

The Orange Times

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

Vol. 8 / Issue 1

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January 31, 2018

Staneski Named Executive Director Of Milford Chamber

By Brandon T. Bisceglia



Pam Staneski. Contributed photo.

The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce announced Jan. 27 that former state Rep. Pam Staneski has been selected as its new executive director succeeding Gary Mullin, who announced his planned departure in November 2018. Staneski will start as executive director on Feb. 4.

Incoming Board of Directors chair Michael Grande said, "I am excited to have Pam join the chamber in this leadership role. Pam's experience, expertise and vision align with the mission of our chamber and will provide a direct benefit to our chamber members. The Board of Directors looks forward to working alongside Pam and continuing to emphasize the exceptional and unique qualities that Milford provides to its residents and businesses."

Staneski said she fell in love with Milford over twenty years ago when she and her husband, Paul, chose to make it their home. Since then, she has served the city in many roles, including as a member of the Board of Education, Board of Alderman, and most recently as the state representative for the 119th House District. She was a columnist for The Orange Times for four years during her two terms in the legislature.

"I am honored and excited to be the next
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Orange After-School Program Thrives

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

In late 2016, the Orange Board of Education created a committee to give organization and direction to its after-school program.

That committee held its final meeting Dec. 17, having completed its task. Orange's 21st Century After-School Program has grown into one of the most dynamic and comprehensive services the town has to offer its children.

Tricia M. Lasto, principal of Mary L. Tracy School and after-school program lead, gave a presentation before the entire BOE Jan. 22 demonstrating how much progress has been made.

Among other things, the program has unveiled a new logo and slogan: "You walk in and the adventure begins!" The slogan was submitted by Peck Place School student Brooke Houst and voted on by the program staff.

The logo and slogan were part of an effort to unify the programs at each school, which had been running more or less independently.

Lasto, who is in her second year as lead, was the first person to take on the role of overseeing the entire program.

"It wasn't exactly fractured before, but it wasn't unified either, because there was no one unifying it," she said.

The program is currently servicing 1,259 seats per week, up

Cont. on pg 14



The new logo for Orange's 21st Century After-School Program. Students in Orange's 21st Century After-School Program participated in the Lego Mindstorm challenge and competed in the regional competition in Shelton. Photo courtesy of Orange Public Schools.

Controversial Turkey Hill Development Returns

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The owner of a tract of land off Turkey Hill Road in Orange vowed to develop it after his plans for a set of senior cottages was shot down in July by the Town Plan & Zoning Commission.

Now Richard Meisenheimer's team is back, appearing Jan.

8 before the Inland Wetlands Commission with a "pre-application" that will likely include an affordable housing component.

Milford attorney Kevin Curseaden came before the commission to get its opinion on his client's proposal to build 10 buildings with 60 bedrooms.

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Orange Could Raise Income Limits To Tax Exemption For Veterans

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Orange Board of Selectmen is scheduled to hear public opinion at its Feb. 13 meeting on whether to drop income limits for veterans to receive property tax exemptions.

The proposal comes on the heels of a state law passed last year that allows towns to set their

own income caps or eliminate them entirely.

Orange currently limits eligibility to individuals earning up to \$60,200 and married couples earning up to \$67,900. Those who qualify can get a tax break of up to \$20,000 on assessed property.

About 150 out of 575 veterans in
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Milford Chamber Gives Awards At Annual Meeting

The Milford Chamber of Commerce held its 64th Annual Meeting and 2018 Awards of Distinction with a luncheon on Jan. 30, at Great River Golf Club in Milford.

Fourteen recipients were honored for service to the Milford Chamber of Commerce, greater Milford's business community, and the community in general. This year's award winners were: Chamber Advocate and Director of the Year, awarded to Elena Fusco, Bin 100; Rising Star Award, given to Jennifer Paradis, Beth-El Center; Community Service Award, given to Jim Hassenmayer, Orange Ale House
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Elena Fusco Jennifer Paradis Jim Hassenmayer Dan Thornberg Wanda Carlson Paige Miglio Raymond A. Macaluso



Susan Shields Susan Oderwald Ken Sterba Tracy Bonosconi Peter Erodici Rick George Robert Kiley

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News & Events

Milford's Daisy Bowl To Raise Funds

A group of ladies will gather together in the cold on Sunday, Feb. 3, to play in the fifth annual Milford Daisy Bowl ladies only two-hand touch football tournament at the Academy Field at 150 Gulf St. in Milford. The tournament, running from 9 a.m. to noon, will raise funds for the Get in Touch Foundation, a Milford-based nonprofit committed to providing breast health education to people around the world.

Men and kids are encouraged to attend and cheer on the ladies as they compete for the title of Daisy Bowl champion. There will be opportunities to participate in sideline games also being held to raise funds for GIT.

Players can register at eventbrite.com/e/milford-daisy-bowl-db5-tickets; event sponsorships are available. To sponsor, contact Shaileen Landsberg at shaileenwrites@gmail.com.

The Daisy Bowl is the brainchild of Josie Giglione Williams of Illinois, and games benefiting the Get in Touch Foundation are held around the country. Milford's event is organized by the Milford Daisy Bowl Committee, led by Shaileen Landsberg and Cathy Lang. It's the country's largest and has raised over \$9,000 for the Get in Touch Foundation since the tournament started in 2015.

Children's Dentistry Opens In Orange



Orange Children's Dentistry, a new dental practice, hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on Dec. 11 to celebrate its grand opening. The practice, founded by Dr. Paula C. Cerqueira, is geared toward children and will serve as a hub for all children dentistry needs. From left: Orange selectman Mitch Goldblatt, Orange Chamber of Commerce President Leslie Marsh, Dr. Paula Cerqueira, Cerqueira's daughter Aurelia, Cerqueira's husband Richard, Orange Chamber of Commerce president and volunteer Don Lewis, and Cerqueira's three sons, Liam, Evan and Jonah. Photo courtesy of Pete Lucas.

Children's Therapy Opening In Orange

Orange Pediatric Therapy, a division of Cheshire Fitness Zone, is set to open in mid-February in Orange's Firelite Plaza. The office space, which occupies about 4,500 square feet, will offer occupational, physical, speech and aquatic therapy for children from birth through 21. Aquatic therapy will be off-site.

Owner Craig Goldstein already has two similar therapy locations in Cheshire and Meriden, with over 45 therapists on staff.

"We work with children of all abilities, including those with special needs, sports injuries and general rehab," he said. "We have been in business for over 18 years, and are excited to open another location to serve the Orange community."

Orange Pediatric Therapy will accept most insurances. People can call 203 250-9663 now to set up an appointment for February.

Orange Kindergarten Registration Open

If your child is turning 5 on or before Jan. 1, 2020, it is time to register for kindergarten in Orange.

Register by Feb. 28 on the Orange Public Schools website at oess.org/our-schools/mary-tracy and click on "Kindergarten Registration."

You will receive an email at the end of

March to select a date and time to come to Mary L. Tracy for registration.

Registration appointments/screenings will be held in the spring. Parents will be asked to bring with them a birth certificate, proof of residency (mortgage or lease and a utility bill) and all medical/immunization records to the appointment.

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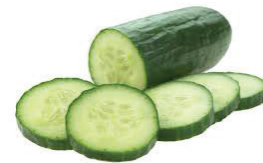
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News & Events

Milford Trick Or Trot Raises Nearly \$25,000



Beth-El Executive Director Jenn Paradis, center, is presented with a check from Ken Ferrari, senior vice president chief retail officer of Sikorsky Credit Union and attorney Joseph Kubic of Harlow, Adams & Friedman. Photo courtesy of the Beth-El Center.

The seventh annual Milford Trick or Trot 5K Run/Walk fundraising event that took place on Nov. 17 had 300 participants and raised \$24,545 for the Beth-El Center homeless shelter and soup kitchen in Milford. Beth-El Center Executive Director Jennifer Paradis accepted a check Dec. 26 for the full amount from event organizers and major sponsors Harlow, Adams & Friedman LLC and Sikorsky Credit Union.

The donation will directly support Beth-El Center's shelter, case management services and soup kitchen. The volunteer Trick or Trot event committee included chairperson attorney Joseph Kubic, attorney Dana Friedman, attorney Jim Winkel, attorney Thomas Moyher, Heidi Allen and Kim Balocca from Harlow, Adams & Friedman, and Maria Bravo and Carmen Tortora from Sikorsky Credit Union.

Orange Lions Club Providing Mini-Grants

The Orange Lions Club will provide a limited number of mini-grants to eligible community organizations and/or individuals for the 15th year in 2019. The program is intended to provide funds to worthy causes and activities in the town of Orange that might not otherwise be funded, according to Orange Lions Club President Pat Romano.

"While our Lions Club continues to provide funds to Lions blindness prevention programs, aid for the blind and eye research, which are long-time Lions Club priorities, we feel strongly that it is important to allocate funds to local projects as well," Romano said. She emphasized that this funding is on top of a college scholarship which the Orange Lions Club will be awarding to Amity High School graduates, as it has for over 50 years.

Mike Muttitt and Nick Musante of Orange have been appointed to chair the community mini-grants program this year. Blank applications for the community mini-grants program are now available at the High Plains Community Center at 525 Orange Center Rd. in the Community Services Department, at the Peoples United Bank branch at 653 Orange Center Rd., at the Case Memorial Library at 176 Tyler City Rd. and from any Orange Lion. Muttitt said the Orange Lions feel that it

is crucial to continue to use some of our fund-raising resources for local community-based projects and activities. "We have an outstanding review committee which will enable us to make fair and appropriate decisions regarding all mini-grant allocations," he said.

Completed applications are due to be submitted to the Orange Lions no later than Thursday, Jan. 31. All Orange nonprofit clubs and related nonprofit organizations, individual Orange residents and Orange government entities are eligible to apply. The recipients of Orange Lions mini-grants will be announced in late February after the selection committee completes its review of all timely applications.

In addition, the Orange Lions continue to provide such community activities as the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Easter Egg Hunt, Seniors' Pizza Party, and other service activities. The Orange Lions also collect used eyeglasses for restoration and distribution to needy people all over the world. Drop boxes for used eyeglasses are located at the Case Memorial Library and the High Plains Community Center lobby. The Orange Lions now conduct eye screenings for preschoolers and kindergarteners, as well and most elementary students in Orange using sophisticated equipment to identify potential sight issues in the children's early years.

one of the most remarkable young men in Taiwan and was believed destined for a place in G... Republic of China... Chen's star shown so brightly that universities in America turned their eye toward him and... Neither much cared for dissent among the... Maimand China had for years, under the communist People's Republic of China... on the... Pr... the ROC saw things differently... between the group's rotating list of doctors and... America... toward him and... Never much... Most... the One China Policy, a diplomat's solution... of acknowledging the PRC's claim and... Eye Care cont. on page... Home Sales Rise by Joseph Cole



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Opinion & Editorial

New Laws Coming Into Effect



STATE REP. (R-117)
CHARLES FERRARO

Last year, we passed many bills that will have an impact on you and your families. A number of these new laws took effect on the first of the new year.

Here are a few bills that I supported that became law on Jan. 1.

An Act Concerning Pay Equity:

This act will prohibit employers, including the state and its political subdivisions, from asking or directing a third-party to ask about a prospective employee's wage and salary history. The prohibition does not apply if the prospective employee voluntarily discloses his or her wage and salary. The act also specifically allows an employer to ask about other elements of a prospective employee's compensation structure (e.g., stock options), as long as the employer does not ask about their value.

An Act Mandating Insurance Coverage of Essential Health Benefits and Expanding Mandated Health Benefits for Women, Children, and Adolescents:

This law was passed to protect essential health benefits for women, children and adolescents. These 10 essential benefits include ambulatory patient services, emergency services, hospitalization, maternity and newborn health care, mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment, prescription drugs, rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices, laboratory services, preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management, and pediatric services, including oral and vision care.

An Act Concerning Changes to Pharmacy and Drug Control Statutes:

This law will help us continue our efforts in battling the opiate epidemic by requiring retail and institutional pharmacies to maintain a perpetual inventory of schedule II controlled substances. In addition, the bill requires Department of Consumer Protection-registered drug manufacturers and wholesalers to identify and report suspicious controlled substance orders to the department's Drug Control Division.

A full list and summary of all the new laws can be found on the Connecticut General Assembly's website, cga.ct.gov. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas please contact me at Charles.Ferraro@housegop.ct.gov.

How A Bill Is Born



STATE REP. (D-118)
KIM ROSE

We began session 2019 in the Connecticut General Assembly on Wednesday, Jan. 9. It promises to be another exciting, busy and challenging year.

This is a six-month session and will end in June because of it being an odd year. Short session takes place February through May when the year ends with an even number.

You may be interested in following along with me on how a bill becomes law in our great state. It all begins with a proposed bill. Anyone can propose a bill, and it is the legislator that files it either with the House or Senate clerk's office. The appropriate clerk's office is responsible for assigning the bill a number. We met the proposed bill deadline on Friday, Jan. 18.

This year I have submitted two bills to ban the use of single plastic bags, straws, polystyrene (Styrofoam) and other plastic items. I hope you will follow these through the Environment Committee process. Every committee has its own leadership, comprised of co-chairs, vice-chairs and ranking members. Leadership is charged with "screening" proposed bills and determines whether or not to present them to the full committee body. If a proposed bill makes it to committee, the details and language of the bill are worked out by its members. They make the final decision as to whether or not it is ready to go to a public hearing or dies.

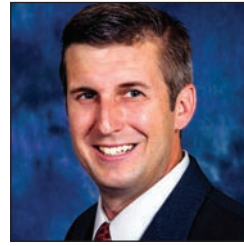
Many cities and towns within Connecticut have already banned single-use plastics. However, this is causing problems and confusion with many retailers that are located in several towns. We need statewide legislation and consistency in order to be effective and plan for our future environment.

Once a bill makes it out of committee by the voting process, the committee is obligated to hold a public hearing to allow the public and government officials to remark on it. This is where your voice is heard through your written testimony. The committee can accept or reject ideas expressed during the hearing process.

If you would like to track a bill or testify at a public hearing, all the information you need can be found on the Connecticut General Assembly website. You can always contact your legislator too if you need assistance.

I hope you found this first part of how a bill becomes a law helpful. Next time we will take a look at where those proposed plastic bag bills are and how they are doing.

New Legislative Priorities



STATE REP. (D-14)
JAMES MARONEY

As your new state Senator, I'd like to introduce myself, let you know a few of my legislative priorities and invite you to meet with me to share your thoughts and ideas.

I'm a 1992 graduate of Jonathan Law High School in Milford, a 1996 Yale University graduate, and owner of First Choice College Placement in Milford. I'm a former member of the Milford Board of Education and I served as Milford's state representative from 2012 to 2014. I am married and have one child.

Three of my legislative policy priorities for 2019 are:

- Increase computer coding education and access to computers in Connecticut public schools. All Connecticut high schools should be teaching computer science by 2022. Computer and information technology jobs are expected to grow 13 percent in the next few years, with a median annual salary of \$85,000. Jobs are going to be there in cloud computing, collecting and storing data and information security, and Connecticut students should be prepared for these careers.

- Create more jobs for veterans. I want to expand Connecticut's "Troops to Teachers" program, create a new "Military to Machinist" program, and work with the state Department of Labor to really shepherd our military veterans through the job-finding process. Our veterans have the hands-on skills and the work ethic to be hired as soon as their tour of duty is over.

- Tweak our state tax policy to give tax credits to Connecticut companies that offer to help pay off student loans. Companies like Aetna, Staples, Penguin Random House, Pricewaterhousecoopers, Nvidia and Fidelity Investments already offer aid for student debt ranging from \$100 a month to a lifetime maximum of \$30,000. The average 2017 college graduate had \$39,400 in student loan debt, and I believe that companies that offer to help repay these loans will attract the best and brightest talent out there. Connecticut companies – and Connecticut college grads – could really benefit from this idea.

Many months ago, I knew that if I was elected as the state senator for the 14th District that I would owe a debt of gratitude to the people of Milford, Orange, West Haven and Woodbridge. To that end, I will host a series of weekly Thursday "coffee and conversation" meetings at 8 a.m. in each of the four towns of the district. I want to hear your ideas about what's important to you, what issues I should be working on, what needs fixing and what needs saving in Connecticut.

Here's my schedule: First Thursday, Milford Diner, 886 Bridgeport Ave. in Milford; second Thursday, Elm Diner, 111 Elm St. in West Haven, third Thursday 8 a.m., Starbucks, 538 Boston Post Rd. in Orange; fourth Thursday of the month at 8 a.m., Starbucks, 1660 Litchfield Tpk. in Woodbridge.

I invite you to stop by to meet and talk with me. If you can't make it to one of these evening conversations, please feel free to call me at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford at 1-800-842-1420.

Navigating The Legislative Process



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

Since I'm a new State Representative learning the state legislative process, I thought I would share how proposed legislation becomes law.

2019 is the long legislative session, running from January to June. Every legislator is permitted to propose individual bills to the committees of cognizance. It's also when the General Assembly crafts a two-year state budget.

Although every legislator can propose a bill, the committees have discretion over which bills they will raise for a public hearing. When a committee raises a bill for public hearing, it permits the bill to get a public airing, and legislators on the committee hear testimony from interested members of the public.

To track specific pieces of legislation, all you have to do is visit the Connecticut General Assembly website, cga.ct.gov. Each day during the session a bulletin is published which gives you the schedule. Public hearings on bills require five days notice for the public.

Anyone is permitted to testify on a bill, whether they are in favor of the bill or opposed to it. You can either submit written testimony to the committee or testify in person. Every committee has different rules, which are published in the bulletin.

