to our mission is unwavering and I am honored to be able to lead such a passionate and educated team."

Beth-El Center Board Chairman Ed Davies said, "When Jennifer joined the team at the Beth-El Center we knew that we had found a passionate and gifted program director. Under Toni Dolan's leadership, her growth, commitment and ability to identify and solve problems has been apparent. It was not difficult for the search committee to see that Jennifer is the right person to step into the role of executive director. The board is looking forward to working with her in our quest to end hunger and homelessness."

Paradis has a bachelor's degree in sociology and applied social relations from Eastern Connecticut State University and a master's degree in organizational leadership from Quinnipiac University with a concentration in nonprofit management.

Orange Police Citizens Academy

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Contact: Officer Carolyn Bailey
Email: cbailey@orange-ct.Gov
Phone: 203-891-2138
Registration deadline: April 26

Orange BOE Member To Run For State House

Orange Board of Education member Mary Welander announced April 2 that she is running for State Representative for the 114th district. The 114th district encompasses parts of Orange, Derby and the town of Woodbridge.

The seat is currently held by House Republican Minority Leader Themis Klarides, who is serving her tenth term.

"I am running because I believe our district is not accurately reflected by our current representation in Hartford," Welander said in a release. "I am deeply committed to our area and want it to be as strong as it can be now and in the future for all of our children. I believe we have a duty to stand up for what is right and speak out against what is wrong, and I am not seeing enough of either from our representative. We live in a proud, strong, diverse district; I believe that our strengths lie in our differences and Connecticut will be stronger if we embrace new ideas while still respecting our history. I would be honored to represent the voices of my neighbors in Hartford."

In addition to serving on the Board of Education, Welander was recently reelected as the Vice Chair of the Orange Democratic Town Committee, serves on the Board of the PTA at Race Brook School, is the statewide representative for Sandy Hook Promise, and is active in other community groups throughout town.

"I first met Mary after the 2016 Presidential



Mary Welander
Contributed photo

election," said Jody Dietch, chair of the Orange DTC. "Mary began attending our DTC meetings. She showed confidence and knowledge not only of the issues but also she has a keen understanding of the legislative process. Mary quickly educated herself on how accomplishments happen in Hartford. She is not someone who would have a learning curve taking on a new job. She is already schooled in that and also is well known by many in Hartford. She has the energy and more importantly, the integrity to represent not just the 114th district but all of the residents of Connecticut."

Laurence Grotheer, Woodbridge DTC chair, said, "Mary will be an outstanding representative for the 114th and Connecticut. Her commitment to a better future for Connecticut is evident in her work on the OBOE and all she has accomplished in other community service roles. We look forward to her representing us and bringing bipartisanship back to Hartford."

"We are very excited that Mary is running for state representative, said Aniello Malerba, III, chair of the Derby DTC. "We need a fresh perspective in Hartford. As a mother of three young children and an active PTA parent, her commitment to the prosperity of future generations is exactly the new approach we need to problem solving in Hartford."

Mary and her husband, Matt, live in Orange with their three children and dog, Bauer.

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Youth & Education

Test Prep:

Tips For Improving Your Standardized Test Score

The in-school SAT will take place on April 24, so I thought I would use this column to give you some quick tips. The reality is there is no easy fix to improving your test scores. The students who improve the most are the ones who start preparing early and put serious effort into practicing. There's no shortcut to hard work. Still, there are a few tips that I've picked up from years of tutoring. I hope at least a few of them will be new to you.

Handwrite your study guide. In the age of computers and technology, few people sit down and work with pencil and paper anymore. Typing things out and scanning pages is much faster than using a pen. But when it comes to memorization, nothing beats out copying equations and rules by hand. The muscle memory is critical to remembering facts under stress – once you get the equation started, your hand will start filling in the rest. While the SAT gives you

several of the equations that you might need, it doesn't give you all of them (and the ACT doesn't give you any). As you practice problems, start creating a list of equations that you use and always forget. Then, as the test approaches, copy that study guide over again a few times. By the time you're finished, you'll know all those equations by heart.

Brush up on your arithmetic. Students always come to me wondering how they can "speed up" their test taking. They run out of time, which tends to make them try to work faster, which leads to mistakes. And funnily enough, it doesn't actually make them finish any quicker. I find that one of the biggest time wasters that students have on the test is their fear of/weakness in doing good, old-fashioned arithmetic. Fractions, multiplication tables,



JAMES MARONEY

long division: it's amazing how much time gets lost on these. The good news is this is a relatively easy fix (and you don't actually have to be "good at math"). It just takes dedication. Download an app and run through flashcards anytime you have a few minutes (waiting for a friend to show up, sitting in line, during commercial breaks). The SAT does have a non-calculator section, so be prepared.

Use an old-school pencil. This seems like an odd one, but hear me out. You're often told that you need to use a #2 pencil for standardized tests because that's what the Scantron reads. But mechanical pencils also come in #2, so why not use those? Once again, this is a question of timing and ease. Simply put, it takes you longer to completely fill in the bubble with a mechanical pencil

than it does with an old-school pencil. And filling in the bubbles completely is critical – if you don't fill them in all the way, you won't get points for your answer. If you don't believe me, try it out. Remember, every second matters when it comes to standardized tests.

These are a few easy tips that you'll be able to implement quickly. Sometimes we just don't get as much time as we would like to prepare for things. Getting these under your belt now will help you feel more confident going forward. Look for more hints and tricks on improving your standardized test score in our upcoming columns.