Read the legislative bulletin for the particular information on the signup process for that day. The signup sheet has space to print your name legibly, the bill(s) you are speaking on, and sometimes whether you are for or against the bill. Signup sheets are usually in place one hour before the hearing. Turn in written testimony before the hearing begins so committee staff can distribute it to committee members.

After signing up to testify, wait your turn. Once they call your name go before the committee and indicate right away whether you support the bill, oppose it or are offering suggestions to improve it. Then explain your reasoning. Follow this procedure for each bill you discuss. Keep your remarks short; three to five minutes is usually enough. Be sure not to exceed any announced time limits.

After the hearing process, the committee will schedule meetings for votes on the legislation. Not all the legislation that gets a public hearing ends up getting a final committee vote, especially if the bill received significant negative testimony in the public hearing.

Once the committee votes out a bill it moves to the floor of either the State Senate or House of Representatives depending on where the bill originated. The bill will appear on the calendar and then awaits debate. Keep in mind many bills pass one of the two chambers but don't get out of both. Some bills sit on the calendar and just languish there until session ends. Any bills not acted upon by the end of the legislative session die and must go through the whole process in the next session.

Finally, if a bill passes both the House and Senate it moves to the governor's desk for their signature.

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas please feel free to contact me by phone at 1-800-842-1423 or by email at Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov.

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Rep. Charles Ferraro (R-117)

Rep. Kim Rose (D-118)

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Joanne Byrne, Retirement
Cynthia V. Catapano, Local Wildlife
David Crow, Conversations
Pat Dray, Gardening
Peter Hechtman, Books
Shaileen Landsberg, Profiles
Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate

James Maroney, SAT Prep
Annamarie Mastrangelo, Flooring
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Ken Oakes, Tech
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Trish Pearson, Insurance
Tedra Schneider, Interior Design

Priscilla Searless, Town Historian
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The Orange Times is published by The Orange Times LLC, P.O. Box 584, Orange, CT, 06477

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Opinion & Editorial

Letters To The Editor:

Education Funding For Towns Highest Priority



STATE REP. (R-114)
THEMIS KLARIDES

The immutable fact that Connecticut faces another huge deficit, despite two massive tax increases in the last eight years, will inevitably lead to another heated debate over tax reform in the current legislative session.

Based on early legislative proposals (mostly in their nascent stages that lack detail) and leftover campaign rhetoric from the 2018 elections, a lengthy confrontation is coming over how we tax our citizenry and pay for their government – whether they like it or not, whether they avail themselves of the services or not.

A recent bill submitted by Senate Democratic leadership calls for the elimination of the local car taxes that towns and cities collect in favor of a statewide levy of between 15 and 19 mills. It also calls for the redistribution of revenues through existing funding formulas and other methods yet to be constructed.

This proposal will result in winners and

losers.

We have debated such a radical departure of the existing tax structure previously under both Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell and Democratic Gov. Dannell P. Malloy, and within the Democratically controlled legislature. Every time it has been considered it has gone nowhere. This is mostly because there are more net losers than winners under such a scenario – somewhere in the neighborhood of 75 percent losers among the 169 towns and cities in Connecticut.

If you reside within one of the losing towns – and we are talking about towns, not cities – it's not such a nice neighborhood.

Then there is the campaign rhetoric. We are likely to talk about income tax hikes on the wealthy and expanding the sales taxes on currently untaxed goods and services, including groceries and prescription medicine. These are controversial issues that will draw ire from the public. Before we ever consider these possibilities (and I don't support them on their face), the legislature has to rein in spending and continue the work of the last legislative session when we put in place caps on borrowing and the use of excess revenue.

Gov. Ned Lamont's directive in his first speech to the legislature on Jan. 9 to "fix the damn budget" in my mind did not mean raising taxes. We will find out in the coming months how others interpreted his words.

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Orange Veterans Deserve Tax Abatement

By Paul Tarbox

I attended a meeting Jan. 9 of the Orange Board of Selectmen to advocate for a local optional veterans' property tax exemption to be sent to a public hearing. In a meeting the month before I had requested a change in the ordinance, which would eliminate an arbitrary income cap (for 2018, \$35,300 for individuals and \$43,000 for married couples). Originally this cap was part of the state law that allows municipalities to give the exemption, but was removed by the legislature in the last session through Public Act 18-102. The law now allows municipalities to set the income limit or to remove it entirely.

During the meeting, selectman Mitch Goldblatt raised a concern that the ensuing fiscal impact would be an undue burden on the rest of the taxpaying citizens of the town. He further questioned whether the policy change was necessary because some veterans have higher incomes and may not need the benefit of the exemption. While those are valid concerns, I cannot agree with Goldblatt's reasoning.

Veterans are a unique group in the fabric of society. They come from every conceivable background, race, religion and social status. The common thread that unites them is that they joined the military to change the world in spite of the knowledge that they may have to sacrifice their lives in the process. These brave young men and women are the chosen few who have sacrificed to preserve our democracy and way of life.

Veterans are becoming a rarity. According to the Department of Defense, less than one-half of 1 percent of the population is currently on active duty. In 1980 over 18 percent of

the population had served in the military. By 2016 that number had dropped to just over 7 percent. The Department of Veterans Affairs projects that by 2045 the number of veterans will be reduced by 40 percent.

When a community chooses to give tax exemptions it is usually for one of two reasons. The first is to target a needy population, such as seniors on a fixed income. The second is to recognize a service provided, such as by providing tax abatements for local firefighters. When a firefighter rushes into a burning house there is no income verification for the ability to be heroic.

The same holds true for veterans. As someone who has served in an active war zone and lost friends, I can attest that the dangers of combat do not care how much money is in someone's bank account.

Goldblatt questioned whether the additional cost of the veterans' exemption was a good strategic investment for the town. I believe it is in our interests as a community for this exemption and the firefighter abatement to be maintained without regard to income, as both a recruiting and retention tool for those who seek to join our fire departments and the military.

As George Washington said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by our nation."

Paul Tarbox is an Orange resident and serves as a Clerk of the Veterans Affairs Committee in the Connecticut General Assembly. He is a Trustee of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs.

To the Editor:

November 2018 is over, but the work continues. The Orange Democrats are looking to continue to build on the progress we have made in Orange. There are now more registered Democrats in town than Republicans. The base is there, and we look forward a successful election this Nov. 5.

The Orange Democratic Town Committee is currently working on its slate for the 2019 local elections in November. Running for office does not require any prior experience as a candidate nor for some of the positions. It requires a passion to be part of the process that makes Orange a great town to live in and raise your family.

Candidates are being sought for Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Planning & Zoning, Board of Education for both Amity and Orange, tax collector and constables. If you want to get involved, now is the time to join us. You can contact me at jldorange@yahoo.com or at 203-314-9975.

"All politics is local," as former U.S. House Speaker Tip O'Neill once said. We can affect change and it starts locally. Join us.

Jody Dietch, Orange Democratic Town Committee Chair, Orange

To the Editor:

This is regarding Richard Meisenheimer's pre-application to the wetland commission and expected 8-30g affordable housing project submission off of Turkey Hill Road (the entrance would be directly across from the Turkey Hill School exit). In our opinion, as a long-time resident of the town of Orange, Richard Meisenheimer should be ashamed of himself. The commission came across loud and clear last year when he attempted to

change the Orange zoning code to allow for this type of development. They justifiably informed him that his proposal violated the reasonable expectations of residents due to the current density restrictions for residential development (amongst other reasons) and his proposal was unanimously declined.

In addition, town residents came together in force and voiced a consistent message of disapproval for his proposal. His plan-to-be will presumably include an attempt to strong-arm the town with threats of an 8-30g affordable housing project (30 percent of the units designated as affordable housing and the town forced to prove why the development isn't feasible). It appears Richard is focused on maximizing his profits at the expense of negatively changing the landscape of the town forever. There are attractive options that fit the current town zoning code, they just may not yield the return that this distasteful project will. The commission and residents should be appalled at this project and be prepared to make our voices heard. It's unfortunate it might come to this. However, we're prepared to fight to protect our beautiful town.

Ron and Christina Michaels, Orange

To the Editor:

We are writing to you with reference to the low-income housing project proposed off of Turkey Hill Road.

It's a sad, sad day when *someone* (Richard Meisenheimer) chooses money over the integrity of our Orange community. There are plenty of places to build certain projects, in our opinion, this is not one of them. We moved to Orange and built our home here 15 years ago assuming that the

Continued on pg 22

Opposing Lessons Of The Shutdown

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

It would be easy to cast blame on those responsible for the unprecedented partial shutdown of the federal government that ended Jan. 25. Some blame should undoubtedly be apportioned. But perhaps a more constructive question to ask would be: what have we learned about the role of government in our lives?

There are, in fact, at least two viable – and opposing – lessons you could take away from this 35-day debacle.

The first is a narrative you have likely heard already: that the shutdown was a demonstration of just how important government is in our day-to-day lives. The hundreds of thousands of federal workers denied pay might have been the most striking example, but there were plenty of others.

Millions of contractors and businesses that serve government in some fashion were stymied, and they won't get compensated for their losses. Business and finance lost access to regular reports from the government that these industries use to make billion-dollar decisions. The poor were threatened with losing assistance for food, housing and other necessities. Even the courts were getting ready to close.

Had the shutdown continued, the effects would have been more profound, ranging from personal bankruptcies to deaths from contaminated food and unpolluted waterways.

It's true that in these any many other ways, we all rely heavily on the government as a sort of an underlying mesh providing structure for our entire lives. Without it, things would eventually come undone for every one of us.

But there is a second possible narrative, confined mostly for the moment to the libertarian-minded end of the political spectrum. This narrative describes the shutdown as a demonstration of just how

unnecessary much of the government actually is.

Consider the fact that only about half of federal workers were deemed "essential" and had to keep working. If the job isn't essential, do we really need the government performing it? Couldn't a private business or nonprofit provide a similar service?

This view is bolstered by the many stories of individuals, organizations and communities reaching out to prop up those who lost pay or services during the shutdown. Presumably if the federal government were smaller, more money would circulate through the economy to enable even more private support for those who need it.

It's important to be aware that this perspective exists, because some of those in the highest echelons of government right now hold it, such as acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney. Shrinking the size of government has, of course, been a key goal for many Republicans at least since Ronald Reagan.

Both perspectives have some legitimacy. Yes, the government is prone to bloat and ossification. At the same time, it should be a crucial part of our lives.

No reasonable person is saying the government should cease to exist, or that it ought to have a hand in everything we do. The debates are always about the particulars: do we fund more for the military or for the social safety net? Do we put money into a wall or technological upgrades on the border?

If you don't recognize the perspectives of all sides, it can be impossible to navigate the complexities of the middle ground. Instead, people retreat to their corners and demonize their opponents. Eventually things grind to a halt.

Let's hope we've all learned a little better what that's like now.

Arts & Entertainment

Art must destroy violence; only it can do it. – Leo Tolstoy

by Patricia Miller

THE FRIENDS OF THE CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY (176 Tyler City Rd., Orange) will sponsor the Salt and Pepper Gospel Choir on Saturday, Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. to perform at the Case Memorial Library.

Mae Brown, long active in the New Haven community, is the current director. She is the mother of Chuck Brown, the original director of the predecessor of Salt and Pepper, composed of friends and family members who performed for school and community groups.

After one school pot luck supper performance in 1983, an audience member was moved by the music, the energy and excitement of the people involved, and approached Mae Brown, asking her whether a white person could learn to sing and to perform black gospel music well. Brown was somewhat skeptical at first. But upon reflection, the Browns decided to invite the woman to join the group as its first white member. Soon others were drawn into the group. The message of joy and unity coming from people of different colors and backgrounds was infectious, and the Salt and Pepper Gospel Choir was born.

The mission of the Salt and Pepper Gospel Choir is to spread the message of Jesus Christ, to promote the development of interracial harmony through the arts as expressed in black gospel music and to visually express the unity of black and white people participating together in an African American cultural tradition.

Seating is limited, so reserve a seat by calling 203-891-2170 or by going to casememoriallibrary.org.

THE FRIENDS OF THE CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY (176 Tyler City Rd., Orange) has passes available at the



Artwork by Danielle Mailer. Image courtesy of The Salt and Pepper Gospel Choir.

Circulation Desk at Case Memorial Library. With February vacation approaching, families and individuals can take advantage of the passes, some of which offer free or reduced admission, to plan special outings. A sampling of the passes offered includes the Maritime Museum in Norwalk, the Mark Twain House in Hartford, the Connecticut Old State House in Hartford, the Mashantucket Pequot Museum in Mashantucket, the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme, the New Britain Museum of American Art, Mystic Seaport, Mystic Aquarium, the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, and Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport. For a complete list, pick up a brochure at the library.

ORANGE ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL (525 Orange Center Rd., Orange) announces the winner of the "Fill the Frame" adult division photo contest. Prizes were awarded for first, second and third places. A new dimension was added this year with the new "People's Choice" award, for which gallery visitors were invited to vote, to fill out a ballot with the name of their personal favorite of the

photos displayed.

First place went to Kenneth Mull for his photo, "Vietnamese Offshore Fishing House." Terrui Smith won second place award for her photo, "Sunflower." The third-place spot went to Daniela Cissitti-Levy for her photo, "Hummingbird and Bee."

The People's Choice award went to Dee Anfi for her photo, "Autumn Calm Nature." Judging was done by a panel of three professional photographers from the Connecticut Association of Professional Photographers.

The photos will be on display in the gallery at Town Hall (617 Orange Center Rd.) through Feb. 1. The gallery was established through the collaboration of the OACC and the Town of Orange. Hours for viewing are Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ART IN THE LIBRARY (176 Tyler City Rd., Orange) presents a solo show for the month of February. Herb Portnoy, a watercolorist, will display his work in the second-floor gallery at the Case Memorial Library. There will be an artist's reception on Thursday, Feb. 7 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART (56 Lexington St., New Britain) has a special exhibition titled "The Beyond: Georgia O'Keeffe and Contemporary Art," running from Feb. 22 to June 1. O'Keeffe pioneered revolutionary ways of interpreting the world through her easy embrace of abstraction and effusive use of color. She is recognized as one of the preeminent painters of the twentieth century.

This innovative exhibition celebrates O'Keeffe's work and legacy. The show is drawn from private and public collections across the country and will bring together 36 iconic works spanning her long career and the full range of her output. Her paintings and sculpture will appear alongside works by 20 contemporary artists that evoke interrogation and an elaborate response to the might and approaches that mark O'Keeffe's career. The New Britain Museum is the final stop and only New England venue in the tour of this important exhibition.

There are tentative plans for OACC to sponsor a bus trip in the spring. Stay tuned for news on progress.

NEW HAVEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (Woolsey Hall, 500 College St., New Haven) presents *Wicked Divas* on

Thursday, Feb. 14. It is billed as a Broadway valentine. Two of Broadway's popular divas, Alli Murray and Julia Murney, along with the full NHSO and the Connecticut Gay Men's Chorus, will perform Broadway showstoppers. The audience will be treated to numbers from *Wicked*, *Les Miserables*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Chicago*, *Funny Girl* and more. Chelsea Tipton will conduct. The same program will be at Hamden Middle School (2643 Dixwell Ave., Hamden) on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 2:30 p.m. and at Shelton High School (120 Meadow St., Shelton) on Sunday, Feb. 10 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are on sale at 203-787-4282 or at newhavensymphony.org.

ORANGE ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL (525 Orange Center Rd., Orange) will sponsor a free bus to the Woolsey Hall concert in New Haven, leaving High Pains Community Center at 6:45 p.m. Feb. 14. To reserve a seat, call Halina at 203-878-7417. Only use this number for the February concert. Use the regular number for the March, April and May concerts.

MILFORD PERFORMANCE CENTER (Parson's Center, 53 West Main St., Milford) has two upcoming events. The first is "Not Fade Away – Buddy Holly Tribute," on Friday, Feb. 1 at 8 p.m. This concert celebrates the 60th anniversary of "the day the music died." On Friday, Feb. 22, the "Eagles' Experience" will perform. This band is reputed to be the "best of the Eagles' music you grew up with." Tickets are available at the door or online at milfordperformancecenter.org.

YALE OPERA (247 College St., New Haven), part of the Yale School of Music, presents Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, a work of youthful passion and lasting regret. Tchaikovsky makes use of Pushkin's beloved verse novel to bring to the opera stage the ever-timely tale of irrepressible love, heartbreaking dismissal and tormenting regret nourished by time. The opera will be at the Shubert Theatre from Feb. 17 to 19. Perry So is the conductor, Paul Curran is the stage director, Edward Morris is the scenic projector designer, Simon Weisbardm is the lighting designer, Rebecca Welles is the costume designer, and the Yale Philharmonia makes up the creative team. Tickets are available at 203-562-5666 or at music.yale.edu.

LONG WHARF THEATRE (222 Sargent Dr., New Haven) is offering a spring special of \$40 tickets, for preview weeks only. The plays remaining in the season are: *Tiny Beautiful Things*, billed as a reminder of our need for connection; *An Iliad*, an exciting riff on Homer's epic; and *A Doll's House, Part 2*, a fresh look on a classic. Tickets can be bought online at longwharf.org or by calling the box office at 203-787-4282. Use the code SPRINGTIX. The offer expires Feb. 3. This is an opportunity to see professional theater at a reduced price.

SHUBERT THEATRE (247 College Street, New Haven) presents two performances of the National Ballet Theater of Odessa's production of Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty*, on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. This is the ultimate romantic ballet, an enchanting fantasy story based on one of the most loved fairy tales of all time. It has long been famous for its lavish productions and is considered the height of classical ballet, one of the purest works of the art form. The National Ballet Theater of Odessa's sumptuous company of over 50 dancers brings the romantic tale of true love to the Shubert stage. For tickets call 203-562-5666 or go to shubert.com.

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

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A Look Back

By Priscilla Searles

The Orange Congregational Church was constructed in 1810 in the center of town facing the Orange Town Green. Erastus Scranton, a Yale Divinity School student from Madison, was the church's first minister. This early photo shows horse stables, long since replaced with an addition to the church. Note the fence around the Orange Town Green.

This is the first in what will be a feature in each issue of The Orange Times. If you have a vintage photo of Orange and are willing to loan it to Town Historian Priscilla Searles, contact her at orangect200@gmail.com. All photos on loan will be scanned, with the scan becoming the property of the Orange Historical Society. Originals will be returned to the owner.

At right, the Orange Congregational Church, constructed in 1810. Photo courtesy of Orange Historical Society.



The Book Club:

A Coward Dies A Thousand Deaths

Julian Barnes, *The Noise of Time*, Random House, 2017

“Lenin found music depressing. Stalin thought he understood and appreciated music. Krushchev despised music. Now which is the worst for a composer?”

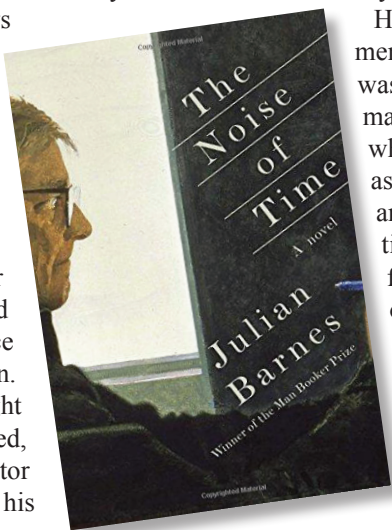


PETER HECHTMAN

Those acquainted with the tyranny of the Stalin years might wonder whether yet another book is needed to remind us of its horrors. This one, however, is unique in that it is set entirely within the head of the most distinguished composer of the Soviet era, Dimitri Shostakovich.

What is inside that organ, aside from his inexplicable musical talent, is a mixture of cowardice and irony. The two qualities, in this case, are necessary props to each other.

By his own assessment, Shostakovich, was a neurotic, over-protected fussy little man. In the darkest days of Stalin's reign, when other artists were disappearing, he was convinced that such would be his fate as well. But he was anxious not to have to get dressed in front of the NKVD (precursor of the KGB), or, indeed of having the secret police terrify his wife and children. Accordingly, he spent night after night fully dressed, sitting in front of the elevator waiting to stage manage his own disappearance.



It never happened.

Instead, the regime maintained an ambivalent stance toward his music. Some compositions were allowed to be performed. Others were judged to be “formalist” or modernist, terms meaning essentially unsuitable for consumption by workers and peasants. And yet Shostakovich had the fortune (or misfortune) to compose music for the cinema. One such composition, entitled “Song of the Counterplan,” was a tune on everyone's lips. In the eyes of

the culture czars he was thus redeemable. One of his operas was approved because it was judged to be “an optimistic tragedy.” Shostakovich's reaction? He would lift an (ever-present) glass of vodka with the toast, “May life here never get any better.”

Shostakovich's life divided neatly into Stalin-era and post-Stalin phases. In the later era power had become “vegetarian,” and the composer no longer feared death. Instead, he feared life. The Communist Party, badly hurting from its revelations about Stalin's crimes, needed bolstering by recruiting artists and intellectuals with clean hands. At stake was Shostakovich's very privileged life.

However, the cost of party membership was high. He was called upon to denounce many artists and intellectuals whose work he admired, such as Solzhenitsyn, Stravinsky and Sakharov. At the same time, he harbored contempt for the never-ending parade of westerners – those on the left proclaiming that Soviet life was perfectly normal and those on the right demanding that persecuted Soviet artists perform even greater acts of martyrdom.

Toward the end, Shostakovich concluded he had become, in old age, exactly the sort of person his younger self would despise. In public, he was a disciplined Party man. How do we know he was anything else? He left behind memoirs testifying to the presence of a conscience, if not to any courage. Julian Barnes has skillfully woven these recollections into a very readable novel.

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

Happy Birthday to My Darling Daughter, Devon.

– Dad

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Lifestyle

Here's To Your Health:

Long-Lasting Lifestyle Changes

I marvel at the media at this time every year and how they try to marinate our thoughts with the New Year fitness craze. Segment after segment on this diet, that exercise routine, the latest and greatest equipment and gadgets. I get exhausted watching it all.

The solid truth is that four out of 10 people will have quit their fitness resolutions by the end of January and nine out of 10 will quit by March. Unfortunately, it's a very real and predictable fact. So what's the definition of insanity? Doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result. I'm here to encourage you and tell you the good news – long-lasting lifestyle changes are indeed obtainable.

Long-lasting lifestyle changes need only



MICHELE
TENNEY

begin as a thought and then a belief in your mind and heart. I always tell my clients, especially the children I train for squash, that you have to first see yourself as a winner, then believe you are a winner, then implement what you know you can do. See it, believe it and do it.

Picture in your mind yourself as a healthy, active, fit and happy individual. You've heard me say many times before you are not what you feel; you are what you believe. Eventually your feelings will catch up to your beliefs, so stay positive.

Your mind is the battlefield. Understand your opposition and become a strategist. Don't set a goal of a 5 a.m. workout if you're a night owl and hate mornings. If you've

never run a half mile, don't take on a five-mile-a-day goal.

Lifestyle changes (the ones that last, that is) always start with baby steps, acceptance and adaptability. Self-abnegation is a sneaky sabotage, so be on alert. When you deny yourself, you are unhappy. At some point you will grow weary, decide to throw in the towel and eat an entire sheet cake, all in the name of "I deserve it." The vicious cycle begins again, because after you eat that sheet cake you will more than likely feel guilty and go for some chips and ice cream for comfort. You see how sly and sneaky self-abnegation can be?

Now let's talk about food. I am a believer in cleansing. However, the only way cleansing should be done is with food – good foods. Spinach, carrots and garlic actually help detoxify your liver. Apples and flaxseeds are wonderful sources of fiber. The latest and

greatest shakes are processed and are not sustainable for the longevity of good health. That should be your one and only goal; a long, healthy, enriched life well-lived with lots of love.

Here's the one word you are not hearing much of: *balance*. Your life is meant to be enjoyed. Have fun. Eat pizza and ice cream. I do. I just don't eat it every day. And neither should you. I was able to enjoy every party I attended this Christmas/holiday season, and I was able to get to a goal weight before Christmas and maintain it through the New Year simply because I ate clean in between parties.

You can do this. I believe in you. Here's to your health. Happy New Year, friends.

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

Wine Talk:

Wine From A Box?

I have had several questions about box wines, and I have had some that are very good.

The biggest enemy of wine is air. If you open a bottle of wine (especially red wine) and have a glass, then stick the cork in and have a glass the next night you will most likely notice the wine is not the same as you had enjoyed the night before. Some oxidation has taken place. Repeat the procedure the next night and you will notice the wine has degenerated considerably.

It is now oxidized. The color is compromised, the taste is not good and the aroma indicates there is something wrong.

There are a couple of ways to go with this problem. You can drink white wine that you chill. Being in the fridge stabilizes white wine and the oxidation process is not nearly as profound. The wine retains its stability for



RAYMOND
SPAZIANI

about two weeks and is drinkable for almost a month.

There are a couple of ways to solve this problem with red wines as well. You can use a Vacu Vin set. The procedure entails pouring a glass of wine, inserting a rubber cork into the wine bottle, and then pumping the air out with the pumping device. The wine is not affected by the exposure to air and no oxidation can take place.

The cost is about \$30 for the set and it is well worth it. Additional rubber corks can be purchased if you want to open a couple of reds. The Vacu Vin procedure is usually good for a week or 10 days, and sometimes much longer. It is easy and works.

Most bars do not know how to handle wines. They open reds, shove the cork in and sell it a glass at a time. They always say that they run through the wine quickly enough

not to need to vac the wines. Do not believe them. I have had wines that are hopelessly oxidized that had to have been there for a week or more. Ask them to open one up for you – or have a beer.

Most restaurants and bars have no idea how to deal with wines. They all know how to charge for wines, though.

Another possibility is to try a red wine in a box. There is a plastic bag that houses the wine that collapses around the wine as you pour off a glass. It doesn't allow the air to get to the wine, thus preventing oxidation.

Back in the mid-1960s, when the collapsible bag was invented, fair-to-poor wines were placed into the bags. However, some good-to-fine wines are now available in a box. One of my favorites is "Black Box" wines. The Cabernet and Merlot are exceedingly good, and the other red varietals are decent as well. They are a great bargain at \$22 a box for the equivalent of four 750 bottles of wine.

My American Wine Society chapter recently had a great session. We judged two white wines. One was a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc from the Marlborough region called Monkey Bay. Big fruit and a nice finish are the characteristics of this wine. At \$14 it is a great buy. The wine we placed with it is a Chilean Sauvignon Blanc that sells for \$4.99 a bottle. It is called Francesca and is also a great buy. The monkey Bay scored higher, but only by one half a point.

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

The Garden Spot:

Get Into The Zone

You've probably seen the term hardiness zone mentioned in conjunction with plant science, but may not understand why it's so important. The hardiness zone refers to the average low winter temperature in a given area and allows gardeners and growers to understand which plants will do best in their area.

In 2012, Connecticut was "rezoned" to the US Department of Agriculture's hardiness zone 7a, which runs along the shoreline west from New Haven to the New York state line with an average low winter temperature from 0 to 5 degrees.

When planning your garden and shopping for plants, make sure that the plants you choose are hardy in your specific zone. For example, a plant that is labeled hardy for zone



PAT DRAY

5 would survive our winter well, but one that is labeled for zone 8 would most likely be a "tender" perennial, meaning it may survive if you protect it from the cold, but may wind up being an annual.

The other important thing to keep in mind about hardiness zones is that they also estimate the growing season, or the number of days from the last frost to the first frost in any given zone. Here in southern Connecticut, growing season is considered to be from April 15 to Oct. 15, or 180 days. Although I see nurseries crowded with gardeners purchasing annuals in early April, you should be prepared for the loss of plants if you put them out that early.

Another way to use the hardiness zones is to "work backwards" for seed propagation. Most

seeds need six weeks to mature from seed to a seedling ready for planting. Using our April 15 date, you would begin to grow vegetable plants from seed at around March 1. This allows you to extend the growing season instead of planting seeds directly in the ground. You should be aware, however, that not all types of vegetables do well with transplantation. Peas, beans, radishes, carrots, and corn perform best when they are seeded straight into the garden, whereas plants with a long growing season such as tomatoes, peppers, broccoli and eggplant do well when started from seeds.

Many gardeners prefer to purchase seedlings rather than growing their own plants from seeds. This is a good strategy if you don't have the need for many plants and are not looking for an unusual variety. For example, tomatoes have about 700 varieties under cultivation. If you want Big Boy or Early Girl, you can

easily find them as seedlings at the garden center. But if you're looking for something a little different, such as the heirloom Cherokee Purple, you need to start that from seed.

Use your hardiness zone to determine which variety to plant. The Early Girl takes about 50 days from germination to harvest, and Big Boy is expected to be ready for harvest at about 78 days after germination. But the Cherokee Purple may take as long as 90 days to mature. If you're getting a late start on your planting, you might plant the Early Girl and save the Cherokee Purple for a year when you can germinate your seeds early enough to have a full 90-day growing season.

As with so much in life, it pays to plan ahead.

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

Tax Exemption Continued From Page 1

Orange already qualify for the tax exemption. The proposal would allow the remainder to qualify.

Orange was the first town in Connecticut in 2004 to raise its local tax exemption to qualifying veterans from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the proposal at its Jan. 9 meeting, where selectman Mitch Goldblatt was skeptical about the need to eliminate the income cap and the impact it would have on town finances.

"I am concerned," he said, "about a \$272,000 impact of lifting the income limits." Everybody else, he said, would have to pick up that balance.

He pointed out that although Orange is affluent, there are people who struggle to pay their bills in town who might be more in need of assistance than the veterans who earn above the current thresholds.

"I think the biggest impact is potentially on those other people in need to pick up the

slack," he said.

Goldblatt did say that he was keeping an open mind and wanted to hear what people would have to say about it at the public hearing.

First Selectman Jim Zeoli told Goldblatt that his concerns were legitimate. He noted that the state government was likely to continue reducing its payments to the town, having previously identified it as one of 33 "wealthy" communities in the state.

Orange resident Paul Tarbox, who serves as a Clerk of the Veterans Affairs Committee in the Connecticut General Assembly, suggested that perhaps the income cap could be raised gradually over several years.

"You can set it in the ordinance where they automatically happen," he said.

Ultimately, Goldblatt joined his fellow selectmen in forwarding the ordinance to a public hearing.

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

The Real Estate Code

The business principles of real estate cover everything from respect to quality of the environment. This profession demands a strict level of education. Keeping current on changes in the law is vital to the client and the agent.

Anticipating the needs of the client and protecting the paper trail is a big part of the job. This support, coupled with the rules and growth in the industry, make sales happen. It's not just a job—it is guidance and influence and the exchange of ideas from long years of experience. I cannot emphasize enough how the realtor is a goodwill ambassador. Each agent has an obligation to always speak with

regard to everyone involved in a transaction.

With multiple facets involved in the completion of a deal, it is the real estate agent's duty to seek out all opportunities to do the best job possible. Each agent must pride themselves in their focus on individual needs and diversity in product knowledge. It is also mandatory that the clients' funds are protected.

The integrity, honesty and standards of well-trained and seasoned agents can be compared to those of a physician, always on



BARBARA LEHRER

call, never missing the diagnosis and following through on the solutions each time. The real estate code is based on human nature and knowing to always do the right thing. A passionate respect for the industry is one of the characteristics of a good agent. Closing a deal on a home and helping clients spend their hard-earned money on the largest investment that they will ever

make needs serious commitment. The real estate profession grew to be what it is today through a need to hold the hands

of buyers and sellers, to protect and inform each one of their rights. We have learned to listen to the vision of each person's request. As people of integrity, our goal as agents is to enhance the lives of those we assist, to help with our tools and resources as each situation arises and to promote communities that feel there is always help from a realtor just a phone call away.

I am very proud to be part of this process.

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

Your Health

Why You Should Receive The Flu Vaccine

By Jehanzeb Kayani & Amir Mohammad

Influenza or "flu" is a common infectious disease that affects the respiratory system, and its toll ranges from mild illnesses to death. A common misperception held by many is that influenza is not a serious infection. Another misperception is that public health officials make a bigger deal of flu than it is.

During last year's flu season, 49 million people in the U.S., or 15 percent of the population, were infected. Of those, 960,000 needed hospitalization. Moreover, the flu was responsible for 79,000 deaths during last season. In Orange, there were 17 confirmed cases of Influenza A and five cases of Influenza B. There were 478 cases of confirmed influenza in the city of Milford.

The irony is that the profound morbidity and mortality from influenza are preventable

by timely implementation of a simple and cheap intervention: the flu vaccine. The World Health Organization works alongside various national public health institutes, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, to predict the influenza virus strains that are most likely to circulate during the upcoming flu season. The vaccine is modified based on the circulating virus strains each season. The vaccine is effective in preventing influenza infection as well as minimizing the severity of infection among those who are exposed to the virus.

The efficacy of the flu vaccine is measured as the reduction in risk provided



DR. AMIR MOHAMMAD

by the vaccine. The flu vaccine is effective: the CDC estimates the efficacy of the vaccine to be 40 percent, and over 5 million cases of influenza have been estimated to be prevented for the most recent flu season through immunization.

Another misperception is that one can catch the flu from the vaccine. The currently available flu vaccine cannot cause the flu as it is made up of inactivated ("killed") virus that cannot cause infection.

Vaccinated individuals may experience mild reactions to the flu vaccine, including soreness at the site of injection, low-grade fever, headache and muscle aches, but these symptoms are transient and mild.

It's never too late. Both young and old should get the flu vaccine to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Influenza surveillance reports are posted online weekly and can be accessed at cdc.gov/flu/weekly.

Dr. Amir Mohammad is a practicing internist and preventive medicine physician. He greatly enjoys teaching and doing public health work. He is serving as the Director of Health for the Town of Orange. Zeb Kayani is a lifelong resident and a graduate of Amity Regional High School, Class of 2012. He graduated from UConn in 2016 and Columbia University in 2018 with a master's in public health in epidemiology and is an aspiring physician and public health advocate.