James Maroney, is the owner of First Choice College, which has been helping local students prepare for college since 1999. James is also the former co-chair of the Financial Aid Working Group for the Connecticut State Planning Commission for Higher Education.

Orange's Amity Middle School Gives 'Hair and Hope'



Back row, from left: Payton Bakis, Kate Sim, Chris Carlson, Aiden Courtney, Jack Hawes, Mike Kwolek, Adam Glassman, Nolan Smith, Noah Graver, Patrick Mizzone, Matt Carloni, Josh Hemstock, and Madeline Abdelmesih. Second row, from left: Gerry Burns, Justin Hunt, Adam Mortier, Julieanne Pereira, Emma Curis, Arielle Chetwynd, Anachal Poddar, Aditi Chalasani, Jesse Della Camera, Annabella Gefen Alves, Greta Pedenski, and Cindy Clen. Third row, from left: Chris Barberry, Dylan Lyons, Anna Saccente, Jenna Chizmadia, Isabelle Rosewater, Emily Barretta, and Roxanne Torrioni. Fourth row, from left: Melissa Musante, Seamus Hennessy, Ben Cap, Brett Chodas, and Kayle Mingione. Photo by Jennifer Marganski.

Amity Middle School in Orange raised over \$18,000 March 19 at its tenth annual "Giving Hair and Hope" event. The money was raised for the St Baldrick's Foundation for Pediatric Cancer Research and Pantene Beautiful Lengths.

Teachers, staff, students, community and family members packed the gym. Area

barbers and hairstylists donated their time to shave heads and cut the pony tails of over 50 participants. Entertainment was provided by Mulkerins' Irish Dance Studio.

"This is what I love most about hosting this event," said Vicki Fielosh, teacher and event coordinator. "It gives our students the opportunity to help others."

Milford's St. Mary School Basketball Team Wins State Championship



The team includes: Chase Bryant, Christopher DeProffio, Griffin Fisher, Gauge Forget, John Gerrity, Dylan Gregory, Christopher Harry, Marko Joksovic, Daniel Kron, Max Lula, Derek Rainey, Michael Roney, Matt Savo, Peter Swanson, Tim Swanson, Will Swanson, and AJ Tkacs. Contributed photo.

Milford's St. Mary School sixth grade boys junior varsity basketball team won the State Championship March 18 at Sacred Heart High School against St.

Mary School of Waterbury 48-45 in overtime. With only one loss all season, the boys next headed to the Regional Tournament from April 6 to 8.

Students Help Students In Turkey Hill Homework Club



Students assist one another as part of Turkey Hill School's Homework Helper Club initiative. Contributed photo.

By **Monika Corcoran**

"Students helping students" has taken on a new meaning at Turkey Hill School as older students have begun to mentor students in younger grades.

During the last 15 minutes of each day, students who struggle completing their homework or need some extra re-teaching meet with a student mentor in the library as part of the Homework Helper Club initiative. The goal of this program is to encourage positive peer relationships while helping mentees feel more confident and comfortable in their math skills. It also builds leadership and responsibility qualities of the mentors.

Students who are interested in becoming a mentor complete an application where they express their qualifications, such as having a positive attitude; a patient, understanding, and self-motivated personality; as well as a solid understanding of math. Mentored students are chosen based on teacher recommendations and the needs of the child.

Currently, there are 27 students involved in this growing program.

Orange Girl Scouts Pack Food For Milford Kids



From left: Julia, Avery, Juliana, Erica, Sophia, Corina, Milki, Karin, and Ella. Photo by Katie Fairty.

The fourth grade Juniors Girl Scout Troop, Troop 60253, from Orange volunteered March 28 at Milford Food 2 Kids, helping to pack bags of food for

150 children in Milford. The girls helped organize the food, prepare the bags, and pack the bags full of food for these children to have over the weekend.

Local Students Named To Dean's Lists

Orange native Suvasini Balaji was named to the dean's list of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences at Johns Hopkins University as an incoming freshman. Balaji graduated from Amity School in Woodbridge with honors and was named to the Governor's

honor list for Connecticut in 2016.

Orange native Kevin Nusdeo, a freshman at Syracuse University, was named to the dean's list for fall 2017 as well as the Athletic Directors honor roll for fall 2017. Nusdeo plays football at Syracuse.

Milford Candidate Honors Local Educator



Ellen Beatty and Christine Kennedy. *Contributed photo.*

Milford Alderwoman and 119th District State Representative candidate Ellen Beatty joined Kids Count of Milford at their Annual Legislative Breakfast April 4 at the Milford Yacht Club in honoring Christine Kennedy. Kennedy, Milford’s Special Education Supervisor, was awarded the “Champion of Young Children Award” for her dedication to Milford’s families.

Kids Count is a non-profit organization that focuses on children from birth to age five

by promoting their emotional, educational, physical and social well-being. Their goal of is to provide the support and resources necessary to maximize school readiness.

“I’m delighted to attend this event and have been so deeply impressed with the caliber of professionals who educate our children, Beatty said. “Christine Kennedy has been an invaluable resource for children and parents and so deserving of this honor.”



Milford’s Woodruff Family YMCA To Host Annual Healthy Kids Day

The Woodruff Family YMCA in Milford is holding a free community event on Saturday, April 21 to inspire more kids to keep their minds and bodies active at the annual YMCA’s Healthy Kids Day, a national initiative to improve health and well-being for kids and families.