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46 Lucille Drive, Milford \$179,900



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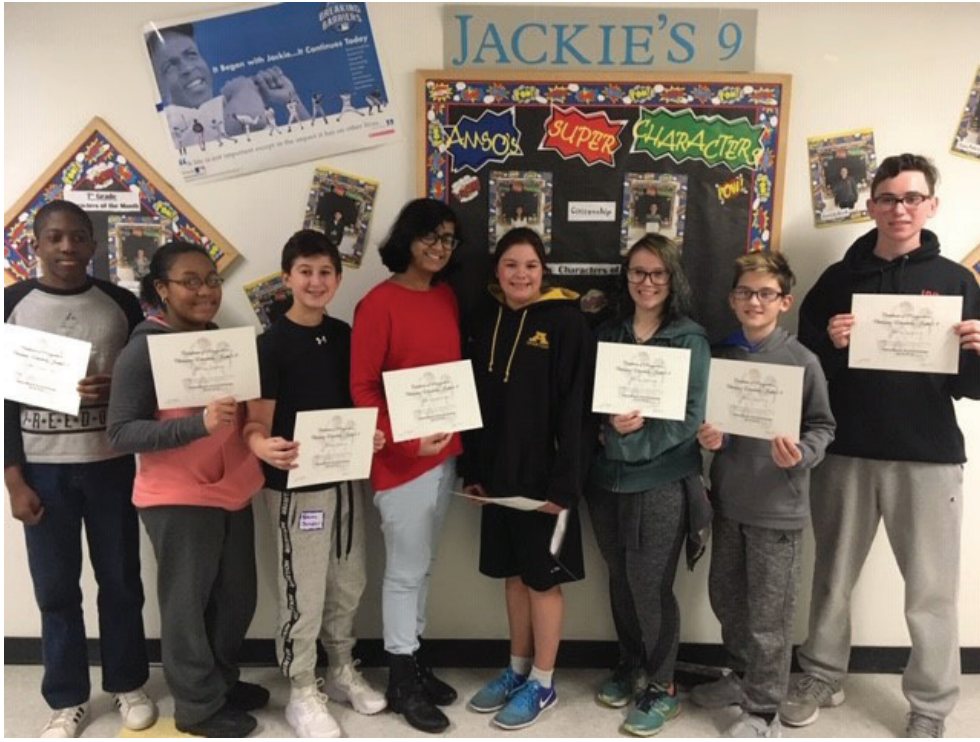
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Youth & Education

Amity Middle School Students Recognized For Courage



Students at Amity Middle School in Orange were recognized in November for demonstrating courage as part of the school's "Jackie's Nine" program. From left: Zephaniah Abdus-Salaam, Zshonna Singleton, Sam Sender, Aditi Bhattamishra, Claire Bath, Ari Chetwynd, Oliver Kusiak and Patrick Coughlin. Photo courtesy of Amity Middle School.

Courage was the characteristic of the month for November at Amity Middle School in Orange, and a number of students were honored for demonstrating it.

The school has been using Jackie Robinson, the first black man to play professional baseball, as a role model for the students in a program called "Jackie's Nine." Robinson lived by nonviolent actions and by values that the teachers, staff, and administrators at Amity use today as an example for the student body.

Zephaniah Abdus-Salaam, a seventh grade student, defined courage as "being proud

of yourself to really stand out and protect your friends from people you don't know... people who may bully others."

Patrick Coughlin, an eighth grade student, said that courage is "staying on task during a test and studying even when you don't want to, so you get the best result."

The following students were recognized for demonstrating courage to do what is right, even when it is difficult: Zephaniah Abdus-Salaam, Zshonna Singleton, Sam Sender, Aditi Bhattamishra, Claire Bath, Ari Chetwynd, Oliver Kusiak and Patrick Coughlin.

Milford Educator Named Assistant Principal Of The Year

The Connecticut Association of Schools has named Milford resident Eric Conrad the 2019 CAS Elementary School Assistant Principal of the Year.

Conrad is in his fifth year as assistant principal of Chapel Street School in Stratford. He was nominated by Dr. Carla Armistead, principal of Chapel Street and the 2017 Elementary Principal of the Year, who describes him as an "outstanding, industrious, passionate administrator who makes students the core of everything he does."

Parent Beth Kassay said of Conrad, "If I were asked to identify all of the qualities that I would want in my child's assistant principal, I would point to Mr. Conrad. He embodies every one of them."

"This recognition is truly humbling," Conrad said upon learning of his award. "I am honored to have the opportunity to represent the field of education and highlight the good work that occurs in our schools every day."

District colleague Sherrod McNeill, principal of Franklin Elementary School and himself a former assistant principal of the year, calls Conrad "the epitome of humility" and praises his "passion and drive to always be a better administrator."

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Linda Gejda said, "We feel confident in Eric's abilities and he, in turn, makes others feel confident in their own. Eric is student-focused, has a well-developed skill set and is always one step ahead when it comes to meeting the needs of kids."

Conrad created a Family Liaison Council to give parents a voice in the day-to-day operation of the school. He instituted Family Curriculum Nights to build parent capacity to promote the educational process at home, and he established Family Fun Nights, community building events without the academic focus.

"We are looking to raise the bar for the children and adults within our community," Conrad said. "After all, our families deserve

the best that we can give them."

During the school day, Conrad sets aside paperwork and clerical tasks to make himself available to students and staff members in need of a friendly ear.

Robin Celentano, a grade 6 teacher, said, "Eric has an innate ability to attract staff, children and colleagues to him. They want to spend time with him. He is as approachable as it gets."

Conrad juggles a myriad of roles at Chapel Street. In addition to handling student discipline and teacher evaluation, he is also building test coordinator and was, until recently, manager of the Title I budget.

Social worker Terri Czizmadia said, "Eric wears many hats and there is nothing he would not do to make this place better. He takes care of everyone and somehow manages never to get flustered."

Despite the ever-expanding responsibilities he shoulders in his building, Conrad somehow finds time to serve on numerous district committees, including the Safety and Security Executive Board where he serves as cochair, Data and Assessment Committee, Professional Development Committee and Aspiring Administrators Committee. He also serves as an adjunct professor in the School of Education at Quinnipiac University.

"Eric never ceases to amaze me. I am constantly asking him, 'What is it that you are not involved in?'" joked Celentano.

Conrad, along with fellow elementary assistant principals of the year from throughout the country, will be honored by the National Association of Elementary School Principals at its 2019 Pre-K-8 Principals Conference in Spokane, Washington, from July 10 to 12.

Each year, the CAS Awards and Recognition Committee, a selection committee consisting of active and retired principals and assistant principals, selects winners for the Elementary, Middle, and High School Assistant Principal of the Year awards from the submitted applications.

Patriotic Art Contest Open To Students

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary 7788 in Milford is accepting entries from high school students for its Young American Patriotic Art contest.

Each year, more than 3,500 high school students from across the country participate in the contest. The scholarship contest began in 1979 to recognize up-and-coming artists and encourage patriotism in youth.

The contest is open to all students, including home-schooled students, in grades 9 through 12. Students must be a U.S. citizen or a U.S. national with a maximum age of 18 at the time of local entry.

Beginning this year, two and three-dimensional art will be accepted. Two-dimensional art must be on canvas or paper. Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media may be used.

Three-dimensional art can be paper, papier-

mâché, pottery, clay, metal work, fabric or similar media. Digital art, photography and jewelry are not accepted.

Art will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. One winner from each state will be forwarded to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.

Entries must be received by local VFW Auxiliary 7788 by March 31.

The national award for first place is a \$15,000 scholarship; second place is a \$7,500 scholarship; third place, a \$3,500 scholarship; fourth place is a \$1,500 scholarship; and fifth through eighth place winners get a \$500 scholarship.

Visit vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/ to download the brochure and application and to see previous year's winning entries. Contact Christine Smith at 203-800-5181 or christine.smith235@yahoo.com for more information.

Executive Women's Group Offering Scholarships

The Network of Executive Women is accepting undergraduate scholarship applications from Feb. 1 to Feb. 28 to women residing or attending school in New Haven or Fairfield counties who demonstrate financial need.

Applicants must be returning, continuing or commencing schooling or other types of training to further their educational goals and/or enhance their job skills. Students who go directly from high school into college are not eligible.

In fairness to all applicants, completed applications will only be considered if submitted by the deadline. For applications, contact Virginia Allen at 203-795-0305. Visit the network's website at networkofexecutivewomen.org for further information. Applications are only available by calling phone number; they are not online.

The Network of Executive Women provides a platform for business and executive women to share ideas, accomplishments, and support the goals of individual members.

Town of Orange: Public Notice

Pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 10-153d(b) there is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk the signed copy of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Orange Board of Education and the Orange Teachers League.

Dated at Orange, Connecticut this the 20th day of December 2018.

Patrick B. O'Sullivan
Orange Town Clerk

Bridges Healthcare Accepting Scholarship Applications

Milford-based Bridges Healthcare, Inc. is now accepting applications for the Barry Kasdan Scholarship for the pursuit of a graduate or undergraduate degree in human services. Eligible applicants must reside in one of the towns located in Bridges' service region or be employed or related to a Bridges employee.

Bridges anticipates awarding two \$1,000 scholarships in 2019. The successful candidates must: be a Bridges employee, or spouse, child or grandchild of a Bridges employee, or a resident of Ansonia, Bethany, Derby, Milford, Orange, Seymour, Shelton, West Haven or Woodbridge; be pursuing a graduate or undergraduate degree in human

services; and have completed at least two semesters of college.

To request an application, contact Shaun Mee at mee@bridgesmilford.org. Completed applications are due no later than Wednesday, May 1. Scanned electronic applications with requested additional materials can be emailed to Mee. Hardcopy applications with requested additional materials can be mailed to: Barry Kasdan Scholarship Committee, 163 Woodvale Road, West Haven, CT 06516.

The scholarship was established by Bridges' Board of Directors, the Board Endowment Fund Committee, and the Board Scholarship Committee in honor of Barry

Kasdan's more than 30 years of leadership and service to Bridges. Funding for the scholarship is derived from the proceeds of the Visionary Leadership dinner, held in honor of Kasdan's retirement in 2014.

Kasdan was appointed President and CEO of Bridges, then known as Milford Mental Health, in 1984. Under his leadership, the organization grew from a small mental health agency with 22 employees and a \$700,000 budget to an integrated healthcare system with 160 employees and an annual budget of \$13 million. Bridges continues to grow in size and scope serving over 5,000 area residents.

Youth & Education

Amity Middle School Students Raise Funds For Children's Center

Visit us online at: TheOrangeTimes.com



Eighth graders at Orange's Amity Middle School served breakfast Nov. 21 to the staff and students at their school to raise funds for the Children's Center of Hamden. Front row, from left: Olivia Sceppa Sydney Melchiorre, Stella Carney, Jenna Chizmadia, Abby Tirolo, Leah Katz, Justin Chang, Thomas Saxa, Michael Perrone, Gio Bonazzoli, Harshil Parmar and Nick Digiovanni. Back row, from left: Isabelle Rosewater, Zoe May, Frank Cavallaro, Caitlyn Smith, Sophia Cossitt-Levy, Patrick Coughlin, Hamden Children's Center Director of Development and Community Engagement Sarah Lockery, Amelia Launder, Chris Chizmadia, Kyle Grande, Sean Pivovar, Landon Rocchio, John Lorenti, Mark Vanschaick and Brendan Smith. Photo by Kathy Burke.

Eighth grade classes from Team T at Amity Middle School in Orange offered breakfast on Nov. 21 to the entire school body for a \$3 donation to benefit the Children's Center of Hamden, raising a total of \$800.

The Children's Center of Hamden serves youths who struggle with emotional, behavioral and psychological issues and has many different kinds of programs, including

outpatient and residential/inpatient treatment programs.

The staff and students at Amity were able to choose from an array of baked goods, fruit and juices on offer.

The breakfast was initiated by former teacher Marilyn Reynolds over 20 years ago and has continued to be an annual event.

Amity Middle School Celebrates Head Custodian's Birthday



Teachers, staff and students at Amity Middle School in Orange honored the school's head custodian, Phil Ianniello, Dec. 21 on his birthday. The school community surprised him during a recent pep rally. Everyone sang "Happy Birthday" and honored him by wearing his "signature" mustache. Ianniello has worked at Amity for 34 years and has worked with generations of both students and parents in Orange. Row 1, from left: Bobbie Miller; Phil Ianniello holding his grandson, Grayson Soto; Lisa Kochiss and Mike Blumenthal. Row 2, from left: Marie Kantor; Taylor Doughty; Kate Hoffman; Ellie Stephens and Patty Masella. Row 3, from left: Bill Dahn; Jen Bshara; Deb Estok; Emily Mc Galliard; Kristen Morace; Wendy Castelot and Karen Steele. Row 4, from left: Eric Bacik; Neil Holt; Taylor Biningler; Dee O'Leary; Bo Wu; Clair Babecki and Tom Foley. Photo by Jen Marganski.

OCC Nursery School Hosting Open House

Follow the balloons to the Orange Congregational Church Nursery School's Open House on Feb. 10 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the church's classrooms at 205 Meetinghouse Ln. in Orange. All are welcome. The snow date for the open house is March 10.

For more information about the nursery school or the 3-year-old and 4-year-old programs for the upcoming school year, contact the OCCNS at ocns@yahoo.com or 203-795-9749 ext. 305. You can also visit the website at orangecongregationalchurchnurseryschool.com.



The Orange Congregational Church Nursery School will hold an open house for the upcoming year in February. Contributed photo.



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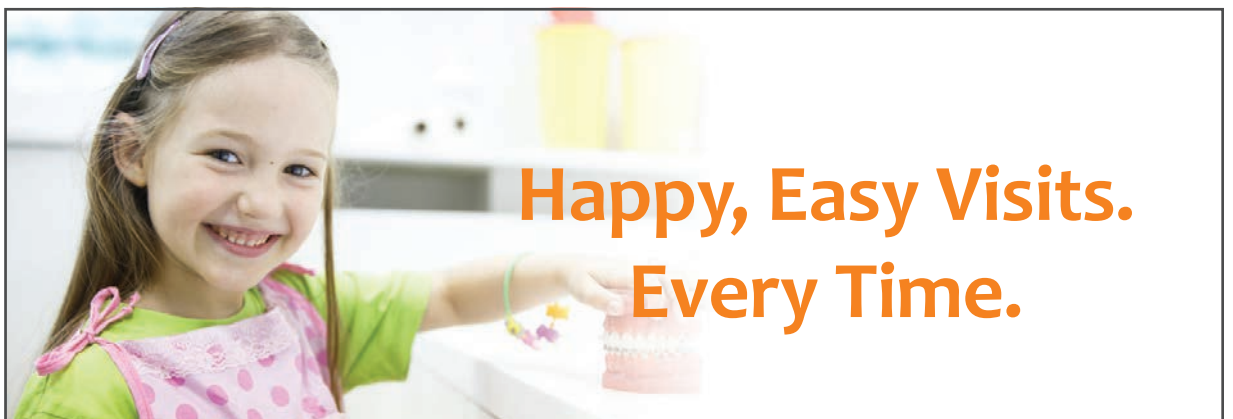
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Politics

Kennedy Selected For Key State Committees

State Rep.-elect Kathy Kennedy (R-119) has received her appointments from House Minority Republican Leader Themis Klarides (R-114) regarding which legislative committees she will serve on during her first term in the General Assembly.

Kennedy, who will represent Milford and Orange, will be sworn in on Jan. 9 when the new legislative session gavel in.

Kennedy has been appointed to three committees this session: the Public Health, Education and Environment committees.

“Committee work is the engine of our legislative process — it’s when citizens can have their say on issues important to them, and it’s when legislators like Rep. Kennedy make the most difference for the people they serve as bill concepts take shape and are eventually debated,” Klarides said. “I’m confident that Kathy will contribute greatly to conversation here in Hartford during the upcoming legislative session.”

Each of the committees for which Kennedy was selected has a significant meaning to her.

“As past president of the Connecticut PTA, I am keenly aware of the needs of our students, their parents and our wonderful educators who need our support, and I will work at the State Capitol to better enhance our state and local education systems for all the stakeholders,” Kennedy said.

The legislature’s Education Committee handles issues related to the Department of Education, local and regional boards of education and the laws around collective bargaining that covers teachers and professional

employees of those boards, as well as the commission on arts, libraries, museums and historical and cultural associations.

The Public Health Committee has cognizance of all matters relating to the Department of Public Health; the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Department of Developmental Services; the Office of Health Care Access; and all other matters relating to health, including emergency medical services, all licensing boards within the Department of Public Health, nursing homes, pure food and drugs and controlled substances, including the treatment of substance abuse.

“I am really excited about this committee,” Kennedy said. “Public health serves everyone, providing services that protect and promote health and well-being for all. In the past, I have volunteered in the community to raise awareness about the importance of mental health services. Additionally, I am interested in finding ways to combat addiction, especially the current opioid epidemic in our state and across the country, including making sure our emergency first responders have the educational resources they need.”

The Environment Committee has cognizance of all matters relating to the Department of Environmental Protection, including conservation, recreation, pollution control, fisheries and game, state parks and forests, water resources, and all matters relating to the Department of Agriculture, including farming, dairy products and domestic animals.

Milford And Orange Residents Attend Lamont Celebration



Milford and Orange residents attended a transition party for incoming Gov. Ned Lamont Jan. 3 at the Betsy Ross Parish Hall in New Haven. From left: Margaret Novicki, Jody Deitch, Bob Shanley, Lt. Gov.-elect Susan Bysiewicz, Cindy Wolfe Boynton, Mitch Goldblatt, Rick Fontana and Lamont. Photo by Steve Hechtman.

Klarides: Streamlining Pension Deductions Will Aid Seniors

Seniors will gain relief from having to fill out paperwork on their pensions under a House Republican proposal to get rid of a 2017 law that requires pension administrators to withhold taxes throughout the year, House Republican Minority Leader Themis Klarides said in a Jan. 17 statement.

Many low-income seniors have previously not had to file tax returns because they fell below the minimum level to do so. Now, even if they do not want to withhold taxes throughout the year they still have to file paperwork. This has created confusion, according to Klarides.

“We have heard from a lot of our seniors

that are not used to filing any taxes or paperwork to receive their pensions because they don’t receive a lot of money. They feel burdened by the paperwork, either to withhold taxes throughout the year, or to receive a refund at the end,” she said.

The proposed legislation would revert to the previous system that allowed pensioners to decide whether to withhold taxes.

Klarides said it makes sense to give seniors who are already struggling day-to-day with their household finances the option, rather than requiring pension administrators to make the withholdings.

Ferraro Tapped For Energy & Technology Committee

State Rep. Charles Ferraro recently received his legislative committee assignments from House Republican Minority Leader Themis Klarides, who tapped him to take the House Republican lead on the Energy and Technology Committee.

The Energy and Technology Committee has cognizance of all matters relating to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and energy planning and activities.