Healthy Kids Day is an opportunity to ignite children’s imaginations so that they can imagine what they’ll accomplish over the summer. The day-long event features activities such as physical activities, games, healthy eating and cooking ideas, arts and crafts, and special guests to motivate and teach families how to develop and maintain healthy routines at home throughout the summer months.

Healthy Kids Day, celebrated at over 1,500 Ys across the country by over 1.2 million participants, works to get more kids moving and learning, creating habits that they continue all summer long. When kids are out of school, they can face hurdles that prevent them from reaching their full

potential. Research shows that without access to out-of-school learning activities, kids fall behind academically. Kids also gain weight twice as fast during summer than the school year. As spring turns to summer, Healthy Kids Day is a powerful reminder not to let children idle away their summer days.

“When a child is healthy, happy, and supported they can make great things happen,” said Josh Royce, executive director at the Woodruff Family YMCA. “We believe in the potential of all children, and we strive to help kids find that potential within themselves. A child’s development is never on vacation and Healthy Kids Day is a great opportunity to educate families and motivate kids to stay active in spirit, mind and body throughout the summer.”

The event takes place at 631 Orange Ave. in Milford from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, contact the Woodruff Family YMCA at 203-878-6501 or visit cccymca.org.

CT Association Of Fairs Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Orange Country Fair has announced that applications for the Connecticut Association of Fairs scholarship program are available at the Amity Senior High School guidance department, the Case Memorial Library and at the Orange Town Hall.

One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior or college student pursuing a course of study in agriculture, home economics or a related field during the next school year. Another \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating

senior or college student pursuing a course of study in any field during the next school year. A third \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior or college student to be chosen at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee.

All applications must be received and returned to the fair secretary by May 15. Please mail to applications to Marianne Bauer, Secretary - Orange Country Fair, 1041 Beechlawn Terrace, Orange, CT 06477. Call 203-795-6489 for more information.

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Town of Orange, Connecticut FINANCE DIRECTOR'S BUDGET MESSAGE



May 2018

On behalf of the Honorable James M. Zeoli - First Selectman, and the Orange Board of Finance, I submit our recommended Town of Orange General Fund Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. This document is the result of many hours of careful consideration by the Board of Finance, Department Heads, Town Boards and Commissions, Management and Staff. The focus of the 2019 budget is to continue to offer the level of services to which our citizens have become accustomed, tempered by the ability of our taxpayers to pay for those services.

Again Federal pass-through funds and State initiated funding have remained frozen, or in some cases, have been reduced, or eliminated entirely. The Governor has eliminated all of the Towns Educational Cost Sharing Grant for this budget year. In the current fiscal year the Town expects to receive in excess of \$1.5 million, but in the 2018-2019 budget the projection is \$ 0. The October 1, 2016 Grand List reflects an increase of 5.7% about 4.7% due to revaluation. However, increases in interest investment earnings, Licenses, Permits and Fines and other revenue has helped to offset state funding losses. We have carefully designed this financial plan to balance the growing request for municipal services, the needs of the Town's infrastructure, public safety, and community health and welfare while maintaining our commitment to the education of our children: the leaders of tomorrow.

The Budget Process

The budget process begins in November when each department prepares then reviews with their Board or Commission the department budget request for the new fiscal year. After Board or Commission approval the department submits the departmental budget to the Director of Finance. Each departmental request is reviewed and evaluated together with the First Selectman for submission of a recommended budget to the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance then conducts individual hearings and discussions with department management as required. This budget has two new positions a Director of Technology who started in April, and an Assistant Building Inspector who has yet to be hired. The Board of Selectman agreed to these new hires at their February meeting due to the towns growing technology and commercial base growth. There are inevitably unanticipated costs that occur when projecting expenditure some eighteen months into the future. Toward that end, it is incumbent on the administration of any municipality to maintain a sufficient undesignated fund balance to provide for such unforeseen events and circumstances.

Fund Balance

The Town's Fund Balance is a measure of its capacity to withstand financial emergencies or to provide for unforeseen emergent projects and expenditure. I am projecting the undesignated portion of the fund balance at July 1, 2018 to be approximately 11.7 million dollars, or 16.7% of the 2018-2019 operating budget.

Revenue

The net taxable grand list for October 1, 2017 equaled \$2,078,900,122 which is compared to the October 1, 2016 net taxable grand list as below:

Category	2017 Net Grand List	2016 Net Grand List
Real Estate	\$1,796,406,020	\$1,691,170,520
Motor Vehicles	136,681,160	135,385,710
Business Personal Property	145,812,942	140,839,220
	\$2,078,900,122	\$1,967,395,450

Real Estate valuation increased by 6.2% from 10/1/2016, while Motor Vehicle valuation increased by 1.0% Business Equipment & Fixtures increased by 3.5% for a net overall increase in the net grand list of \$111,504,672 or 5.7%

Residential real property has remained substantially constant at approximately 63.0% of the grand list as compared to 20.9% commercial and industrial, 7.8% business property and 6.5% for motor vehicles.

Departmental Operating Expenditure:

The budget for general town operations has increased by 5.93% or \$1,417,649 while our share of the Amity budget increased by \$164,387 or 0.68%. The Orange Board of Education costs increased by 1.17%, or \$235,484. The aggregate increase in the budget for the fiscal year ended 6/30/2018 is \$1,817,520 or 2.67%.

Capital Replacements and Expenditure:

At the recommendation of the Town's auditors the Board of Finance setup a Capital Fund Account to pay some future capital expenditures. The auditors recommended this to build up future reserves for some capital purchases to avoid bonding and borrowing cost on some items. The Board of Finance funded this account by moving \$469,000 from the General Fund. The funded items for the 2018-2019 fiscal year include a new town wide telephone system including new wiring, a Board of Education pickup truck, addition computer wiring at the elementary schools, and new hot water heaters at Peck Place school. These items were chosen after discussions with the Capital Planning Committee.

The annual budget development is an intensive task that requires a concerted and coordinated effort on the part of all. I want to express my personal gratitude for the support and cooperation from all of our professional department managers and their dedicated staff. I would also like to thank my staff in the Town's Finance Department, specifically Audrey Geer, Karin Lewis, and Arthur Williams. It takes a team effort to compile this budget. On behalf of First Selectman Zeoli, and the Board of Finance I want to acknowledge the many committed professionals who selflessly serve on our Boards and Commissions without compensation. It is that kind of public spirit that makes Orange a unique and special community in which to live.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Cifarelli
Director of Finance and Administration

Audrey Geer
Assistant Finance Director

Members of the Orange Board of Finance
Kevin Houlihan, CPA – Chairman

James Leahy - Vice Chairman

P. J. Shanley, Joseph Nuzzo, Kevin T. Moffett, Patricia Romano
Deborah Satonick (Recording Secretary)

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**TOWN OF ORANGE, CONNECTICUT
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-19**

GENERAL FUND REVENUE

Classification	FY 2016-17 Actual	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2018-19 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
Property Taxes	61,257,961	63,853,288	65,953,280	2,099,992	3.29%
Property Taxes Prior Years	341,624	180,000	310,000	130,000	72.22%
Tax Interest & Liens	265,132	100,000	130,000	30,000	30.00%
Licenses, Permits & Fines	981,667	838,700	863,400	24,700	2.95%
Intergovernmental Revenue	2,425,193	1,231,237	140,200	-1,091,037	-88.61%
Program Revenue	592,891	720,050	707,788	-12,262	-1.70%
Investment Interest	83,580	100,000	267,500	167,500	167.50%
Facility & Service Charges	105,923	136,000	133,000	-3,000	-2.21%
Other	1,019,391	908,373	1,380,000	471,627	51.92%
Total General Fund Revenue	67,073,362 ✓	68,067,648 ✓	69,885,168 ✓	1,817,520	2.67%

BUDGET SUMMARY BY DEPARTMENT

Classification	FY 2016-17 Actual	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2018-19 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
General Government					
01-001 Selectmen	215,739	216,552	224,677	8,125	3.75%
01-010 Probate Court	6,100	5,472	5,647	175	3.20%
01-030 Accounting	120,611	118,216	98,300	-19,916	-16.85%
01-031 Assessor	424,630	250,668	265,367	14,699	5.86%
01-032 Board of Assessment Appeals	455	11,000	4,500	-6,500	-59.09%
01-033 Director of Finance	308,290	336,387	231,701	-104,686	-31.12%
01-035 Tax Collector	156,670	160,065	172,321	12,256	7.66%
01-036 Treasurer	84,215	88,708	90,664	1,956	2.20%
01-037 Board of Finance	2,322	2,450	2,850	400	16.33%
01-038 Director of Technology	0	0	363,070	363,070	#DIV/0!
01-039 Pension	100	300	300	0	0.00%
01-040 Legal	234,865	265,000	255,000	-10,000	-3.77%
01-050 Town Clerk	175,859	184,609	187,565	2,956	1.60%
01-055 Voter Registrars	73,820	81,256	84,756	3,500	4.31%

Classification	FY 2016-17 Actual	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2018-19 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
01-170 Town Hall	149,357	195,400	189,400	-6,000	-3.07%
01-200 Planning & Zoning	120,516	128,194	130,903	2,709	2.11%
01-201 Zoning Board of Appeals	2,563	3,050	3,050	0	0.00%
01-202 Economic Development	72,051	72,950	72,950	0	0.00%
01-204 Inland-Wetlands Agency	46,836	47,254	47,663	409	0.87%
01-205 Conservation Commission	4,968	3,400	3,400	0	0.00%
01-206 Building Inspection	125,949	124,607	157,321	32,714	26.25%
Total General Government	2,325,916 ✓	2,295,538 ✓	2,591,405 ✓	295,867	12.89%

Classification	FY 2016-17 Actual	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2018-19 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
Public Safety					
02-100 Police: General Services	878,649	771,584	711,274	-60,310	-7.82%
02-101 Police: Uniformed Patrol	3,164,894	3,485,241	3,589,527	104,286	2.99%
02-102 Police: Investigative Services	477,760	512,140	525,052	12,912	2.52%
02-103 Police: Communication/Dispatch	304,386	345,386	353,367	7,981	2.31%
Sub Total: Police Services	4,825,689 ✓	5,114,351 ✓	5,179,220 ✓	64,869	1.27%

02-120 Fire Marshal	240,945	233,621	283,061	49,440	21.16%
02-121 Emergency Medical Service	255,401	267,144	274,707	7,563	2.83%
02-122 Fire Suppression: Water for Hydrants	518,508	525,000	541,000	16,000	3.05%
02-122 Volunteer Fire Department	195,000	200,000	200,000	0	0.00%
02-130 Emergency Management (Civil Def.)	5,171	6,500	6,500	0	0.00%
02-135 Animal Control	75,000	75,000	75,000	0	0.00%
Total Public Safety	6,115,714 ✓	6,421,616 ✓	6,559,488 ✓	137,872	2.15%