“I’m excited to take on this important role for the House Republican Caucus and thank House Republican Leader Themis Klarides for placing her confidence in me,” Ferraro

said. “For the past four years, I have been able to work across the aisle to pass bills that help our communities and the residents of Connecticut, and next year will be no different. We need to roll up our sleeves and continue to pass bipartisan solutions that will move our state in a better direction.”

Ferraro will also continue to sit on the committee on Veterans’ Affairs, which oversees all matters relating to military and veterans affairs, except veterans’ pensions. Additionally, Ferraro will become a new member to the Banking Committee.

Ferraro can be reached at 860-240-8700 or by email at Charles.Ferraro@housegop.ct.gov.

Orange Reps. Sworn In For New Term

State Reps. Themis Klarides, Charles Ferraro and freshman Kathy Kennedy took their oath of office on Jan. 9 at the commencement of the 2019 legislative session.

The General Assembly will be entering a “long session,” which will run from Jan. 9 to June 5. During the long session, the lawmakers are able to propose legislation and will be tasked with framing a two-year state budget.

“The start of the new legislative session offers us all a chance for a clean slate and renewed opportunities to do the hard work and produce the best outcomes for the people of the state of Connecticut,” Klarides, who is the House Republican Minority Leader, said. “I am optimistic that we can accomplish great things and complete our work on time.”

“A new session and a new administration bring an opportunity for a new beginning for Connecticut,” said Ferraro. “It’s important that we continue to work together and make positive changes that will make our state more affordable.”

“The fiscal challenges Connecticut faces

are immense but it is a very achievable task. Today brings much hope,” Kennedy said. “The Connecticut economy is confronting a multi-billion state budget deficit that needs to be solved and we also need to find concrete ways to attract people young and old to come here, live here, raise a family here and retire here.”

All three representatives are Republicans. Kennedy replaces Pam Staneski, a fellow Republican who left her seat in a failed bid for the state Senate. The lone Democrat representing Orange is state Senator James Maroney, who defeated Staneski to win the open seat formerly held by moderate Democrat Gayle Slossberg, who retired. Maroney was also sworn in Jan. 9.

During the 2019 legislative session, lawmakers are expected to debate hot button issues such as tolls, sports betting and the legalization of marijuana.

Residents can stay in the know this session by visiting the legislators’ websites for frequent updates — RepKlarides.com, RepFerraro.com and RepKennedy.com.



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Milford's Atiana's Always Expanding

By Michele Tenney

Sumit Tandon and his pregnant wife, Liliana, set out from Rockland County, New York to start a new life in Connecticut 13 years ago. Tandon landed a job as the general manager for Borders Books at the Connecticut Post Mall in Milford. When rumors stirred about the company not being financially stable, he set his mind to open his own business. Taking a leap of faith, he and his wife opened a store for gowns and special occasion attire that they named after their first-born child, Atiana.

Atiana's Boutique was 1,500 square feet and carried less than 500 gowns in stock. The store was doing well, so Tandon and his wife decided to expand. They took over a larger store space in the mall which was double the size and could fit double the inventory of their first store.

Seven years ago, business was booming and the Tandon family found themselves once again seeking a larger space to expand

their business. They landed at 1571 Boston Post Rd. in Milford. This store consisted of two spaces side-by-side once the business next to them left.

Sumit, Liliana, and Sumit's sister, Christina Vargas, were the only employees of these stores for many years. But Atiana's Boutique is now the largest bridal shop in the Northeast, occupying 35,000 square feet and carrying over 17,000 gowns. It employs 50 part-time workers and seven managers. The boutique celebrated its expansion Jan. 19 with a ribbon cutting.

Atiana's Boutique not only carries gowns, but also tuxedos and is fully equipped as one-stop shopping for alterations, shoes and jewelry. The Tandons have also produced a collection they make overseas they named The J.T. Collection after their son, Josh.

Tandon continues to find new ways to expand this family-owned business and is working on growing its web presence to meet the needs of the public. The Tandons' hard work and dedication continue to pay off.

Atiana's Boutique Ribbon Cutting



From L to R: Chinna Ortiz, Bridal Supervisor, Lisa Inorio, Operations Manager, Ann Marie Rivera, Inventory Manager, Elina Vargas, Mother in Law, Sumit Tandon, Owner, Atiana Tandon, Owner (Daughter), Josh Tandon, Owner (Son), Liliana Tandon, Owner (Spouse), Lauren Engstrom, Bridal Manager, Leanne Sikora, Sales Manager, Mo Biggs, Store Manager, Samantha Tweedie, Operations Supervisor. Photo by Steve Cooper.

Salon Opens In Milford



Jordan Kindel Salon celebrated its grand opening Jan. 11 at its location at 972 Boston Post Rd. in Milford. From left: Arnold Peck, Frieda Domizio, Jesse Domizio, Mayor Ben Blake, Owner Jordan Domizio Misinonile, Giovanni DeCarlo, Joseph Misinonile, Steve Hechtman, Carol Hechtman and George Domizio. Photo by Steve Cooper.



50 Plus employees of Atiana's. Photos by Steve Cooper.

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in Taiwan. In fairness, the Chinese and Taiwanese seemed to be having trouble with it as well as the mainland. Mainland China had the communist People's Republic of China place in General Chiang Kai-shek's exhibit. Chen's star shone so brightly that universities in America turned their eye toward him and

we're taking the time to move it and get everything set up." Dr. Peter Branden said. He will be one of several doctors working out of the 10,000 square foot space. He estimates between the group's rotating list of doctors and the location

on page 18

Orange Rotary Presents...

COMEDY NIGHT



Saturday, April 6th at the High Plains Community Center Gym

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Planning Ahead

You May Owe Taxes On Your Roth 401(k)

No doubt you've heard about the benefits of starting or converting to a Roth 401(k) retirement savings plan: when you retire, the money in your account is all yours because the money you contributed was already taxed before it went into the account.

Unless you paid attention to the details, though, you may be in for a surprise. While the money you contribute, and resulting earnings, will be tax-free upon withdrawal, any matching funds contributed by your employer will be taxed, along with any investment earnings stemming from those contributions.

Yes, this information is provided to anyone who signs up, but it tends to get lost as everyone focuses on those "tax-free" withdrawals.

Don't get the wrong idea; as a financial planner I'm a fan of Roth 401(k) plans. They provide a solid way to build up retirement savings. But if you are considering a Roth, or already have one, you need to be aware there will still be some tax consequences at withdrawal, both for financial planning purposes and also to avoid an unpleasant

surprise.

For both regular 401(k) plans and Roth 401(k) plans, employer contributions count as income and are therefore taxable upon withdrawal. Since no taxes are deducted at the time your employer adds matching funds to your account, the tax bill is delayed, not eliminated. Both the amount of employer contributions and any earnings resulting from those contributions are taxed as income the year that you withdraw those funds.

Fortunately, you will not have to figure out how much you owe in taxes. That's the responsibility of the investment company that administers your plan.

If you have both a regular 401(k) plan account and a Roth account, a financial advisor can help you determine which account to withdraw from for tax planning purposes.

For 2019, the IRS has raised the limit for employee contributions to \$19,000, up from



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TASHLEIN

\$18,500 last year. Anyone age 50 or over can contribute an additional \$6,000. The limit applies to the individual, not to each plan. While you can split your contributions among more than one plan, your combined contributions cannot exceed the limit.

About 60 percent of American workers choose a Roth 401(k) plan over a traditional plan (among those who are offered a Roth and are aware of it), according to the 17th Annual Transamerica Retirement Survey of Workers from 2016.

One more item you should be aware of: Workers who contribute to regular 401(k) plans get to deduct their contributions from taxable income every year, a significant advantage when April 15 rolls around. Since Roth 401(k) contributions go in post-tax, Roth owners lose that advantage.

Again, the point is not to assert that one type of 401(k) plan is preferable to the other, but rather to point out the differences. Each

type of plan provides distinct advantages, and effective retirement planning means utilizing these plans in the way that makes the most sense for each individual retirement saver.

Eric Tashlein is a Certified Financial Planner professional™ and founding Principal of Connecticut Capital Management Group, LLC, 2 Schooner Lane, Suite 1-12, in Milford. He can be reached at 203-877-1520 or through 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.

Room 911:

Where To Put Holiday Loot

I have often discussed in my articles how to create storage spaces in your home. Cabinets under window seats, even dog food hidden within a center island. Then again, there is the "Tedra fast, emergency storage method" when unexpected company arrives or you just didn't have time to finish your cleaning – the "take a box and throw every remaining extraneous item in it and put it in the basement."

Today let's look at a new aspect of storage – what to do with your holiday loot.

Storage and organization go hand in hand. Most are familiar with gift

wrapping organizers. There are places for rolls of gift paper, scissors, bows and the like. However, that is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to finding a place for your newly-acquired holiday gifts. The Container Store, Target, Walmart and Staples have storage ideas to meet most any need.

One client, a shoe hound, received four new pairs of shoes, along with sweaters, jewelry and dresses. While decluttering closets is not my area of expertise, she showed me her closet floor, which must have had 40-plus pairs of shoes that could not be contained in the way-too-small space.

"What to do?" she asked.

"Easy peasy," I answered. "Get yourself under-the-bed shoe organizers. There are clear container ones that slide under your bed, and there are those that are even on wheels. There are those that are divided within the container where you can house many different pairs of shoes."

She was a "yes-but" person and countered with, "I don't think they can fit under my bed."

"Yes, they can because you can get risers that fit on the legs of your bed frame and thus gain a few more inches of room under your



TEDRA
SCHNEIDER

bed," I replied.

In the true fashion of "yes-but" people, she argued that it wasn't enough room. However, I had her on this one because you can double stack the risers and add nearly six inches of extra height to fit in a myriad of containers from shoes to sweater boxes to things you don't wear.

While we were at it, I reminded her that cloth pocket organizers fit on the side of the bed to relieve the nightstands of clutter. You can now put your eye glasses, your phone and your magazines within these pockets.

Merrily we rolled along and found organizers for the beautiful pieces of jewelry she received, such as an 80-pocket canvas hanging jewelry organizer that she hung in her closet. Her good china, cups and saucers were put into china storage cases. For good measure, we found a sturdy mirror that could be hung on the back of a door. That was a bonus, as she could look at herself in the mirror and access her good fortune on receiving and ultimately finding places to put the holiday loot.

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

After School Program Continued From Page 1

133 seats from 2017. A single student may take up more than one seat.

It includes an hour-long before-school session and an afternoon session from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Almost all the growth came in the afternoon sessions, which Lasto attributed mainly to the fact that most parents are still working when school ends.

One of the biggest gains for the program was the creation of STEAM rooms, which allowed students to move outside the cafeteria space where they had been confined. STEAM stands for science, technology,

engineering, arts and math.

"We have more places and avenues for them to go so we can meet their needs on a much smaller ratio," she said.

She said students voted on elements of the rooms and participated in their creation.

"They were part of designing the rooms, and they really took a lot of ownership," she said.

The after-school program also entered a one-year partnership with the Wallingford-based CT STEM Academy, which offered training for both students and staff so that they could offer new programs around technology. They include programs on computer science, coding and maker kits. The training also allows the staff to break the programs up by grade level to better reach students at their current level.

"It's really made an impact on how we use our technology," she said.

One of the activities that has been especially successful is Lego Mindstorm, which challenges students to create, build and code in elaborate, multi-component projects. Four teams entered the regional competition in Shelton this year, with one team placing sixth.

On top of the regular programs, the students are treated to monthly "enrichment guests," each with a unique focus, including magic

shows and a trivia game show.

Lasto said one of the benefits of doing double duty as a school principal is that she can seamlessly tie the after-school activities to what's happening during the school day.

"I get to have the knowledge of what their curriculum is, and I can carry it over into the after-school program – in a stealth way," she joked. "But I know it's meshing in with the needs of the students in the district."

Board member Charles Flynn praised Lasto and the entire group for their efforts in advancing the program.

"There was a lot of drama in my house last week when the calendar came, and my son was torn between 'Do I go to coding or do I go to robotics,'" he said, adding that his kids can't get enough of the programs.

"As a parent, I can't believe what I'm hearing, that you want to be at school studying science in some fashion," he said.

Lasto was quick to give most of the credit to the site managers who put the time and effort into making the program work for each student.

"Sometimes I think they don't get enough credit," she said. "They run the entire site. I oversee the program, but they're the boots on the ground."



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Insuring Your Future:

Getting All The Value From Your Senior Health Insurance Plan

Due to the competitive nature of senior health insurance, many companies are offering “value-added” benefits to their plans. While the focus in choosing a health insurance plan is on the benefits related to direct medical care and prescription drug coverage, there are other “perks” that you should not overlook. These include:

Over-the-counter medications: Most Medicare Advantage plans offer a credit toward nonprescription medications such as aspirin, ointments or cold medicines. Some plans provide a “swipe card” that is “loaded” periodically; others have an online catalogue from which you can order or a reimbursement system.

Dental: Many plans offer a



TRISH
PEARSON

reimbursement for dental procedures up to a certain amount. They pay regardless of the dentist and you only need to show proof of payment. Others limit it to a certain network of dentists.

Eyewear allowance: Plans offer a specific amount of reimbursement for glasses contacts and other eyewear. It is most often paid on a reimbursement basis, so a network provider is not an

issue.

Hearing Aids: Similar to the dental allowance, hearing aids are often paid on a reimbursement basis. But check to make sure there is not a list of preferred providers.

Gym memberships: Most Medicare

Advantage plans and some supplement plans offer Silver Sneakers, which pays for the membership costs at many local gyms. You can belong to more than one gym, but policy regarding class fees may vary.

Travel Pass: Some plans offer a “passport” benefit which will allow you to change your geographic home network. This is particularly good for those who live for extended periods of time out of state.

Telemedicine: This is an often overlooked benefit. Most plans offer an on-call service that will connect members with a medical professional who can give advice and prescribe medications if appropriate. Thanks to the wonderful world of technology, we can Skype or Facetime with a provider and get a diagnosis over the phone for little or no copay.

Post hospital meal allowance: A post hospital meal allowance provides 14

meals per week delivered to your home immediately after release from a hospital or rehab facility. This is a great benefit for those who live alone – or whose spouses don’t cook.

How do you find out if your plan offers any of these perks? The simplest way is to read the benefits guide. You can also call your agent or member services to find out what “hidden benefits” might be available to you. Remember, even if you have a \$0 premium plan, the value-added benefits are included. If you do a little research and find that your plan does not offer the best extra benefits, check out the alternative plans. Remember, you can make one change between January and March.

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

Retired and Rejuvenated:

Five Wishes For The New Year

We just started a new year, and if you are anything like me, you are probably happy that 2018 is over and that we are making a fresh start for 2019. Too many difficult and devastating things happened nationwide last year. It is time to move on with a fresh new beginning.

We may not be able to change a lot of things that happen nationally or globally, but perhaps we can change a few things in our personal lives that will, at least, help us feel better. So here are five suggestions that I offer as stepping stones for your own personal path to wellbeing for this New Year.

Accept more. I read this eye-opening insight recently in a newspaper column. The writer said, “Love is 100 percent acceptance.” I am not sure I completely agree with this, as I don’t always accept



JOANNE
BYRNE

everything about the people I love, and yet I continue to love them dearly. I value the differences and the little things I can’t bring myself to accept. But I do get the author’s point. We should strive to accept ourselves and others, with all this might involve. When acceptance replaces judgment and you finally decide to accept your life, your body, your inability to play a musical instrument or a sport as well as you would like, it becomes so much easier to achieve things that you never thought possible with less anxiety.

Move more. If you make an effort to add more steps, more reps, more activity to your day, you will get life-enhancing rewards of better health, greater strength, and renewed energy. In this new year, schedule more physical fun for yourself. Take more walks, do yoga, take bike rides,

start ballroom dancing, play pickleball, participate in whatever activates your bliss-making chemicals. Stick with it until you are hooked.

Think more. Tie a red bow around your brain to remind yourself to use it more in this new year. Stimulate it with engaging and challenging activities that make you think inside and outside the box. Puzzles of all kinds fit the bill. So does learning a new language or skill. Play bridge or Mahjong, take a cooking course or learn how to crochet. When you stop learning, your synapses shrivel and vital centers of your brain power down, sometimes never to return.

Eat more real food. Aren’t you fed up with diets, pills and supplements that promise quick weight loss and deliver nothing but disappointment? Stop depending so much on processed foods, foods with additives and artificial sweeteners. Start reading labels and seeing the obscene amounts

of sugars. There is plenty of delicious, real food out there. Find it, cook it, eat it gratefully and support the people who grow it. Farm-to-table is a good way to eat.

Be more free. How do we define freedom? According to the guru and author, Deepak Chopra, “You know you are free when you feel happy and at ease instead of fearful and anxious...when you are independent of the good and bad opinion of others...when you have relinquished the need to seek approval...when you believe that you are good enough as you are.”

Happy New Year. May 2019 be healthy, happy, and joy filled for each of you.

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.

Carriage Green At Milford Making 100 Little Red Hats For Local Babies

Carriage Green at Milford, a Benchmark assisted living community is hoping to knit 100 red hats this month as part of the American Heart Association’s annual Little Hats, Big Hearts campaign to help raise awareness for congenital heart defects during February’s American Heart Month and support affected families with newborns at local hospitals.

Congenital heart defects are the most common type of birth defect in the country, and every year thousands of babies are born with this life-threatening condition.

As an extension of their mission to elevate human connection and provide support for people of all ages in the towns and neighborhoods they serve, Carriage Green residents, associates and volunteers gathered on Jan. 19 to knit tiny red hats. The hats will warm the heads of newborns at New Haven area hospitals. Twenty-seven hospitals in Connecticut participate in the campaign, including Bridgeport and Yale-New Haven hospitals.

“We want parents to know they aren’t alone in this fight,” said Doris Quagliani, executive director of Carriage Green. “It’s a small gesture to show we’re thinking about them, and we hope that will give them strength.”

Many of Benchmark’s 58 independent living, assisted living and memory care communities located throughout the Northeast are participating in the campaign in hopes of donating more than 1,000 hats to the cause.

AHA is committed to raising awareness for congenital heart disease and helping children live stronger lives through education, research and public policies. The organization’s funding for pediatric cardiac research is second only to that of the federal government. The AHA advocated for laws that were passed in Connecticut to ensure that every baby born receives pulse-oximetry testing, which can help identify heart defects immediately after birth. The AHA also trains parents, caregivers and

medical professionals in infant and child CPR for which the AHA has created guidelines.

“Heart-related conditions impact so many of our beloved residents, so it’s important to us to support the good work of organizations like the American Heart Association,” said Tom Grape, chairman and CEO of Benchmark. “Whether it’s our continued sponsorship of the annual Heart Ball or participating in campaigns like Little Hats, Big Hearts, we are delighted to support such an important cause affecting so many.”



Carriage Green of Milford residents, associates and volunteers gathered on Jan. 19 to knit tiny red hats as part of the American Heart Association’s annual Little Hats, Big Hearts campaign to help raise awareness for congenital heart defects. Photo by Carol Arnold.

Have A Tip? Send It To Us At editor@theorangetimes.com
And Visit Us Online At: TheOrangeTimes.com

Profiles

Heroes Among Us:

Cedar Hill Farm: A Local Source For Beef

The recent nationwide trend of “farm-to-table” food has encouraged Orange residents to look for local food sources. To meet that need, Cedar Hill Farm, LLC has a herd of 25 beef cattle. That means Orange residents can now buy their beef from a source they know.

The Cedar Hill Farm stand is located at 831 Derby Milford Rd. in Orange. The farm is owned and run by Rachel and Stephen Bespuda, Jr. Stephen is the fourth generation of Bespudas to provide area residents with food products. His great-grandparents purchased 125 acres of farmland in 1931 from Mary L. Tracy (best known as the principal of what is now the eponymous School). His grandparents, Walt and Mary Ellen Bespuda, were the key town leaders who restarted the Orange Country Fair in 1975.

Both Stephen and Rachel grew up on farms and were members of 4-H. They received their bachelor’s degrees from the UConn animal science program.

Their herd of beef cattle are made up of two well-known breeds: Simmental (from Switzerland) and belted Galloway



TRISH
O’LEARY TREAT

(informally known as Oreos because of their black and white hides), which originated in Scotland. Their herd live and feed on grass pasture during the growing season. Their diet is supplemented by grass hay and, in winter, corn silage. When conditions are muddy and wet, the herd can head for their “running shed,” which has a southern exposure.

The cows calve at the farm. Their gestation period is 283 days, and the calves weigh between 60 and 80 pounds when born. By the time they reach market weight, (somewhere between 18 and 22 months), the cows and steers weigh approximately 1,500 pounds.

Stephen Bespuda says The Cedar Hill Farm philosophy is simple: their practices are sustainable and humane. They aim to make wise use of natural resources, and they also use modern production practices. Though they never use growth hormones, when a cow requires it, that animal is treated with antibiotics.

The beef sold at the Cedar Hill Farm stand is available in 35 different cuts, including eye of round and bottom roasts, sirloin, sirloin tip,



Rachel and Stephen Bespuda, Jr. and their daughter. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

shoulder and strip steaks as well as ground beef and beef bones. Special cuts can be made available by calling the farm. The Bespudas are proud of the transparency of their operations, and they are eager to respond to any questions and concerns customers might have. The farm’s pork products come from Yorkshire bred pigs. They will soon begin raising chickens as well.

Bespuda’s grandfather, Walt Bespuda, said that the family were originally dairy farmers,

delivering milk from their Holsteins to Orange and Valley residents over the years. The elder Bespuda emigrated from Russia. He says that he grew up watching his mother tend and milk their cows. Perhaps his great-granddaughter, Caroline, will carry on the family tradition for a fifth generation.

For farm stand hours and other information about Cedar Hill Farm, call 203-889-7282 visit cedarhillfarmct.com or email cedarhillfarmct@gmail.com.

Milestones Names Executive Leadership



Lisa Gregory, Vice President of Educational Services



Cresse Morrell, Vice President of Clinical Operations



Judith Palazzo, Vice President of Behavioral Services



Theresa Bollmann, Director of Human Resources

Suzanne Letso, cofounder and CEO of Milestones Behavioral Services in Milford, announced Jan. 23 a new executive leadership team for the not-for-profit as it begins its third decade of service.

Milestones School and Adult Day programs provide education and training for infants through adults on the autism spectrum and with other developmental disabilities.

Letso explained that the new leadership level is critical to the organization as it has experienced unprecedented growth over the last five years and is continuing to move into new areas.

“I am proud of Milestones’ expert compassionate staff and excited to promote three dedicated employees to a new tier of leadership,” Letso said.

The new team members are: Lisa Gregory, a Milford resident, as vice president of

educational services, overseeing all school programs including the daycare and preschool; Cresse Morrell, also a Milford resident, as vice president of clinical operations, responsible for all clinical operations and expanding behavior analytic services into other non-Autism Spectrum Disorder areas; and Judith Palazzo, a West Haven resident, as vice president of behavioral services, ensuring that all behavior analytic services meet or exceed recommended clinical and educational practices. Palazzo will also oversee Adult Day Services.

In addition to the Executive Leadership Team, Roger Letso, Theresa Bollmann of Old Saybrook was hired as director of human resources.

For more information about Milestones, visit mbs-inc.org, email ealmodovar@mbs-inc.org or call 203-799-4125.

Orange Resident Joins Ruane Attorneys

Ruane Attorneys announced Jan. 11 that attorney Brittany Paz, an Orange resident, has joined its team. Paz comes to Ruane Attorneys from a solo practice dealing with criminal defense, post-conviction and appeals. She will work as a lawyer out of the Shelton office on various cases that the firm handles.

Paz earned her bachelor’s degree in philosophy from the University of Miami. She went on to earn her juris doctor at Quinnipiac University School of Law, and finished in the top 15 percent of her class. Upon graduation, she worked as an associate at Patis and Smith, LLC before beginning her own practice.

Attorney Jay Ruane, founding partner at Ruane Attorneys, said that he is excited for Paz to join the team. “We’re excited to have another strong female attorney join us at Ruane Attorneys. Attorney Paz’s experience in solo practice also brings a unique perspective to marketing, customer service and more.”



Brittany Paz. Photo courtesy of Ruane Attorneys.

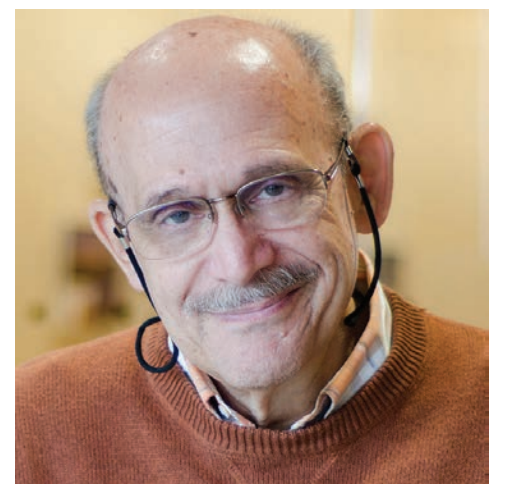
You can find more information about Paz on the Ruane Attorneys website at ruaneattorneys.com/about/attorneys/brittany-paz/.

Milford Resident Elected To Green Building Council

The S/L/A/M Collaborative announced Jan. 17 that Milford resident Ross Spiegel has been elected vice chair of the Connecticut Green Building Council Board of Directors.

Spiegel is a specifications coordinator for SLAM, a Glastonbury-based architectural firm. He will serve a one-year term on the board of directors. He has been a member of the CTGBC since 1994, and has been on the board for nearly 10 years. He recently served two years as secretary. He has also been the chair of the council’s Advocacy Committee since 2012. He lives in Milford with his wife, Dorine.

The CTGBC is a 200-member organization that serves as the Connecticut chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. CTGBC is committed to transforming the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling an



Ross Spiegel. Photo courtesy of S/L/A/M Collaborative.

environmentally and socially responsible, healthy and prosperous Connecticut and improved quality of life for all.

Chamber Awards Continued From Page 1

and Hassenmayer Construction; Entrepreneur of the Year, awarded to Dan Thornberg, Aced My Interview and Total Lawn Care; Business Person of the Year, awarded to Wanda Carlson, Carlson Insurance Agency, State Farm Insurance; Cultural Contribution Award, given to the MAC/Firehouse Gallery at Walnut Beach; Lifetime Achievement, awarded to Raymond A. Macaluso, Westcott & Mapes; Milford Heritage Award, given to The Milford Bank; Health and Wellness Award, given to Susan Oderwald, Always

Best Care Senior Services; Environmental Sustainability Award (Innovation & Energy Preservation), given to the Connecticut Post Mall; Community Tourism Award, given to Downtown Milford Business Association former president Tracy Bonosconi and current president Karen Fortunati; Public Sector Award, given to Peter Erodici, Finance Director, City of Milford; Human Service Award, given to Rick George; and Friend of the Chamber, Robert Kiley, Hacienda Storage.

News & Events

Chamber Director Continued From Page 1

executive director for the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce,” Staneski said. “The chamber is a community connector and I welcome the opportunity to work with our outstanding membership, committees, and legislative leaders in not only continuing what the chamber already offers its members but also in finding new and innovative ways to promote our businesses and the communities we serve.”

As a legislator, Staneski sponsored, on behalf of local shellfishers, the protection of Connecticut’s coastal shellfish beds and spawning grounds, helping to preserve a significant contributor to the local economy. Milford has fast become a craft-brewery hub in part because of the farm brewery bill she supported, which fueled partnerships between farms and breweries.

“Congratulations to Pam Staneski on being named the Executive Director of the Milford Chamber of Commerce,” said state Sen. James Maroney, a fellow Milford resident. “She will bring her connections from her years of service and enthusiasm to help guide this important fixture of the community. As a 20-year member of the Milford chamber, I can attest to how important it is to our local business community.”

Staneski has also been a leader in Milford’s nonprofit community. She cofounded the Milford Prevention Council, worked for United Way of Milford, was President of Milford’s Promise, supports the Boys and Girls Club of Milford, and volunteered for the

Rape Crisis Center. As the daughter of a Navy Veteran, she has been a persistent voice for service member and veteran organizations.

“I cannot think of a person more qualified to assume the role of executive director of the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce,” said Gary M. Johnson, president and CEO of the United Way of Milford. “Pam’s relationship with the Milford business community from her years serving as one of our state representatives, and her passion and drive to serve others will be tremendous assets for the chamber in its quest for growth in the years ahead.”

“I am excited to learn of Pam’s appointment,” said Julie Nash, director of Economic and Community Development for Milford. “Pam is certainly a leader and we have successfully worked together in the past on various issues for Milford. I am confident we will partner again to further enhance Milford as a place to live, work and play.”

Robert Creigh of Patriot Bank said, “Pam brings to the chamber amazing energy and enthusiasm. She will facilitate a culture of growth with her drive to succeed. Pam is a visionary and the chamber will flourish under her leadership.”

Bin 100 Restaurant owner Elena Fusco said Staneski’s familiarity with the Milford business community and experience with the state legislature “will ensure that the chamber continues to thrive and move forward in a positive direction.”

Turkey Hill Continued From Page 1

The new proposal could be larger than the previous one, which called for an independent living community of 30 to 40 townhouses for older adults on a portion of the 22-acre property Meisenheimer owns, currently mostly woods and wetlands. That proposal required a zone change because the density of the proposed development exceeded the limit of one unit per one-and-a-half acres required in the residential neighborhood.

The affordable housing component of this new plan could skirt the town’s density cap, though. Under the state’s affordable 8-30g statute, a town that does not have at least 10 percent of its housing stock qualify as affordable must demonstrate that a project is a danger to the health or safety of residents in

order to deny it.

The previous proposal generated significant public opposition in June, with neighbors filling the lower-level room of Town Hall where the TPZC holds its meetings. The commission that evening also spent a significant amount of time reading letters and emails of opposition into the record.

The Inland Wetlands unanimously agreed that the new proposal was a “significant activity” that would require a public hearing. The project will likely face a similar level of opposition as it makes its way through the various town approvals it will need to pass once the application is officially filed.

Milford Real Estate Broker Receives Award



Carl Russell, senior commercial broker with the Milford office of Pearce Real Estate, received the Dealmaker Award in the category of Section 1031 Tax Deferred Exchange Dec. 6 at the CCIM Connecticut Chapter Dealmaker Awards and 2019 Officer Installation Dinner.

Russell, an Orange resident, shared

the award with DeForest W. Smith for arranging the 1031 exchange of the land in Milford with a former Dollar General Store in Ashford. The transaction closed for \$1,982,500 in March 2018.

Pearce Real Estate is a local, independently owned, full-service real estate company.

Barcode Ribbon Cutting



Barcode Bar & Restaurant at 501 Boston Post Rd. in Orange held a ribbon cutting Dec. 12 to celebrate its grand opening. The bar serves American bar food. Located at the former LT’S (formerly Corner Pocket), owners Michael and Chris Delvecchio and Jason Carver will be offering live music on the weekends, Taco Night and Wing Night, with additional special nights planned. Photo by Steve Cooper.

Colonial Properties Holiday Party



Colonial Properties held its annual holiday party Dec. 13 at South Sea Grill in Orange. Photos by Lisa Zucaro.

Pearce Broker Sells Building In Orange

Milford-based Pearce Real Estate announced Dec. 6 that senior commercial broker Carl G. Russell completed the sale of a 50,666 square-foot industrial building on approximately 6.5 acres of land at 70 Robinson Blvd. in Orange.

The building is being purchased by Robin Equity, LLC of Orange. It will be repurposed for American Seal & Engineering Corporation to serve as its new Global Corporate Headquarters and the main manufacturing facility for engineered products, advanced manufacturing technology and product testing and development.

ASE is a global technical solutions provider specializing in critical seals, sealing systems

and high-performance coatings.

ASE will operate at three locations in Orange. The other two locations will be home to the surface technology and automotive divisions.

In addition to its U.S. locations, ASE has operations in eight locations in Europe and Asia. The sellers, ALM Properties, LLC and MCM Investments, LLC, and ASE were all represented by Russell.

Russell, an Orange resident and Rotarian, is a member of the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors and a Certified Commercial Investment Member. He is a nationally known instructor in the CCIM program.



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News & Events

Buddy Holly Tribute Coming To Milford

The music lives on for the 60th anniversary of the death of Buddy Holly at the Milford Performance Center in "Not Fade Away: A Tribute to Buddy Holly," on Friday, Feb. 1 at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.

In January 1959, Buddy Holly, considered by many to be the father of rock and roll, set out on a 24-day tour of the midwestern U.S. with Dion and the Belmonts, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper. Making the closely booked appearances by bus was torture for the performers. It was several degrees below zero and the bus had a broken heating system, causing some to get frostbite. This infamous tour is known as "The Winter Dance Party."

The tour was a disaster from the start, with small gigs in frozen towns in the upper Midwest and all the musicians crammed into the drafty bus. By Feb. 1, Holly's drummer, Carl Bunch, had left with frostbitten feet. The tour was scheduled to play two shows that day,

then go to go to Clear Lake, Iowa for the next evening's performance. By the time they got there, everyone was in a bad mood. Holly told his band members, guitarist Tommy Allsup and bassist Waylon Jennings, that after the show he was going to lease a plane from Dwyer's Flying Service in Mason City, Iowa to fly them to Fargo, North Dakota, ahead of everyone.

The Beechcraft Bonanza Holly leased crashed eight miles from Clear Lake in a cornfield, with bodies strewn all around. All had died on impact.

This is not your typical Buddy Holly tribute. Get ready for jumping up on instruments, soloing behind heads, and powerful new renditions of these classic hit songs.

Holly will be paid tribute to by Jared Mancuso. He has been spending the past few years as Holly, either in regional revivals of the musical that bears his name or in his own self-penned tribute show, "Buddy's Back."

All shows at MPC help local charities. This show is helping Food 2 Kids. There is a list on the MPC website of kid-friendly foods to bring and help fill the donation box for Food 2 Kids. Refreshments, wine and beer will be available.

For tickets and information, go to milfordperformancecenter.org. Tickets are also available at the door on show day or online until midnight on Jan. 31. If you are a federal employee affected by the government shutdown, show your ID at the ticket booth to receive a free ticket to the show.



Food Pantry Opens To Government Workers

The Saint Gabriel Food Pantry at 26 Broadway in Milford offered assistance to any federal workers living in the area who have been affected by the partial shutdown of the federal government prior to its reopening Jan. 25.

The food pantry is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. You must make an appointment by calling Donna Hicks at 203-878-3075 from Monday to Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

According to volunteer Joe Johnson, the pantry has been in business for about 25 years and serves between 2,000 and 3,000 meals a month. It gives each person in the household a week's worth of food, or 21 meals total.

State Rep. Kim Rose, who represents Milford, lauded the pantry for its service. "I would like to thank Joe and Barbara Johnson, Donna Hicks, and all volunteers at the food pantry for their generosity in extending this offer," she said.

TOWN OF ORANGE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AMENDING SECTION OF CODE

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters and those persons qualified to vote in Town Meetings of Town of Orange that in accordance with Section 3.4 of the Charter of the Town of Orange, the Board of Selectmen of said Town will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. in the lower level meeting room of the Orange Town Hall, 617 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT to consider amending the code of the Town of Orange - Chapter 350.