Classification	FY 2016-17 Actual	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2018-19 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
Public Works & Public Buildings					
03-150 Administration & Engineering	430,400	426,892	404,082	-22,810	-5.34%
03-155 Roadways	1,123,708	1,168,083	1,200,056	31,973	2.74%
03-157 Snow Removal	174,528	172,000	172,000	0	0.00%
03-158 Vehicle Maintenance	376,617	376,495	381,326	4,831	1.28%
03-161 Refuse	961,613	991,815	987,051	-4,764	-0.48%
Sub Total: Public Works	3,066,866 ✓	3,135,285 ✓	3,144,515 ✓	9,230	0.29%
03-171 Community Center	403,197	433,242	395,400	-37,842	-8.73%
03-172 Clark Building	43,421	49,975	47,575	-2,400	-4.80%
03-173 Case Library Building	113,414	119,850	131,850	12,000	10.01%
Sub Total: Public Buildings	560,032 ✓	603,067 ✓	574,825 ✓	-28,242	-4.68%
Total Public Works & Public Buildings	3,626,898 ✓	3,738,352 ✓	3,719,340 ✓	-19,012	-0.51%

Classification	FY 2016-17 Actual	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2018-19 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
Culture & Recreation					
04-250 Library	602,725	588,834	636,040	47,206	8.02%
04-260 Parks & Recreation - Admin	196,203	214,819	212,758	-2,061	-0.96%
04-261 Parks & Recreation - Maint	271,573	284,150	282,504	-1,646	-0.58%
04-262 Parks & Recreation - Pool	285,085	299,289	278,778	-20,511	-6.85%
04-263 Parks & Recreation - Programs	5,828	5,500	6,500	1,000	18.18%
04-270 Amity Teen Center	18,000	18,000	18,000	0	0.00%
Total Culture & Recreation	1,379,414 ✓	1,410,592 ✓	1,434,580 ✓	23,988	1.70%

Classification	FY 2016-17 Actual	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2018-19 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
Health & Welfare					
05-220 Environmental Health	188,226	191,574	195,110	3,536	1.85%
05-223 Drug & Alcohol Action	20,387	21,450	21,450	0	0.00%
05-226 School Nursing	256,836	280,148	278,982	-1,166	-0.42%
05-227 Director of Health	12,940	20,800	22,319	1,519	7.30%
05-228 Board of Health	511	850	850	0	0.00%
Sub Total: Health Services	478,900 ✓	514,822 ✓	518,711 ✓	3,889	0.76%

Classification	FY 2016-17 Actual	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2018-19 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
Community Services					
05-241 Community Services-Administration	143,740	148,121	150,140	2,019	1.36%
05-242 Community Services-Disabilities	3,427	6,460	6,460	0	0.00%
05-243 Community Services-Youth	41,501	44,168	42,368	-1,800	-4.08%
05-244 Community Services-Transportation	69,454	68,500	73,500	5,000	7.30%
05-245 Community Services-Elderly	131,817	139,828	139,126	-702	-0.50%
05-246 Community Services-Counseling	98,590	90,000	100,000	10,000	11.11%
Sub Total: Community Services	488,529 ✓	497,077 ✓	511,594 ✓	14,517	2.92%
Total Health & Welfare	967,429 ✓	1,011,899 ✓	1,030,305 ✓	18,406	1.82%

Classification	FY 2016-17 Actual	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2018-19 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
Employee Benefits					
06-300 Employee Benefits	5,450,630	5,851,048	6,502,818	651,770	11.14%
Total Employee Benefits	5,450,630 ✓	5,851,048 ✓	6,502,818 ✓	651,770	11.14%

Classification	FY 2016-17 Actual	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2018-19 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
Town Services & Debt Service					
08-034 Property Insurance	281,829	314,162	370,750	56,588	18.01%
08-249 Government Access TV	52,397	72,350	74,350	2,000	2.76%
08-320 Town Services and other	66,381	71,545	77,190	5,645	7.89%
10-290 Debt Service	2,482,565	2,636,115	2,963,940	327,825	12.44%
09-325 Capital Projects	476,046	83,300	0	-83,300	-100.00%
Total Town Services & Debt Service	3,359,218 ✓	3,177,472 ✓	3,486,230 ✓	308,758	9.72%
SUBTOTAL - TOWN BUDGET	23,225,219 ✓	23,906,517 ✓	25,324,166 ✓	1,417,649	5.93%

Classification	FY 2016-17 Actual	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2018-19 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
Education					
07-090 Orange Public Schools	20,000,029	20,143,648	20,379,132	235,484	1.17%
07-095 Amity Regional Schools	22,561,538	24,017,483	24,181,870	164,387	0.68%
07-095 Amity-School Resource Officer	40,903	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
Total Education	42,602,470 ✓	44,161,131 ✓	44,561,002 ✓	399,871	0.91%

Total Budget	65,827,689 ✓	68,067,648 ✓	69,885,168 ✓	1,817,520	2.67%
control totals	65,827,689	68,067,648	69,885,168		