TAXATION - Article VIII Additional Property Tax Exemption for Veterans, Section 350- 29-33 to read as follows:

ARTICLE VIII: Additional Property Tax Exemption for Veterans Section 350-29 Additional exemption authorized; amount.

Any veteran entitled to an exemption from property tax in accordance with Subdivision (19) of the Section 12-81 of the Connecticut Statutes shall be entitled to an additional exemption applicable to the assessed value of property in an amount up to ten percent of the assessed value of the veteran's property, provided such veteran's qualifying income does not exceed the greater sum of \$75,000 or the applicable maximum amount as provided under Section 12-811 of the General Statutes, as amended from time to time.

Section 350-30 Additional exemption authorized; amount.

Any veteran entitled to an exemption from property tax in accordance with Subdivision (20) of the Section 12-81 of the Connecticut Statutes shall be entitled to an additional exemption applicable to the assessed value of the eligible veteran's property in the amount of \$3000, provided such veteran's qualifying amount does not exceed the greater of \$75,000.00 or the applicable maximum amount, as provided under Section 12-811 of the General Statutes, as amended from time to time.

Section 350-31 Exemption for surviving spouse.

Any veteran's surviving spouse entitled to an exemption from property tax in accordance with Subdivision 22 of Section 12-81 of the Connecticut General Statutes shall be entitled to an additional exemption applicable to assessed value of property in an amount up to ten percent of the assessed value of the veteran's property, which exemption shall not exceed the sum of \$20,000.00 provided such surviving spouse's qualifying income does not exceed the greater of \$75,000.00 or the applicable maximum amount under Section 12-811 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as the same may be amended from time to time.

Section 350-32 Application required.

Any veteran or veteran's spouse seeking an exemption pursuant to this article shall file an application with Assessor as provided under Section 12-81f of the Connecticut General Statutes, as may be amended from time to time.

Section 350-33 Effective date.

The exemptions provided for in this article shall be applicable to assessment years commencing on and after October 1, 2018.

Notice of Public Hearing on the amendment of Chapter 350, Taxation, Article VIII, Section 350-29 - Section 350-33 dated at Orange, CT on this 18 th day of January, 2019

TOWN OF ORANGE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY: James M. Zeoli, First Selectman

Attest: Patrick B. O'Sullivan, Town Clerk

Rotary Honors Boy Scouts



The Rotary Clubs of Orange and Woodbridge joined together in honoring and congratulating Boy Scouts from Orange, Woodbridge and Bethany who, in 2018, earned the rank of Eagle Scout, and also thanking them for the service each provided to our communities through their respective Eagle Scout projects. From L to R: Sam Martin - Troop 41, Woodbridge, Tim Frieden - Troop 59, Bethany, Sean Farrell - Troop 721, Milford (Orange resident). Photo courtesy of Jonathan Glassman.

Beth-El Center Seeks Support For "Souper Bowl" Fundraiser

The Beth-El Center is seeking restaurants, faith communities and businesses throughout Milford, Orange and Stratford to support or participate in the "Souper Bowl" fundraising campaign to help the center and those in the community who are experiencing homeless or hunger.

The "Souper Bowl" campaign leverages the biggest weekend of football to bring attention and support to the less fortunate who are in need of shelter and a warm meal.

"We're so appreciative of the many churches and businesses in the community who will be collecting donations or donating a portion of

their proceeds during Super Bowl weekend for this campaign," said Jenn Paradis, executive director of the Beth-El Center.

On Saturday, Feb. 2 and Sunday, Feb. 3, participating organizations will be fundraising or encouraging people to contribute to the campaign online at bethelmilford.org. All donations will go directly to the Beth-El Center's shelter, soup kitchen and services offered to local men, women and families in need.

To participate, faith communities and business can email jparadis@bethelmilford.org. Visit bethelmilford.org for a list of participating organizations.

Plastic Bags Contaminating Orange Recycling Bins

The Orange Department of Public Works wants to remind residents that plastic bags and plastic wraps are not considered recyclable and should not be placed in residents' recycling bins. Bins that contain these materials will no longer be picked up.

Sylvie Napoli, office manager for Orange Public Works, said, "It's been out there for years plastic bags are a non-recyclable item. We just have not been enforcing the rule too hard."

The town's recycling committee recently put a plastic bag recycling area at the transfer station to handle these materials. Many local stores also accept plastic bags for recycling.

"As a town our loads have been marked

as contaminated and this week they have cracked down on the enforcement of this issue. Plastic bags are jamming up their conveyor belts resulting in repair cost and shut down time," Napoli said.

Residents will not be fined for putting plastic bags in their bins, but the bins will not be picked up. Public Works will begin doing spot checks and tagging "contaminated" bins.

The town as a whole is paying fines to the recycling companies for the problems it is causing.

"I received an email with photos," Napoli said, "and we are being heavily fined for the contaminated loads."

everything set up," Dr. Peter Brandea said. He will be one of several doctors working out of the 10,000 square foot space. He estimates the cost of the building at \$10 million. The building will be used for the clinic's operations and will also serve as a support space for the patients.

Advertise In The Orange Times 799-7500

Eye Care cont. on page 18

News & Events

Colonial Properties Garners Three Awards



Michael Richetelli, President and Designated Broker

Fred A. Messore, Senior Vice President

Kevin Weirsman, Vice President

Colonial Properties, Inc. in Orange was recently recognized with three 2018 Deal of The Year Awards from the New Haven Middlesex Board of Realtors Commercial Investment Division.

President and Designated Broker Michael Richetelli, and Senior Vice President Fred A. Messore received the Highest Retail Sale Award for the sale of 190 Boston Post Rd. in Orange. The property consists of approximately 28,760 square feet in a commercial building on 5.57 acres and sold for \$3,150,000.

Messore also received the Highest Multi-Family Sale Award for the sale of 125 Coleman St. in West Haven. The property consists of two fully leased apartment buildings, one

with 18 units and another 12 units, on around 1.84 acres. They sold for \$3.6 million.

Vice President Kevin Weirsman received the Highest Business with Property Award for the sale of 852 Dixwell Ave. in Hamden. The 5,600 square-foot commercial building was solely occupied by an operating laundromat business and sold for \$425,000.

“I’m very proud of our team for taking home three CID Deal of the Year Awards for the second year in a row,” Richetelli said. “In a very challenging economic climate, Colonial Properties continues to get results for our clients.”

Colonial Properties is a full service commercial and residential real estate brokerage.

Milford Garden Club Donates Tree

The Milford Garden Club has supported Milford Hospital’s Celebration of Trees for the past five years as part of the club’s commitment to the community. The donation for the 2018 holiday season was a seven-foot tree with a garden-oriented theme called “The Birds and the Bees,” in homage to both these creatures who beautify and enrich our gardens.

The Celebration ran from Dec. 1 through 10 and the decorating committee, under the chairmanship of Beth Schulkind, consisted of Nina Mingrone, Janet Kuryla, Marilyn Wardell and Margaret Dubuque.

Potential members and guests are always welcome to join the Milford Garden Club’s events. Anyone with any interest in gardening can join. You don’t have to be a master gardener to enjoy the fellowship and programs. Contact 203-874-4421 or visit milfordctgardenclub.org for more information.



The Milford Garden Club donated a decorated seven-foot tree to Milford Hospital in December to support the hospital’s annual Celebration of Trees. Photo courtesy of the Milford Garden Club.

Derby/Milford Bridge Opening Delayed Until May

Construction delays have postponed the opening of the Derby/Milford bridge until May, according to Orange Director of Public Works Robert H. Brinton. The bridge was originally projected to be reopened to traffic by Nov. 30 of 2018.

The delays included “obtaining state approval for traffic signal modifications necessary to close the road, problems with the valves installed to shut off the water main over the bridge, and installation of the bridge support piles taking longer than anticipated,” Brinton said.

Construction beams have been installed, as well as approach slabs and endwalls. Brinton said the contractor has continued to work into the winter as weather permits, and completion of the bridge deck slab and curb forms and reinforcement is expected by the end of January.

Pouring of the concrete deck slab will be done as soon as temperatures allow. Deck waterproofing, bridge and road paving, restoration and plantings and other remaining work will be completed in the spring.

Have A Tip? Send It To Us At editor@theorangetimes.com

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Travel Matters

Celebrity Edge Has The Wow Factor

Celebrity Cruises has just launched their game-changing Celebrity Edge, arguably one of the “most anticipated ships of the year.” I was lucky enough to attend one of their pre-inaugural two-day trips at the end of November. Leaving from their new Port Everglades’ Terminal 25 in Hollywood, Florida, I knew something was special just from the terminal design. It was built exclusively for the Celebrity brand.



KAREN QUINN-PANZER

The embarkation was a breeze thanks to the innovative facial recognition technology: you set it up online and everything is streamlined when you get to the pier.

The stand-out features of this ship are the trend-setting style and the technological marvel of the Magic Carpet – a multi-purpose floating platform. It can be a luxury platform for tender launches, a specialty dining venue when positioned on another deck and an extension of the pool bar when it’s on Deck 14.

Then there’s the Infinite Veranda, the balcony that can become part of your stateroom with the touch of a button. This new veranda design allows guests to decide how they want their rooms arranged. Do they want to close the balcony doors for a separate veranda, or do they want to leave the doors open so the entire cabin is part of the balcony, with its floor-to-ceiling windows and ability to lower the top window at the flip of a button? An Edge Single Stateroom with Infinite Veranda is available for the solo traveler and offers all the same amenities and services as a

double stateroom.

This trend-setting style extends to the suite category on Celebrity Edge. The Iconic Suite is one of two new suite categories for Celebrity. It is the largest and most luxurious suite in the Celebrity fleet, with better views than the captain. Designed by Kelly Hoppen, it has two bedrooms, two bathrooms, Celebrity “eXhale” bedding, in-suite use of Peloton fitness bikes, in-suite butler’s pantry and in-room automation to adjust nearly everything with a touch screen. Iconic Suites sleep up to six guests in 1,892 square feet, with a 689-square-foot private hot tub veranda.

Other suite classes are the Penthouse Suite and the duplex Edge Villa with separate living and bedroom floors. All suites enjoy the Retreat – a new “ship within a ship space” that includes a private pool and cabana space, pool bar, lounge and an exclusive restaurant called Luminae.

The innovation extends to the dining options. Instead of one main dining room, there are four – all with different specialties each evening. Eden is a multi-level dining/entertainment space, with different events during the day and adult entertainment at night. One cocktail is served in a glass “apple of temptation.” Le Petit Chef is the latest specialty dining innovation, offering custom 3D table animation art, where the plates seem to come alive with theater.

This is definitely not your grandmother’s cruise ship.

News & Events

Orange Police Help Connecticut Cancer Patients

The Connecticut Cancer Foundation announced the successful results of their first statewide No Shave November campaign, which raised over \$91,000 to benefit Connecticut cancer patients and their families.

Forty police departments participated in No Shave November in 2018. They were joined by one fire department, one school and one company, for a total of 43 teams.

The money raised during No Shave November will provide financial assistance to Connecticut cancer patients and their families to help with everyday living expenses such as rent, mortgage and utilities. The Orange Police Department, led by Det. Ryan DePolo, raised \$2,235 for this cause.

During the month of November, police departments across Connecticut relaxed their facial hair requirements and allowed their officers to grow beards. Instead of shaving, the officers fundraised in their department and in the community. One hundred percent of the funds will go to Connecticut cancer patients to help with basic living expenses.

Terri Eickel, director of development for the Connecticut Cancer Foundation, said that the response from the police officers and their communities was inspiring. "The police officers were so excited to participate, especially since the money they raised will

stay in Connecticut, helping our residents who are fighting cancer," she said. "Because of No Shave November, Connecticut cancer patients throughout our state will be able to focus on their health and recovery, not worry about their bills."

DePolo, who organized the department's fundraising efforts, said the officers were enthusiastic about No Shave November. "The Orange Police Department had a great time growing their beards and raising money for Connecticut cancer patients this November," he said. "We are grateful to the community for supporting our efforts to help the less fortunate."

No Shave November will especially benefit the family of Wesley Woronecki, a 15-year-old boy battling metastatic Ewing's sarcoma. Woronecki was the ambassador for this year's No Shave November, which means that his family is eligible to receive a significant grant as a result of the fundraiser. The rest of the money raised will be distributed to other cancer patients throughout the year.

"We are so grateful to all of the police departments and other organizations that participated," Eickel said. "They truly made a difference in the lives of Connecticut cancer patients this holiday season."

Kennedy Joins Fire/EMS Caucus

State Rep. Kathy Kennedy (R-119) attended a meeting of the bipartisan Fire & EMS Caucus meeting in at the State Capitol on Jan. 15 and will become a member.

The caucus was created in 2017 to bridge the gap between the General Assembly and the state's first responders, with the intent of providing firefighters and EMS workers with the support they need. The members believe that fire services are a top priority for municipal governments and the state, and want to ensure that there continues to be an open dialogue between those who serve

in these capacities and the state's governing body. Several members have a background in fire service; many currently serve with their local volunteer fire companies.

Kennedy, who was the first civilian female fire marshal in the State of Connecticut, said, "Our Fire and EMS workers and first responders provide an incredible and brave service. Anything we, as legislators, can do to support better equipment, or improve training or work conditions is crucial to them doing their dangerous job."

UI Earns Emergency Recovery Award For Power Restoration Efforts



AVANGRID CEO James P. Torgerson receives the Emergency Recovery Award from Edision Electric Institute President Tom Kuhn Jan. 10 at EEI's Winter Board and Chief Executives Meeting in Palm Beach, Florida. Photo courtesy of AVANGRID.

The Edison Electric Institute presented Orange-based United Illuminating Jan. 10 with the association's Emergency Recovery Award for its outstanding power restoration efforts after severe storms in May 2018. United Illuminating received the award during EEI's Winter Board and Chief Executives Meeting in Palm Beach, Florida.

The Emergency Recovery Award is given to select EEI member companies to recognize their extraordinary efforts to restore power to customers after service disruptions caused by severe weather conditions or other natural events. The winners are chosen by a panel of judges following an international nomination process.

On May 15, a line of severe storms spawning an EF-1 tornado and associated macro-and-micro-bursts with peak winds of up to 110 miles per hour resulted in 43,612 service outages in UI's territory. UI's crews restored service to 100 percent of customers within six days of the storm, dedicating 46,570 man-hours to the recovery.

"The dedication of United Illuminating's crews to restore service throughout Connecticut after this severe storm illustrates our industry's commitment to customers," said EEI President Tom Kuhn. "United

Illuminating's crews worked tirelessly in hazardous conditions to quickly and safely restore power. They are truly deserving of this award."

James P. Torgerson, CEO of UI parent company AVANGRID, accepted the award on behalf of UI. Tony Marone, UI's president and CEO, credited the successful restoration to the hard work of UI personnel, as well as assistance from UI's sister companies and others who participated in the effort.

"I'm proud that EEI has recognized the hard work of United Illuminating's employees and their partners following the extreme weather that struck our service territory on May 15, 2018," said Marone. "This storm system, and the tornadoes it spawned, left devastation across the region, leaving many thousands of customers without power. In some areas, we essentially had to rebuild the entire electric distribution system in order to restore service. The success of this effort is a credit not only to our employees, but also to the mutual assistance crews and contractors who joined them, our municipal partners, and the affected residents themselves. Our colleagues at our sister company, Central Maine Power, deserve special mention for their participation in the timely and safe restoration of service."

Orange's Congregation Or Shalom Events

Coffee and Learn with the Rabbi Wainhaus: Every Wednesday, the Rabbi teaches an hour-long class focusing on the ancient texts of Jewish heritage and the light they shed on current issues. The class begins at 11 a.m. and ends at noon. All are Welcome. Call the synagogue office to confirm the schedule.

Film - "Three Identical Strangers": On Sunday, Feb. 10 at 2 p.m., the Adult Education Committee will be showing the true story of identical Jewish triplets who were separated at birth, adopted by three different families and reunited by an astonishing coincidence. Their reunion instantly became a global sensation. However, it also set in motion a series of events that unearth a dark secret with radical implications for us all. This documentary film has enjoyed world-wide acclaim. It runs 96 minutes. Rabbi Wainhaus will lead a discussion on this provocative

film afterward for all who remain. A Night of "Magic & Mentalism": On Saturday, April 6. Doors open 8 p.m., and the show runs from 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$36 per person. Bring your own drinks! Wine and champagne need a kosher label. Light snacks will be provided. Call the office for tickets.

Zumba Gold: On Tuesday 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.

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News & Events

What Does Rotary Do?

By Roger Tausig



Since joining the Rotary Club of Orange three-and-a-half years ago, I have mentioned to numerous people that I have become a part of this great organization and how much I enjoy participating in the numerous projects we undertake to serve our community, as well as people in need throughout the world. The typical response I get is, "Yeah, I've heard of Rotary, but I never really knew exactly what you guys do."

This tells me that, despite the visibility we have around town in the form of road signs, banners and lawn signs announcing our upcoming events (Lobsterfest, Thanksgiving Day 5K Road Race and Fun Walk, just to name a few), and even news stories

and articles in our local papers, we have managed to somehow keep our actual reason for existence a mystery. So, by providing a couple of examples of the projects we carry out in this and upcoming issues, I will attempt to share with readers the answer to the question: What does Rotary do?

While Rotary performs many hands on, direct service projects, we also employ a well-defined grant process to review and, for those who adequately demonstrate the merits of their projects, provide funds using the money we raise at the many fundraisers we run each year.