Crossword

ACROSS

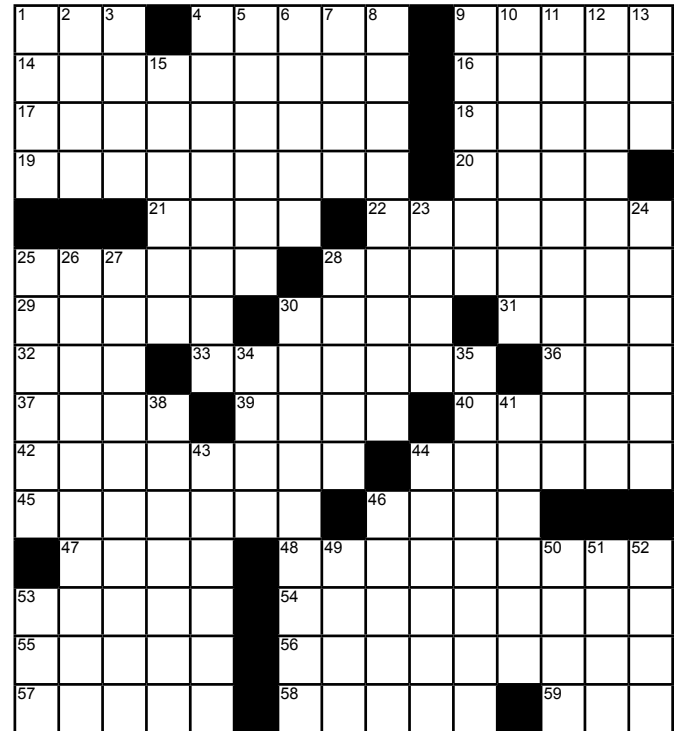
- 1 Sport with stunt riding, informally
- 4 "Heck if I know"
- 9 Big difference
- 14 Axe product
- 16 Goes on and on
- 17 Reflective stretch
- 18 Item checked at an airport
- 19 Misses overseas
- 20 Gone
- 21 Trio in a children's rhyme
- 22 Three-lobed design
- 25 Roughly 37% of U.S. immigrants
- 28 Personal bearing
- 29 Jung ____, author of the 1991 best seller "Wild Swans"
- 30 It's generally up and running within a few hours
- 31 "Breaking Bad" protagonist
- 32 Lead-in to sat
- 33 Aquarium performer
- 36 Like a happening party, in slang
- 37 Olympic Australis, for one
- 39 Suffix with Jumbo
- 40 North Carolina home of Appalachian State University
- 42 Brand with the slogan "Fill your glass"
- 44 What makes a possum play possum
- 45 A-number-one
- 46 Fifth-brightest star in the night sky
- 47 Part of a pod
- 48 Author who wrote "Show me a woman who doesn't feel guilty and I'll show you a man"
- 53 "The Cocktail Party" dramatist
- 54 Model company?
- 55 Book in which the Israelites are rebuked for idolatry
- 56 Common board requirement, in brief
- 57 Vamooses
- 58 Winner of nine Grand Slam tournaments in the 1990s
- 59 Components of many free apps

DOWN

- 1 Summer outdoor events, informally
- 2 Manifestation of sulkiness
- 3 Chose at the ballot box
- 4 Almost nothing on?
- 5 Public perception
- 6 Worn-out
- 7 2Pac's "Dear ____"
- 8 Result of prolonged screen time, maybe
- 9 "Golly!"
- 10 Threw some back
- 11 Celery sticks topped with peanut butter and raisins
- 12 Fixed cord for a paratrooper
- 13 One source of the umami taste
- 15 Title figure in a Gilbert and Sullivan opera
- 23 Quick move?
- 24 Word with fan or form
- 25 Come right up to
- 26 One who always has time to spend?
- 27 2007 satirical best seller
- 28 Tops in athletics
- 30 Professional feeders
- 34 Constantly updating GPS figs.
- 35 Widely followed court battles
- 38 You might experiment with this on
- 41 Bingeing
- 43 Ends
- 44 Crack, in a way
- 46 Like some very important signs
- 49 Carny's target
- 50 Plant also known as ladies' fingers
- 51 Grant consideration
- 52 E.T.S. offerings
- 53 Middle of summer?

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0217



PUZZLE BY PETER WENTZ

Answers to today's New York Times Crossword Puzzle can be found at www.TheOrangeTimes.com.

Klarides Interviewed At Amity For Women's History Month



From left: David Smith of Altice USA, Laura Jordan of Altice USA, Matthew Rothman, State Rep. Themis Klarides, Arianna Decker, Nyah Parkinson, LeeAnn Browett, and Chris Borelli. Contributed photo.

House Republican Minority Leader Themis Klarides participated in a special Women's History Month Meet the Leaders event April 3 at Amity High School in Woodbridge. The event gave students the opportunity to engage in dialogue about the significance of women in history, leadership

and public service. It was hosted by David Smith of Altice USA.

Klarides answered students' questions about women in leadership and her experience in public service.

The full 30-minute interview can be viewed by visiting meettheleaders.com.

Case Memorial Library Events

Programs at the Case Memorial Library are free, except as noted for materials charges, and open to the public. Library hours are Monday and Thursday from noon to 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Library will be closed Saturday, May 26 through Monday, May 28 for the Memorial Day weekend.

Book Discussions The Bookcase: Evening Discussion Group: Thursday, April 19, 7 p.m. Join the bookcase leader Toby Zabinski for a discussion of *The Unseen World* by Liz Moore. Check for copies at the circulation desk.

2018 Oscar Films *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* (1 hr. 55 min., R): Monday, April 16, 7 p.m. and Wednesday, April 18, 1 p.m. A mother personally challenges the local authorities to solve her daughter's murder when they fail to catch the culprit.

Darkest Hour (2 hr. 5 min., PG-13): Monday, April 30, 7 p.m. and Wednesday, May 2, 1 p.m. During the early days of World War II, the fate of Western Europe hangs on the newly appointed British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who must decide whether to negotiate with Adolf Hitler or fight on against incredible odds.