An example of a grant request that we funded along with several other neighboring Rotary clubs is the construction of a special playground in North Haven which is specifically designed for children with physical challenges. Through the efforts

of some dedicated Rotarians working with town officials, the grant request was written for \$14,000 to build this unique and special play area for these special needs kids. It was submitted to the District Managed Grant Committee, approved and funded. Construction will begin as soon as the weather permits, and it is our hope that this playground will be in use by the spring of 2019.

Imagine the joy this will bring to children who have a physical disability and were previously unable to play on a similar apparatus as their able-bodied friends do.

Another project that had international impact was the establishment of a full-blown surgical facility to perform over 100 heart surgeries on children in the Dominican Republic. This grant was driven by members of several clubs, who worked with U.S.-based and Dominican Rotarians to define

the scope and requirements for building and equipping the field hospital where this work would be performed and hiring the medical professionals who would perform these lifesaving surgeries.

This is just a small sampling of the incredibly noble work that Rotarians do day in and day out throughout the local community, the state, the region, the country and the world.

I am immensely proud to be associated with such an incredible group of people who embody the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self." If you think it is time you helped make a difference in the world, and in the process make new friends and enjoy the personal rewards of doing important work, please feel free to contact me at rogetausig@yahoo.com to learn more about what Rotary can do for you.

Orange Rotary Holds 50th Anniversary Gala



The Orange Rotary held its 50th anniversary gala on Jan. 25 at Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange. Photos by Steve Cooper.

Milford Harbor Duck Race Returning



The United Way of Milford and the Woodruff Family YMCA will host the second annual Milford Harbor Duck Race on Saturday, June 1. This year's festivities will begin at 11 a.m. at Fowler Field. Attendees will enjoy food, face painting and entertainment followed by the duck race at 12:30 p.m., where up to 10,000 rubber ducks will be dropped into the Wepawaug River for a race to the finish line.

"We are excited to cohost the second

Annual Milford Harbor Duck Race," said Gary Johnson, president of the United Way of Milford. "This is a fantastic opportunity for families to come out and enjoy a day full of activities, entertainment, music and food. The Duck Race celebrates the organization's commitment to help people and it's a way for the city to gather together and support the Milford community."

The United Way of Milford and the Woodruff Family YMCA are currently accepting sponsors for the event. A sponsor can be an individual, a family, a company, agency or club. They are also looking to obtain 100 raffle prizes, including gift certificates to restaurants, department stores, grocery stores and more. Other prizes such as sports and travel tickets are encouraged. They are looking for volunteers for the day of the event as well.

Call the United Way of Milford at 203-874-6791 or the Woodruff Family YMCA at 203-878-6501 if you would like to participate. All proceeds from the race will benefit the United Way of Milford's 20 partner agencies.

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Milford Library Events

Ready, Set, Medicare! - Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m. The Milford Public Library will host a Medicare informational session on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m. If you are turning 65 soon, come and learn about the step-by-step enrollment process. Whether you are new to Medicare, getting ready to turn 65 or preparing to retire, you'll need to make several important decisions about your health coverage. If you wait to enroll, you may have to pay a penalty and you may have a gap in coverage. Come to this informational seminar to learn about the steps involved in the process, so that you may make informed decisions.

No Sew Heart Pillows (an adult craft) - Thursday, Feb. 7 at 2 p.m. February is the time for hearts, and also for cozy crafts. Learn how to make a small no sew heart pillow – perfect for a holiday accent piece. The event is free. All materials and instructions will be provided. Call 203-783-3292 to register. Class size is limited.

Chocolate Truffles - Saturday, Feb. 9, at 11 a.m. If you simply love chocolate and cooking or would like to learn to make some elegant desserts and chocolates, come to a lecture/demonstration entitled “Basics of Chocolate Truffle Making” presented by the Milford Public Library. The lecture will include some basic information about chocolate, the various types, and how to work with it. Samples and recipes will include several different types of truffle candies, perfect for giving your loved one on Valentine's Day. Maria Brandriff, who will lead the demonstration, is the former assistant director of the Cheshire Public Library, where she was in charge of public programming. Brandriff's interest in fine cooking and baking came from growing up in a Ukrainian household where Viennese-inspired tortes and confections dominated every holiday. Since then, she has experimented with traditional recipes and come up with her own variations. She has also become more involved with the intricacies of working with chocolate.

At holiday time she produces hundreds of chocolate truffle candies which she shares with family and friends. Brandriff completed a certificate of gastronomy program at the University of New Haven in 2003. In early 2004 she had the opportunity to travel to the city of Arles in France for an intensive three-day apprenticeship with a noted Provencal chocolatier. She has also been the featured chef in the Chef's Table series at Zinc Restaurant in New Haven. Although this program is free and open to the public, pre-registration is necessary, as attendance is limited to 50 participants. Call the library at 203-783-3292 for further information or to register.

Online Job Applications - Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. The Milford Public Library, in collaboration with the Goodwill Career Center, will host a workshop on the online job application process on Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. This introductory workshop will get you started in the job search process and help you increase your rate of success in securing a job. If you need assistance with the job application process, this workshop will give you the necessary skills and tools to help secure a job. It will show you what to do before, during and after the application, as well as how to upload and download application-related documents such as resumes. The workshop is free and open to all. Register by calling the reference desk at 203-783-3292.

Digital Security: Defending Your Accounts, Devices, & Anonymity - Thursday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. Milford Public Library is presenting a program on digital security. Hacking effected nearly half of all Americans last year and cost businesses nearly half a billion dollars. Learn what you can do to better protect your online accounts, devices, and privacy. We will discuss types of threats, encryption schemes, strong and unique passwords, two-factor authentication, Tor/VPNs, and more. If you're looking for methods to better secure your online presence and devices, and for ways to better protect your privacy in digital environments this is

the program for you.

Transgender 101 - Saturday, Feb. 23 at 11 a.m. (snow date March 2) You've probably been hearing the word “transgender” recently. Do you really know what it means? Here's your chance to learn. Join Jill Celentano for a comfortable and informal presentation to learn what it means to be transgender. In case of bad weather, the presentation will be held on March 2 at 11 a.m. Celentano will discuss the coming out process, the transition process, the acceptance process, plus right and wrong questions to ask other transgender people.

Celentano is a 58-year-old transgender woman who transitioned three years ago. She is an advocate for the transgender community who speaks at various venues across New England, including support groups, medical centers and hospitals. She is a GSA instructor at a high school in New Haven, has organized a support group for transgender youth, and is a member of Stonewall Speakers. Celentano has returned to college and is studying psychology at the master's degree level. Her goal is to counsel primarily trans youth and adults. She is currently interning at the Yale Gender Program in New Haven.

Amazon Alexa and the Echo Family of Devices - Saturday, Feb. 23 from 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Milford Public Library is offering a demonstration of Amazon's artificial intelligence, Alexa. This is a general overview so that people who have not used an Echo before have a basic understanding of what can be done with such an AI.

Chill Space - Wednesdays Throughout February at 2:30 p.m. The Young Adult Department is hosting a “Chill Space” every Wednesday in February from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30pm in the YA area of the Milford Public Library. Come have snacks and chill in the area after school. Play games, watch anime and explore the Brain Station. This special pop-up is meant for older tweens and teens under 18 years old. For questions call the library at 203-783-3292.

Continued From Pg 5

Town of Orange would keep up with the zoning curriculum that made us choose here over many other towns.

In our opinion, the Town of Orange needs to be careful that they don't open a Pandora's Box of what could be. The traffic is already horrific at some times of the day with Turkey Hill School directly across from the said entrance to the proposed development, not mentioning the traffic coming down from the University of New Haven that was recently built at the top of the street. Turkey Hill Road is like a race track where people just fly down.

How much more can our little cut through street take before some major accidents happen.

Let's keep Orange the farming and small town community we grew to love.

Mark and MaryAnn Quiriconi, Orange

To the Editor:

The big game is just around the corner and it's the perfect time to gather around the TV and crack open a cold one with your friends and family. Whatever the outcome of the game, everyone wins when you drink responsibly and make safe rides a part of your playbook.

That's why we're cheering for you to be the real MVP Super Bowl Sunday by helping to keep our roads and communities safe.

Over the past 35 years, Anheuser-Busch and its wholesaler partners have invested more than \$1 billion in the U.S. to promote alcohol responsibility and reduce drunk driving. You can use a ride-share service, designated driver or public transportation, but whatever you do, make sure you plan ahead for safe rides.

No matter which team you're rooting for, we should all agree on the fact that drunk driving is 100 percent preventable. This Super Bowl Sunday – and every day – enjoy responsibly.

Tony Lota, Alcohol Awareness Coordinator, Dichello Distributors, Inc., Orange Ct.

Case Memorial Library Events

Adult Make & Take Workshop: Paper Flowers - Monday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. Create your own Icelandic poppies out of crepe paper at this small, hands-on, paper-crafting workshop led by librarian Rebecca Harlow. All supplies will be provided. For adults and teens ages 16 and up. Registration is required and opens Monday, Jan. 14. Space is limited and fills up quickly.

2019 Oscar Film Series The library's 2019 Oscar Film Series will begin on Monday, Feb. 25. A complete film schedule will be available on Monday, March 4. Films will include all nominees from the Best Picture and Acting categories as well as other notable selections.

The Bookcase: Evening Discussion Group - Thursday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. *Home Fire* by Kamila Shamsie. Led by Toby Zabinski. Registration is requested.

Tween Advisory Group - Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 3:45 p.m., for tweens in grades 4-6. Tell us what to do. Join the tween advisory group and help make the library a better place for tweens. As members of TWAG, tweens will meet monthly to brainstorm and help plan programs that they want to see at the library, as well as recommend books for the collection. Pizza will be served. Registration is required and begins three

weeks in advance of the meeting date.

Teen Cooking Class - Tuesday, Feb. 19 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., for students in grades 7-12. Learn to cook tasty treats with ShopRite's Registered Dietician Courtney Huggins. Notify the library of any food allergies or restrictions at least 24 hours in advance of the program. Registration is required and begins three weeks in advance of the program date. Space is limited.

Riddle Challenge - Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 3:45 p.m., for tweens in grades 4-6. Solve different riddles and brain teasers. Registration is required and begins Tuesday, Jan. 22.

Teen Craft: Valentine Slime - Wednesday, Feb. 13 from 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., for students in grades 7-12. Make and take Valentine's Day-inspired slime. Registration is required and begins Wednesday, Jan. 23.

Chess Club - Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 3:30 p.m., for children and tweens in grades 3-6. Learn and play chess at the monthly chess club for children and tweens. Registration is required and begins three weeks in advance of the program date.

A Palo Seco Flamenco Company - Saturday, Feb. 2 at 11 a.m., for children of all ages. Experience the energy of a

live flamenco performance as the library celebrates Take Your Child to the Library Day. Registration is required and begins Saturday, Jan. 12.

Bad Art Competition - Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 3:30 p.m., for children ages 7-9. Try to create the worst piece of art. Whoever wins gets to go home with a tacky trophy. Registration is required and begins Wednesday, Jan. 16.

OzoBot Valentines - Thursday, Feb. 7 at 5:45 p.m., for children ages 6-10. Make a heartwarming Valentine with the help of the library's OzoBots. Registration is required and begins Thursday, Jan. 17.

Move & Groove - Saturday, Feb. 16 at 11 a.m., for children from birth to 5. Shake, clap, stomp and play at this music and movement series for kids and families. Registration is required and begins Saturday, Jan. 26.

Flubber Soap Workshop - Thursday, Feb. 28 at 6 p.m., for children and tweens in grades 3-6. Make your own Flubber soap and learn some soapy science. Registration is required and begins Thursday, Feb. 7.

3-to-5-Year-Old Storytime - Mondays at 10:30 a.m., no story time Feb. 18. 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.

Lapsit Storytime - Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Little ones and their caregivers are invited to this high-energy story time with Ms. Michelle. Practice nursery rhymes, sing and move together, and explore touch-and-feel books.

2-Year-Old Storytime - Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Audience participation is highly encouraged at this story time session just for 2-year-olds. Enjoy books, stories, music and movement, fingerplays and puppetry together.

Art in the Library Oil paintings by Patty Meglio, watercolors by Pauline Zambarano, and fine jewelry by Lee Keekendorf are on view Jan. 2 through Feb. 28.

Homebound Delivery Service Are you a book lover who is unable to leave your home? If so, the library will bring the books to you. Orange residents who are homebound may contact the library to arrange for regular library book delivery service to their home at no charge. Some restrictions apply. For more information, call the library's Head of Circulation Services, Samantha Jasulavic, at 203-891-2170 or email sjasulavic@casememoriallibrary.org.

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Home Sales Rise

Eye Care cont. on page 18960

Very shortly, everything changed for Chen. He was off to the United States, where he was to study at the University of New Haven. In many cases, such as the United States, the town he has long called home, acceptance of the policy was not an inherent

Republic of China (ROC) government. Chen's star shown so brightly that universities in America named their new research center after him. He was off to the United States, where he was to study at the University of New Haven. In many cases, such as the United States, the town he has long called home, acceptance of the policy was not an inherent

stating that China and Taiwan were one and the same. The ROC saw things differently. Members of the national government in the One China Policy, a diplomatic solution of acknowledging the PRC's claim and

people. Most nations eventually adopted the One China Policy, a diplomatic solution of acknowledging the PRC's claim and

editor@theorangetimes.com

Home sale values in Orange are outpacing neighboring communities according

Obituaries

Full obituaries and pictures (if provided) of the deceased are on our website at www.theorangetimes.com and are published at no cost to residents of Milford and Orange.

Dana A. Anderson, age 89, formerly of Milford, passed away on January 1, 2019.

Bruce M. Bickley, 72, of Orange, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2019.

Antoinette Mattioli Blazek, 98, of Milford, passed away on December 3, 2018.

Mildred "Millie" I. Blotney, 85, of Milford, passed away on December 6, 2018.

Walter J. Carson, age 75, of Milford, entered into rest on December 24, 2018.

Joseph N. Clemente, age 89 of Milford, passed on, December 15, 2018.

Marie Corbin Couden, 79, of Orange, passed away December 18, 2018.

John Michael Cribbins passed away peacefully on January 16.

Anna Budzinski Crocker, age 100, of Milford, died on December 14, 2018.

Carmela D'Alterio, age 94, of Orange, passed away on December 18, 2018.

Saul G. Englander, 88, of Milford, passed away on January 21, 2019.

Michael J. Gaglione, 53, of Milford, passed away peacefully on January 13, 2019.

John Haas, 84, of Milford, passed away peacefully on January 15, 2019.

John "Jack" Hudson, 81 of Orange, passed away December 9, 2018.

Kathleen M. Laskowski, age 72, of Milford, passed away on January 24, 2019.

Patrick F. Lawler Sr., age 93, passed away January 16, 2019.

Dr. Jacob S. Loke, 78, of Orange, CT,

passed away peacefully on January 9, 2019.

Gail Marcia Bernstein Mayer, 72, of Orange, passed away on January 12, 2019.

David B. Munroe, age 61, of Milford, passed away on December 24, 2018.

Pandora "PJ" Peabody, of Milford, entered into eternal rest on December 5, 2018.

William C. Ross, age 62 of Milford, died on December 11th.

Beverly Thrall (Beach) Bretthauer, 91, formerly of Orange, passed away on December 7, 2018.

August R. Tomasetti, age 93, of Milford, died on December 20th, 2018.

Louis "Chief" Tompkins, 81, of Stratford, passed away on, January 6, 2019.

Paul Torello died quite unexpectedly on January 21, 2019.

Howard B. Treat, Jr., age 87, of Orange, passed away on January 12, 2019.

Richard E. Turkington passed away January 3, 2019 at the age of 93.


Elizabeth Sheehan Vincent, of Orange and Southampton Princess, Bermuda passed away December 11, 2018.

Howard Stanley Silverfarb, of Milford, passed away on Friday, Jan. 25, 2019.

Michael Wacks, 74, of Milford, passed away peacefully on December 23, 2018.

Edward D. Warrek, Jr., 93, passed on January 18, 2019.

Lucille T. Whitham, 88, of Milford, entered into eternal rest on December 22, 2018.


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Carol – Happy Anniversary!
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Leo Meyer Contributed To Orange, World Theater

By Pat Miller

Leo B. Meyer passed away on Nov. 9, 2018. Born on Long Island, he was a graduate of Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon), and continued graduate studies at Pratt Institute. He had the distinction of becoming one of the youngest designers, at age 19, to attain membership in the United Scenic Artists Union 829. Meyer enjoyed a long and successful career, working extensively in professional, regional and community theater in New York, throughout the U.S. and abroad.

His success as a theatrical designer led him to establish his own company, Atlas Studio, where for 40 years he contracted and supervised the construction of sets for hundreds of major television shows, films, Broadway and off-Broadway plays, as well as for national and international tours of Broadway productions. He made major contributions to the theater industry during his career.

His great love of theater was evident. He was an experienced and accomplished vocalist, actor, director, author and producer in many venues throughout the country. He had a great love for music, fostered by his father, which led him to become a passionate opera aficionado.

Meyer was bigger than life. His presence filled a room. His magnificent smile lit up


the room when he entered. He was a raconteur – a storyteller who enthralled his listeners with onstage and backstage tales of the theater and its players. He had an encyclopedic knowledge of theater history – its culture, its triumphs, its failures and its personalities. He knew everyone and had worked with most of them.

He was a valued member of The Orange Players. He directed *The King and I* and *Kick Out of Cole*. He was in *The Victorian Cabaret* and *The Fantastics*, and will long be remembered for his portrayal as the emperor in the Orange Players' first production of the original musical, *Threads*. He will be greatly missed.

Memorial contributions can be made to The Orange Players, Inc (Orange Players, c/o Rudy Miller, Treasurer, 605 Saddle Ridge Road, Orange CT) and to the Bridgeport Symphony (446 University Ave., Bridgeport).



Leo Meyer. Photo courtesy of Pat Miller.


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