Lady Bird (1 hr. 34 min., R): Monday, May 7, 7 p.m. and Wednesday, May 9, 1 p.m. In 2002, an artistically inclined seventeen-year-old girl comes of age in Sacramento, California.

I, Tonya (2 hr., R): Monday, May 14, 7 p.m. and Wednesday, May 16, 1 p.m. Competitive ice skater Tonya Harding rises amongst the ranks at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, but her future in the sport is thrown into doubt when her ex-husband intervenes.

Call Me By Your Name (2 hr. 12 min., R): Monday, May 21, 7 p.m. and Wednesday, May 23, 1 p.m. In 1980s Italy, a romance blossoms between a seventeen-year-old student and the older man hired as his father's research assistant.

Book Chat Café For Amity Middle School students who love to read and share their opinions over refreshments. Held at the Amity Middle School Media Center. Please see Ms. Leibrock to join and for more information about meeting dates and times.

3-5 Year Olds Storytime Mondays starting April 9, 10:30 a.m. Enjoy storytelling, books, music, fingerplays and puppetry at this story time series especially for 3-to-5-year-olds. A story-related craft is offered following each session. Registration is not required.

Lapsit Storytime Tuesdays, 10:30 p.m. Little ones and their caregivers are invited to this high-energy story time with Ms. Michelle. Practice nursery rhymes, sing and move together, plus explore touch-and-feel books. Registration is not required.

2-Year-Old Storytime Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. Audience participation is highly encouraged at this storytime session just for 2-year-olds. Enjoy books, stories, music and movement, fingerplays and puppetry together. Registration is not required.

Tween Event: LED Throwie Workshop Thursday, April 12, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. For children in fourth through sixth grades. "Throwies" are tiny lights constructed out of rare earth magnets, watch batteries, electric tape, and LED bulbs and are designed to stick to metal surfaces. Link them together to create a color-changing throwie "ball" or make individual lights to build a throwie constellation. Registration is required.

No Bake Kids' Cooking Class with Courtney Huggins Wednesday, April 18. Session I from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.; Session II from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For children ages 5-10. Make tasty, healthy recipes with Courtney Huggins, Orange ShopRite's registered dietitian. Registration is required. Please notify the library of any food allergies at the time of registration so accommodations can be made.

Scratch Coding Storytelling Thursday, April 19, 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. For children in fourth through sixth grades (grade 3 with a parent). Create your own unique story using Google CS First. Laptops and headphones will be provided. Space is limited, and registration is required. Registration is required.

"The Rainbow Fish" Drama Workshop with Ingrid Schaeffer Saturday, April 21, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. For children ages 5 to 10. Deep inside the ocean, a fish with sparkling rainbow scales captivates fellow sea creatures with his beauty. But everything changes when the rainbow fish refuses to share any beauty with his admirers. Ingrid Schaeffer will read Marcus Pfister's tale aloud to the group and provide costumes and props. Then the group will reenact the story together. Participants will also complete an art activity based on the book as part of the workshop. Registration is required. This drama workshop is funded by a grant from the Orange Foundation Trust U/A, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee.

Code Studio Thursday, April 26, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. For children in kindergarten through third grade. Play games that teach the basics of coding. Laptops and headphones will be provided. Space is limited and registration is required. Registration is required.

April Art Exhibit Art by the children of Orange elementary schools, selected by art teachers, is on view from April 2 to 28.

May Art Exhibit Art by the Bridgeport Art League is on view from May 2 to 30. A reception will be held May 10 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
MAY 3, 2018
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 ORANGE HIGH PLAINS COMMUNITY CENTER
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 EPHESIANS 4:3
 MAKING EVERY EFFORT
 TO KEEP THE UNITY
 OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH
 THE BOND OF PEACE.

 #PRAY4UNITY
 NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG

Congregation Or Shalom Events

Adult Education Movie - "Raise the Roof": On Holocaust Memorial Sunday, April 15, Congregation Or Shalom will honor the Jews of Europe as they lived, with the showing at 4 p.m. of the award-winning and much acclaimed film, *Raise the Roof*. Poland, home to the world's largest Jewish community before World War II, was the location of the magnificent "wooden synagogues" of the Yiddish-speaking world, later completely destroyed by Nazi Germany. *Raise the Roof* documents the heartening, remarkably successful worldwide effort to meticulously rebuild one of these wooden synagogues. *Raise the Roof* is an 85-minute documentary in English.

Zumba Gold: On Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7 p.m. Zumba Gold is an easy-to-follow dance movement program that incorporates music from every decade to create an upbeat and fun exercise class. No experience needed. Classes are on a drop-in basis. Contact Robin at zumbarobin@gmail.com or call 203-314-8176 or the temple office.

Congregation Or Shalom is located at 205 Old Grassy Hill Rd. in Orange. Contact the office at 203-799-2341 or visit online at orshalomct.org.

Visit Us At: www.TheOrangeTimes.com

Obituaries

For full obituaries, please go to our website at TheOrangeTimes.com.

Jeffrey David Blum, 69, of Milford, passed away on March 23, 2018.

Ann E. Becroft, age 71, of Milford, passed away on April 5, 2018

Robert Francis Braychak, 74, of Milford, passed away on March 17, 2018.

Agnes Mary Cherniavsky, 93, of Milford, passed away on March 19, 2018 surrounded by her loving family.

Arthur Alling Dahlgard Jr. of Milford passed away on March 19, 2018.

Mario DeGirolamo, age 82, of Milford, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 22, 2018, at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Tona Dee Donlon, 62, of Milford, entered into eternal rest on Thursday, March 15, 2018.

Claudette T. Dubé, 83, of Milford, beloved wife of Paul Dubé, passed away on March 27, 2018.

Isabelle Ann Sciangalepore Fallanca, 88, of Milford, passed away on April 1, 2018.

Rose Marie Marchitto Noto Fortier, age 82, of Orange passed away on April 2, 2018.

Jerry A. Gabrielle, age 86, of Milford, entered peaceful rest on March 12, 2018

Irene A. Garbatini, age 80, widow of Blaze L. Garbatini and resident of Orange, Connecticut, passed away March 13, 2018.

Elaine Marcus Grossman, 75, of Orange, CT and formerly of Branford and Newington, died Thursday, March 22.

William H. Hofmeister, age 82 of Milford, passed away March 18, 2018.

Harry Knute Hultgren Jr., age 64, of Milford, died peacefully on Thursday, March 15th 2018 surrounded by his family.

Jim Jackson Jr., age 79, of Milford, passed away due to Parkinson's disease on March 11, 2018 with his family by his side.

Irene Covras Katechis, 90, of Milford and formerly of Meriden, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family on Sunday, March 11, 2018

Joseph O. Mangles, formerly of Orange, passed away at Whitney Manor Monday, March 19, 2018.

Arlene Mae Pocevic passed away on March 18, 2018. She was born on August 30, 1938 in Bridgeport, Connecticut to

Laura Musante Mehlman, 65, passed away on Wednesday, March 21st 2018.

Michael Howard Monroe, 27, of Milford, passed away on March 29, 2018.

Patricia J. Paoletto, 70, of Milford, passed away on April 2, 2018, surrounded by her family.

Carl P. Peterson, Jr., 91, of Milford, passed away March 11, 2018.

Vincent J. Ryan, 90, of Milford, CT, passed away peacefully on March 28, 2018.

Gary Michael Schock, 43, of Milford, passed away on Friday, March 9, 2018.

Edward H. Toomer, Jr., 94, of Orange, passed away Thursday, March 15, 2018.

James Arthur Trowbridge, age 76, of Milford, passed away on January 7, 2018.

Nancy Cowan Turner passed away peacefully on March 10th 2018.

Frank "Sharky" Ucci, Jr., 84, of Milford, went home to be with the Lord on March 21, 2018.

Anita J. Fusco Valente, 93, of Orange, CT, passed away on March 10, 201.

Mr. Chris F. Winkle III, President of Winkle Bus Company, Inc., died on March 18, 2018.

Staneski To Run For State Senate

State Rep. Pam Staneski has announced she is throwing her hat in the ring to run for State Senate representing the 14th district, which comprises the communities of Milford and Orange and includes portions of West Haven and Woodbridge.

Staneski said it has been an honor to serve the 119th district for the last two terms. She said she has worked to be a "real voice" for the people of the district. "I believe in representative government," she said, "and when I was first elected in 2014 I made a promise to keep the people of the 119th district informed on state matters, seek their input, and be a voice for them in Hartford. I make that same promise to the people of the 14th State Senate district."

Staneski is currently serving her second term in the state House of Representatives. She is a member of the legislature's budget-writing Appropriations Committee and the Public Health Committee. She is also the lead House Republican on the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

Additionally, she is a member of four bipartisan coalitions: the Manufacturing caucus, the Fire/EMS caucus, the Tourism caucus, and the Individuals with Developmental Disability group, which is focused on issues affecting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

During her legislative tenure, Staneski worked with the Milford delegation to push for the reform to the 8-30g affordable housing statutes. Most recently, she stood with Sen. Gayle Slossberg and the delegation to fight the expansion planned at Silver Sands Park. Slossberg, a Democrat who announced her retirement in March, currently holds the seat that Staneski is seeking.

"Although we are from different political parties and don't always agreed on every issue, Sen. Gayle Slossberg is someone who is always meticulously prepared and puts her district and its people first," Staneski said. "I have tried to emulate those essential qualities as a state representative and hope to continue that fighting spirit as your next senator."

Staneski has advocated for changes in the Medicaid reimbursement rate for local assisted living facilities, sponsored legislation to help students with dyslexia, spoken out against legislation that would have hurt the Boys & Girls Club of Milford's after school program and encouraged policies to promote manufacturing and Connecticut's technical high schools.

Staneski has testified in support of the state's shellfish industry and the developmentally disabled. She has been an

outspoken supporter on veterans' issues. She is the daughter of a Navy veteran and was named the 2016 American Legion Legislator of the Year.

"Constituent service is important to me – that is my job, to work for and on behalf of the people of the 119th – and that includes continuing to fight for structural changes in the way state finances are run," Staneski said. "In 2016, I voted against the second highest tax increase in the state's history because I believe Connecticut needs to live, as you and I do, within its means. We cannot continue this roller-coaster budgeting practice – the lack of stability at the state level hurts our cities and towns. I believe long-term structural changes need to be part of any current and future budget. This must be done. In 2017, I supported six budget proposals that would make structural changes in the way we run state government, ultimately some of those changes were incorporated in the bipartisan budget. I want to continue to be a voice for the people of Orange, Milford, West Haven and Woodbridge. Connecticut is a beautiful state worth fighting for and I humbly ask to continue that fight as your senator."

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